

IMUN Security Council

Officer Report 2021

The question of the stability of Afghanistan

Introduction:

The conflict in Afghanistan has been ongoing for over 4 decades but gained increased international intervention after the September 11 attacks in New York, United States of America (USA) and Washington, USA. Although American troops are set to withdraw before 11 September 2021, there is significant international concern regarding the lasting stability of the region. Now, with the military takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban, there are mounting concerns about the Taliban's willingness to maintain human rights or if they will return to their previous ways. A major violation of Afghani human rights would likely lead to increased political pressure on the Taliban but also increase the extent of human suffering that has been witnessed within the country. Innovative and effective solutions are needed to ensure that stability endures, any lasting deals are maintained, and human suffering is minimized as well as establishing procedures outlining action to be taken in the case of these deals being broken.

Definitions of key terms:

Taliban: A militaristic group in Afghanistan that follows strict Sharia law

al-Qaeda: A Sunni Muslim terrorist organization founded by Osama bin Laden. Gained international attention after the 9/11 attacks.

CIA: Central Intelligence Agency. Foreign intelligence agency of the USA.

NATO: North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Military alliance between 30 nations in order to maintain the security of its members.

ISAF: International Security Assistance Force. UN-mandated group sent to Afghanistan in order to improve security in the region.

Bilateral Security Agreement: Deal between Afghanistan and USA that enables the U.S. to keep troops in Afghanistan in order to train security forces and aid in the security and rebuilding of Afghanistan. Signed on the 30th of September 2014.

Mujahideen: Muslim guerilla fighters who fight on behalf of God. Opposed the Soviet takeover of Afghanistan during the Afghan war.

Background Information:

The conflict dates back to the 90s when the Taliban became prevalent in Afghanistan at the end of the Afghan war (1978-92), taking over the country almost entirely. The Afghan war was fought between the Soviet Union and mujahideen fighters. It started due to the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan which was an attempt to establish a pro-Soviet government. The U.S. aided rebel fighters in the fight against the Soviets and the CIA provided heavy weaponry and training to mujahideen fighters. On September 11, 2001, al Qaeda, led by Osama bin Laden, a former mujahideen fighter, conducted an attack against the USA, where they used commercial passenger jets to strike the World Trade Center, Pentagon and attempted to fly another into the White House. This prompted American retaliation, birthing the war on terrorism and the Afghanistan War. Upon request to hand over high ranking al-Qaeda members, who were declared responsible for the attacks, Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar refused, leading to the joint U.S. and United Kingdom (U.K.) invasion. The Taliban were toppled quickly but the war prevailed as many influential al-Qaeda leaders remained. In 2003 the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) led the United Nations (UN) mandated International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) which was sent to Afghanistan in order to ensure that the region would no longer be a safe haven for terrorism mainly by training security forces and aiding in the rebuilding of the Afghan government. ([Res. 1386\(2001\)](#)).

Although the Taliban had been toppled, they began to gain a resurgence in 2005 due to the increased use of suicide bombs and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). These were effective tools of war and caused heavy casualties. Due to the increased extent of damage these devices had on a population, along with the slow rebuilding of Afghanistan, accusations of prisoner abuse in American prisons, civilians caught in USA and NATO crossfire and Afghanistan's history of oppression and imperialism, there were increased anti-Western beliefs among the public. In 2009 the USA's mission in Afghanistan changed to be oriented around protecting the lives of civilians and training Afghan forces to effectively combat a resurging Taliban. It was discovered that more troops were needed for this plan to succeed, leading them to garner a further 30,000.

