

Taliban being trained outside Afghanistan: Musa Qala Chief

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By Akram Norzai
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Musa Qala district Chief Haji Abdul Salam in an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News on Tuesday said the Taliban were being trained outside Afghanistan and come here for fighting against Afghan and foreign forces in the restive Helmand province.

Salaam resident of Shah Karez village in Zamindar area of the Kajaki district who was also district chief of Kajaki during Taliban era later he was acting governor of the central Uruzgan province for almost 47 days, and he was staying in his home after the fall of Taliban in 2001.

He became district chief of the restive Musa Qala district when the Afghan National Army (ANA) recaptured the district from the Taliban fighters after 11 months in December 2007.

He said there are no former Taliban in Afghanistan, but the Taliban who fight against government are trained outside of the country and sent here for bringing instability and disturbance to the war raked country.

About his relations with the Taliban Salam said he was a staunch member of the movement but after the fall of Taliban I opted to stay put at home. "After the fall of Taliban I opted to divert all my energies to the reconstruction of my country", he claimed.

He said he had apprised government that the people of Musa Qala district want peace and hate fighting, the government must construct schools, clinics, and roads for them to bring a comfortable life for the new generation.

Many areas of the district are secured and Taliban fighters sporadically spread their threatening letters in some areas of the district, when they sometimes attack on the foreign forces they later escape from the area by motorbikes, he said.

He rejected the claims of civilians who said the Afghan and foreign troops have forcefully seized their markets and homes. He said: "We have rented their markets and houses and we pay considerable amount for it."

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