



## Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI)

Fifth Floor, E. T. Complex, Sir Agha Khan Road, Sector F-5/1, Islamabad, Pakistan.  
Tel: + 92-51-9261348/50  
Email: [ipripak@ipripak.org](mailto:ipripak@ipripak.org)

**PRESS COVERAGE-DAY 2 (11 May 2017)**

**IPRI-HSF International Conference  
Achieving Peace in Afghanistan: Challenges and Prospects**

# DAWN

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### **Pakistan wants peaceful ties with neighbours, says Janjua**

Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua on Thursday said that keeping peaceful relations with neighbouring countries is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy, reported the state-run radio service.

She said, while addressing a seminar in Islamabad, "Pakistan gives special importance to its relations with Afghanistan."

She further said we have historic relations with the country deep rooted in common faith and culture. She viewed that the recent visits of political and military leadership to Afghanistan are the clear manifestation of Pakistan's policy towards the neighbouring country.

## Afghanistan has become a hub of terrorists:

Tehmina

| Says Jamaatul Ahrar, TTP have safe havens in neighbouring country

May 12, 2017

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ISLAMABAD - Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua Thursday said that Afghanistan had become a hub of militants and terrorists.

Speaking at the two-day international conference on Afghan peace here, she said the rise of Daesh in Afghanistan was a threat to regional peace. She said Pakistan supported all efforts for Afghanistan peace.

She said Jamaatul Ahrar and Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan had safe havens in Afghanistan.

This month Pakistan and Afghanistan entered a new phase of tension after Afghan forces violated the border, killing and wounding several Pakistanis. Amid the Afghan attack, Pakistan warned that it reserved the right to respond to preserve its sovereignty and protect its civilians.

To respond to any further aggression by the Afghan forces, Pakistan army was on high alert. Tanks and heavy artillery were moved forward. To accommodate the displaced persons, camps were installed five kilometers away from the border. Authorities said as many as 2,000 families had been affected by Afghan shelling at the civilian areas.

As the tensions flared up, Defence Minister Khawaja Mohamed Asif warned Pakistan will give a befitting reply to all acts of aggression. "If our borders are violated and further destruction occurs then those responsible will have to pay the price," he said last day. The minister said New Delhi-Kabul nexus was apparent on the Afghan border.

Tehmina Janjua said there was an issue of governance in some provinces of Afghanistan. "Peace in Afghanistan is our priority because it will ensure peace in Pakistan. We know there is no military solution to the Afghanistan issue. We have to deal with it politically," she said.

She said the extremists needed to be brought to the mainstream to ensure long-lasting peace.



She said Pakistan was sincere in promoting peace in Afghanistan and was part of the global efforts to achieve the goal.

She said the focus of regional stakeholders should be on facilitating an inclusive reconciliation process in Afghanistan.

She noted that the Quadrilateral Coordination Group would have to collectively decide how to deal with elements refusing to join the peace process.

She emphasised Pakistan continued to play a consultative role in Afghan reconciliation process under the principle of shared responsibility.

She said in the past 15 years, an exclusively military approach had not worked in Afghanistan. "It is important, therefore, to keep the process on track and prevent attempts by spoilers to derail the process," she added.

The foreign secretary said Pakistan wanted peace with all neighbours. She said instability in Afghanistan directly affected Pakistan.

She said Pakistan was facilitating millions of Afghan refugees for years and thousands of Afghan students were studying in Pakistan.

She said Pakistan had also provided scholarships to more than 3000 Afghan students for their education.

# Pakistan desires meaningful engagement with Afghanistan: Janjua

**No country better suited to help Afghan peace than Pakistan: Zakhilwal**

**SARWAR AWAN**

**ISLAMABAD**

Foreign Secretary Ms Tehmina Janjua on Thursday said that peace and stability in Afghanistan is an important objective for Pakistan and effective Pak-Afghan border management is required to curb terrorist activities.

The Foreign Secretary was addressing the concluding session of the international conference on 'Achieving Peace in Afghanistan: Challenges and Prospects' organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

Ms Janjua said, "Pakistan desires meaningful engagement with Afghanistan as both have shared history, culture, ethnicity and religion." She said that high-level officials have visited Afghanistan to show their overtures for peace, and we have recently started training Afghan medical doctors and paramedic staff in Pakistan, along with awarding 3,000 scholarships and launching 3,000 more for Afghan youth.

Ms Janjua, however, cautioned that ungoverned spaces are at the risk of becoming safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorists and militants. She pointed out that 'TTP and JuA use these sanctuaries to undertake terrorist attacks in Pakistan through 2,611-km long border. Hence, an effective border management strategy is the need of the hour.

The Foreign Secretary also stressed that Pakistan wants the Afghan refugees return to their country with dignity and honour. For this purpose, the government is supporting the reintegration of Afghan refugees in their homeland.

"Lasting peace in Afghanistan can only be achieved through the political reconciliation of which Pakistan has always supported Afghanistan", she concluded.

Dr Omar Zakhilwal, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan presenting his keynote address, said there was no country better suited to help the peace process in Afghanistan than Pakistan.

Zakhilwal raised questions about the effectiveness of ongoing efforts for peace in the region, saying that although there are a number of processes in place for keeping peace, "there is a question mark on how effective these measures are."

The Afghan envoy held Pakistan responsible

for the Taliban's return to Afghanistan, saying, "The Taliban could not have returned to Afghanistan without help from within Pakistan. Taliban have the hidden support of some countries, while there are also questions about the peace keeping efforts from Russia," he added.

The envoy maintained that peace would prevail in Afghanistan if Pakistan and India joined hands to resolve the issue, and lauded Islamabad and New Delhi for their efforts in trying to keep the peace in 2002. "We should understand what peace is before talking about it," Zakhilwal asserted. He added that "help from Iran and Saudi Arabia will go a long way."

Talking about the new terror threats that the region faces, Zakhilwal reminded conference attendees that Daesh, a rising threat in the region, is engaged in an ongoing tussle with the Afghan Taliban for regional dominance.

He stated that since 'Afghanistan is at the centre of the conflict, it is the Afghan people who have the sincerest wish for there to be peace. Anyone else's commitment to peace can be doubted but not that of the people of Afghanistan. Unfortunately the international engagement in Afghanistan at the moment is for all the wrong reasons.'

According to him, in 2001, the coalition came to Afghanistan with a lot more clarity but over time their focus has diluted. However, back then, there was little room for reconciliation as the mind-set was more focused on revenge.

Dr Omar said that in 2001, there was unity among regional countries, but in 2017, that unity is gone. 'The way the war was fought perhaps created more difficulties than it resolved making terrorism more complex than before.

"Afghanistan could be a test case for great power cooperation between state actors who traditionally do not get along like India-Pakistan, Saudi Arabia-Iran, Russia-US because if nothing else, peace in Afghanistan benefits everyone. At the minimum, there will not be any conflict spillover", he concluded.

The Conference delegates unanimously agreed that an inter-connected and economically integrated South Asia is not possible without a peaceful Afghanistan for which greater coordination of efforts by the Afghan Government itself, the neighbouring and regional countries as well as the broader world community including the US, Russia and China is needed.



Friday May 12, 2017

## افغان طالبان کی محظوظی کا دہلیز کا آئینہ دکھانے کا وقت

افغان طالبان کو مخالف اور ڈاکٹرز کو ٹرینگ دے رہے ہیں آسمان ویزا شرائط لاگو پر بھی کام ہو رہا ہے تہیہ نہ چھوڑو

پاکستان سے زیادہ افغانوں کی توجہ دہلیز کا آئینہ دکھانے کی بجائے افغانوں کی تہیہ نہ چھوڑنے کی جانب سے ہے۔ اسلام آباد (عاف۔ ریڈرز) نیوزی نارچہ تہیہ نہ چھوڑو امن کے لئے خطرہ ہے افغانستان کے ساتھ تاریخی تعلق ہے۔ افغانستان کے ۱۴ سالے سے جہاد کو یہاں نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں امن افغانستان کے امن سے متعلق ہیں جو مشترکہ مفاد کے لئے اور تعلق ہے اور تعلق ہے۔ ایک کیمپارے سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ شروع ہے۔ افغانستان میں داعش کا بڑھتا ہوا اثر ماحولی ہے۔ اس مسئلے پر پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا مرکزی افغانستان میں دہشت گردوں (صفحہ ۱۰ جی ۴۴)

