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Sanctions weakened Haqqani Network operations: officials

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According to Afghan security officials, the Haqqani Network operations were relatively disturbed by recent sanctions from United States and UN Security Council.

Afghan interior ministry officials are saying that the network still imposes greater risk to Afghanistan national security despite its operations were limited due to the sanctions.

Interior ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqi said sanctions against the Haqqani Network from United States and United Nations was vital for the network.

However Mr. Sediqi said further steps are supposed to be taken for the elimination of the network's activities.

He said, “The move was vital to weaken Haqqani Network and those who were supporting the network. But the Haqqani Network unfortunately still poses greater risks to Afghanistan, the region and the entire world. Further steps should be taken to eliminate the network’s activities.”

US department of state included Haqqani Network in its terror list back in the month of September which was followed by similar steps from the UN Security Council.

In the meantime a number of political observers believe that the Haqqani Network was seriously weakened following the sanctions.

They believe that the Haqqani Network’s attacks in Afghanistan have dramatically decreased.

Haqqani Network is accused of several deadly attacks on Afghan and coalition security forces besides string of attacks in capital Kabul including attack on US embassy and NATO headquarter.

The network is believed to receive support from Pakistan’s Inter Service Intelligence (ISI) however local residents in southern Afghanistan believe that the pressures on Haqqani Network will harm Afghan peace negotiations.