



The University of World Economy and Diplomacy

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# Commentary

What lies behind Haqqani's  
diplomatic maneuver?

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The diplomatic maneuver of Sirajuddin Haqqani, a key figure in the Taliban, has sparked significant interest and analysis. The Taliban's efforts to gain recognition from the international community have led to a series of developments that suggest a shift in the global community's perception towards the Taliban. Recent events, including Kazakhstan's removal of the Taliban from its list of [terrorist organizations](#), Russia's tacit acknowledgment of the Taliban's control in [Afghanistan](#), and the President of PRC's official reception of the Afghan [ambassador](#), indicate a growing acceptance of the Taliban's de facto governance.

Haqqani's [visits](#) to the UAE and Saudi Arabia have further solidified Afghanistan's international standing and revealed new dynamics in the global community's approach to Afghanistan. Several conclusions can be drawn from these developments:

**Consent.** The trend suggests that the international community is increasingly recognizing the Taliban as the current government in Afghanistan, despite the Western countries' reluctance to formally acknowledge it. This implies that the international community is not actively working to undermine the Taliban's legitimacy.

**Confidence.** Despite being placed on the UN's international terrorist list and the US's offering a whopping [\\$10 million](#) reward for his capture, Haqqani managed to travel safely. This confidence may indicate that the Taliban anticipated a degree of acceptance from the international community and acted accordingly.

**Secret Deal.** Haqqani's confidence could also fuel suspicions about secret agreements between the Taliban and Western nations. Central Asian countries may be concerned about possible covert ties between the West and the Taliban, which could heighten tensions. The West suspects that Central Asian nations might be secretly developing ties with Kabul, while these countries, in turn, suspect clandestine connections between the Taliban and the West. In other words, as experts call this can be "[reciprocal doubt](#)" between the West and Central Asian countries.

**Negligence.** The West's current preoccupation with crises in Ukraine and Gaza may have diverted their attention from Haqqani's visit, or they maybe deliberately downplaying the visit to avoid escalating issues further.

**Signal to the Islamic World.** Haqqani's visits to the UAE and Saudi Arabia can be seen as outreach to the Islamic world, signaling that Islamic countries remain a priority for Kabul.

**Personal Motives.** The visit may also have personal significance for Haqqani, strengthening his position of power. Performing [Hajj](#) could be viewed as a heroic act in the eyes of the Afghan people, boosting his reputation both internationally and domestically. Yet, on the other hand, the growing popularity of Sirajuddin Haqqani could exacerbate his relationship with the Emir of the country.

**Conclusion.**

Haqqani's visit has opened up new diplomatic realities regarding Afghanistan. The Taliban's de facto control is increasingly acknowledged by the international community, which is engaging with Afghanistan based on this new reality, despite the lack of recognition. This indicates that international legal norms are lagging behind the principles of international relations, which are increasingly driven by power, interests, and changing dynamics.