

Karzai's Taliban threat unacceptable: Harper

Last Updated: Wednesday, April 7, 2010 | 3:05 PM ET [Comments 634](#) [Recommend 211](#)

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Hamid Karzai speaks at Afghanistan's Independent Election

Commission in Kabul on April 1. The Afghan president has reportedly threatened to join the Taliban insurgency over Western pressure to implement reforms. (Ahmad Masood/Reuters)

Prime Minister Stephen Harper slammed Hamid Karzai following reports the Afghan president has threatened to quit politics and join the Taliban.

"I have not seen the context of President Karzai's remarks but what I have seen reported is completely unacceptable," Harper told reporters in Mississauga, Ont., on Wednesday.

"We have men and women who are over there putting their lives on the line to help the population in its struggle against the Taliban. These remarks are not helpful and in the context of the dangerous work that our people are doing they are completely unacceptable to Canada and I'm sure the same is true for all of our allies."

Earlier this week, Afghan lawmakers said that during a private meeting over the weekend, Karzai twice threatened to quit politics and join the Taliban if the West continued to pressure him to enact reforms.

People at the meeting said they thought Karzai's comments were aimed at hardline members of parliament.

U.S. officials said his comments were troubling and they threatened to cancel a planned Washington visit if Karzai didn't stop blaming the United States for his problems.

But on Wednesday, Karzai's spokesman denied reports that he made those comments.

Waheed Omar said Karzai's government had been shocked to see the comment appearing in media outlets and did not know where it came from.

There are 2,830 Canadians serving in Afghanistan. Since 2002, when the mission began, 141 Canadian soldiers have been killed. Four Canadian civilians have also been killed.

With files from The Associated Press

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[Aces High](#) wrote: Posted 2010/04/07

at 8:29 PM ET There's gratitude for you. Maybe we should have nuked your miserable country instead of trying to save it.

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[KamHam](#) wrote: Posted 2010/04/07

at 8:27 PM ET Get our troops out of there.

Bring them all home now.

- [6](#)
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[ShutTheDoor](#) wrote: Posted 2010/04/07

at 8:15 PM ETA comment was made by a fellow named newguyonboard that made me quite mad. I don't feel ashamed to be a liberal. I feel no need to taunt others into having no respect for my comments by blurting out nonsense. As a liberal, and moreover as a concerned citizen I too oppose the war in Afghanistan. It seems as though there is no known accomplishable goal besides "breaking the Taliban's back" which really means casting the whole country in our image - not our place to decide. I don't think this is a distinctly liberal idea though. I believe this struggle has been used to curry favor among patriots towards the agenda of the conservatives but I don't feel that anyone is proud of the war, they're proud of our rock hard soldiers doing what warriors do. It's not their place to decide what wars they fight. They just go where the people WE elect send them. I take exception to the idea that supporting troops is a close minded ignorant way to think. Those "parents whose children died for nothing" - I'm sure hate that you're right. I hate it too and I hate this bloody war, but we need to come together rather than divide into lefts and rights to put pressure on our leaders. We need to let them know that we need a better reason to send our troops to the slaughter. That a gesture of faith towards the states just isn't good enough.

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[oldgreg](#) wrote: Posted 2010/04/07

at 8:11 PM ET Newguyonboard wrote: Posted 2010/04/07

at 6:51 PM ET

Please, please spin this into yet another liberal attack, enjoy your Coffees and Coffins!!

Well that was one of the most tasteless things I have read on the CBC boards. Actually, so was your whole post .

Whether there is truth to the quotes attributed to Karzai or not, adolescent comments like yours are not in any way justifiable. Certainly not in light of your gloating about being right, attempt to spin the issue as if Ignatieff would have done anything differently and mostly your irreverent reference to dead Soldiers and coffins.

Just FYI, the Liberals under Dion had an opportunity to vote against extending the mission until 2011, and they didn't. They voted for

it.

Both the liberals and the NDP had opportunities to have the mission ended before now, but didn't. Lot's of blame to go around.

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- [2](#)

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[Whiskey Echo](#) wrote: Posted 2010/04/07

at 8:07 PM ET Con_In_Van wrote:

"You can agree or disagree with your Prime Minister, that is your democratic right and should be respected. However, to suggest that your Prime Minister should join a terrorism regime, even if you are joking, is not acceptable as a Canadian and a citizen of the world."

You're absolutely right.

By all rights, they're the ones who should be joining *his* regime.

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