



HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL: Topic 1

THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

Background:

In 2001, when the Taliban refused to hand over Osama bin Laden, an international coalition led by the USA invaded Afghanistan in order to end the terrorist organization called Al-Qaeda and rebuild the core institutions in the country. Other nations such as the UK, Canada, Australia, Germany and France, supported the US in this endeavor.

In 2009 Barack Obama decided to reinforce the US troop in Afghanistan. This force was implemented to create a new strategy to protect the Afghan population from Taliban attacks; also, there was a command change which was part of what created the new strategy because there was a new way of thinking. In April, there was a request made to NATO (The North Atlantic Treaty Organization), which consisted of asking for more members to reinforce the reconstruction teams. They also came together with a prediction of when the withdrawal of the foreign forces from Afghanistan would happen.

By 2011, the war had been going on for 10 years. In May bin Laden was killed in Pakistan, therefore the responsibility of handling the security in the country would gradually be handed to the Afghan military forces and the police. This plan failed, the attacks kept happening and the forces in charge appeared to be unprepared to hold off the Taliban.

By the end of 2014 the US and NATO forces were mostly off the Afghanistan grounds. This means all forces working internationally in Afghanistan were lifted, and the Afghan military together with the police were now fully responsible for the protection and safety of the country.

In 2017 Donald Trump decided not to fully withdraw all forces from the ground. Later in 2020 there Donald Trump signed a deal that includes the plan of lifting forces by May 1st 2021.

In 2020 the Taliban signed a deal that would lay the way to peace. There was a face-to-face meeting between the representatives of the Taliban and the Afghan government.

Current Situation:

In 2021 Biden decided upon the complete the withdrawal of US forces, shortly after which the Afghan government collapsed and the Taliban took over. Biden defends the withdrawal of the forces from Afghanistan. The war ended 20 years later as the US completely withdrew their forces.

Currently the Taliban have taken over Afghanistan and have tremendous control of the country. They defend certain extreme measures that are extremely disadvantageous to their citizens, especially women. They are blocking women from working, receiving aid or even from being educated. Women are only allowed to work in health or education programs. The effects of this will affect then economy astoundingly, they might never be able to recover and most likely they wouldn't be counting on much international support, some suspect that Pakistan keeps providing financial and logistical support to the Taliban. Currently, the Taliban is led by a council called the "Rahbari Shuri", which is mostly known as "Quetta Shura".



Important bloc positions:

USA (United States of America):

The US is in the position where they could either maintain their position and not send their forces onto Afghan grounds, or they could once again send their military support and continue contributing for the safety of the Afghans. However, this would imply more costs, and most importantly more life threats and the US troops have already suffered numerous attacks and deaths.

Pakistan:

Pakistan keeps an important role in the war. They are believed to have a strategy to gain a stake in Afghanistan in order to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a pro-India government. Pakistan is believed to have interest on the war; however, they don't have a firm position assumed, this is because they have mixed interests.

Possible solutions:

Sending the US troops back to the Afghan grounds; however, Biden will not be allowing this as it implies putting his troops through life threats and extreme costs which he is not willing to pay for. Some believe there are no possible military solutions, these people believe a political solution is the only path to follow, therefore reach a political settlement.

Further reading:

- https://www.eastwest.ngo/sites/default/files/ideas-files/Abu%20Dhabi%20Report_WEB.pdf
- <https://www.icrc.org/en/doc/assets/files/other/afghanistan.pdf>
- <https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/SSRN-id3291982.pdf>

Bibliography:

- <https://www.britannica.com/event/Afghanistan-War>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/newsround/15214375>
- <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-war-afghanistan>
- <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/11/04/afghanistan-taliban-blocking-female-aid-workers>
- <https://www.cfr.org/background/taliban-afghanistan>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58443839>
- <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/8/3/no-military-solution-to-conflict-in-afghanistan-us-envoy-says>
- <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/end-of--endless-war--in-afghanistan-presents-few-solutions/46872314>