

In-House Roundtable Discussion with Foreign Scholar

INSURGENCY IN AFGHANISTAN: TTP, HAQQANI NETWORK AND PAKISTAN-US ROLE IN REGIONAL STABILITY



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STRATEGIC VISION INSTITUTE (SVI), ISLAMABAD

Insurgency in Afghanistan: TTP, Haqqani Network and Pakistan-US Role in Regional Stability

Strategic Vision Institute organized an In-House Roundtable discussion on “Insurgency in Afghanistan: TTP, Haqqani Network and Pakistan-US Role in Regional Stability”, held on March 18, 2014. Colonel Defence Attaché Royal Danish Embassy, Islamabad, Steen Bornholdt Andersen and Mr. Martin Harrow from Danish embassy participated as Guest Discussants while Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema headed the Pakistani Delegation.

Danish Delegation

Steen Bornholdt Andersen	Colonel Defence Attaché Royal Danish Embassy, Islamabad.
Mr. Martin Harrow	Head of Branch, Danish Ministry of Defence.

Pakistani Delegation

Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema	President/Executive Director SVI
Air Cdre. (Retd.) Khalid Iqbal	Consultant IPRI
Ms. Farzana Siddiqui	Research Fellow CISS
Mr. Nasurullah Brohi	Research Fellow, SVI
Ms. Beenish Altaf	Research Associate, SVI
Mr. Ahmad Khan	Research Associate, SVI
Mr. Jawad Warraich	Research Associate, SVI
Ms. Shahzadi Tooba	Research Associate, SVI
Ms. Ammarah Rabbani Rao	Research Associate, SVI

Discussion

The focus of discussion was TTP, Haqqani Network, and Pak-US role in the regional stability. Danish team was interested to know the chances of success of the present negotiations between government of Pakistan and TTP leadership. Dr. Cheema explained the strategic

importance of Pakistan and threats to its strategic stability by armed groups of TTP through different means. He said government is of clear view that whosoever has intentions to challenge the state writ whether TTP, American Afghan Taliban (AAT) or Haqqani group; they would be dealt with iron hands rather than any clemency. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Syed Muhammad Owais elaborated the current situation of peace talks with Taliban by Government of Pakistan. He explained that Pakistan army has full capability to launch operation in North Waziristan but the consensus among the political authorities and all stake holders in this regard is not an easy task. He further said that post operation scenario will also be very difficult for the government like handling of IDPs etc.

VOTE OF THANKS BY DR. ZAFAR IQBAL CHEEMA

At the end, Dr. Zafar Iqbal Cheema profoundly thanked the entire august audience present in the house and said that their presence is valuable for the events organized by SVI. He paid special thanks to the Guest Speakers and Discussants for their precious inputs that enlightened the audience. He extended his gratitude towards the research and secretarial staff of the SVI for their hard work and dedication towards the SVI.