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www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

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Afghan Taliban suspend peace talks with US

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Afghanistan's Taliban militants have announced that they were suspending reconciliation talks with the United States because of the "shaky, erratic and vague" US position, Press TV reports.

"Taliban has decided to suspend all talks with Americans taking place in Qatar from (Thursday) onwards until the Americans clarify their stance on the issues concerned and until they show willingness in carrying out their promises instead of wasting time," the militant group said in a statement released on Thursday.

The Taliban also added in a statement that they were presented with unacceptable demands during talks with the United States.

The statement did not mention the precise details of the US demands that prompted the Taliban to abandon talks.

"They turned their backs on their promises and started initiating baseless propaganda portraying the envoys of the Taliban as having commenced multilateral negotiations for solving the Afghan dilemma," the statement added.

The Taliban also said talks with the government of President Hamid Karzai were pointless and none would take place.

The statement highlighted that Taliban members will continue their militancy campaign against foreign forces as long as they are present in Afghanistan.

In early 2012, the Taliban gave its first public sign that it was ready for reconciliation talks. On January 3, 2012, the Taliban announced that it had struck a deal to open a peace mission in the Persian Gulf state of Qatar. The step was a sharp reversal of the Taliban's longstanding public denials that it was involved or interested in any negotiations to end its militant attacks in Afghanistan.

Taliban's announcement to have suspended negotiations with the United States comes as several Afghan political leaders had cast doubt on the outcome of US talks with the militant group.

Abdul Rashid Dostum, army chief of staff and leader of the National Islamic Movement of Afghanistan, said on January 9 that the talks could win the Taliban time, allowing them to make gains after the departure of foreign troops as planned by 2014.

Meanwhile, the leader of Afghanistan's main political opposition, Abdullah Abdullah, said on January 11 that he supported peace talks with the Taliban but only if they included the voices of all Afghans.