### 44 میگزین خارجی

کی محظوظی کا دہلیز کا آئینہ دکھانے کا وقت ہے۔ افغانوں کی تہیہ نہ چھوڑنے کی بجائے افغانوں کی تہیہ نہ چھوڑنے کی جانب سے ہے۔ اسلام آباد (عاف۔ ریڈرز) نیوزی نارچہ تہیہ نہ چھوڑو امن کے لئے خطرہ ہے افغانستان کے ساتھ تاریخی تعلق ہے۔ افغانستان کے ۱۴ سالے سے جہاد کو یہاں نے کہا ہے کہ پاکستان میں امن افغانستان کے امن سے متعلق ہیں جو مشترکہ مفاد کے لئے اور تعلق ہے اور تعلق ہے۔ ایک کیمپارے سے خطاب کرتے ہوئے انہوں نے کہا کہ شروع ہے۔ افغانستان میں داعش کا بڑھتا ہوا اثر ماحولی ہے۔ اس مسئلے پر پاکستان کی خارجہ پالیسی کا مرکزی افغانستان میں دہشت گردوں (صفحہ ۱۰ جی ۴۴)



RADIO PAKISTAN

## PEACEFUL NEIGHBORHOOD IS THE CORNERSTONE OF PAKISTAN'S FOREIGN POLICY: TEHMINA JANJUA

### Track 1

06:34 PM, 11 May, 2017

Addressing a seminar in Islamabad today, she said Pakistan gives special importance to its relations with Afghanistan. We have historic relations with the country deep rooted in common faith and culture. She said the recent visits of political and military leadership to Afghanistan are the clear manifestation of Pakistan's policy towards the neighboring country.



RADIO PAKISTAN

### TEXT BULLETIN 1500 HRS

TEHMINA

Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua says peaceful neighborhood is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Addressing a seminar in Islamabad on Thursday, she said Pakistan gives special importance to its relations with Afghanistan.

She said we have historic relations with the country deep rooted in common faith and culture.

She said recent visits of political and military leadership to Afghanistan are the clear manifestation of Pakistan's policy towards the neighboring country

## Achieving Peace in Afghanistan: Challenges and Prospects'

DNA News | May 11, 2017

NA



'Peace and stability in Afghanistan is an important objective for us. Effective Pak-Afghan border management is required in order to curb malicious terrorist activities and is the need of the hour.' This was emphasized by *Ms Tehmina Janjua*, Foreign Secretary of Pakistan in Islamabad today at the concluding session of the international conference on 'Achieving Peace in Afghanistan: Challenges and Prospects' organized by the Islamabad Policy Research Institute (IPRI) in collaboration with the Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF).

Addressing a packed hall of delegates from Kabul, Washington, Tehran, Beijing, Belfast, and Moscow, Ms Janjua stressed that Pakistan desires meaningful engagement with Afghanistan as both have shared history, culture, ethnicity and religion. She said that 'Pakistan is focusing on enhancing people-to-people contact between the two countries. High-level officials have visited Afghanistan to show their overtures for peace, and we have recently started training Afghan medical doctors and paramedic staff in Pakistan, alongwith awarding 3000 scholarships and launching 3000 more for Afghan youth.' Ms Janjua also shared that under the Afghan-Pakistan Transit Trade Agreement (APTTA), Pakistan has been providing transit route for Afghan trade. However, she cautioned that ungoverned spaces are at the risk of becoming safe havens and sanctuaries for terrorists and militants. She pointed out that 'TTP and JuA use these sanctuaries to undertake terrorist attacks in Pakistan through our 2,611 km long border. Hence, an effective border management strategy is the need of the hour.' The Foreign Secretary also stressed that Pakistan wants that the Afghan refugees return to their country with dignity and honour. For this, the government is supporting the reintegration of Afghan refugees in their homeland. 'Lasting peace in Afghanistan can only be achieved through the political reconciliation of which Pakistan has always supported Afghanistan', she concluded.

