

# **Relations of the Taliban with Afghan Government Analyzing the Failure Reasons of Afghan Government in Peace Negotiations with Taliban Since 2001**

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## **Abstract**

The geographical, geopolitical and geo-strategic location of Afghanistan has made this country most vulnerable in terms of hosting the great game among the super and atomic powers. The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is a landlocked country in South-Central Asia. It is bordered by Iran in the west, Pakistan in the south and east, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the north, and China in the far northeast. The geographic entity Afghanistan has a very long history and has been an ancient focal point of the Silk Road and Migration. It is an important geostrategic location, connecting East and West Asia. The land has been a target of various invaders, in the late nineteenth century became a buffer state in the Great Game played between the British Empire and Russian Empire. Due to its strategic placement, Afghanistan became the focal point of intense rivalry between Tsarist Russia and Britain during the nineteenth century. During the Cold War, Afghanistan was the focal point of rivalry between the Soviet Union and the US, in 2001 US-led coalitions started the war against the Taliban.

Peace negotiation is one of the most important issues for Afghanistan government and people, Afghanistan has been engaged in the disaster of war from 40 years, the first when Soviet Union invasion of Afghanistan in 1978 for achieving easy way for warm water, at that time regional countries, U.A.E, Saudi Arabia, and the U.S started propaganda of Soviet Union invasion and the U.S started military and financial aids with Afghan mujahidin by the hand of Pakistan under the name of jihad, people of Afghanistan under his Islamic faith started jihad(Holy War) against Soviet Union in the result two million Afghan civilians were killed, 5 million civilians were refugee to outside of Afghanistan, two million people internally displaced, around 3 million afghans wounded mostly were civilians, afghan mujahedeen at least 90,000 were casualties including 57000 killed. On the other side, Soviet Union forces were 14,453 killed and 53,753 were wounded. During the war Pakistan started diplomatic efforts to provide an exit for Soviet Union from Afghanistan, finally, Geneva Agreement was signed in 1988 and in 1989 the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan.

After the withdrawal of Soviet Union from Afghanistan, countries stopped their supports to Afghanistan, thus mujahedeen started governance in Afghanistan.

The government of Mujahedeen was weak, the Taliban got an opportunity and started the war against mujahedeen and collapsed the Mujahedeen regime and announced the Islamic Government of Taliban (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan) in 1996. After 9/11 event US got permission of invasion from United Nation and decided to eliminate the terrorist groups from Afghanistan, US attacked Afghanistan in late 2001 and collapsed the Taliban regime and established new government under the presidency of Hamid Karzai, from 2001 till now government of Afghanistan failed in peace process with the Taliban, this paper will explore the reasons of the failing of the peace process of Afghanistan's government with the Taliban.

**Key Words:** Taliban, High peace Council, peace negotiation, Failing of Afghan government in peace negotiation.

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## **Introduction:**

### **The Taliban**

The word Taliban is derived from Arabic language (Talib) it means student and Taliban is plural of Talib, Taliban is the young generation of the religious studies which are studies in the mosques and special school (Madrases) from Mullah (Lord) after the completion of the books it called Mollah. In the one of numeration, Pakistan had 99307 Taliban in her schools (madrassa) among those Taliban 13772 were from Afghanistan, the teachers of those schools were appointed by Peshawer Haqqania Islami Jamii and from Sarhad Daralalom and head of this groups is Mulana Fazal Rahman (Mohammad Ibrahim Atay 2004).

The base of the Taliban is from the term of the mujahedeen when Soviet Union attacked Afghanistan (1979) at that time Mujahedeen started Jihad against the red army by the support of the US, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan, capture the Soviet Union in Afghanistan. Soviet Union leaves Afghanistan in 1990, after that US, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, and other countries stopped their support and government of Afghanistan was captured thus mujahedeen hold government (Idress M 2017), (Patricia Gossman 2001), (Musarat Jabeen 2010), ( Rais Ahmad Khan 1987).

During the jihad, Pakistan trained Afghan extremist mujahedeen, and during the mujahideen ere, Pakistan created Taliban. Taliban started the war against mujahedeen from Kandahar province and toke the third/fourth of Afghanistan in a short time. (Mohammad Ibrahim Ataye 2004).

