

Profiling the Taliban V

By Ishita Dutta (October 2021)

On 7 September 2021, the Taliban announced the first members of a new "acting" government, three weeks after sweeping into full power with the takeover of Kabul on 15 August. Amir Khan Muttaqi was appointed as Afghanistan's acting Minister of Foreign Affairs. Amir Khan Muttaqi is the acting foreign minister, born in 1970 in And Ali District. Amir, a senior leader and a politician who was in the Qatar office for the Taliban. He is a senior leader of the Taliban who served as the minister of Information and Culture. He has been a key player in strategizing against the United States during the last two decades. After 2001, he went into hiding in Peshawar, Pakistan.



Image Source: Aljazeera

He was offered a key post in the interim government because of the leadership position as the head of the Taliban's Invitation and Guidance commission responsible for persuading many members of the Afghan police and army to surrender. He serves as the information and culture minister during the Taliban government in 1996-2001 and also as the education minister of Afghanistan. He was the chief of staff to the supreme leader in the Qatar delegation and played an important role in negotiations. He has been one of the consistent political figures who has worked in psychological warfare and propaganda since the 1990s. He among other officials were also key leaders in back-channel diplomatic talks with the United States over the years and a senior figure innovated in transition and negotiations in Kabul.

As the interim foreign minister, Muttaqi also called on the countries, especially the Asian Development Bank and the Islamic Development Bank, to provide development funds to Afghanistan. He has also urged the United States to support the government and has taken the role of the foreign minister with his first press address on 14th September,

He was a member of the Taliban Supreme Council as of June 2007. He was the Taliban representative in United Nations-led talks during the Taliban regime and later represented the Taliban in peace talks with the United States. He was part of Maulvi Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi's group during the Afghan jihad but later joined

the Taliban movement when it emerged. Due to his active role in the Taliban's negotiations, he was involved in non-Taliban politicians to form a government and has been the leading figure since May 2021. His role as the negotiator was seen even before the Taliban's takeover on 15th August 2021. He went to Pakistan after the formation of the interim government to discuss the economic, social, and political future of Afghanistan-Pakistan relations.

References

AMIR KHAN MOTAQI | United Nations Security Council. (n.d.). United Nations. Retrieved September 15, 2021, from <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1988/materials/summaries/individual/amir-khan-motaqi>

AMIR KHAN MOTAQI | United Nations Security Council. (n.d.-b). United Nations Security Council. Retrieved September 15, 2021, from <https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/sanctions/1988/materials/summaries/individual/amir-khan-motaqi>

Biography of Amir Khan Muttaqi. (2018, March 6). Afghanistan Online. <https://www.afghan-web.com/biographies/biography-of-amir-khan-muttaqi/>

Reporter, G. S. (2021, August 20). Afghanistan: flights resume in Kabul as Taliban 'hold talks to form government.' The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/aug/17/afghanistan-flights-resume-kabul-airport-taliban-leader-holds-talks-to-form-government>

(2021a, September 8). At least 14 in Taliban Cabinet on UNSCs terrorism blacklist: Report. Business Standard. https://business-standard.com/article/international/at-least-14-in-taliban-cabinet-on-unsc-s-terrorism-blacklist-report-121090900007_1.html

BBC News. (2021, September 7). Hardliners get key posts in new Taliban government. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58479750.amp>

Schorzman, D. (2021, September 8). The Taliban's Leadership, Explained: Who Are They? The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/article/taliban-leaders-afghanistan.html>

Security Council 1988 Committee Amends 105 Entries on Its Sanctions List | Meetings Coverage and Press Releases. (n.d.). United Nations Security Council. Retrieved September 16, 2021, from <https://www.un.org/press/en/2011/sc10465.doc.htm>