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## **India's National Security Advisor Criticizes NDS-ISI** Agreement

23 May 2015

Speaking at a news conference along with officers of India's paramilitary border security forces, the Indian National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval, said on Saturday that the recent agreement between the Afghan National Directorate of Security (NDS) and Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) was based on faulty assumptions.

"What Pakistan wanted was to get an assurance and put pressure on Afghanistan, so that they will not allow their territory to be used for any security related work by India," Doval said. "That is the crux of it. This is based on a faulty assumption that India probably uses Afghan soil or Afghan nationals for its security purposes."

The comments come after a controversial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the NDS and ISI committing them to "intelligence sharing and complimentary and coordinated intelligence operations."

India's reservations about the agreement are shared by many Afghans, who continue to distrust the ISI, which has long provided covert support for the Taliban. However, the Presidential Palace has sought to downplay the significance of the accord.

"Such agreement between Afghanistan and Pakistan or between the intelligence agencies of both countries is not something new; such MoUs were signed years ago, and the main concentration of this MoU is joint combat against terrorism in both countries," presidential spokesman Ajmal Abidi said.

The NDS, meanwhile, has remained relatively muted on the subject, simply expressing the hope that Pakistan would follow through with its end of the deal. "The agreement has been signed based on a cooperative attitude," NDS spokesman Hassib Sediqi told TOLOnews. "We hope that Pakistan will stand up to its commitment and act on it."