The aim of the Taliban was so simple and defined. They said, they will stop the corruption, remove the corrupted mujahedeen from the government, and will go back to the madrassas. But when they started war against the mujahedeen regime in a very short time they hold three-quarters of Afghanistan and changed the political system of Afghanistan to the Islamic Emarat. They appointed their Leader, Ameerul Moameneen and announced their own aims:

- 1: Founding an Islamic government.
- 2: Acceptance of Islam as a government.
- 3; Implementation of Islamic sharia.
- 4: Construction of Mosques (Masjid)
- 5: Hiring of religious people in governmental affairs,
- 6: Prevention of lingual discrimination, racial discrimination, and regional discrimination
- 7: Friendship relations with other countries.
- 8: Protection of privacy and wealth which are non-Muslim and life in Afghanistan.
- 9: Veil (Hijab) for women from head to feet.
- 10: Creating of (Amr bil Maroof and Nahi anil Munkar) groups.
- 11: Building Islamic Courts.
- 12: Providing of Islamic army for preservation of the border,
- 13: Islamic programs for students of madrasa to graduate mujahedeen for Jihad,
- 14: Following of Holy Quran and Sunna in whole national and international affairs,

15: Following of Islamic economic system to improve the agricultural system, industrial, and extraction of mineral.

16: Following Islamic Tax system like zakat, Usher, and Jazia.

The leader of the Taliban was Mula Mohammad Umar Akhund who was 35 years old, he started to fight against corruption from his mosque in Qandahar. Taliban started war against corrupt mujahedeen, in a short time Taliban took three-quarters of Afghanistan (Ahmad Rashid 2001), (William Blum 2003).

Taliban held power from 1996 to 2001 and enforced their strict interpretation of Islamic law. Taliban held power in 1996, the leader of the Taliban was Mula Mohammad Omer and Qandahar was announced as a capital of Afghanistan.

Taliban had international relations with just three countries (Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, and UAE). Taliban had a good relation with Osama bin Laden, and Osama bin Laden was one of the relatives of the royal family of Saudi Arabia. He was born in 1957 in Riaz and he completed religious studies and elementary studies in Riaz, he was graduated from management and economic (Peter L. Bergen 2006).

When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan and Afghan mujahedeen started Jihad against the Red Army, the Red Army was forced to leave Afghanistan. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the relations between Osama bin Laden and the US were ruined, because Osama Bin Laden was a part of Akhwan ul muslimin and US was against Akhwan ul muslimin. The Attack 9/11 was designed and done by Al-Qaida, and the leader of Al-Qaida was Osama Bin Laden (Peter L. Bergen 2006).

The attacks of September 11, 2001, widely known as the 9/11 attacks, were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group called Al Qaeda on the United States on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, 2001. These devastating and brutal attacks killed 2,996 people, injured over 6,000 others and caused at least \$10 billion in infrastructure and property damage in New York and Washington. These attacks drastically changed the whole scenario, and the US once again evaluated its Foreign policy towards Afghanistan and initiated a war against terrorism. After the 9/11 attacks in the United States which were believed to be coordinated by Osama Bin Laden who was residing in Afghanistan under asylum at the time (Anwar 2017) (Bergen, Peter L 2011). The U.S led Operation launched in October 2001, this military operation was aimed at removing the Taliban government from power and to capture or kill Al Qaeda members including Osama Bin Laden. After the defeat of the Taliban, the U.S shored up the new government of Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the USA stationed a very large number of troops to establish the authority of President Karzai's government and to combat Taliban insurgency. Both Afghanistan and the United States started diplomatic relations in late 2001 (Steve Coll 2004), (Gary C. Schroen), (James F. Dobbine 2008), (David E Sanger 2009).

Since 2001 Afghanistan has been struggling against insecurity and instability in the late 2010 government of Afghanistan established HPC (high peace council) for peace negotiation and

reintegration with the Taliban and other opposition groups of government but still Afghanistan burning in the fire of insecurity.

## **HIGH PEACE COUNCIL (H.P.C)**

HPC is peace and reintegration program in Afghanistan, HPC was established by Hamid Karzai, ex-president of Afghanistan in September 2010 to negotiate with the elements of the Taliban.

In the first stage, HPC met with political, jihadi and influential figures and leaders for peace process. HPC started communication with opposition groups and conducted meetings, in these meetings (HPC) shared their plans and strategies for implementing the peace and reconciliation process. All these groups which were mentioned above supported the peace and reconciliation process and recommended independence for HPC.

HPC struggled to engage the opposition groups in the peace process, On the 5th of October 2017, HPC had two meetings at the national level. National media was also represented as well as national peacebuilding institutions. The meeting held with media representatives around 30 national media outlets includes TV, Radio, newspaper and other types of the media, the purposes of the meeting was

- 1: To update the media about the recent activities of the HPC,
- 2: for to support the media to promote the culture of peace.

