

# Russia Says It Will Soon Delist Taliban as Terrorist Organization

**Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told Russian media on Tuesday his government is planning to remove the Afghan Taliban from its list of designated foreign terrorist organizations to facilitate diplomacy with Afghanistan.**

“The Taliban are the ones holding real power [in Afghanistan]. Just as the People’s Republic of China, we have never closed down our embassy there,” Lavrov reportedly said, according to the Afghan network Tolo News.

Lavrov described delisting the Taliban as a terrorist organization and establishing formal diplomatic ties as necessary to “accepting reality.”

“The Afghan Ambassador presented his credentials to Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing along with other ambassadors. Kazakhstan has recently decided to remove them from the list of terrorist organizations,” Lavrov reportedly said. “We are going to do this, too.”

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