

---

## **RUSSIA WELCOMES AFGHAN PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO EXTEND CEASEFIRE WITH TALIBAN**

-

18.06.2018

---

Russian News Agency (18 June 2018)

Moscow welcomes the Afghan governments decision to extend a ceasefire with the Taliban movement [outlawed in Russia] and hopes that it will help resolve the conflict, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Monday.

"We welcome Afghan President Ashraf Ghani's statement about extending a temporary ceasefire that the countrys government declared at the end of the Islamic holy month of Ramadan," the statement reads.

"We hope that Kabuls new initiative will give an impetus to efforts aimed at ending the fratricidal war raging on the long-suffering land of Afghanistan and will also pave the way for a peace dialogue and a national reconciliation process," the Russian Foreign Ministry added.

At the same time, the ministry said it was important that the ceasefire did not apply to terrorist groups active in Afghanistan, first and foremost, the Islamic State (outlawed in Russia).

On June 7, Afghanistans president declared that a unilateral ceasefire with the Taliban movement on the occasion of the Eid al-Fitr holiday, marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan, would take place on June 12-19. According to Reuters, the Taliban also declared a three-day ceasefire, which took effect on Friday. On June 17, the Afghan government extended the ceasefire but the Taliban said they did not intend to abide by the ceasefire and would resume military activities on Sunday night.

<http://tass.com/politics/1009977>