

Administration of Barack Obama, 2016

Statement on the Death of Akhtar Mohammad Mansur

May 23, 2016

Today marks an important milestone in our longstanding effort to bring peace and prosperity to Afghanistan. With the death of Taliban leader Akhtar Mohammad Mansur, we have removed the leader of an organization that has continued to plot against and unleash attacks on American and coalition forces, to wage war against the Afghan people, and align itself with extremist groups like Al Qa'ida.

Mansur rejected efforts by the Afghan Government to seriously engage in peace talks and end the violence that has taken the lives of countless innocent Afghan men, women, and children. The Taliban should seize the opportunity to pursue the only real path for ending this long conflict: joining the Afghan Government in a reconciliation process that leads to lasting peace and stability.

As an enduring partner of the Afghan people, the United States will continue to help strengthen Afghan security forces and support President Ghani and the National Unity Government in their efforts to forge the peace and progress that Afghans deserve. We will continue taking action against extremist networks that target the United States. We will work on shared objectives with Pakistan, where terrorists that threaten all our nations must be denied safe haven. After so many years of conflict, today gives the people of Afghanistan and the region a chance at a different, better future.

I thank our dedicated military and intelligence personnel who have once again sent a clear message to all those who target our people and our partners: You will have no safe haven. Today is a day for us to give thanks to all of the Americans who have served in Afghanistan for so many years with a selfless commitment to the security of our Nation and a better future for the Afghan people.

Categories: Statements by the President : Deaths :: Mansur, Akhtar Mohammad.

Names: Ghani Ahmadzai, Ashraf; Mansur, Akhtar Mohammad.

Subjects: Afghanistan : Former regime; Afghanistan : President; Afghanistan : Reconciliation efforts; Afghanistan : U.S. military forces :: Deployment; Deaths : Mansur, Akhtar Mohammad; Pakistan : Federally Administered Tribal Areas, suspected terrorist safe havens; Terrorism : Al Qaida terrorist organization; Terrorism : Counterterrorism efforts.

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