In the session on 'Peace Initiatives by Regional Partners and Coalition Countries', *Dr Omar Zakhilwal*, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Pakistan presented his keynote address and called for the need to understand

what peace is and then to understand it in the context of Afghanistan specifically. He stated that since ‘Afghanistan is at the centre of the conflict, it is the Afghan people who have the sincerest wish for there to be peace. Anyone else’s commitment to peace can be doubted but not that of the people of Afghanistan. Unfortunately the international engagement in Afghanistan at the moment is for all the wrong reasons.’ According to him, in 2001, the coalition came to Afghanistan with a lot more clarity but over time their focus has diluted. However, back then, there was little room for reconciliation as the mind-set was more focused on revenge. His Excellency remarked that there is no shortage of misconceptions and conspiracy theories about his country forcing all those involved into a very dangerous prisoner’s dilemma of ‘to cooperate or not to cooperate’. Dr Omar said that in 2001, there was unity among regional countries, but in 2017, that unity is gone. ‘The way the war was fought perhaps created more difficulties than it resolved making terrorism more complex than before. Afghanistan could be a test case for great power cooperation between state actors who traditionally do not get along like India-Pakistan, Saudi Arabia-Iran, Russia-US because if nothing else, peace in Afghanistan benefits everyone. At the minimum, there will not be any conflict spillover’, he concluded.

On the ‘US Vision of the End State in Afghanistan: A Critical Evaluation of the Obama Policies and Key Recommendations for President Trump’, **Dr. Marvin G. Weinbaum**, Professor Emeritus, and Scholar-in-Residence, Middle East Institute from Washington D.C. shared that while Barack Obama sought to implement a new strategic approach in Afghanistan which featured a military surge that was expected to clear the way for the disengagement of US forces from the country, his administration was left with pinning its hopes on a strategy designed to buy ‘enough time’ for the Afghan state ‘to put its act together.’ Like Obama’s administration, Dr Weinbaum suggested that all major stakeholders need to do the same and lower their sights for an end-state, and be willing to settle for an Afghanistan whose security, stability and governance is just ‘good enough.’ He also pointed out that Pakistan’s influence over the Taliban is overestimated and misunderstood; and that the Taliban’s vision of an end-state for Afghanistan is different from that of the US and its allies. He opined that the ‘Taliban seek the recreation of an Emirate in a *Sharia* state, not a Western-styled democratic constitutional state. Trying to get the Taliban to agree to power sharing has ignored what the Taliban’s core leadership regularly states: that it has no interest in power sharing within the prevailing political system.’ Regarding President Trump, he was of the view that during his campaign for the presidency Donald Trump seldom mentioned Afghanistan, ‘it is doubtful that the new administration’s vision for Afghanistan or its strategies in the region will deviate very far from those during the Obama years.’ He, however, cautioned and lamented that development assistance stands to be cut sharply in an overall defunding of soft power in American’s foreign policy towards this region.

Presenting possible international cooperation scenarios for normalization of the situation in Afghanistan, **Dr. Grigory Tishchenko**, Deputy Director, Russian Institute of Strategic Studies (RISS) said that Moscow supports the legal government in Afghanistan, and noted that since Pakistan is the key country for ensuring its stability, it is important to continue the present Russian-Pakistani interaction. He warned that destabilization of the situation in Afghanistan could seriously complicate functioning of the Chinese One Belt One Road passing through the region. Any aggravation in the region threatens Russia as well, he pointed out. He was of the view that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) can make an essential contribution to normalizing the situation in Kabul through coordination of Russian, Chinese, Pakistani and Indian interests. ‘Russia and especially China are already huge sponsors of the Afghan government, both in the military and economic sphere. Therefore, it is essential to add the situation in Afghanistan to the agenda of the SCO,’ he urged. Dr Tishchenko warned that the fight against terrorism and religious extremism is complex. He also recommended



advance preparations for international cooperation in case ISIL activities go beyond Afghanistan. ‘Search of forces interested in peace-making and ready to sit down at the negotiating table, including direct dialogue of the Afghan Government with the Taliban is also necessary as is strengthening of borders, modernization of armed forces of Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan, involvement of the CSTO Collective Rapid Reaction Force (KSOR) and the SCO Anti-terrorist center in the region’, he concluded.

