



Center for Strategic & Regional Studies

Weekly analysis:

Issue Number: 61 (from to February 15th, up to February 22th, 2014)

This Publication consists of significant incidents as per week, which is provided and published by Center for strategic and regional studies, to analyze the political and economic status of Afghanistan, for the use of different organizations and institutions.

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1. Afghanistan Peace Talks, from Doha to Dubai

- Unfortunately there is lack of political will for durable peace and security in Afghanistan. If Afghan government hadn't opposed to Taliban's Qatar office, at least the lack of Taliban's address wouldn't exist today. Karzai's agreement with Qatar process could at least bring green light with the main Taliban movement. Karzai's firm opposition to the Qatar process has led the government and HPC to knock the doors of unknown parties which will derive nothing but political and media gain.

2. Assassination of Maulavi Abdul Raqib and the Unclear Future of Afghan Peace Process

- In overall it is clear that neither US nor Afghan government and Pakistani military and government officials honestly work for peace as the Afghan nation hopes and the biggest price is also paid by the Afghan nation and those who due to their religious and national duty want to put an end to the one-sided imposed on Afghanistan.

Afghanistan Peace Talks, from Doha to Dubai

Zakir Jalaly – Political Analyst



Mullah Agha Jan Motasim the Taliban's Political Affairs Committee former head has published a press release regarding the Afghanistan's peace process. Under the title of (Afghanistan Taliban Movement) instead of Taliban's (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan) he called for peace and reconciliation. He called on all parties in Afghanistan including the government to start peace negotiation.

The High Peace Council (HPC) which enters to its fifth year of foundation called this press release as an opportunity; in the meantime, Afghanistan's National Security Council (NSC) welcomed this announcement and considered it as position of Taliban. HPC also sent a delegation to Dubai, where the gathering took place, with the hope that they will meet the Taliban negotiators. Taliban or their representatives in Qatar office haven't yet reacted to the HPC's and NSC's reactions.

High Peace Council and Repetitive Maneuvers

As predicted, the HPC was not even able to arrange a meeting with the lowest ranking political or military Taliban officials from the day it's founded till today. They just publicized the news related to peace process but Taliban repeatedly rejected any kind of negotiation with this HPC or with Afghan government. They have called the government of Afghanistan US puppet and consider HPC as a US conspiracy. Spokespersons to the Taliban repeatedly rejected the HPC's

suggestions or claims regarding the resumption of peace negotiations between them and Taliban.

With regard to the US policies in Afghanistan the HPC's repetitive attempts to separate Taliban in different parties. HPC tried to play a role in starting peace negotiation with Hizb-e Islami (Islamic Party) under the leadership of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. The representatives of Hekmatyar's Hizb-e Islami come to Kabul usually after speculation regarding the peace negotiation between the US and Taliban. Both HPC and Hizb-e Islami started political maneuvers while feeling isolated in peace negotiation which were conducting between US and Taliban representatives.

In early 2012 while the media focused on Taliban representatives in Qatar, the representatives of Mr. Hekmatyar traveled to Kabul to negotiate with Afghan government. Since Afghan government was not involved in Qatar process they warmly welcomed the delegation, and Mr. Karzai in his address the Parliament welcomed Hekmatyar's peace-seeking intentions.

Agha Jan Group's Role in Hezb-e Islami

Now as Hekmatyar's Hizb-e Islami supported Qutbuddin Helal in the upcoming presidential elections and negotiation with this party is not that much significant as they was before. The HPC entered in negotiations with Mullah Agha Jan Motasem group. In 2010 Motasim Agha Jan was targeted in Karachi of Pakistan and then with the help of Afghan government shifted to Kabul and eventually sent to Turkey for treatment. Mr. Motasim was head of political committee of Taliban a few years ago, but according to a press release of Taliban in 2010 he has been dismissed for allegation what they called as misuse of financial resources. Since being targeted in Karachi Mr. Motasim now lives in Turkey and occasionally publishes press releases about Afghanistan's peace process. In his latest press release he mentioned about a gathering in Dubai in which other political and military leaders of Taliban also participated and insisted on restarting of peace negotiation process in Afghanistan. HPC in reaction to the press release sent a delegation under the supervision of Masoom Stanekzai, HPC Secretary to Dubai. It's worth noting that

the latest press release of Motasim has also been published on the High Peace Council official website.

As the election campaigns are getting hotter one hand and on the other hand repetitive failures of HPC in peace negotiation caused to start a game of 90th minute to at least let Mr. Karzai to have its credit against his opposition. But in fact Mr. Motasim has been separated from Taliban two years ago. Negotiation with this channel cannot help the peace process of Afghanistan and this council uses the crevice between Taliban and Agha Jan Motasim, therefore we can say that he is playing the role which was previously being played by Hekmatyar.

Why Peace Negotiations Fail?

When Afghan government realized that Taliban won't negotiate with Afghan government or High Peace Council they tried to find an alternative. First Mr. Hekmatyar's Hizb-e Islami played this role especially when Taliban opened Qatar office, and Mr. Karzai's government and this party become isolated in this process. Qatar office brought hopes for lasting peace in Afghanistan but unfortunately in the very start of the opening Karzai's opposition caused the office to be closed.

Unfortunately there is lack of political will for durable peace and security in Afghanistan. If Afghan government hadn't opposed to Taliban's Qatar office, at least the lack of Taliban's address wouldn't exist today. Karzai's agreement with Qatar process could at least bring green light with the main Taliban movement. Karzai's firm opposition to the Qatar process has led the government and HPC to knock the doors of unknown parties which will derive nothing but political and media gain.

Taliban's Reaction to the Dubai Meeting

The details of Dubai meeting are still unknown, whether the Taliban militia commanders really participated it or not. The Taliban has rejected the meeting by publishing a press release. The press release states: "The Islamic Emirate once again announce to all parties that Motasim Agha Jan has no responsibility or job in Islamic Emirate nor can he represent us, as well as the Islamic Emirate considers the current acts against its principles and the goals of the Jihad and benefiting to

US occupiers and their servants. The Islamic Emirate hasn't held any meeting in Dubai nor did it negotiate with the puppet Kabul administration or the so called HPC.”

Taliban as usual have emphasized on Qatar office and called it the only office which can represent Taliban.

Assassination of Maulavi Abdul Raqib and the Unclear Future of Afghan Peace Process

Ahmad Zia Rahimzai - writer and analyst



It is a fact now that the Taliban as an armed opposition of Afghan government are not united as past, it is neither a secret nor a new incident. But how will this division affect the hesitant Afghan peace process and what will its results be?

Last week the media reports regarding a gathering of a number of Taliban former leaders and commanders with the aim of peace negotiation and inter-Afghan reconciliation under the supervision of Taliban previous Finance Minister Mullah Agha Jan Motasim on the one hand and the reports of assassination of Maulavi Abdul Raqib Takhari, Taliban former Minister of Refugees and a participant of Dubai meeting by unknown militants in Peshawar, Pakistan on the other hand were significant news.

Maulavi Abdul Raqib was considered a moderate and knowledgeable personality. After his assassination Mullah Agha Jan Motasim in a press release declared that Maulavi Abdul Raqib hoped a peaceful Afghanistan and both of them were trying to make the newly started peace negotiation between Afghan government and Afghan Taliban in Dubai successful.

But is not clear who and why assassinates or imprisons personalities like Takhari who try for peace and reconciliation and are well knowledgeable scholars and thinkers?

It is said that Maulavi Abdul Raqib Takhari had just returned to Peshawar from Dubai meeting on Afghanistan peace process while he was assassinated.

The Chain of Mysterious Assassinations

Maulavi Abdul Raqib Takhari is not the only person being sacrificed for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan, but there are many other incidents making it apparent that all Taliban leaders keen for peace process are assassinated, captured or suddenly disappeared.

The first suspected of these assassinations is Pakistan and cells within its military and intelligence who don't want peace and stability in Afghanistan. But in the ongoing complicated intelligence war some other parties and even the Afghan government and US are also those in the long list of suspected parties.

The internal differences between Taliban are also suspected as a cause of such assassinations, whatever the cause of such discrepancies is, it's clear that before Maulavi Abdul Raqib other prominent Taliban officials and figures and even Taliban former Finance Minister Mullah Agha Jan Motasim were shot in daylight in Karachi who was later sent to Turkey with the assistance of Afghan government for his treatment who still lives abroad and is trying for peace and negotiations.

Who Oppose Peace?

Whoever the assassin of Maulavi Abdul Raqib Takhari is but it is not to be doubted that it has greatly harmed the peace negotiations especially the process started in Dubai under the leadership of Motasim Agha Jan and Afghan High Peace Council (HPC) with a group of Taliban.

The question is that what will be the results of such assassinations and attacks? And how will the half-alive peace and negotiations process go ahead?

Afghan government is also to be blamed for this, a group of analysts observe that Afghan government publicly talks about their commitment to peace and reconciliation but they have never contacted the known parties for peace, some of the analysts even consider this to be the reason of continued assassinations because the government tries to separate some groups from Taliban and start negotiations with them to their will. But in this situation the leadership and groups who think are only authorized to talk, blame the ones who are separately holding meetings with the government of treason and betrayal and become suspicious of them.

If we even accept that Pakistan military officials and intelligence cells are behind these assassinations and do not want the peace process to go ahead without their consent again the responsible parties are Afghan government and US, because despite identification of source of the problem waste their time in talks those groups in bilateral and trilateral meetings and this way instead of pressing Pakistan for peace and negotiations give them one-sided privilege.

In overall it is clear that neither US nor Afghan government and Pakistani military and government officials honestly work for peace as the Afghan nation hopes and the biggest prices is also paid by the Afghan nation and those who due to their religious and national duty want to put an end to the one-sided imposed on Afghanistan.