

From Af to Iran, govts voice rage at terror-sponsor Pak

Kabul Petitions UN Over Pak's Taliban Talks

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New Delhi: It isn't only India that is having problems with Pakistan and its fatal relationship with terror. On Sunday, Afghanistan officially complained to the UN Security Council against Pakistan's recent engagements with the Taliban and called it a "violation of the national sovereignty of Afghanistan".

Iran, irate over a terror strike by Pakistan-based Sunni group Jaish-al-Adl against 27 soldiers of its Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), has vowed vengeance. Sources said Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's decision to shorten his visit to Pakistan was a signal of displeasure.

India will resume its diplomatic offensive this week, seeking to engage more countries in the wake of Thursday's Pulwama attack. India plans to sensitise visiting heads of government, focusing on the Saudi crown prince. On Sunday, however, Pakistan called India's stance "delusional" and said Islamabad was complying with the law on Jaish-e-Muhammed. In a statement, Pakistan's foreign office said, "JeM remains a proscribed



Relatives touch the coffin of one of 27 Revolutionary Guards killed in a bombing in Iran on February 14

entity in Pakistan since 2002 and Pakistan is implementing its obligations on sanctions implementation."

In a strongly worded letter, Afghanistan's UN envoy "called" on the government of Pakistan to take decisive action against known terrorist and extremist groups on its territory, which pose a common threat to Afghanistan, Pakistan and the region. Any passivity in fulfilling this objective not only undermines broader counter terrorism efforts, but also have a profound impact in providing further space and capacity for such groups to continue attacks in Afghanistan and the wider region."

Meanwhile, IRGC commander and Major Gen Mohammad Ali Jafari said Iran will retaliate against Jaish-al-Adl if Pakistan fails to rein it in.

On Sunday, foreign minister Sushma Swaraj met Iranian deputy foreign minister Seyyed Abbas Araqchi and exchanged condolences for the two almost simultaneous terror strikes against their respective security forces by Pakistan-based terror groups. After the meeting, Araqchi tweeted, "We agreed on close cooperation to combat terror in the region. Enough is enough!" Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has also promised retribution for the attack.

IRGC was attacked by Jaish-al-Adl in the Sistan-Baluchistan province.

Afghanistan flagged the scheduled meeting between Taliban and Pakistani PM Imran Khan. "This initiative is a source of deep regret and concern to the people and government of Afghanistan as it amounts to the official legitimisation of an armed group that poses a serious threat to security of Afghanistan, and whose members are sanctioned by provisions of UNSC's 1988 Committee's Sanctions Regime."

Taliban's meeting with Khan that was scheduled for Sunday was cancelled.

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