Reviewing the current Afghan situation from the Iranian perspective, **Dr. Seyed Rasoul Mousavi**, Advisor to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Vice President Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) from Tehran was of the view that the US as the main security guarantor has no specific strategy for Afghanistan, while the Taliban believe the US has been defeated militarily and so the number of terrorist attacks and with them civilian casualties are increasing, along with massive opium production. He said that Afghanistan’s ‘trilemma’ lies in 3 main and key problems: Stability, Security and Development. ‘Unfortunately, none of the governments and political parties in Afghanistan have been able to find a balanced solution for these three crises’, he reflected. According to him, the Bonn Conference was a failure because it focused on removing Taliban from the Afghan equation and fixated only on the security dimension, ignoring the social and political dimensions which led to renewed strength in the Taliban. According to Dr Mousavi, another mistake made by the Bonn process was relying on the military forces of US and NATO while disregarding the importance and role of regional countries in attaining this goal. He recommended that Afghanistan needs a ‘Power Re-sharing solution’ in which there is participation of all Afghan major political and social players in the central government and local administration, without excluding anyone. He also suggested looking at the present-day Taliban with a new lens as ‘neo-Taliban’ rather than the one worn during the previous years. The session was chaired by Mr. Muhammad Sadiq, Pakistan’s former National Security Secretary and former Ambassador to Afghanistan.

During the session on ‘Achieving Peace in Afghanistan: A Way Forward’, **Mr. Owais Ahmed Ghani**, Senior Research Fellow and Member Board of Directors, Global Think Tank Network (GTTN), National University of Sciences and Technology (NUST), Islamabad, and former Governor Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan, delivered his keynote. He candidly shared that relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan are strained due to past seven decades of Pakistan’s run-of-the-mill policies, and that Gulbadin Hikmatyar’s inclusion in Kabul’s political circles testifies to Pakistan’s stance that Afghan Taliban can be part of political power-sharing. He predicted that the US will not exit Afghanistan due to its grand strategy to contain China. The former Governor categorically stated that the US is unwilling to stop India from terrorist activities in Pakistan. ‘The fact is that India today is enjoying strategic depth in Afghanistan and it is using Afghan soil to launch terrorist activities in Pakistan,’ he remarked. It has become a strategic imperative for Pakistan’s and Afghanistan’s political and military leadership to work more closely to prevent future violent threats and conflict. He proposed free visa regimes, Preferential Trade Agreements to increase trade volume, common customs facilitation to reduce smuggling and to bridge the trust deficit between the two governments. ‘Provision of education and health care facilities can also go a long way in reducing the trust deficit between the two peoples, he concluded.

**Mr Muhammad Sadiq**, Pakistan’s former Ambassador to Afghanistan while speaking on ‘Optimizing Afghanistan Relations with All Regional Countries’ said that the country has been one of mystery for outsiders since times immemorial but one fraught with perpetual conflict. This Afghanistan, he felt, is now changing. The new Afghanistan has new realities and cultures with new sub-nationalities much stronger than the existing ones. According to him, even the way Afghans interpret their own history has changed. ‘Afghanistan’s current

leadership highlights this new reality and unless they are accepted, neither regional nor international actors can come up with any working strategies for peace. He pointed out that the way the world today wants reconciliation in Afghanistan is not the way acceptable by those within the Republic. He reminded the audience that with Pakistan having more Afghans than Afghanistan itself, it has the most at stake in wanting a peaceful and prosperous neighbour.

On building consensus among major stakeholder countries, **Dr. Liu Zongyi** from Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) in China, said that Pakistan's position on Afghanistan and the insight it can offer about peace in the country should be respected. The eminent scholar emphasized that China considers the Afghan people as the major stakeholders of the Afghan issue. He was of the view that regional connectivity can help Afghanistan and lay the foundation for future regional engagement. However, he recommended that 'diverse regional connectivity efforts of individual stakeholders in Afghanistan must be synergized, and the US should support Russian efforts for establishing peace in Afghanistan.' He pointed out that many great empires declined after they reached this land and hence, every stakeholder needs to keep this history in mind when developing any policy for the people of this region. He noted that there are many contradictions between the policies of various stakeholders with respect to the future of the country. Dr Zongyi urged that 'there should be international consensus on an Afghan-led and Afghan-owned peace process that accepts the Taliban as a legitimate stakeholder. Western democracy cannot be transplanted in Afghanistan,' he concluded.

