

Afghanistan: 12 Years of War & Occupation, What Now?

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As deadline nears, post-2014 security deal eludes U.S.

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year-old negotiations on a deal. The accord is considered critical for the international community to continue funding the Afghan government and shoring up its security forces.

Under the Bilateral Security Agreement, or BSA, the United States plans to leave a still-undefined number of troops — 5,000 and 10,000, most probably in Afghanistan to train and assist its security forces after the withdrawal of what are now 52,000 combat and support troops.

Karzai was enraged several weeks ago, Afghan officials say, when U.S. forces forcibly took custody of a senior Pakistani Taliban leader whom Afghan intelligence was trying to recruit.

In the previously unreported incident, U.S. forces intercepted an Afghan government convoy and seized Latif Mehsud in Logar province, Karzai spokesman Ahmad Faizi said. In doing so, Faizi added, the Americans foiled a months-long bid by the Afghan government to wean the Taliban commander from the battlefield and use him to help launch substantive peace talks.

Faizi called the Mehsud seizure a major breach of sovereignty. Although Karzai has not mentioned the case publicly, his private fury has been reflected in recent suggestions that Afghanistan might forgo a bilateral pact.

In a separate incident, Pakistan last month freed a top Afghan Taliban official, Abdul Ghani Baradar, whom Karzai sees as a possible interlocutor for his peace efforts and whose release he had long demanded.

This week, however, Pakistan again placed Baradar under house arrest in the port city of Karachi. Karzai immediately suspected an American hand at work; U.S. officials said they feared that Baradar would be used to stir up trouble against American forces in Afghanistan and the United States.

Both the CIA and the Defense Department declined to comment on either incident.

Karzai's concerns

Karzai has expressed some legitimate concerns about the negotiations, such as those dealing with the withdrawal of U.S. troops and the role of the Afghan government.



Free Public Forum
Tuesday October 15th
7pm
Joe's Cafe
In Large North Hall
1150 Commercial Dr. at William St

Speaker:
Nita Palmer- Author of the book
"War & Occupation in Afghanistan: Which Way Forward?"

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