

Three Years After the US-Taliban Agreement

News:

John Kirby, the Coordinator for Strategic Communications at the US National Security Council, told VOA in his recent interview: “We are working to ensure that the Taliban keep their pledges. We have not yet recognized them as a legitimate government and do not have any immediate plans to do so.” Three years passed since the US-Taliban agreement was signed in Doha. The Doha agreement was signed on 29th February 2020 between the US and the Taliban after a series of lengthy and controversial negotiations. Both parties, even after three years, still hold each other responsible for the violation of the agreement. The Islamic Emirate is accused by the US of violating the deal by providing shelter and support to ‘terrorists’ in the country; however, the Islamic Emirate asserts that the US has violated the agreement on numerous occasions and continues to do so.

Comment:

The Part Two (articles no. 1 & 2) of the Doha Agreement declares that the Islamic Emirate will not allow its members and other groups to use the soil of Afghanistan against the US and its allies, and will convey a clear message about it. The following is stated in the first clause: “The Islamic Emirate which is not recognized by the United States as a state and is known as the Taliban will not allow any of its members, other individuals or groups, including al-Qaida, to use the soil of Afghanistan to threaten the security of the United States and its allies.” The United States argues that the Islamic Emirate has not lived up to this clause, but the truth is that no threat has been posed to the security of the United States and its allies from the soil of Afghanistan as of yet.

However, the commitments made by the US as stated in the Doha Agreement are either fully unfulfilled or implemented with significant delays, some of which are highlighted below:

1. The US agreed to withdraw its troops from Afghanistan within 14 months, but it did not do so, postponing it for more than five months.

2. The US agreed to release 5000 Taliban prisoners within 10 days of signing the agreement, but it took six months.

3. The US pledged to remove the names of Taliban commanders and members from sanctions and rewards list by August 27, 2020, but this has yet to materialize – even the FBI doubled the prize for anyone having information on the whereabouts of the Islamic Emirate’s current acting Interior Minister from \$5 million to \$10 million.

4. The United States agreed to remove the names of Taliban officials from the United Nations blacklist by May 29, 2020; however, some of the names have yet to be removed and some have been removed temporarily but not permanently. The point is that this is now used as a means of ‘Stick Policy’ against the Islamic Emirate.

