



Interview with Haji Muslim Khan: Part I April 27, 2009

Interview with Haji Muslim Khan, Chief Spokesman of Tehrik-e-Taliban Swat Valley (Pakistan): Part I Dated: April 27, 2009



[The NEFA Foundation has obtained an exclusive English-language interview with Haji Muslim Khan, the spokesman of Tehrik-e-Taliban Swat Valley (Pakistan). During the interview, conducted on April 27, Muslim Khan discussed the Taliban implementation of Shariah law in Swat and neighboring regions. When asked about the notion of "moderate Taliban" versus "hardline Taliban", Khan began laughing and replied, "No, there is no difference... they are the same." Khan also accused U.S. President Barack Obama of ordering a Pakistani military attack on the TTP in Swat, referring to Obama as "an enemy of Islam and Muslims."]

Haji Muslim Khan: The Earth for Allah, the sky for Allah and the – all the things created by Allah, so must be the system of life should be...

Q. Okay, so do you see the implement...

A. ...promised him. Except that, we cannot accept.

Q. ...do you see it implemented in the next few months?

A. I told you before, progress is really slow.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. It's real slow. If they want to bring more army, 24 hours, but by the – by the progress of implementation...

Q. If they had...

A. ...it's too slow, too slow, yeah.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. In two months, only eight Kasi court.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. In two months, only eight Kasi court.

Q. Has been...have been established?

A. Yes, and but no power, without power. So we need Kasi, but we need a powerful Kasi, just one...

Q. Okay.

A. ...not 100. We have only one Kasi; one desert, one Kasi, but powerful.

Q. Okay. So speaking today on April the 27th, 2009, you expect a new military operation from the Pakistani Army come soon?

A. I think so, they decide that, yeah...

Q. You think so?

A. ...yeah, to start again in Swat. And the U.S. – and I hear in news, they – they – Obama say, if you – if you cannot control Taliban, come to attack here in Swat.

Q. By party news?

A. Yeah. So eventually, you ask this question from Mr. Parvez Kayani, because he's the Chief Army...

Q. Okay

A. ...but very...

Q. Very last question...

A. Yeah.

Q. The Americans are looking for something they call moderate Taliban. Does a moderate Taliban exist?

A. No difference between moderate Taliban and other – other Taliban, they are same, right.

Q. Okay. Thanks very much, sir.

A. Okay.

Q. This is Mr. Muslim Khan, official spokesman for the TT – for the Taliban Swat. That's it, you can close it.

Break in video.

Q. According to the needs under Islamiadi regulation, who will choose the Kazis?

A. The Kazi will be choosed by Mr. Numolamassi Muhammed because he know the – about the Shariah regulation, nobody know what he know.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. And the appointment of our Kazi, we don't know, but – but we need from president choose it for it is better...

Q. Okay.

A. For – from family.

Q. So I – I read the – the text of the Islamiadi regulation, and I – I didn't understand very clearly, but it seemed to me that the same judges were in charge now today...

A. Uh-huh.

Q. ...will simply shift name and will become from assistant judge to – to a true...

A. No.

Q. True Kazi?

A. We cannot accept that.

Q. It will not be the same person?

A. No, no.

Q. You will not accept that?

A. No, no, it should be from international university, Islam – Islamabad, person from other Shariah – free country of Shariah rule...

Q. And they...

A. ...should be person from there. It is Shariah, Shariah law.

Q. And they have not completed how many work...

A. He is not only – not only like judge, but he must have Shariah regulations...

Q. Okay, okay.

A. ...first from present university or from...

Q. And does he also...

A. ...they're both regulations, Shariah regulations.

Q. And these people will have to be graduated in law also, law, Western law, let's say, or that's not needed? You can make...

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Yeah, you just heard that they don't care if he's an M.D....

Q. Oh, they don't care? Okay.

A. No, we don't care about that.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: ...or if he is law degreed or – but he must know the – he must be – have a degree, for medical are recognized mostly in Islamic law as well.

Q. He could even be a doctor or a person.

A. Yes, only is in law; the other, we...

Q. You don't care about that? Thank you again.

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Thank you.

Break in video.

Haji Muslim Khan: But the main point here, United States forces coming in Afghanistan for what? Oil there or not?

