Russia: Terrorist Fortifications, Turkish Outposts Merged

KABUL (Dispatches) – The United States on Wednesday carried out its first airstrike on Taliban fighters in Afghanistan since the two sides signed a troop withdrawal agreement on Saturday.

A U.S. forces spokesman confirmed the incident in southern Helmand province, hours after President Donald Trump spoke by phone with chief Taliban negotiator Mullah Baradar Akdil on Tuesday, the first known conversation between a U.S. leader and a top Taliban official.

The Taliban fighters “were actively attacking an Afghan National Security Forces checkpoint,” the spokesman said.

The airstrike was the first by the United States against the Taliban in 11 days, after reduction in violence agreement had begin between the sides in the lead up to Saturday’s pact.

Since the signing, the Taliban have mostly adhered to the agreement, including lettinginge keys were withdrawn, which is a crucial milestone.

President Sulaiman Shahin said in a Tweet that “ac- cording to the plan (the Taliban) is implementing all parts of the agreement one after another in o- ther words, they have lost their keys,” a top Taliban official.

The Taliban fighters were “actively attacking an Afghan National Security Forces checkpoint. This was a defensive strike to disrupt the attack,” said Colonel Sonny Leggett, a spokesman for the U.S. Forces in Afghanistan in a tweet.

The airstrike was the first by the United States against the Taliban in 11 days, after a reduction in violence agreement had been signed in 2020. The deal called for a reduction of violence in Afghanistan, a commitment to withdraw American forces, and a promise to begin negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

The agreement was signed between the United States and the Taliban on February 29, 2020, in Doha, Qatar. The agreement called for a reduction in violence and the withdrawal of U.S. and NATO forces from Afghanistan. The deal also included provisions for the release of U.S. prisoners and the beginning of talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

The Taliban has accepted the deal and has shown signs of cooperating with the Afghan government. However, there have been concerns about the deal's implementation and the possibility of violence escalating again in Afghanistan.

In the past, the Taliban have been accused of breaking the deal and attacking Afghan security forces. Despite the agreement, violence has continued in Afghanistan, with both sides accused of violating the terms of the agreement.

The Afghan government has called for the Taliban to honor the deal and cooperate with the Afghan government. The Afghan government has also called for the release of U.S. prisoners and the beginning of talks between the Taliban and the Afghan government.