



LASALLECUNMUN

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SC

(Security Council)

“The Role of the United Nations
in Afghanistan: Critical
Assessment of the Power of the
Taliban over the Country and its
Impact on International
Governance after the Withdrawal
of International Troops”

Background Guide





Dear delegates,

I am thrilled to welcome you to the LASALLECUNMUN 2025 conference. My name is Britany Contero, and I will be your president for the Security Council committee. Joining me are Xochitl Mendez as our moderator and Zoe Hernandez as our conference officer. We hope you will fully participate in this model so we can all have a fantastic learning experience.

Currently I am 19 years old and I am a senior at Universidad La Salle Cancun in the area of Biological Chemistry. Upon graduation, I plan to pursue a degree in nursing. My long standing passion for helping others and gaining a deeper understanding of the human body has motivated me to pursue this career path. In my free time, I enjoy reading and watching films. One of my favorite films is Sing Street. I am also learning to play the bass guitar. On weekends, I volunteer with the school at various foundations to bring joy to the people residing there. And in addition, I am actively involved in Polynesian dance, both on and off school. Two years ago, I participated in MUN and was honored to receive the award for best delegate. Last year, I served as President of the World Health Organization committee and having enjoyed the experience from the chair's perspective, I decided to participate in one final Model United Nations conference as President. In my opinion, I enjoy MUN because it helps to overcome fears. As I participate in more conferences, my self-confidence grows. It is a fun and exciting experience where I get the chance to meet new people, make friends, and create lasting memories.

We as a chair are excited to see your potential to create innovative solutions in this model, remember that we are the generation of change and this is just the beginning to start making conscience about the world itself. I am sure you will do a fantastic job. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Best Regards,

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COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The Security Council has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The Security Council takes the lead in determining the existence of a threat to the peace or act of aggression. It calls upon the parties to a dispute to settle it by peaceful means and recommends methods of adjustment or terms of settlement. In some cases, the Security Council can resort to imposing sanctions or even authorize the use of force to maintain or restore international peace and security.

Topic “The Role of the United Nations in Afghanistan: Critical Assessment of the Power of the Taliban over the Country and its Impact on International Governance after the Withdrawal of International Troops”

INTRODUCTION

The Taliban's, which took place in Afghanistan, are a conservative Islamic organization that appeared in the Afghan Civil War in early 1990s. Under their government, human rights have been severely limited, especially in women and girls.

Afghanistan, under their control, has become a safe refuge for terrorist organizations, which have led to concerns about possible attacks both in nearby countries and abroad.

In addition, it has been difficult to establish diplomatic relations and coordinate solutions to the country's problems, since Taliban's don't recognize the legitimacy of the international community. In response to their seizure of power, the world has imposed sanctions and restrictions towards the Afghan government. These actions seek to pressure the Taliban's to make a change in their politics and respect human rights. However, the people of Afghanistan have also suffered because of these sanctions, which creates uncertainty about its effectiveness.

Furthermore, the situation has revealed the limitations of the international organizations to protect the human rights in unstable countries and affected by conflict.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

On Christmas Day, 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, the Western bloc viewed this intervention as an act of aggression by a totalitarian state. From Moscow's perspective it was a limited deployment of troops, at the request of the Afghan communist government, to end an open civil war provoked by Islamist rebels; it was therefore seen as a fraternal act of socialist solidarity.

As a consequence of this many Afghans faced mass displacement during the war making them find solidarity in the religious rhetoric of the mujahideen resistance and opportunities in schools of Islamic sciences (called madrasahs) in southern Afghanistan and northern Pakistan. In 1994 a group of former fighters, associated with a madrasah, successfully subdued a local warlord and began pacifying nearby areas. The faction, which enjoyed popular support with its promise of security and its religious fervor, quickly grew into the movement now known as the Taliban. By late 1996 the Taliban had seized the capital, Kabul,

and gained effective control over some two-thirds of the country. The Taliban faced significant resistance, especially after it asserted its own interpretation of law and order. It combined a strict religious ideology with a conservative Pashtun social code to create a brutally repressive regime.

Between 1996 and in early 2002, the Taliban continued to try and redress the core issues they considered to be the reason for the Afghan crisis and while they did engage in various negotiation tracks to try to end the war with the opposition, none yielded any results so the Taliban saw the opposition as untrustworthy and the war continued.

In 2001 a terrorist group named al-Qaeda (founded by Osama bin Laden in the late 1980s) attacked New York City and Washington by airlines hijackings causing multiples deaths where 2,750 people were killed in New York, 184 at Washington, and 40 in Pennsylvania (where one of the hijacked planes crashed into the ground).

Khalid Sheikh Mohammed an Islamist militant who, as an operational planner for al-Qaeda, masterminded the 9/11 attack, indicated that this attack was internationally well planned with meetings in Malaysia, operatives flight lessons in the United States, coordination by plot leaders based in Hamburg, Germany, money transfers from Dubai and recruitment of suicide operatives from countries around the Middle East.

As a result, the United States government created an antiterrorism congress named Safety Act that provides incentives for the development and deployment of anti-terrorism technologies by creating systems of risk and litigation management. However, President Bush took action in response to the attack offering \$25 million for Osama bin Laden either dead or alive. And months after chasing him he was located in Pakistan, and on May 2, 2011, on orders from the U.S. President, a small team of U.S. Navy SEALs assaulted his compound and shot and killed the al-Qaeda leader.

By this, an international conflict in Afghanistan started where the United States invaded the country for the previous attacks. The Taliban regime, which controlled Afghanistan at the time, had provided safe haven to al-Qaeda. The US aimed to dismantle al-Qaeda, prevent future terrorist threats, and establish a democratic government in Afghanistan. The invasion involved a coalition of nations, with the US leading the military campaign. Ground troops and airstrikes were used to overthrow the Taliban and eliminate al-Qaeda's presence. Following the Taliban's defeat, the US and its allies initiated a nation-building process, but the war lasted nearly 20 years, marked by significant challenges and ultimately ending with the Taliban's resurgence.

In February 2020, the Taliban and the US government signed a peace agreement in Doha, Qatar. This agreement outlined a timeline for US troop withdrawal in exchange for Taliban guarantees, such as breaking ties with al-Qaeda and participating in intra-Afghan negotiations. As the withdrawal deadline approached, the Afghan government, weakened by corruption and lack of popular support, began losing ground to the Taliban. Taking advantage of the departing international forces, the Taliban launched a large-scale offensive,

rapidly capturing key cities and provinces. The capital city, Kabul, fell to the Taliban with minimal resistance, marking the end of the Western-backed government.

Finally, the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan in August 2021 marked a turning point in a nearly two-decade-long conflict. As international forces departed and the Western-backed Afghan government crumbled, the Taliban swiftly seized control of the country with little resistance.

CURRENT SITUATION

When the previous Afghan government fell apart in August 2021 due to the U.S. and NATO withdrawal, the Taliban regained control of Kabul. For two decades, the rebels had been engaged in combat with international soldiers and the peace negotiations between their leadership and other Afghan factions had to stop as a result of their achievement.

Soon after, the Taliban proclaimed a new government that no foreign state or international organization has recognized to this day, the development support that had paid for 75% of the previous government's expenses was abruptly discontinued by Western donors and the government closure drove Afghanistan into a humanitarian and economic crisis, compounded by the sudden collapse of the economy and other circumstances.

As the Taliban committed widespread human rights violations, particularly against women and girls, Afghanistan remained the only country where women and girls could not access secondary and higher education and were banned from employment with international nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations (except in health care, nutrition, and primary education). The ban on Afghan women working for international humanitarian NGOs and the UN exacerbated the crisis and constrained the operational capacity of humanitarian aid organizations, with long-lasting consequences for all people in need, especially women-headed households. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) estimated 48 percent of women-headed households have a poor Food Consumption Score (FCS) compared to 39 percent of male-headed households.

The Taliban's restrictions on women's rights are among the factors that have influenced donors' decisions to cut aid, leading to an alarming funding shortfall. The UN requested US\$3.26 billion in humanitarian funding for Afghanistan for 2023, but as of November, it had received less than 25 percent of the appeal. Afghan and international NGOs cite this shortfall as the main reason for stopping aid programs. By late 2023, several organizations providing health care were either closing clinics and hospitals or withdrawing support for them due to lack of funding.

On December 21, 2022, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union issued a joint statement condemning the ban on women attending universities. On February 1, the US State Department announced additional travel restrictions on several Taliban officials in response to the Taliban's ban on women's university education and most jobs with international NGOs.

Also, Afghanistan's criminal code makes same-sex conduct a criminal offense, and the Taliban have echoed the previous government's support for the criminalization of same-sex relations, with some of their leaders vowing to punish lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, many of whom live in hiding as a result.

On August 22, 2023, the UN reported that since August 2021 there had been at least 800 instances of extrajudicial killing, arbitrary arrests, and detentions, over 144 cases of torture and brutal treatment, 218 extrajudicial deaths, and 14 enforced disappearances of former government employees and security personnel by Taliban forces. More than 28 million people, almost two-thirds of the population, needed humanitarian aid in Afghanistan in 2023, 14.7 million of whom needed it for basic survival, making it one of the world's worst humanitarian crises and the UN reported that by mid-2023, 4 million Afghans were acutely malnourished, including 3.2 million children under 5. The loss of most foreign assistance after August 2021, a shortfall in humanitarian assistance in 2023, and a longstanding drought exacerbated by climate change were the primary reasons for the humanitarian crisis.

Many Afghans undoubtedly chafe under the Taliban's rule. Broadly speaking, their opponents include many people from ethnic groups other than the Pashtun, the predominant ethnicity among the Taliban; men and women who are against the Taliban's restrictions on women and girls; and people who prefer a constitutional order and freedoms they previously enjoyed to the opaque theocracy the new regime has imposed. Even some Taliban seem irked by the emir's decisions, especially younger officials who worry that their government has failed to keep pace with a modernizing society. Protests by opium farmers suggest that the Taliban's crackdown on narcotics also cost them popularity in some provinces.

On the other hand, part of the population supports the Taliban. Again, it is hard to assess the extent of this sentiment, but particularly in the rural south and east, many Afghans portray the change of regime as a triumph for self-determination: their side won the war, and their political views now have greater sway in the capital. Concentrated among Pashtuns, this constituency includes women who are either pro-Taliban or against the violence perpetrated for years in large parts of the country by the former government's security forces and its foreign backers. Some Afghan women even participated in the insurgency as spies, smugglers, couriers, medics and recruiters and their political agency in fighting foreign troops should not be discounted.

A third category of Afghans neither supports nor opposes the regime or considers it a mixed bag, particularly when compared with the governing systems that preceded it. Some, for example, might appreciate the newfound security after decades of war but wish that girls and women faced fewer barriers. Many Afghans who dislike the Taliban's rule were also angered by the corruption and predation of previous governments. The size of these constituencies is especially hard to measure, as Afghan polls have been badly flawed.

COUNTRY BOX

Arab Republic of Egypt

Argentine Republic

Dominion of Canada

Federative Republic of Brazil

Federal Republic of Germany

French Republic

Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan

Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Kingdom of Norway

People's Republic of China

Republic of Ireland

Republic of Iran

Republic of Tajikistan

Russian Federation

State of India

State of Qatar

United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom of Great Britain

United Mexican States

United States of America

GUIDE QUESTIONS

- I. What is your country's official position regarding the recognition of the Taliban government in Afghanistan?
- II. What measures has your country taken to address the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan?
- III. What are the main human rights violations that women and girls in Afghanistan suffer under the Taliban regime?
- IV. What impact have the Taliban's policies had on poverty rates, unemployment, and gender inequality in Afghanistan?

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