

International Daily
WWW.thekabultimes.gov.af

- Farid Ahmad Farhang, Director of Govt. Dailies
Mob. 0704008080
- Editor-in-Chief, Hamidullah Arefi
Mob. 0700163568, 020-230.1766
- E-mail: Hamidullah_arefi@yahoo.com
- Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgar
Mob. 0707003865
- Graphic designers: Idriss Akhary, Bakhtash Shabani and Ali Ahmad
- Distribution: 2500357 - 0795511515 - 078245600 - 0766785447
- Printed at: Azadi printing press
- Address: 2nd Floor, Liberty Printing Press Building
2nd Microrayon, Kabul, Afghanistan

 twitter.com/thekabultimes

 www.facebook.com/thekabultimes

Editorial

Mobilizing uprising forces essential to tackle Taliban's increasing insurgency

With intensification of Taliban attacks on different parts of the country, particularly in the northern provinces, thousands of residents of these provinces have been mobilized spontaneously and formed local resistance centers to defend their regions. Commanders and members of these locally mobilized people unanimously declared their support of Afghan National Defense and Security Forces and are ready to fight Taliban.

Meanwhile, the Afghan government has announced that would equip and support these forces to enable them to defend their localities against Taliban offensives. On the first days of his taking over as acting Minister of Defense, Gen. Ismailullah Mohammadi asked local commanders to mobilize their supporters, adding government was ready to put all essential resources at their disposal.

But nowadays, it seems that government's support from local mobilized forces has decreased. Commanders of mobilized forces complain that essential supports were not taking place for the forces under their command in the battlefields.

Meanwhile, the reduction of support from mobilized local forces might apparently be due to US disagreement with this process. The Special Representative of US for Afghan Peace Process, Zalmay Khalilzad in an interview with a local media explicitly said that distribution of armament to these mobilized forces may lead Afghanistan towards a civil war. The western countries' sensitiveness come only against distribution of weapons to local mobilized forces, but not regarding Taliban's insurgency and their takeover of the districts.

The other reason which impacted support to local mobilized forces, that there are strong concerns on possible obstacles and disorders in the provinces, because in the past, access of local commanders to weapons and armaments and arming of irresponsible individuals produced bad consequences.

Afghanistan has been struggling with many difficulties, where important and decisive decisions are essential to be adopted for survival of the system, preservation of recent two decades gains and preventing of Taliban re-dominance on the country. The international troops and Afghanistan strategic partners left this country in a very sensitive and difficult situation.

Meanwhile concerns of the western countries on future situation of Afghanistan is no more logical, because Afghanistan has been in a critical situation, which is the outcome of self behavior of western countries with Taliban and somehow legitimizing their insurgency.

In such a situation, the Afghan government is in need of local mobilized forces' support to prevent collapse of the system to the hand of Taliban insurgents. Local mobilized forces and their commanders who are ready to support system and ANDSF under the government and fight against Taliban, must be strongly supported.

To overcome Taliban and halt current situation, the Afghan government has no other way except mobilizing people against Taliban, but support of these forces should take place within a clear and specified framework.

ANDSF need support of local mobilized forces in the battlefields to cover them and ensure security of liberated areas. Local mobilized forces have complete acquaintance with terrain structure of battlefields and if they are supported, can manage to play effective role in ensuring security of liberated areas and repulsing of Taliban offensives.

Annual subscription fee of The Kabul Times
For government organizations and individuals 4000 Af\$
For six months: 2000 Af\$
For foreign organizations and diplomatic missions: 8000 Af\$
For six months: 4000 Af\$
For domestic commercial organizations: 6000 Af\$
For six months: 3000 Af\$
For students: 2000 Af\$
For six months half price
Address: Second Microrayon, Azadi Printing Press Building, second floor.
Contact No: 0202301675-0700163558

Regional, international peace efforts should be in consultation with Afghanistan



Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) says all efforts of regional and international partners towards maintaining peace in Afghanistan should be in direct consultation with the Afghan government and not peace talks.

In a statement released in this regard by Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afghanistan has hoped that by the support of regional and international partners should be for maintaining permanent ceasefire and ending the ongoing war in the country. The statement added that the efforts should be also focused on ending Taliban's relations with terrorist groups.

In reaction to Taliban's delegation visit to Turkmenistan, the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the group's visit to regional countries cannot wage in their attacks and violence resulting in killing of more than 200,000 people and disrupting people's life and economic activities in the country's districts.

In the statement, the country's ministry of foreign affairs has stressed on strengthening the Afghan peace process, saying that ending the ongoing war in the country was only possible through political settlement and not peace talks.

Although the Central Asian countries, particularly Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan are active in Afghanistan peace discussions, part of the country's peace has regional and international dimensions; therefore, close and honest cooperation of effective powers in the region is key.

The central Asian countries are waiting to see a secure and peaceful Afghanistan in the region and their mutual interest in the region requires that any political negotiations on the future of Afghanistan be held in the presence of Afghanistan government. Otherwise, it is clear that any dialogue, instead of terrorist groups to the capital of neighboring countries, signing any agreements with such groups, holding secret meetings with the group against the national interests of Afghanistan.

The Taliban or any other groups fighting against the people of Afghanistan for the sake of foreigners cannot represent the people of Afghanistan and has no authorization to decide on future of Afghanistan.

Both international laws and neighborhood etiquette as well as the interests of countries in the region require that any political negotiations on the future of Afghanistan be held in the presence of Afghanistan government. Otherwise, it is clear that any dialogue, instead of terrorist groups to the capital of neighboring countries, signing any agreements with such groups, holding secret meetings with the group against the national interests of Afghanistan.

It is worth mentioning that Turkmenistan is considered as the risk country from the point of view of the South Asia region. There is nearly 14 km common border between Afghanistan and Turkmenistan. Inghand, in Herat and Aquia in Faryab are two big trade ports connecting Afghanistan with the neighboring country.

It is good that neighbors should introduce its position in Afghanistan peace process under the framework of international laws and based on protection of their relations and historic and cultural sharing with Afghanistan.

This comes after a Taliban delegation led by Mohammad Akbar Stanekzi paid a visit to Turkmenistan.

Taliban said that their delegation's visit to Turkmenistan has been carried out based on official invitation of the host country.

Taliban's move

