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Afghans in Russia allegedly plotted coup



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Some Afghan citizens living in Russia recently asked members of the Social Democratic Party of that country to aid their plan for a coup d'état against the government of President Hamid Karzai, a well-placed source said on Sunday.

Led by Millie Hewad party leader Gen. Ghulam Mohammad Jalal, the influential Afghan nationals met Russian Social Democratic Party head Vladimir Zhirinovsky in an attempt to muster his support for their coup plot.

Familiar with the meeting, one Afghan government official told Pajhwok Afghan News on condition of anonymity the men had told Zhirinovsky that they had good clout with lawmakers, politicians and military leaders in Kabul.

They could change the system with the support of Afghan political and military circles, the group reportedly said, while seeking Zhirinovsky's help. By the change of system, the men meant a coup, he believed, without giving a specific date of the meeting.

According to the official, the Russian parliament has confirmed the meeting. However, details of the clandestine negotiations remain sketchy. Duma is learnt to have shared the issue with the Afghanistan embassy in Moscow. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has also been informed of the plot.

But Afghanistan's Ambassador to Russia Azizullah Karzai was unaware of the meeting. He said if he had heard about the issue, he would have immediately shared it with the government.

"Some Afghans may have relations with Russians, but I have no clue to them. Such links may be rooted in their past friendships," the ambassador believed, hailing a recent visit of a Russian parliamentary delegation to Afghanistan as positive move.

Meanwhile, Gen. Ghulam Mohammad Jalal also rejected the allegation. Jalal, who lives in Moscow, said he had visited some Russian officials to share with them problems of Afghan refugees.

Meanwhile, foreign ministry spokesman Janan Mosazai told Pajhwok Afghan News he could not confirm the meeting between the Moscow-based Afghans citizens and the Russian legislators.

He said: "We are in contact with our diplomats in Moscow. If we get any accurate information on the issue, the Afghan government will make its stance clear."