Islamabad's 'spy games' making peace with India difficult: former Pak diplomat slams Jadhav's dea

20/04/2017 21:25 by admin

Washington: Condemning the death sentence awarded to retired Indian Navy officer Kulbhushan Jadhav, former Pakistan ambassador to the US Hussain Haqqani has said that Islamabadâ€™s â€œspy gamesâ€• are making it tougher for the two South Asian neighbours to even explore peace.

Nawaz Sharif

Haqqani said that Jadhavâ€™s conviction for â€œspyingâ€• would have been more convincing had it been done in an open trial.

Â Â Â *â€œBut as with much about Pakistan, the trial's short and secretive timeline may have more to do with internal dynamics than with the merits of the case itself,â€• he wrote in an op-ed in The Wall Street Journal.*

Haqqani, currently serving as the director for South and Central Asia at the Hudson Institute, a top American think-tank, said that putting an Indian on death row was an easy way to scuttle momentum for new talks.

Â Â Â *â€œAt a time when India is also sliding into Hindu religious fervour, with vigilante violence threatening the country's minorities over protecting cows that are considered sacred, Pakistan's spy games can only make it tougher for the two South Asian neighbours to even explore peace, let alone find it,â€• Haqqani said.*

Â Â Â *â€œMr Sharif had recently renewed calls for improving relations with India. Putting an Indian on death row is an easy way to scuttle momentum for new talks,â€• he added.*

In his op-ed, Haqqani also alleged that Islamabad is unlikely to change its policy of using terrorist groups for its national security.

Â Â Â *â€œUnwilling to change its policy of supporting jihadist groups as an instrument of regional influence, Pakistan's military-intelligence combine wants to ensure the primacy of its worldview at least within Pakistan,â€• he said.*

Last week, the former diplomat had said that the Trump administration should â€œshake things upâ€• and hit terrorist groups inside Pakistan, identifying the Taliban sanctuaries in the country as a "big problem" for Afghanistan.

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