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AP News

Taliban leader in Afghanistan rejects talks

Taliban leader denies group is open to peace talks with Afghan government

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Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar is once again denying that the insurgents are open to talks with the Afghan government.

In a message for the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, Omar says the insurgents of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan are winning the war.

In an e-mailed statement, he says, "Claims about negotiation, flexibility in the stance of the Islamic Emirate are mere baseless propaganda."

He asserts that "the enemy wants to cover up its failure in Afghanistan by wrongfully raising hollow hopes in the hearts of their respective people."

He says in Monday's message that the insurgents' strategy is to increase operations countrywide, then "compel the enemy to come out from their hide-outs and then crush them through tactical raids."