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Freed Taliban prisoners get Afghan passports

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In a bid to accelerate the ongoing reconciliation campaign, the Afghan government has issued passports to the Taliban prisoners who were recently released by Pakistan, a US-based radio said on Monday.

The men received passports from the Afghan Consulate in Peshawar, the capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Voice of America quoted unnamed officials as saying. But it did not reveal where the men would go after receiving passports.

Following a visit to Islamabad last week, Rabbani hoped the prisoners' release would play a crucial role in promoting the peace process. Without naming anyone, he said the freed men were allowed to live anywhere they wanted.

Some Pakistani media outlets, meanwhile, revealed the names of the released prisoners, including Daud Jilani, a former Kabul governor, Anwarul Haq Mujahid, a son of Maulvi Younus Khalis, Syed Salahuddin Agha, commander Haji Qutb and Maulvi Matiullah.

Former Nangarhar governor, Maulvi Mohammad, commander Amir Ahmad Gul, former Baghlan governor Abdul Salam and ex-minister Allah Dad Tayeb were released.

Also freed were Mullah Mohammad Omer special adviser, Mullah Abdul Ahad Jahangirwal and Taliban's justice minister Mullah Nooruddin Turabi. But Turabi is said to be hospitalised due to bad health.

Political analyst, Mohammad Hasan Haqyar, believes the men might visit a third country for attending peace negotiations. He told Pajhwok Afghan News the third county might be Qatar, Turkey or Saudi Arabia.