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Karzai reveals complete breakdown of trust between Afghanistan and US

February 2, 2014

The Afghan president Hamid Karzai, in his latest remarks has revealed a complete breakdown of trust between Kabul and Washington after he admitted that he has not spoken with US president Barack Obama during the past seven months.

While speaking during an interview, president Karzai said that he “saw no good” in the American presence in Afghanistan.

Karzai quoted by The Telegraph said, “This whole 12 years was one of constant pleading with America to treat the lives of our civilians as lives of people.”

He also criticized the way the US aid was spent to Afghanistan and said the money paid to security firms created militias who caused lawlessness, corruption and highway robbery.

“They then began systematically waging psychological warfare on our people, encouraging our money to go out of our country. What they did was create pockets of wealth and a vast countryside of deprivation and anger,” Karzai said.

In regards to the Britain’s role in Afghanistan, president Karzai said that Britain tried to bring better relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

However, president Karzai said that in general the US-led Nato mission in terms of bringing security has not been successful, particularly in Helmand.

The remarks by president Karzai comes as tensions between Kabul and Washington have further escalated after he refused to sign the bilateral security agreement, which will provide a legal framework for the presence of US forces in Afghanistan beyond 2014.

Karzai said that the agreements signed by the kings of Afghanistan under pressure have turned out to be disastrous, and the consequences will be unknown if he takes a similar action under the pressure.

He also said that he was proud of his legacy as Afghanistan is home to all Afghans now. We have a parliament where commanders, clergy, mujahids and women sit together. We have 11 candidates running for president who represent a combination of all Afghan people and thinking,” Karzai said.

“Money is not everything. If you ask me as an individual, I would rather live in poverty than uncertainty,” Karzai said while referring towards the implications of his posturing, saying that Western anger and the cutting of financial aid did not trouble him.

This comes as the US development aid to Afghanistan was reduced to \$1.1 billion, after the US congress cut the aid by half last week.