In his video conference from Belfast on 'Reconciliation and Confidence Building Measures in Afghanistan', **Mr Michael Semple** from Queen's University reminded the audience that the Taliban see themselves as different from the Kabul elites and wish to run an Islamic Emirate. He was of the view that the most important step should be to ask the Taliban to forego violence since there is moral authority behind negotiating an agreement on that premise. He warned that while the Taliban are now more fractured, their various wings have become more autonomous than ever before. 'While the Taliban have found their transition from their last Emir to be quite a challenge, the idea of the Taliban Islamic Emirate is still potent', he stressed. According to him, there is paucity of decision making on Afghanistan due to trust deficit on all fronts which leads to failure of the reconciliation process. Mr Semple suggested more focus on CBMs among all stakeholders to bridge the trust deficit among all warring parties of Afghanistan. This session was chaired by **Dr. Syed Rifaat Hussain**, Head of Department, Government & Public Policy, NUST, Islamabad.

The two-day Conference ended with Acting President of IPRI **Brig (R) Sohail Tirmizi** acknowledging the wealth of ideas and solutions put forward by the renowned speakers. The Conference delegates unanimously agreed that an inter-connected and economically integrated South Asia is not possible without a peaceful Afghanistan for which greater coordination of efforts by the Afghan Government itself, the neighbouring and regional countries as well as the broader international community including the US, Russia and China is needed.



## NATIONAL

- In [National](#)
- May 11, 2017

### **Pakistan Wants Peaceful Afghanistan: Foreign Secy.**

Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua says that Pakistan urges Afghanistan to thrive as a prosperous country in the region.

While addressing a concluding session of two-day international seminar in Islamabad, the



foreign secretary said that ungoverned spaces in Afghanistan are the breeding grounds for non-state actors like Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan and Islamic State, are infiltrating Pakistan through the porous border and launch terrorist activities inside Pakistan.

She said an effective border management is required from Afghanistan side to curb such malicious activities of terrorists.

The Foreign Secretary further said Pakistan desires to send Afghan refugees back to their homeland with dignity and honor.



## Pakistan believes in peaceful neighborhood: Foreign Secretary

**Islamabad (May 11, 2017): Foreign Secretary Tehmina Janjua has said that peaceful neighborhood is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.**

Pakistan gives special importance to its relations with Afghanistan, she added while addressing a seminar here earlier today.

Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan are rooted in common faith and culture.

The recent visits of political and military leadership to Afghanistan are the clear manifestation of Pakistan's policy towards the neighboring country, she added.





## Afghan Diplomat Alleges Pakistan Behind Resurgent Taliban

May 11, 2017 12:35 PM

- Ayaz Gul



FILE - In Afghanistan, the Taliban released to the media this picture, which it said shows the suicide bombers who attacked the army base in Mazar-i-Sharif, April 21, 2017.

ISLAMABAD —

Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan has accused the neighboring country of contributing to the continuous violence in his war-ravaged nation by not cutting ties to the Taliban.

Omar Zakhilwal told an international conference in Islamabad Thursday that neighboring and regional countries need to create a "broader" consensus to help end hostilities in Afghanistan and promote political reconciliation there.

"We do not believe that Pakistan has yet given up on "strategic depth" in Afghanistan, unfortunately. Despite the rhetoric, we do not believe that it has changed its policy. They contribute to the continuous violence in Afghanistan," the ambassador asserted.



FILE - Weapons and ammunition seized are presented to the media along with insurgents suspected of being from the Haqqani network at the National Directorate of Security (NDS) headquarters in Kabul, May 30, 2013.

Islamabad has long been accused of supporting the Taliban and harboring leaders of the Haqqani network in a bid to gain an upper hand over security and political developments in Kabul so it could counter rival India's growing influence there.

The so-called policy of "strategic depth" in Afghanistan has been at the center of Kabul's political tensions with Islamabad.

"Taliban could not [have] come back at the strength they are without support from here [Pakistan]," Zakhilwal said.



The Durand line, on the Afghanistan-Pakistan border

Pakistani officials, however, dismiss the charges as “mere perceptions” and say their contacts with the Taliban are meant only to encourage them to end violence and join peace talks.

During his visit to Afghanistan last month, U.S. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster also called on Islamabad to rethink its policy toward the neighboring country.

“The best way to pursue their interests in Afghanistan and elsewhere is through diplomacy, not through the use of proxies that engage in violence,” McMaster said.

Zakhilwal Thursday also sounded skeptical about a Russia-led multi-nation process aimed at promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan.

“Even though we do participate [in it], there are suspicions with respect to the motives, with respect to the recent contacts [with the Taliban] and those need to be addressed,” Zakhilwal noted. He was indirectly referring to overt contacts Russia and Iran have maintained with the Taliban.

The ambassador went on to suggest that unless prevailing “doubts and suspicions” are removed, Moscow-led efforts may not be effective even if primary stakeholders are participating in them.

Russia has hosted three meetings of Afghanistan's immediate and far neighbors since December 2016 to try to find ways to bring the Taliban to the negotiating table for talks with the Afghan government.



FILE - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his Afghan counterpart Salahuddin Rabbani arrive for a joint news conference following their meeting in Moscow, Russia, Feb. 7, 2017. Pakistan, Iran, China, India and former Soviet Central Asian states, as well as Afghanistan, are part of the process.

But the U.S. administration refused to attend when Moscow invited it to the last meeting in April, saying it was not given enough time and Washington was unclear about the motives.

The U.S. military alleges Russia's stepped up Afghan diplomacy is meant to undermine international efforts to stabilize Afghanistan. Russian leaders have rejected the charges as groundless.



## Taliban couldn't re-emerge without Pakistan help: Afghan envoy

Posted by: nt | May 12, 2017 | in World News

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IANIS

ISLAMABAD

Days after Afghanistan's cross-border attack in Chaman, its envoy to Pakistan Omar Zakhilwal said the Taliban could not have re-emerged in Afghanistan without help from within Pakistan, and peace cannot be restored without Islamabad's help.

No country is better placed to help the peace process in Afghanistan than Pakistan, Zakhilwal told an international conference about peace in Afghanistan on Thursday.

Zakhilwal raised questions about the effectiveness of the ongoing peace efforts in the region, and said that although a number of processes were in place for keeping peace, "there is a question mark on how effective these measures are", Dawn reported. The Afghan envoy held Pakistan responsible for the Taliban's return to Afghanistan, saying, "The Taliban could not have returned to Afghanistan without help from within Pakistan."

"Taliban have the hidden support of some countries, while there are also questions about the peace-keeping efforts from Russia," he added.

The envoy maintained that peace would prevail in Afghanistan if Pakistan and India joined hands to resolve the issue, and lauded Islamabad and New Delhi for their efforts at trying to keep the peace in 2002.

"We should understand what peace is before talking about it," Zakhilwal said, adding that "help from Iran and Saudi Arabia will go a long way".

Talking about the new terror threats that the region faces, Zakhilwal reminded the conference participants that the IS terror group, a rising threat in the region, is currently engaged in an ongoing tussle with the Afghan Taliban for regional dominance.

Taliban returned to Afghanistan with Pakistan's help: Envoy

BY PTI | MAY 11, 2017, 07.46 PM IST

## Taliban returned to Afghanistan with Pakistan's help: Envoy

BY PTI | MAY 11, 2017, 07.46 PM IST

[Post a Comment](#)

ISLAMABAD: The Taliban could not have returned to Afghanistan "without help from within Pakistan", the Afghan envoy here said and urged Islamabad to join hands with India to bring peace to his war-torn country.

Omar Zakhilwal said that peace would prevail in Afghanistan if Pakistan and India joined hands, and lauded both the countries for their efforts in trying to keep the peace in 2002, the Dawn newspaper reported.



