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Afghanistan Constitution

Article One Hundred Fifty-Nine

3. Establishing the Independent Elections Commission;
4. Completing necessary reforms to better regulate executive as well as judicial affairs;
5. Adopting necessary measures to prepare the ground for implementing provisions of the Constitution.

'No more refugees' is not the answer to Afghanistan's displacement crisis

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Displaced families in dire need of humanitarian aid

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The Japanification of the US economy

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BBC, MSN and now MNM: Where does Messi, Neymar, Mbappe rank in the history of football's finest front threes?

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Germany donates AstraZeneca jabs to Tajikistan

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US officials stress political solution to conflict in Afghanistan

KABUL: Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin sought to reassure President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani Thursday as the Taliban captured two major cities of Herat and Kandahar.

The State Department said Austin and Blinken "exchanged views" with President Ghani on the security situation, with the secretary of state confirming that the US "remained committed to support a political solution to the conflict" and both officials stressing that "the United States remains invested in the security and stability of Afghanistan."

The department also said that Austin and Blinken informed President Ghani that America would be "reducing our civilian footprint in Kabul in light of the evolving security situation" and promised to pick up the pace of flying out Afghans who have worked with US and NATO forces and could be marked for extra-brutal retaliation by militants.

Earlier Thursday, the Pentagon announced that 3,000 US troops would reinforce the more than 600 forces already working at or near the embassy, with press secretary John Kirby saying US officials didn't want to "wait until it's too late" to secure the safety of diplomatic personnel.

Separately, the United Kingdom said 600 of its troops would be deployed on a short-term basis to support British nationals leaving the country.

Late Thursday, the Associated Press reported that Canadian special forces would be sent to Kabul to help with the evacuation of embassy staff. CTV News reported that "sensitive documents" were being destroyed at the Canadian embassy in anticipation of an evacuation.

"Afghanistan is careening toward a massive, predictable, and preventable disaster," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said in a statement Thursday.

"And the Administration's surreal efforts to defend President Biden's reckless policy are frankly humiliating."

"President Biden's decisions have us hurtling toward an even worse sequel to the humiliating fall of Saigon in 1975," added McConnell, who urged Biden to commit more support to the Kabul government's forces.

"Without it, al Qaeda and the Taliban may celebrate the 20th anniversary of the September 11 attacks by burning down our Embassy in Kabul."

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'Gov't imposed via use of military force won't be recognized'

KABUL: The participants of the Doha meeting on Afghanistan have called on the warring parties to accelerate efforts to reach a political settlement and a comprehensive ceasefire, amid the advance of the Taliban militants towards Provincial capitals.

The Afghan government and

the Taliban delegations and special representatives of UN, US, UK, EU, China, Uzbekistan, Qatar, Pakistan, Germany, Norway, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and India participated the meeting.

The participants issued a joint statement at the end of the meeting on Thursday.

According to the statement, all participants agreed on the importance of accelerating the Afghan peace process and negotiating "concrete proposal from both sides.

The International community also called for an immediate cessation of violence and attacks on the Provincial capitals.

Meanwhile, the participants reiterated that the International community will not recognize any government in Afghanistan that imposed by a military takeover.

The joint statement highlighted the following key points:

1. Participants agreed that the peace process needs to be accelerated as a matter of great urgency on the basis of the negotiations of concrete proposals from both sides.

2. Participants urged both sides to take steps to build trust and accelerate efforts to reach a political settlement and comprehensive ceasefire as quickly as possible.

3. Participants called for a stop to violence and attacks immediately in and against provincial capitals and other cities.

4. Participants took note of converging statements of both sides on the following guiding principles for a political settlement: (a) inclusive governance; (b) respect for human rights, including the rights of women and minorities; (c) a mechanism to deliver a representative government, (d) a commitment does not allow any individuals or groups to use the soil of Afghanistan to threaten the security of other countries; and, (e) respect for international law, including international humanitarian law.

5. Participants called on all Afghan sides to act in accordance with these principles and build on them in the future political settlement.

6. Participants raised grave concerns about reports from across Afghanistan with respect to continued violence, large numbers of civilian casualties and extra-judicial killings, widespread and credible allegations of human rights violations, all attacks (ground and air) against provincial capitals and cities, and the destruction of physical infrastructure that perpetuate conflict and make reconciliation efforts more difficult.

7. Participants reaffirmed that they will not recognize any government in Afghanistan that is imposed through the use of military force.

8. Participants committed to assist in the reconstruction of Afghanistan once a viable political settlement is reached following good faith negotiations between the two sides.

9. Participants express full support and gratitude to the State of Qatar and its efforts in this regards.

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Al-Qaeda could come back to Afghanistan: UK

KABUL: Britain's defense minister Friday expressed raised concerns over situation in Afghanistan, stating that Afghanistan was spiraling towards a "failed state."

In an interview with Sky news agency, UK Defense Minister Ben Wallace stated that Afghanistan could become a breeding ground for militants such as al Qaeda which would probably come back.

"I'm absolutely worried that failed states are breeding grounds for those types of people," Ben Wallace told the Sky when asked about Afghanistan.

"Al Qaeda will probably come back," he noted.

Wallace said that Afghanistan's second biggest city of Kandahar and the town of Lashkar Gah was "pretty much now in the hands of the Taliban."

This comes after the participants of the Doha meeting on Afghanistan have called on the warring parties to accelerate efforts to reach a political settlement and a comprehensive ceasefire, amid the advance of the Taliban militants towards Provincial capitals.

The Afghan government and the Taliban delegations and special representatives of UN, US, UK, EU, China, Uzbekistan, Qatar, Pakistan, Germany, Norway, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and India participated the meeting.

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Recent violence to pose serious threats to regional, world security: MoFA

KABUL: The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has raised with the international community the grave concerns of the Government and people of Afghanistan over the Taliban's brutal attacks on cities, which have led to war crimes and blatant human rights violations and humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan, a statement from MoFA said Thursday.

The Afghan negotiating team headed by the Chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation Dr. Abdullah, attended on Wednesday the Extended Troika meeting with the participation of Russia, the US, China, and Pakistan in Doha, expressly echoing the Afghan people and government's demands, according to the statement.

The chairman of the High Council for Reconciliation, as quoted by MoFA, called on the international community, especially the Troika meeting member states, to adopt serious measures to prevent Taliban attacks on cities, which have led to war crimes, widespread human rights abuses and humanitarian catastrophe. Mr. Abdullah also stressed the need to start meaningful and sincere negotiations to establish an immediate ceasefire and reach a political agreement.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan reiterated that the continuation of the Taliban's bloody attacks in collusion with regional and international terrorists will not only lead to a humanitarian catastrophe and the protraction of war in Afghanistan, but also exacerbate violent extremism and incite terrorists in the region posing a serious and irreparable threat to the collective security of the region and the world.

Therefore, stopping the Taliban violence and crimes in direct collusion with regional and international terrorists will be not only in the interest of Afghanistan but in the interest of the whole world, especially the countries of the region.

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