



Interview with Mufti Kifayatullah, JUI-F Spokesman

Interview with Mufti Kifayatullah Spokesman for the Jamiat-e-Ulema-Islam-Fazlur (JUI-F) in the NWFP Released: September 20, 2009



[Following the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan's (TTP) official acknowledgment of Baitullah Mehsud's death on August 25, 2009 and the consequent disarray among the TTP rank and file, the NEFA Foundation gathered a critically important statement by Mufti Kifayatullah, spokesman for the Jamiat-e-Ulema-Islam-Fazlur (JUI-F) in the NWFP, who is regarded by many as a pivotal powerbroker where the Pakistani Taliban movement is concerned. This interview is accompanied by an analysis of Kifayatullah's statements, a profile of Waliur Rehman, and an interview with Said Alam Mehsud, all of which are available at <http://www.nefafoundation.org/reports.html>]

"Q: Who is the new TTP leader? (Not recorded)"

"A: It was so that Baitullah Mehsud was martyred in a drone attack at a time when he was prepared for reconciliation with the Pakistani government, which was to be in a respectable manner and which would have ensured that not a single bullet was fired in Pakistan."

"This was the thinking of a person who was considered an enemy of Pakistan. When eventually he got ready for this, NATO forces got him killed because they do not want peace in Pakistan. They want war here. "

"On the very night when he was martyred at around 2:00 a.m., the TTP convened its Shura meeting and that Shura decided to appoint Waliur Rehman as its chief. There were two reasons for this decision: first, Baitullah, in his life time, had announced him to be the next TTP head."

"Secondly, during that Shura meeting, his name was unanimously agreed upon and everybody present took oath at his hands. Rehman Malik says Waliur Rehman, Hakimullah, and others fought for the TTP leader slot. This is all wrong and a lie. In fact, Hakimullah too paid allegiance to Waliur Rehman during the same meeting."

"In the meantime, when I got this report, news came through the media claiming that Faqir Mohammad was declaring himself to



Mufti Kifayatullah

be the new TTP chief. Hereafter, I was convinced that somebody was hatching a conspiracy to make them fight each other. I don't mean to say that Faqir Mohammad was doing this but somebody else certainly was."

"I therefore deemed it important to share my information with the rest of the world. However, there is a possibility of a development taking place, which I would not deny though I don't endorse it either."

"And this development might be that Baitullah was holding two positions at the same time: he was head of the TTP, as well as leader of the Mujahideen-e-South Waziristan. During the first Shura meeting, Waliur Rehman might have assumed both the positions, but later when Taliban leaders from Swat, Bajaur, Mohmand, and rest of the country gathered, they might have decided to distribute the post between Waliur Rehman and Hakimullah. This may be possible (in English)."¹

¹ Audio of the interview is available at
<http://www.nefafoundation.org/miscellaneous/FeaturedDocs/MuftiKifayatullah.wav>.