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**Editorial**

**Peace should be sought in battlefields**

When for the first time, the United States entered talks with Taliban in Doha, it seemed that a new page would be opened in Afghanistan and that the two warring Afghanes would finally see a bit of peace in their country.

People were believing that with direct support of US and the international community, Taliban would show flexibility, give up war and submit to a political solution. But with signing of peace agreement with US in Doha, Taliban confirmed violence against Afghan and their deal was only to guarantee peace and ceasefire with US. Later reports emerged that Taliban even garbled the US military bases but attacked Afghan forces check posts in different provinces. The Taliban-US agreement, instead of helping restoration of peace and stability in Afghanistan, resulted in intensification of violence and further complication of situation. The US-Taliban agreement indeed promoted the group from a terrorist faction to a political movement and granted international reputation and prestige to the group. Meanwhile their Doha agreement released over 5000 Taliban prisoners and sent them to battlefields to fight Afghan forces and people.

Doha agreement gave false believe and arrogance to Taliban and doubted their incentive to return to power, resorting to violence and implement their favorite rule. Doha agreement exoticized Taliban and caused the regional countries to recognize the movement and the Afghan peace process has been changed to a great regional game.

Despite of their clear knowledge that Taliban commit terrorist activities, have close ties with international terror networks, don't believe in peaceful life and intent to grow and cultivate extremist ideas and actions, the regional countries and our northern, eastern and western neighbors, are enthusiastic to enter dealing with this group and want to play key role in future of Afghanistan.

Russian, Iranian, Uzbek and Pakistan statements show that they have not taken serious the risk of Taliban return to power in Afghanistan, while the militants have reached borders of the Central Asian countries and have potentially jeopardized their border security, but our northern neighbors don't imagine that the threat has reached to even their doors.

These countries still appear in role of spectators and have no concern on current situation of Afghanistan. Now it is not clear that which scenario is understood and that the Afghan neighbors and regional powers have agreed and achieved which kind of agreement and deal on the future of Afghanistan. But nevertheless, the only thing which is important to the Afghan people, is to prevent disintegration of the system and return to the past.

Taliban believe in no peace and peaceful solution of war. The group wants to settle the dispute through resorting to war and seeking to return to the power by force. Their increasing violence in the last one or two months show frankly that they have chosen the way of war. In such a circumstance, continuation of talks with this group would be wasting of time and would bear no positive result.

Now, the peace talks with Taliban should be stopped, the government negotiating delegation must be recalled to Kabul, a big consensus should be formed to prevent disintegration and ensure survival of the system and Taliban must be exterminated in the battlefields.

The government and ANDP have the capability to defeat Taliban in the battlefields, particularly at this situation that public uprisings and resistance have taken shape against Taliban, and the Afghan people have been mobilizing everyday against the insurgents. Anti-Taliban uprisings indicate that Taliban have no public support and bases can't take power by force. The Afghan government should exploit this historical opportunity and seek peace and stability in the battlefields.

**New era begins as NATO forces withdraw from Afghanistan: Turkey's leading role in securing Kabul Airport**

By: Ece Uygur

During the latest NATO meeting on 14 June 2021 in Brussels, US President Biden and Turkey's President Erdogan agreed Turkey would lead to protect Kabul's Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan. Turkey would like to carry on this mission with the assistance of troops from Pakistan and Hungary.

The importance of Kabul International Airport is a country that not only has regional but global importance. It occupies a wide place in world politics. Hamid Karzai International Airport possesses a very strategic and crucial position in the region. Afghanistan being a mountainous region, the airport is the only path to provide connection and transportation to the outside world. Due to the inability to ensure the safety of the roads in the country, Kabul Airport is the only way to receive business vehicles and equipment, mail and shipments. Additionally, much of Afghanistan and the districts of military units are made only from this airport, as it is safe.

The security of the international personnel of the US Embassy also depends on the security of this airport.

Therefore, US military officials have stated their concern by stating that without a protected airport, the US Embassy complex in the capital would have to be closed and the personnel would be evacuated. US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has maintained their concern with Turkey's new position as he said, "We are feeling good about where we are in terms of the planning with the Turks on the way."

NATO Mission in Afghanistan. When we look at history, Afghanistan was a country that could not be shared by the United Kingdom and Russia. Since 1979, the Soviet Union was the first to invade Afghanistan. They were defeated and withdrew, which led to the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Since September 11, 2001, all countries have undertaken a task under the umbrella of NATO and the name of the International Security Assistance Force, as a result of America's war against terrorism strategy.

ISAF was established by the UN Security Council in December 2001 by Resolution 1386. After the 9/11 attacks, the first time in NATO history, Article 5, the collective defense of the Washington Treaty, was put into practice and the NATO troops were deployed accordingly.

Turkey was one of the first countries to deploy troops in Afghanistan along with the US. Turkey initiated this mission with 1350 soldiers, now there are over 500 soldiers.

Turkey's forces in Afghanistan have always been non-combatant troops. As of today, the US still has around 2,500 soldiers in the number reached 100,000 in 2010.

The US troops withdrawal from Afghanistan according to the Taliban's agreement with the Trump administration, all foreign armed forces were supposed to leave Afghanistan by May 1 this year. However, the Biden administration extended this period until September 11 and they declared that the withdrawal would be completed over this symbolic day.

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