Q. Uh-huh.

A. For what?

Q. Uh-huh.

A. For this, he, Mr. Bush, announced to come here, and he used the word Charsadda. They used the forces and the money of the United States for what – for Charsadda, but he warned his family, then he went from Afghanistan to the other state of Madrasah.

Break in video.

Haji Muslim Khan: ... troops in Afghanistan, and they control Afghanistan. Only this is the reason. Now we know about because here Pakistani government signed this other regulations for Swat. And they're shouting there in the United States, Mr. Obama. So what? This is my religion and my country, and we are free.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. Which we need, we have...

Break in video.

Haji Muslim Khan: Now we know that he is enemy only of Islam and of the Muslims.

Q. So now you are clear that...

A. So nobody – nobody shout to the world about this, especially Pakistan media. Pakistan media is shot. They will tell to the people what he want, what Mr. Obama want. Nobody can reject this order was coming from United States and from embassy...

Q. Uh-huh.

A. ...of USA. But you are eating here, you are from this country, you are from my nation, and you are working for United States special security forces from here. They get in here, they're living here and they eat our blood here, and they're getting money from there to work for them, especially the president also. Especially the president also. So there is nobody with religion here to think about their nation, for their country, for their – for their religion, nobody here, nobody.

Q. Yeah.

A. I'm very sorry about that, really sorry, but we ask only from Allah about these people.

Q. Yeah, okay. And can you see any difference between among, for example, the Pakistani...

A. Good. They are working with the Taliban and working for – if they want...

Q. Okay.

A. ...if they want. But the other, like Karachi and like Lahore and Islamabad, no, they are businessmen.

Q. But why don't you like allow Wes – sorry, why don't you allow Western media with you so that they can report firsthand what you're suffering, what you're being – how you are being...

A. The Western media, I think that they have to work with individuals, yes, like you, but like the BBC, like CNN, no, they have to work for their country, for their religion.

Q. But would you be ready to allow independent...

A. Yeah, sure.

Q. Western journalists...

A. Alone.

Q. ...to work with you?

A. Yes, welcome here, all journalists wanting to come here from U.S. or the – we'll schedule...

Q. Because you know very well...

A. Yeah.

Q. ...in the West...

A. Good.

Q. What – what the newspapers, the mainstream...

A. They report for the media, – from 30 to 40 person die. Where? We see two die from Taliban, injured three. And SPR, they kill; the agents of the military, they kill about 12 small children from Taliban in houses...

Q. But, for example...

A. But eventually they're counting all this like terrorists, small – the small children are harmed, they counting in terrorists.

Q. That's true, that's true, I understand. The Islami have a peace agreement.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. Are you satisfied about that as a Muslim?

A. For – this is agreement between Numolamassi Muhammed and government of MWP. We don't like that. We are watching, we are waiting for progress. We cannot say nothing about that, but the government events is really slow, really slow.

Q. So you're saying this is an agreement between Mu...

A. Entered between, should be, Muhammed and government of MW or present government. They have to discuss it with Allah how is progress, how they are to do it, how they are made, you know.

Q. But – and this is clear enough, but when you read – when you read the text of the Islami agreement as a Muslim, do – do you feel –do you feel happy, do you feel satisfied? Do you think it's sincerely Shariah law inspired and based...

A. The bold...

Q. Or is it just a reason...

A. But the bold implementation is too slow.

Q. Uh-huh.

A. Must be very quickly because we need for the people to show something.

Q. So you're saying the document is...

A. Yeah.

Q. Good but the implementation is no good?

A. But the implement – the implementation is no good.

Q. I understand; I understand, okay. Could you clarify for me the relationship between the Taliban Swat and the TTP or the old TTP?

A. Where the – what do you mean?

Q. The TTP...

UNKNOWN SPEAKER: Oh, the TTP Pakistan.

Q. Pakistan, yeah.

A. Oh, the TTP Pakistan. Yeah, it's not – there is no difference between TTP and...

Q. No difference?

A. TT Swat. All same, Taliban here and Afghanistan region of Swat, they're all the same.

Q. Okay.

A. In the same area, the same thing, for the same religion.

Q. So you work...

Break in video.

Haji Muslim Khan: U.S. forces, they are – and the military of Afghanistan, and we are working here to implement the Shariah.