

LEGALFOXES LAW TIMES

POWER-SHARING DEAL IN AFGHANISTAN: AN ANALYSIS

By Tanya Sharma

ABSTRACT

The unpleasant power debate, between the Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani and his political rival Abdullah Abdullah, that profoundly partitioned the Afghanistan's authority and eased back the push for harmony with the Taliban, finally settled on 17th May, 2020. This political strife started since the Presidential Election Dispute in Afghanistan, obstructed talks between 'INTRA-AFGHAN NEGOTIATION' deal between U.S and Afghanistan. Thus, to re-establish 'Balance of Power' in Afghanistan and to maintain peace this deal was signed. The main objective of this article is to check the necessities and effectiveness behind this deal and to also check its relevance with respect to India. Thus, at last in the article, critical analysis and conclusion have been provided. In the process of making this research paper, several journals, books and articles were referred and taken into consideration. Internet has also been a support in this process. Hence, this article is a result of Doctrinal Research Methodology.

Keywords- unpleasant, political rival, balance of power, peace, negotiation

POWER-SHARING DEAL IN AFGHANISTAN: AN ANALYSIS

INTRODUCTION: AFGHAN PRESIDENT, RIVAL SIGN POWER SHARING DEAL

An unpleasant power debate that profoundly partitioned the Afghanistan's authority and eased back the push for harmony with the Taliban was finally settled on Sunday in an agreement that ended months of political uncertainty. On 17th May, 2020, the Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani and his political rival, Abdullah Abdullah signed a power-sharing agreement to maintain

peaceful governance in Afghanistan, after both declared themselves as the winner of last September's Presidential Election. According to this deal, Mr. Ghani will continue to remain as President of Afghanistan and Mr. Abdullah would lead the country's National Reconciliation High committee. As per the deal, Mr. Abdullah is authorized to appoint half of Ghani's Cabinet members and to issue executive orders. Also, being a leader of the National Reconciliation Council, Mr. Abdullah has to handle and approve all affairs related to Afghanistan's peace process including the peace talks with the Taliban. Reacting to this deal, Zalmay Khalilzad, U.S peace envoy, tweeted that "the afghan leaders must stick to the commitments they had already made, and to take seriously the resolve of the Afghan people, and the world, to finally see an end to this conflict".

BACKGROUND BEHIND THIS AGREEMENT

This agreement has been marked two months after the Presidential Election Dispute that emerged in September 2019 between Mr. Ghani and Mr. Abdullah. Mr. Ghani and Mr. Abdullah both stood as candidates for the Presidential Elections. In December, 2019, the Election Commission announced the victory of Mr. Ghani by securing more than 50% of the votes while Mr. Abdullah secured more than 39% of the votes. Not satisfied with the results, Mr. Abdullah along with the Election Complaint Commission charged widespread voting irregularities against Mr. Ghani. Following which both declared themselves as the Winner (President) of the Presidential Election in the parallel inauguration ceremonies in March. This created a deadlock which further undermined the legitimacy of the Afghan government.

The second reason for this deal was February 29 Pact also known as Doha Agreement, 2020, in which U.S proposed a peace deal between U.S government and the Taliban. The deal called for U.S and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops to leave Afghanistan because U.S was trying the Taliban and the Afghan Government to begin 'INTRA-AFGHAN NEGOTIATION'. This deal was determined as the best deal for Afghanistan to come at peace in decades of war but the political strife and personal antagonistic vibe between Mr. Ghani and Mr. Abdullah has obstructed talks. Thus, to bring an end in this political disarray, Mike Pompeo, an American politician and attorney, travelled to Kabul in the amid of the epidemic coronavirus to try to broker the deal, but when he found himself unsuccessful, he threatened that U.S would cut

\$1-billion-dollar assistance to Afghanistan if the two politicians were not able to figure out their respective problems. Thus, all these reasons made the two rivals to bring an end to this deadlock.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS DEVELOPMENT

This deal is significant as it brings hope to Afghan authorities to enter peace talks with the Taliban to end years of violence and terrorism. It is also hoped that the deal happened in the capital city Kabul, will help to maintain the balance of power which existed before previous year's disputed Presidential Election.

IT'S RELEVANCE W.R.T INDIAN AFGHAN RELATIONS

India possesses a strong relationship with Afghanistan. The relation between India and Afghanistan is recognized by enduring cultural ties, friendship and the shared vision for flourishing comprehensive strategic partnership. On Sunday, India welcomed the power-sharing deal with Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah and this deal finally brought an end to the political disarray in Afghanistan. By the signing of this deal, it is expected that it will result in recommenced efforts for establishing enduring peace and stability, and bringing an end to externally-sponsored terrorism and violence in Afghanistan. To this deal, Indian Foreign Ministry commented: "India has consistently upheld comprehensive administration, national unity, strong foundations, constitutional order, rights of all sections of society and the territorial respectability of Afghanistan". India gives its whole-hearted support to Afghanistan to which it has become the second largest recipient of Indian foreign aid over the last five years and on the opposite side, Afghanistan has become a gateway to the oil and mineral rich Central Asian Republic for India. India has constructed many hospitals, roads, dams, etc in the war-torn country and is now providing assistance to people fighting with COVID-19.

OBJECTIVES OF THIS AGREEMENT

1. To bring an end to the political turmoil created by two rivals.
2. To re-establish the 'Balance of Power' in Afghanistan.
3. To begin with 'Intra Afghan Negotiation' to come at peace in decades of war.

4. Lastly, to end violence and terrorism and to maintain peace, stability and security among the people of Afghanistan and World.

CRITICAL ANALYSIS

Afghanistan's power-sharing deal is regarded to be as victory as it paved way for U.S- Taliban peace agreement to establish 'Intra Afghan Negotiations' with the main object to end the terror and violence among the people of Afghanistan and to maintain peace and security. Regarded as the best chance to free Afghanistan from war since decades, this power-sharing deal was signed.

CONCLUSION

When two politicians, keeping aside other things, satisfy their rivalry then the people of that country have to suffer a lot. As in the case of Afghanistan, it remains to be a desperately poor country even after getting billions of dollars in International aid. According to the recent reports, the rate of poverty has drastically increased from 35% of the population in 2012 to more than 55% in 2019, where a person survives on \$1 or less a day. Due to the spread of the pandemic corona virus in the whole world, Afghanistan has performed only 22,000 tests (till 19th May) in a nation of 36.6 million people, confirming about 6,400 corona infected cases and 168 deaths. Thus, the country with such a poor health and administrative system needs to be improved and beneficiary to people.