*Ten Pakistani civilians were killed and more than 40 people, including women and children, were injured in a firing by Afghan forces on Pakistani census workers and the troops escorting them at*

The Afghan envoy to Pakistan raised questions on the efforts for peace in the region, saying although there were a number of processes in place for keeping peace, "there is a question mark on how effective these measures are."

He held Pakistan responsible for the Taliban's return to Pakistan, saying, "The Taliban could not have returned to Afghanistan without help from within Pakistan."

He said this in his address at an international conference in Afghanistan yesterday, days after a cross-border attack near the Chaman border point.

Ten Pakistani civilians were killed and more than 40 people, including women and children, were injured in a firing by Afghan forces on Pakistani census workers and the troops escorting them at border villages in Balochistan on May 5. The Pakistani army had claimed that it has killed over 50 Afghan soldiers in the retaliatory attack.

Zakhilwal said: "Taliban have the hidden support of some countries, while there are also questions about the peace keeping efforts from Russia."

He also said that "help from Iran and Saudi Arabia will go a long way."

Speaking about the new terror threats faced by Afghanistan, he said that the Islamic State (IS) terror group, a rising threat in the region, is currently engaged in an ongoing tussle with the Afghan Taliban for regional dominance.



## Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs: Security in Afghanistan is not possible without the participation of neighbors

ISLAMABAD - IRNA - Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran said that Afghanistan's recent history with three crises keyword 'stability, security and development' has faced, said: 'crisis of security' in Afghanistan thematic regional and security stable in the country without the participation of regional neighbors, particularly participation is not possible.

According to IRNA, Seyed Rasoul Mousavi to attend and speak at an international conference and two days as 'peace in Afghanistan: fears and hopes' to host Pakistan's capital was invited yesterday in his speech on the theme of the conference, the outlines ways of creating stability, security and sustainable development and obstacles in the way, said the main reason for the lack of attention to the root causes of the conflict in Afghanistan and the Afghan crisis is the key. Mousavi added that Afghanistan's recent history with three crises key stability, security and development has faced and said the political developments in Afghanistan, particularly in the last four decades to find answers and solve three crisis these two, but all governments or parties seized power in Afghanistan have not been able to find a solution equitable for all three crisis. Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, said: 'Crisis stable' Afghanistan 'internal challenge' is to have its solution in Afghanistan through political power engineering and power distribution searched.

He 'safety crisis' in Afghanistan the subject of 'regional' and he said: It is not possible in Afghanistan without the participation of regional neighbors, particularly Afghanistan develop sustainable security.

Mousavi said: 'development crisis' Afghanistan 'international issue' is only possible through the participation of the international community in Afghanistan develop its solution is possible. Stating that seems to be the situation in the security, political and economic Afghanistan this year than in previous years more difficult, he said, is expected to be the main challenges in Afghanistan, including military activities of the Taliban, al-Qaeda, ISIS and other groups. terrorist, dead-end balance of regulation instabilities between the Taliban and Afghan security forces, the situation is uncertain in the coalition government and challenges within the government, lack of clear vision for parliamentary elections, the dispute between the governing elite and conflict of top managers of the rulers and managers in different regions of Afghanistan following year (2017) continues Will.

The Ben internal stability based on the removal of the Taliban from power, but only after its security focus on the social and political dimensions to forget the result of forgetfulness

resurgence of the Taliban, who are said to date, more than 40 percent of Afghanistan have been taken.

The Iranian diplomat said that another mistake of Ben's efforts to restore security in Afghanistan, relying on military power, America, NATO and forget about the importance and role of countries in the region to establish security in Afghanistan and noticed there was no security in Afghanistan within the framework of Security regional can be achieved. He reiterated that the solution to the Afghan crisis should be at three levels: local, regional and international levels and with regard to capacity and factors that determine each searched, said in this connection in order to solve the 'crisis stability' that subject 'internal' and is in the process of Afghanistan, the Taliban issue in the concept of the 'neo-Taliban' should be considered. Mousavi said the Afghan crisis no military solution and a political solution in Afghanistan through the participation of all political and social forces involved in the Afghanistan peace is possible and that can only be through a revision of all forces, including the Taliban in goals and policies for Afghanistan's future comes and revise its policies from their objectives and the Taliban movement and a new process called 'Nvtalban' will create.

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