INVESTIGATING DANIEL PEARL'S KIDNAPPING AND MURDER

Daniel Pearl, a journalist for the Wall Street Journal, was in Pakistan in 2002 investigating the alleged links between Richard Reid (the "shoe bomber") and Al-Qaeda. Believing him to be a CIA operative, a group of Pakistani operatives abducted Pearl in downtown Karachi on January 23 and beheaded him nine days later. In September 2007, the Center for Public Integrity and Georgetown University's Journalism Program launched the Pearl Project to investigate a number of unanswered questions related to Daniel Pearl's murder. They chose to use Palantir to better understand the players and events related to Pearl's death.

THE PROBLEM

Several years after his death, even the most basic questions regarding Pearl's kidnapping remained unanswered. Which groups were involved in Pearl's abduction? How were they connected? Had they been brought to justice? Traditionally, journalists rely on books, interviews, and online resources for answers to these questions. While Pearl Project analysts continued to use these research methods, they also sought software that could consolidate their search, discovery, and visualization activities into a single investigative space. This software needed to provide the capabilities to combine dozens of data sources, search across all datasets for relevant information, and analyze networks of people, places, and groups across time and geography.

PALANTIR'S SOLUTION

Pearl Project analysts used Palantir's data integration capabilities to combine databases with information on Daniel Pearl, Al-Qaeda, and various Pakistani and Afghani militant groups. Data sources included newspaper articles, videos, maps, and other open source information.

With all data sources accessible in one environment, analysts used Palantir's search and discovery tools to understand the relevant players and sequences of events. Through the course of their research, the Pearl Project Investigators identified 27 men directly involved in the capture, ransom request, and murder. After identifying the individuals responsible for Pearl's kidnapping and death, the analysts created a "human map" showing all 27 men, their mug shots, their connections with one another, and the role they played in the murder. This map was dynamic: analysts could drill down on any entity within the map for more information, thereby giving key insights into several of the outstanding questions surrounding Pearl's murder and abduction.

PALANTIR'S IMPACT & RESULTS

» Palantir equipped the Pearl Project with **a more effective and efficient way to integrate, explore, analyze, and visualize vast quantities of data.**

» Analysts were able to **create a "human map" of 27 men involved in Daniel Pearl's kidnapping**, including descriptions of their roles, relationships, and biographical information.

» The Pearl Project drew several conclusions relevant to U.S. foreign policy, America's war in Afghanistan, and the role of Pakistan as a safe haven for militants.

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