



Profile of Waliur Rehman September 2009

Profile of Waliur Rehman Emir of Mehsud Taliban in South Waziristan Agency By NEFA Senior Investigator Claudio Franco With Reporting By Javed Afridi Released: September 2009



[NEFA Foundation Senior Investigator Claudio Franco conducts in-depth research for as much as half the year in the regions of Pakistan and Afghanistan—where he has been a regular visitor since approximately 1999. In September 2007, NBC Nightly News featured video Franco filmed when he observed an underground Taliban training camp operating north of the Afghan capital Kabul. This profile is accompanied by an interview with Mufti Kifayatullah, an analysis of Kifayatullah's statements, and an interview with Said Alam Mehsud, all of which are available at <http://www.nefafoundation.org/reports.html>]

Waliur Rehman was made the Emir of Mehsud Taliban by the Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan's (TTP) Shura after Baitullah Mehsud was killed in a U.S. drone attack on August 5, 2009 and is now the strongest commander of TTP who controls approximately 7,000 to 10,000 armed fighters in South Waziristan.

Rehman, a Malkhel Mehsud, is approximately 40 years old, a resident of Momi Karama area, and belongs to a middle class family hailing from South Waziristan. Rehman's father's name is Asmatullah. Rehman is described as very humble and extremely intelligent.

A madrassa graduate, he studied in the Jamia Islamia Imdadia madrassa in Faisalabad city of Punjab province. After graduating from the Islamic Madrassa of Faisalabad, Rehman came back to South Waziristan and began to teach in a local religious madrassa in Kanigurum area of South Waziristan Agency.

Before joining the Taliban movement, he was active with the JUI-F and, reportedly, still has contacts with the top leadership of JUI-F.

Rehman joined Baitullah Mehsud's Taliban movement in 2004. During his time within the TTP, he soon become very close to Baitullah Mehsud and he was appointed Baitullah's deputy in South Waziristan in 2006. He remained in this position until 2007, when he was assigned the task of looking after the financial matters of the TTP; Noor Sayed was then named Baitullah Mehsud's deputy.

Rehman has also taken part in cross border attacks on American and NATO forces inside Afghanistan. He also fought against Pakistani security forces in 2005 and 2008 when the Pakistani security forces launched military operations in the agency to crush the local Taliban militants and their foreign guests in the agency.

One of Rehman's brothers, Qareeb Ur Rehman, was killed when militants attacked the Splitoi fort in South Waziristan.