
AFGHANISTAN SEEKS ACTION AGAINST 85 MILITANTS HIDING IN PAKISTAN

21.02.2017

Hindustan Times, 20 Feb 2017

Kabul on Monday asked Islamabad to take action against 85 militants and 32 terror training camps on Pakistani soil, widening a row between the two countries over action against cross-border terrorism.

Afghanistans ambassador to Pakistan handed over a letter with a list of the militants and camps to authorities in Islamabad, said a statement posted on the Facebook page of the Afghan foreign ministry.

The statement said the Afghan envoy sought immediate action against the terrorist training camps. The list of 85 wanted militants included operatives and leaders of the Taliban and other terror groups such as the Haqqani Network. The Afghan side said they should be arrested and handed over by Pakistani authorities.

The statement added that Pakistans initial response to the list was positive and there was an expression of hope that practical actions would be taken.

The move came three days after the Pakistani military resorted to the unusual step of summoning Afghan diplomats and asking them to take action against 76 Pakistani terrorists believed to be on Afghan soil.

The Pakistani military also pushed the US-led NATO forces to push President Ashraf Ghanis government to take action against the terrorists.

Following the suicide attack, Pakistan closed crossing points on the border with Afghanistan and targeted suspected militant bases in Nangarhar with artillery.

The Pakistani military moved after a suicide attack on a Sufi shrine in Sindh province killed 88 people last week. The civil and military leadership blamed a spike in violence on militants allegedly sheltering on Afghan soil.

Pakistan has for long alleged that some top terrorists, including Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan chief Mullah Fazlullah, Omar Khalid Khorasani of Jamaat-ul-Ahrar and Lashkar-e-Islam chief Mangal Bagh Afridi are based in Afghanistan. On the other hand, Afghanistan has accused Pakistan of sheltering the top Afghan Taliban leadership, including leaders of the Haqqani Network.

On Monday, Afghan Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah said it is unfair to accuse his country of supporting terrorism and violence. The only solution in the fight against terrorism is to cooperate and to stop supporting terrorism, he told a meeting of the council of ministers.

Kaynak/Source: