

Afghan diplomats' statement on the situation in Afghanistan

As members of the global diplomatic community, we express our grave concerns over the catastrophic situation that has been unfolding in Afghanistan in the past two months. The Taliban's forceful takeover of Afghanistan last month and the subsequent collapse of the state institutions, rule of law and the economy just validated our belief and profound worries about the consequences of a hasty US withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The tragic scene showing the Taliban coming to power by force and announcing their government composed of the UN-sanctioned terrorists puts the global failure to fight terrorism in Afghanistan on full display. It is also a sad reminder that the lack of international resolve to fight and resist terrorism in all its forms and manifestations provides the space for terrorist groups to succeed in their pursuit of violence as a political means.

We are disheartened that after twenty years of engagement, our allies are abandoning Afghanistan and leaving our people at the mercy of a terrorist group. We strongly believe that Taliban's military takeover of Afghanistan is going to prolong Afghans' suffering and will further undermine international security. Taliban's success in capturing power through illegal and violent means and establishing their government will have disastrous consequences for regional and global security as it emboldens terrorist and violent extremist groups around the world. We believe that violent takeover of states by terrorist groups normalizes violence and, therefore; we call on the international community to;

- Not further legitimize the Taliban by recognizing their interim government in Kabul. Recognizing the so-called Islamic Emirate of the Taliban will not only legitimize the group but also validate their suppressive regime and forceful subjugation of the Afghan people to their rule. The Taliban is a terrorist group. Most of the Taliban leaders and members of their interim government are on the UN sanction list as terrorists.
- Use all available means to put an end to Taliban violence against women, civil society activists, and journalists. The Taliban have arbitrarily arrested and tortured journalists in Kabul and in the provinces over the last weeks. The group has also violently suppressed peaceful demonstrations by women and civil society activists. An Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Afghanistan should be established to ensure justice and accountability.
- Consolidate international efforts to form a politically negotiated, all-inclusive and legitimate government in Afghanistan that is acceptable to all people of Afghanistan, including women and minorities. The international community must prevent a government in Afghanistan that uses violence to subjugate the population to its rules. The Taliban's aggression against people in the Panjshir Province and the forceful displacement of people across the country must stop immediately.

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Signatories:

Abdul Hadi Nejrabi, Minister and DCM, Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington DC

Abdul Khaliq Samandary, Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan in London

Abdul Matin Amin, First Secretary (Political Officer), Embassy of Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi

Abdullah Arsari, First Secretary, Embassy of Afghanistan in Paris and Permanent Delegation to UNIESCO & ICESCO

Ahmad Baryalai Kaberzada, First Secretary, General Consulate of Afghanistan in Dubai

Ahmad Seiar Daqeq, Counselor, General Consulate of Afghanistan in Dubai

Ahmad Zahir Maqssodi, Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan in Stockholm

Azimullah Warsaji, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of Afghanistan in Doha

Aziz Omar, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of Afghanistan in Nur-Sultan

Fawad Nazami, Political Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington DC

Fazull Mahmood Rahemee Pajwak, Counselor, Embassy and Permanent Mission of Afghanistan in Vienna

Habib Ahmad Khinjani, Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan in Ankara

Hedeia Amiry, Political Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington DC

Jawad Raha, First Secretary (Political Officer), Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington DC

Lutfullah Lutfi, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Afghanistan to the UN in New York

M Musaddiq Faqiri, Counselor and DHM, Embassy of Afghanistan in Ankara

Mohibullah Taib, Counselor, Embassy and Permanent Mission of Afghanistan in Geneva

Nazir Majeedi, Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan in Brussels

Nigara Mirdad, Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan in Warsaw

Parwana Paikan, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan in Paris and Permanent Delegation to UNIESCO & ICESCO

Rahman Nazar Belim, Alternate Representative of Afghanistan in Rome based International Organizations

S Zabihullah Mahdiar, Cultural Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan in Washington DC

Sayed Hamed Numani, First Secretary, General Consulate of Afghanistan in Istanbul

Shaker Muradi, Minister Counselor, Embassy of Afghanistan in Brussels