Has Peace Process Failed?

Despite the increasing optimism about the outcome of US-Taliban talks, which was raised by US Special Envoy Zalmay Khalilzad, the process ended with a messy tweet by US President Donald Trump, but little is known about the sudden about-turn in the process. Khalilzad held nine rounds of talks with the Taliban leadership behind closed doors and aired his optimism on several occasions after each Taliban as described the talks, "the most productive session" and "substantial progress". He also insisted on the crucial role of regional and global stakeholders and appreciated their support for the Afghan peace process. Khalilzad said that "peace" and "negotiations" was a part of the agenda for the White House even if not for the Taliban leadership.

In May, Khalilzad said in a tweet that "peace require that we find common ground on four interconnected issues: troop withdrawal, counter-terrorism assurances, intra-Afghan dialogue and negotiations with the Taliban". He also added that, "like everyone, the Taliban leaders have to play an active role". Meanwhile, to support peace process, Washington and Islamabad exerted their pressure on their respective sides that the Taliban should not put its weight behind the talks. On the other hand, Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan promised on his trip to Washington that he would hold talks with the Taliban. Despite all the issues, including Khalilzad's pressure on comprehensively ceasefire and his optimistic views, he ended the talks with a draft agreement, which was acceptable neither to Kabul nor to Washington. Frustrating the talks, the Taliban leadership turned down Khalilzad's demand for ceasefire. The draft agreement was reportedly calling the Taliban "Islamic Emirate" and the Taliban would not declare ceasefire. Worst, the Taliban intensified their attacks against the Afghan government and nation.

I raised my doubt and mistrust about the Taliban in many commentaries and I realized that the Taliban has been a real player and they could never practice genuine intention in that regard. With this in mind, I mentioned that if the Taliban did not observe the rule of the talks, they had to face the consequences similar to Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, which was a stronger terrorist group than the Taliban but, was dismantled militarily. The United States of America has made a historical experience that increased diplomatic pressure on the Taliban could have resulted in large-scale attacks and the militants were engaged into the Chirani administration.

Frustration rises in the minds of all. They have no idea if Washington resumes the talks or will revert to military forces. Washington should clarify its stance on the peace process. They seek an end to the war and a fresh start in the way that Trump's statements had damaged his credibility and warned of more America's bloodshed.

However, it is evident that the Taliban played a foiled game in Washington. The US-Taliban leadership said that Trump's statements had damaged his credibility and warned of more America's bloodshed.

In the talks, the Taliban and its representatives had to face the increasing attacks. This meant that the Taliban did not observe the rules of the talks, they had to face the consequences similar to Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam was a stronger terrorist group than the Taliban but, was dismantled militarily. The United States of America has made a historical experience that increased diplomatic pressure on the Taliban could have resulted in large-scale attacks and the militants were engaged into the Chirani administration.

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