The second meeting was held with six deferent national organizations and institutions such as Social Ulama Shura, Peace and Solution Shura, Foundations for Peace and Solution, National Stability Society, Afghanistan Peace Studies Organization, and Shura for strengthening in Peace. HPC tried for provincial consultation as well, in 2017 HPC conducted four provincial consultation programs to promote the culture of peace. These programs had followed these purposes:

1. Public awareness regarding the peace
2. Peace in the provincial population, for this purpose HPC visited four provinces( Herat, Nangarhar, Bamyan, and Daikundi) during these tours of HPC 5000 people attended the events and received the message of peace, the participant of these programs were largely ordinary citizens of these provinces.

HPC has done international trips as well such as Indonesia in 2017/November/19, the question which we are facing is that why HPC has been failing in peace negotiations with the Taliban since 2001.

This paper following the failure reasons of the HPC in the peace negotiations with the Taliban and other armed groups of the Afghanistan government. (HPC. 2017).

## **Research Methodology**

The study will be a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods. It will be based on primary and secondary sources. Primary sources will be two kinds, firstly source comprise Government

reports of Afghanistan, policy documents, official documents of foreign ministry, Official documents of HPC (High Peace Council), press release, and official speeches available at website of Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and 9/11 Commission report.

Secondary sources consist of such things as books, journals, magazines, newspaper, reports, Afghanistan and international media and clips. The researcher will visit a number of libraries of different universities in the country. The researcher will also seek guidance from the online sources, internet sources will be used for projected work to a great extent.

## **Failure Reasons of the Afghan Government in the Peace Negotiations with Taliban**

Due to some main problems Afghan government still fails to get a hopeful result from peace talks.

1: Poor Economic and Weak Military: The main reason for the failure of the Afghan government in peace talks is the poorness of Afghanistan in financial and military aspects, Afghanistan is one of the poor countries in the world with ruined economic and military. The main cause of poorness in Afghanistan is corruption. Transparency International provided a list of corrupted countries in 2017. Afghanistan was 177th country from out of 180 countries, in the corruption ranking. Afghans have identified 70 types of corruption, mostly in Government Institutions, Public Administration and international aids. (Farid, Naheed Ahmad. 2018),

2: The second main reason for failure is negative interventions of the neighborhood countries in the peace efforts. (Farivar, Masood. 2017), (Karimi, Hussaini Ali and Ghulam Reza Ebrahimi)

3: The 3rd main reason is ineffective of the H.P.C.

4: Fourth reason is the lack of transparency in the peace negotiations.

5: The last reason is claim of the Taliban, which is a dominant reason for the failure of the peace in Afghanistan, is the presence of International Forces in Afghanistan. Taliban claim, in presence of US and other international troops in Afghanistan, they will not participate in peace negotiations and peace talks with Afghan government. But US has their own interests in Afghanistan (US want to control Central Asia, South Asia, Iran, China, Russia and other regional countries from Afghanistan; and want to extract natural resources from Afghanistan ) and not want to leave Afghanistan.(Giustozzi, Antonio. 2017), (Hirose, K,KImai and J. Lyall.2017), (Keene, Kathleen. 2011),

## **Conclusion**

The geographical, geopolitical and geo-strategic location of Afghanistan has made this country most vulnerable in terms of hosting the great game among the super and atomic powers.

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is a landlocked country in South-Central Asia. It is bordered by Iran in the west, Pakistan in the south and east, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan in the north, and China in the far northeast.

the dominant reason for the failure of the peace in Afghanistan, is the presence of International Forces in Afghanistan. Taliban claim, in the presence of US and other international troops in Afghanistan, they will not participate in peace negotiations and peace talks with Afghan government. But US has their own interests in Afghanistan (US want to control Central Asia, South Asia, Iran, China, Russia and other regional countries from Afghanistan; while Afghanistan's government is weak and needs financial and military support of US and other coalition. Corruption is the main reason for the weakness of the Afghan government; Transparency International provided a list of corrupted countries in 2017. Afghanistan was 177th country from out of 180 countries, in the corruption ranking

Afghans have identified 70 types of corruption, mostly in government institutions, Public Administration and international aids.

Ineffective of the HPC, negative interventions of neighbor countries and lack of transparency in the peace negotiations are other reasons for the failure of Afghanistan's government in the peace negotiations with the Taliban.

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