

'Terrorist attacks being planned on Pakistani territory', says Afghan vice-president at UNGA session

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New York: In further embarrassment for Islamabad, Afghanistan on Wednesday said that "merciless attacks from terrorist groups" against its civilians are being planned and organized on Pakistani territory.

Afghan VP Sarwar Danesh addresses the 71st session of the UNGA

Speaking at the United Nations General Assembly, Vice President Sarwar Danesh said that Afghanistan has repeatedly asked Pakistan to destroy known terrorist safe havens but there's been no change in the situation.

“World knows where Taliban leaders live, we have asked Pakistan to hit terrorists on their soil, but it did not happen,” Danesh said.

Citing specific incident, Danesh said that attack American University in Kabul was plotted on Pakistani soil.

Danesh said the Taliban and Haqqani network are trained, equipped and financed there. He said Pakistan has a dual policy, discriminating between what it views as "good and bad terrorists," which undermines the international order.

Danesh said the government was leaving the door open to armed groups willing to seek peace. He said such an agreement is about to be signed with the Hezb-e-Islami group whose leader, Gulbuddin Helmatyar, is a U.S.-designated terrorist.

Afghanistan's statement comes amid India's intensified efforts to isolate Pakistan on international forums in the wake of terror attack on Indian Army camp in Jammu and Kashmir's Uri which led to the death of 18 soldiers.

Earlier today, Afghanistan's foreign minister Salahuddin Rabbani asked Pakistan to dismantle the "safe havens" for terrorists from its soil and said that Islamabad's "India phobia" was preventing it from sternly dealing with terror groups.

He said that there are three reasons behind Pakistan's lack of will in effectively tackling terror emanating from its soil.

"The way Pakistan behaves is because they have India phobia, there are military and civilian tensions and there is trust deficit between Afghanistan and Pakistan," Salahuddin Rabbani said.

"After the formation of the national unity government, we did our best to go and work with Pakistan and we tried to open a new chapter of relations. On India phobia and the military and civilian tensions of the Pakistani leaders, this is something that they (Pakistan) have to sort it out," he added.

He said Afghanistan does not expect the violence and terror to subside anytime soon "as the Taliban and affiliate groups are sustained with logistical, financial and material support from elements in Pakistan."