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## Taliban vows to continue fight despite peace negotiations

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The Taliban militants group in Afghanistan on Friday vowed to continue to its insurgency activities until all their demands are not met and US forces left Afghanistan.

Taliban said that the opening of new political office in Qatar as an evidence of their success on the battlefield.

A local Taliban fighter in Zherai district of southern Kandahar province quoted by AFP said, “We welcome the opening of the Taliban office in Qatar, and we are happy about it.”

He said, “With the establishment of this office, we want to hold talks with the international community like an independent and sovereign state. We are reaching our goals in defeating the US, now we want to free our country from occupation. We want to build our country on our own.”

The US officials were due to hold talks with the Taliban group representatives on Thursday however the meeting has been put on hold following a protest by the Afghan government regarding the flag and name of Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

US has also stressed the office must not be treated as an embassy for the hardliners who were ousted from power in 2001.

In the meantime another Taliban fighter in the Ghaziabad district of eastern Kunar province told AFP, “We have fought hard for our country to save it from the occupiers. When our demands are met, we will sit down at the negotiating table.”

White another Taliban fighter in Kandahar province said that they had fought against the Soviets in the 1980s and against the US since 2001 for an “autonomous Afghanistan under an Islamic government”.

The fighter who declined to be named said, “We never backed this system we have today in Afghanistan. They are doing everything just to be in power. We are happy about the opening of the office, but the Taliban leaders in Qatar must not make any deals to bring themselves into government, that’s not acceptable to us.”

A senior Taliban leader in Pakistan told AFP that the peace negotiations will have no impact on Taliban’s deadly campaign of roadside bombs, suicide attacks and ambushes.

he said, “There is not likely to be any immediate change on the ground, with fighting ongoing despite the starting of talks.”