

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نیاشد تن من مباد بدین بوم ویر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبان های اروپایی

Al Jazeera

Taliban 'won Rabbani's trust' to kill him

Armed group tells Reuters news agency that it was behind assassination of ex-president Burhanuddin Rabbani in Kabul.

9/21/2011

The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the murder of former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani, saying the group had "won his trust" before carrying out the assassination, Reuters news agency says.

Rabbani, who headed a council to negotiate a peaceful settlement with the Taliban, was killed by a suicide bomber in Kabul on Tuesday. Analysts said the killing was a blow to ongoing peace efforts in Afghanistan.

Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesman, on Wednesday claimed responsibility for the overnight attack, saying the killer had gone to Rabbani's home for talks.

"As soon as Rabbani came three steps forward to hug Mohammad Masoom, he triggered his explosive-filled jacket killing Rabbani, [another] Taliban militant Wahid Yar and four security guards present at the house," Mujahid told Reuters.

The Kabul police chief's office, in a statement, said the explosives had been hidden in the suicide bomber's turban.

'Secured trust'

Mujahid said the Taliban's central leadership had appointed two "articulate and well-trained" fighters to build contacts with Rabbani.

"Both of them were frequently meeting him at his Kabul home and secured trust of Rabbani and his guards. They were telling Rabbani that they would soon bring senior Taliban leadership to the negotiating table with him," Mujahid said by phone from an undisclosed location.

Mujahid said the group had made similar plans for assassinating "more such people" in the near future.

Rabbani's assassination comes after a string of high profile killings, including [President Hamid Karzai's brother](#) and [senior northern police commander General Dawood Dawood](#).

The assassination of Rabbani could serve as a strong statement of Taliban opposition to peace talks.

Rabbani was the president of the Afghan government that preceded the Taliban, a period of civil war that saw thousands of people killed.

After he was driven away from Kabul by the Taliban in 1996, he became the nominal head of the Northern Alliance, which swept to power in the capital after the Taliban's fall in 2001.

Emergency meeting

Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who cut short a trip to the UN in New York upon hearing of the attack, called on Afghans to remain unified in the face of Rabbani's "martyrdom". An emergency cabinet meeting was called for on Wednesday.

Karzai said Rabbani's death "will not deter us" from continuing the quest for peace.

Barack Obama, the US president, also condemned Rabbani's killing, calling it a "tragic loss".

"Despite this incident we will not be deterred from creating a path where Afghanistan can live in freedom and safety and security and prosperity," he said after meeting with Karzai on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Ban Ki-moon, the UN secretary-general, also condemned the killing and underscored the UN's commitment to "supporting Afghanistan and its people attaining peace and stability and to working in close co-operation with them," his spokesman said.

Asif Ali Zardari, Pakistan's president, and Yousuf Raza Gilani, the prime minister, also condemned the attack.

Amrullah Saleh, a former Afghan intelligence chief who fought against the Taliban under Rabbani, told Al Jazeera the attacks showed the government's failure in protecting high-profile figures.

"These attacks tell us that the policy of appeasement and deal making with the Taliban and Pakistan is not going to lead to peace.

"By adapting a vague policy of so called reconciliation, [the government] has created confusion in our society and weakened the government to the extent that they can't even protect high-profiled leaders in the capital."

Rabbani's death could also unleash the resentment building up among some senior Northern Alliance members, who have criticised Karzai for his peace efforts with the Taliban, Saleh said.

"If Karzai wants to keep Afghanistan united, he has to launch massive massive investigations and bring the culprits to justice."