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Pakistan to free all Taliban prisoners including Mullah Baradar

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Pakistani foreign officials on Friday announced Islamabad plans to release all Afghan Taliban prisoners still in its detention, including the group's former second-in-command Mullah Baradar.

The latest decision by Pakistan is yet another signal it backs reconciliation efforts in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's foreign secretary Jalil Jilani said, "The remaining detainees, we are coordinating, and they will be released subsequently."

While speaking during a news conference in Abu Dhabi and replying to journalists question regarding the release of senior Taliban leader Mullah Bardar, Mr. Jilani said, “The aim is to release all,” without elaborating further.

Pakistan, in a bid to support peace and reconciliation process in Afghanistan and answering requests of the Afghan government and the high peace council, agreed to release a number of high profile Taliban detainees in November 2012.

Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Jawed Luddin also met with the acting U.S. special representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan, David Pearce speaking in Afghan embassy in Abu Dhabi.

He told reporters after the meeting that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss “security and political dimensions of bilateral relationships” between the three countries.

Luddin said the peace process had gained momentum in recent weeks with the release of some Taliban detainees by Pakistan, preparations by the Afghan Taliban movement to open a political office in Doha, and Afghan President Hamid Karzai’s visit to Washington.