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Taliban commanders join peace process: NDS

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Some Taliban commanders have joined the peace process over the past one month, the National Directorate of Security (NDS) Spokesman Lutfullah Mashal has said.

Addressing a press conference in Kabul on Monday, Mashal said several middle-level Taliban commanders and their companions had quit hostility in various provinces of the country.

“Eight Taliban commanders identified as Ghulam Sakhi, Ghulam Sidiq, Mullah Tabassum Jan, Mullah Abdul Nasir Karimi, Mullah Qudratullah, Mullah Sardat, Maulvi Shamsuddin, Mirza Noor and Mullah Fazl Ahmad joined the peace process along with the 92 companions and weapons in Kandahar, Herat, Laghman, Badghes and Kunar provinces,” the NDS spokesman said.

He said some more groups of the armed opponents had showed readiness to join the peace process. The number of armed opponents joining the peace process had swilled after the peace talks gained pace, he maintained.

He said they had arrested three key groups of the armed opponents involved in planning and conducting suicide blasts and other attacks.

One of the groups was held in Kunduz province, he said, adding it was responsible for conducting all the attacks in northern provinces.

“Eight persons of the group led by Shah Rehman alias Mistri Faisal were arrested in Kunduz province.

They were involved in suicide blasts, attacks and planting IEDs in various northern provinces. They confessed their charges. Mistri Faisal is a renowned Taliban commander.

Another four-member group has also been held in the Kunduz province,” he maintained.

The NDS spokesman said a nine-member group of armed opponents led by their commander Mullah Kalimullah alia Adil, resident of Azra district of Logar province, had also been busted in Kabul, adding the group was active in Logar province.

He said four armed opponents had been arrested and their weapons and war gadgets seized in Nangarhar.

He said a Taliban's commander for Matakhan district of Paktia province Shamsur Rehman alias Mullah had also been arrested by the NDS operatives.

The Taliban recently rejected reports of joining of Taliban with the peace process, saying they would get more achievements this year.

Taliban have not said anything about the statements of NDS spokesman till filling of this report.