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Afghanistan, Pakistani envoys clash in UN Security Council meeting

June 21, 2013

Afghan and Pakistani envoys in U.N. Security Council on Thursday traded accusation over the whereabouts of Islamist extremists on their porous border.

Zahir Tanin, Afghanistan's envoy to U.N. Security Council speaking during a debate on the situation of Afghanistan said, "terrorist sanctuaries continue to exist on Pakistan's soil and some elements continue to use terrorism as an instrument of foreign policy."

Tanin referring to the recent exchange of fire across the Af-Pak border said, "We also are very concerned with ongoing border shelling; this constitutes a serious threat to Afghan sovereignty and the prospect of friendly relations between our two countries."

But Pakistani envoy to U.N. Security Council Massod Khan denied the remarks of Afghan envoy and said, "terrorists operate on both sides of the porous border" and many attacks against Pakistan were planned on Afghan soil.

Masood Khan also urged that aggressive policing and border surveillance were needed.

"I reject most emphatically Ambassador Tanin's argument – root, trunk and branch – that terrorist sanctuaries exist in Pakistan and some elements continue to use terrorism as an instrument of foreign policy," Khan told the council.

In the meantime United Nations described increased tensions between the neighbors as “unfortunate and dangerous.”

The exchange of accusations between Pakistani and Afghan envoys in U.N. Security Council came after Pakistan said it had played a role in persuading the Afghan Taliban to hold peace talks with the United States.

However the opening of Taliban’s Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan office and direct peace talks with the United States in the absence of Afghanistan has angered Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who has denounced the Taliban’s opening of a new office in Qatar.