
US PEACE ENVOY TO AFGHANISTAN LAUNCHES EFFORT' IN SURPRISE STOP IN KABUL

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Washington's special peace envoy Zalmay Khalilzad was in the Afghan capital Kabul on Wednesday to launch an accelerated effort to get Afghans on both sides of the protracted conflict to the negotiation table to plot a roadmap to a post-war Afghanistan.

His next stop will be Doha in the Middle East where he will restart talks with the Taliban, according to a U.S. State Department statement. The talks would be the first official round since September when President Donald Trump declared an all but done deal dead after a surge in violence killed 12 people in the capital, including a U.S. soldier.

In Kabul on Wednesday, Khalilzad met with several Afghan leaders, including President Ashraf Ghani, who repeated his call for a cease-fire.

Hekmat Karzai, chairman of the Kabul-based Center for Conflict and Peace Studies, tweeted photographs of his meeting Wednesday with Khalilzad in Kabul, saying they spoke about the way forward.

A Taliban official said the group has held informal talks with the Americans, without specifying where or who participated. He spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the talks.

Read more at: <https://www.militarytimes.com/flashpoints/2019/12/04/us-peace-envoy-to-afghanistan-launches-accelerated-effort-in-surprise-stop-in-kabul/>

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