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Afghanistan: Can government channel numerous people's movements into new anti-Taliban front?

By: Moinon Farahidi

The intensity of the war against the Taliban and its spread to all parts of Afghanistan caused the withdrawal of the Afghan national security forces from a district in the north, while thousands of civilians have fled their homes in the southern part of the country to escape violent attacks by the hardline Shariat Islam group after the withdrawal of US forces from military bases in the mountainous country.



Local movements were also deployed in parts of the country to resist possible Taliban attacks.

The Afghan forces returned for movements from the Taliban to build a human shield with local militia in mountainous areas and villages to prevent airstrikes. Afghan forces' airstrikes inflicted heavy losses to the Taliban, which is why the Taliban have already been verified of air attacks. "The recent air operations were very effective for suppressing the Taliban," says Afghan news Chief of Staff General Shariqullah Khan.

Local movements were also deployed in parts of the country to resist possible Taliban attacks. The people's movements against the Taliban also have their advantages and challenges. The most vital advantage of local mobilization against the Taliban is the creation of a new front against the group. People's fronts can greatly enhance the ability of the Afghan national security forces to strengthen other areas that the Taliban are seeking to capture so that the fundamentalist group cannot overtake them. On the other hand, local movements also prevent the Taliban from recruiting men and generating revenue.

The Taliban's income derives from more than just the drug business. They constantly extract money and local products from people in the form of a tax and other (Islamic) financial products or the obligation that an individual has to donate a certain proportion of wealth to education and religious schools, and wherever they go they destroy bridges, schools and clinics. That is why the government would like to make the Taliban's intentions and actions clear to the people once again. Consequently, there has been a strong public reaction against the Taliban. Popular uprisings in northern and western Afghanistan have got the footstep race from the people.

In addition, the Taliban are recruiting young people to fight against the government by promising them jobs in the country's reconstruction. Many of the young people who are fighting for the Taliban do not have a good opinion about the group's performance. The Taliban are equally interested in their ideas through uprisings. A local movement against the Taliban means the group can no longer recruit from among the people.

Four or five years' return. However, popular uprisings also have challenges. The most important challenge is the extent of some of the warlords that the present government has negotiated over the years. Of course, people outside the cities will maintain contact with their local warlords. The return of these warlords could once again call into question the authority of the government in the long run. In this respect, while the government welcomes the long-term return of the people against the Taliban, it also has its own concerns about the return of the old warlords to the formation of new nuclei of warlords.

Prospects for a lasting, comprehensive agreement to end the Afghan conflict, however, will remain increasingly dim. The Taliban, showing no seriousness in participating in the talks and failing to agree to a credible, fair and of the responsibility for the construction of the current body of the government.

From another angle it seems that a large population is coming up against the Taliban. "If the central government does not continue, we will witness a human tragedy and human catastrophe, that we decided to stand with the Afghan national forces against Taliban," said Lutfullah, a resident in Kabul province.

If the government can reconstruct the government's movements of the people and prevent them from becoming more radical for the warlords, not only can it create a new front against the Taliban, but also mobilize public opinion in a large extent, as it is already doing in some extent. Although many people are not satisfied with the government's performance and subject to so much criticism, the majority of the population still prefer the Afghan Republic government over the fundamentalist Taliban.

The writer is a Research Fellow at International Relations at the University of Mysore, India. This article was published by South Asia Monitor.

Editorial

Collective efforts required to succeed against growing militancy

With the resilience of the Taliban resurgence in mind, the US military commanders seem to have sketched precautionary measures by considering the US forces in the neighboring countries close to Afghanistan. It is believed that the United States does not trust Taliban to honor their commitment to the agreement they signed in Doha, signs of which are emerging as the insurgents have substantially increased attacks on Afghan Government positions immediately after President Biden announced complete withdrawal of forces from Afghanistan.

The Taliban have agreed to reduce violence and engage in peace talks with the Government of Afghanistan, though they did participate in the "peace talks" with Afghan Government, their motives to agree to terms that would lead the warring parties strike a peace deal is not in sight.

Despite the announcement by the US and the NATO to withdraw forces from Afghanistan, there are reports that both the US and the UK will have hundreds of armed personnel in Afghanistan to protect their embassies and diplomats - including development workers.

Mawardi is a letter signed by prominent leaders and individuals worldwide, friends and supporters of Afghanistan urged NATO and the European Union that as US and NATO forces withdraw from Afghanistan, "we must not abandon the Afghan people and their democratic republic."

The letter signed by former foreign ministers, former ambassadors to Afghanistan, diplomats, along with a range of civil society groups and leaders states that while NATO armed forces are leaving Afghanistan, "it is the obligation of all NATO and European countries to continue to strongly stand by our Afghan partners." The letter urges NATO and the EU to continue the financial support to the Afghan state, protect the human rights of Afghan women and girls, and continue to provide "robust financial" support to the Afghan national security forces.

The letter calls for support in six major areas, including to protecting women's rights and human rights and providing a robust and sustainable support to the Afghan state. It asks to reaffirm robust financial support to the Afghan national security forces, continue development assistance to key Afghan institutions, support a strong UN role in the intra-Afghan peace talks, and reaffirm support to civil society and human rights groups.

The letter comes as the Taliban expanded their illegitimate war against Afghans across the country. The group has been using the "presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan" to encourage young and religious zealots to fight Afghan government and the west, however they have made peace deals with foreigners, not letting their fellow Afghans on daily basis.

Meanwhile country in their comments, the group has been launching attacks on districts, cities and forced thousands of local people to migrate as well as using their houses as shelters. Considering the increasing violence by Taliban, the US and its allies should do more to curb violence and make a responsible withdrawal.

Afghanistan is facing international terrorism and is suffering heavily because these terrorist groups build their niches in the impoverished areas in the country with support from few neighboring states and non-state actors, which continue to take immense toll on its citizens' lives, economy, education, security and national interests.

By entering into defense and security and economic development agreements with important regional and international countries, Afghanistan can easily distribute the risk and bring into the fold other countries of the world to share their part of responsibilities to ward off serious ongoing menace of terrorism from Afghanistan in particular and from the world in general.

A collective, national, regional and international efforts and cooperation is required to succeed against the challenges that Afghanistan, the region and the world are facing.

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