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## US wants to use Afghan leverage against Russia, China: Madsen

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An American investigative journalist says the newly-elected Afghan president is likely to sign the Bilateral Security Agreement (BSA) with Washington since the US wants to keep troops in Afghanistan as leverage against Russia and China.

Former finance minister Ashraf Ghani was declared Sunday as the winner of the country's disputed presidential vote. Ghani and his rival, Abdullah Abdullah, signed a power-sharing deal to end months of turmoil over the election results.

"Ashraf Ghani will probably and all likelihood sign this agreement because the US wants and NATO wants to keep a residual presence in the country for a number of reasons," Wayne Madsen told Press TV on Tuesday.

"The rare earth minerals that Afghanistan is rich in, the US and its allies want them to remain in American hands and not in the hands of the Chinese," he said.

Washington also wants "to keep a military presence in Afghanistan as leverage against Russia and China which are obviously the next two military targets for the warmongers in Washington, London, Paris and Berlin," he added

“We will see an agreement signed and it will just basically bring Afghanistan under the American umbrella as we’ve seen with so many countries around the world where the US is maintaining a strong military presence,” he added.

He went on to say that the US has been trying to impose a puppet on Afghanistan that is really “a colony of the United States”.

US Secretary of State John Kerry has expressed hope that the long-delayed deal for keeping American troops in Afghanistan will be signed between Washington and Kabul soon.

The security pact would allow American forces to remain in Afghanistan after the planned US troop withdrawal at the end of the year.