

## **Obama's Narrative In Afghanistan Challenged By New Taliban Threats**

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Taliban issues fresh threats of attacks in <u>Afghanistan</u>, the latest development to challenge the White House narrative that Afghanistan is poised to emerge from more than a decade of war.

In a statement emailed to the media, the terror group has notified that they are preparing to launch the annual spring offensive against the Afghan government beginning Friday.

According to Taliban these attacks called "Azm" or perseverance in Dari and Arabic are a form of ways to "prolong the ongoing jihad," or holy war; but now that U.S and its allied forces are no more in Afghanistan, they will face only Afghan forces this time.

Lisa Curtis, a senior research fellow at the conservative Heritage Foundation said "President Obama wants his legacy to be the president who got the U.S. out of two wars. The facts on the ground don't support that. He's gotten ahead of himself."

The security environment now has become vulnerable due to increase in attacks in the recent weeks attacks across the north and east of Afghanistan to the start of the fighting season. The newest cause of worry comes a month later after President Obama decided to keep roughly 10,000 U.S. troops in the country through the end of the year.

<u>Obama</u>, in a joint press conference with Afghan leader Ashraf Ghani, has claimed that the U.S. and coalition troops still have helped the momentum of the battle shift away from the Taliban over the years. Now that the U.S. is out of a combat role since the withdrawal of its troops, <u>Obama</u> added that "Obviously there are still improvements to be made, but they're making significant progress".

Reacting over the Taliban's latest announcement, Justin Logan, director of foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute has said, "The place the White House is trying to get to is 'good enough,' and as you would expect, they're trying to show progress toward that goal". He added that the fact will always remain that the Taliban will be there after the U.S. leaves, "whether we leave in

2016 or 2036. If the goal were to stay until radical Islamist resistance in Afghanistan was defeated, we would be there forever".

<u>U.S.</u> has signed an agreement with the Afghan forces which allows NATO and the U.S. to keep a limited number of non-combat troops in Afghanistan to "train, advise and assist" the Afghan forces in their fight against the insurgency but the Taliban are against this and have fiercely demanded the oust of international military from Afghanistan.

The latest statement issued by the terrorist group has called the U.S as the "crusaders" who will maintain "control of our land and space" through this signed agreement.