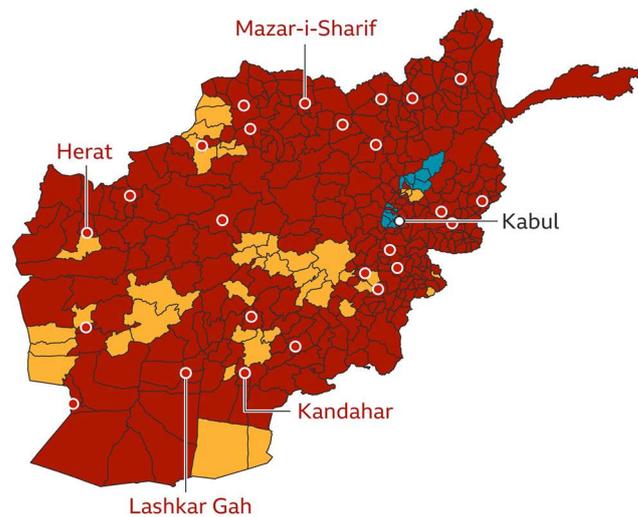
On the 2nd of May 2011 Osama bin Laden, the leader of al-Qaeda, was killed by American special forces in a stronghold in Abbottabad, Pakistan. This led to the beginning of the withdrawal of American troops from the region as they believed their goals had been accomplished. On December 28th, 2014 the USA and NATO ended their combat mission in Afghanistan. The signing of the Bilateral Security Agreement determined that an international force of 13,000 troops would remain in order to help strengthen security in the region. As the troops remained to strengthen the security forces, the Taliban's resurgence grew even stronger. They began to regain more territory, but many saw the Afghan security forces as adequately trained to handle their resurgence.

The Situation:

On April 14, 2021, U.S. President Joe Biden announced a plan to withdraw all but 650 American forces, that remain under the Bilateral Security Agreement, from Afghanistan. A follow-up to Former President Trump’s February 2020 deal with the Taliban where they agreed to the withdrawal of American forces as long as the Taliban kept their side of the deal, ensuring that Afghan soil will not be used to threaten the security of the U.S. and its allies and to hold negotiations with the Afghan government. This was the result of the Agreement for Bringing

Who's in control in Afghanistan?

- Taliban control
- Government control
- Contested
- Cities taken by the Taliban



Contested is where fighting is ongoing or strong Taliban presence
 Source: BBC research, 15 Aug. Districts used are 2005 government boundaries **BBC**

Peace to Afghanistan, signed in 2014, between the Taliban and the U.S. where they agreed to withdraw a majority of their troops as long as the Taliban agreed to prevent the growth of individuals or groups within Afghanistan that could provide a threat to the USA or its allies. In the period that followed, the U.S. has been removing troops at a steady rate but has recently met difficulties due to the Taliban's rapid regain of territory. On August 15, 2021, President Ashraf Ghani fled the country causing an influx of Taliban fighters to Kabul, seizing the city. Nations prevalent in the conflict scrambled to remove their remaining diplomats and are now

only operating skeletal crews from Kabul Airport. It is speculated that the Afghan government and the Taliban are meeting in Doha to discuss a transition of power but due to the rapid changes in the situation, it is difficult to predict the outcome.

Focus of Debate:

Delegates are encouraged to come up with innovative and unique solutions and are reminded that plagiarism is not acceptable at IMUN or any MUN conference. International collaboration is essential to resolving the conflict and the cooperation and participation of all delegations is absolutely necessary, including the USA and NATO members due to their increased presence in Afghanistan. The most pressing issues will be the implications of foreign withdrawal and the effects it has on Afghanistan's stability and the possibility for diplomatic solutions between the conflicting parties. Delegates can also debate humanitarian issues but only as long as they aid in combating the political issue simultaneously. Additionally, the debate will look at the potential consequences for violations of agreements, violations of human rights and the potential threat of Afghanistan becoming a safe haven for terrorist organizations.

Past UN Resolutions:

[1368 \(12/09/01\)](#) - Condemns the 9/11 attacks and those responsible

[1378 \(14/11/01\)](#) - Encouraged the Afghan people to find a new inclusive government with the help of the UN.

[1401 \(28/03/02\)](#) - Created the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Research:

Increased press coverage due to international withdrawal and increased Taliban presence has led to a wide collection of resources that can be found online. The UN website

contains in-depth reports regarding individual countries' perspectives as well as older resolutions that highlight the UNs involvement in the conflict. Delegates should read through former resolutions to see if any past actions can have relevance in today's conflict but also to assess, evaluate and amend past actions. Additionally, nonprofit organizations, such as [Amnesty International](#), have in depth articles and reports regarding the issue. Delegates should remember to ensure that they are comfortable with their knowledge of their delegation. Delegates should aim to endorse their solutions through lobbying and negotiation in order to satisfy the views of all member nations and create a lasting solution to the stability of Afghanistan.

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