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## Afghan Cabinet Members Cancel DC Trip as US Relations Sour

By Jason Ditz

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The Pentagon has announced that a [high profile visit by a number of Afghan cabinet members, including the Defense and Interior Ministers, has been cancelled](#) over the growing unrest and massive anti-NATO protests in the country.

The cancellation reflects the enormous [decline in US relations with the Afghan government after last week's Quran burning](#) at the US military base in Bagram. The burnings have caused major protests and attacks on NATO targets nationwide.

Meanwhile, speaking about the rising anti-US sentiment in the Afghanistan, retired Gen. Jack [Keane says that the Afghan civilians' desire for respect is "what is driving this"](#) and that the Taliban and other opposition factions are exploiting the incident to their own ends.

Other than a [controversial and fiercely debated "apology,"](#) the administration has done virtually nothing in response to the unrest. [Ambassador Ryan Crocker warned](#) against making any policy changes in the face of the protests, saying that the US should "let things calm down" and "get on with business."