THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION "REPORT CARD"

FEBRUARY 2022

Read AFBT's report six months after President Biden's failed evacuation from Afghanistan.
While this iteration of the Taliban portrays a kinder image of themselves in front of the international media, the "new" Taliban have proven themselves much like the old Taliban. Afghan girls are not allowed to attend school beyond 7th grade and the Taliban has severely restricted women's freedom of movement.

Despite the fact that the Taliban have instilled gender apartheid in the country, Afghan women have fearlessly taken the streets to protest this repression. This does not go without intimidation and abuse. Women activists and their families are being targeted and kidnapped from their homes, with no due process.

WHERE WE STAND

Support and amplify Afghan women who continue to protest against the Taliban.
While President Biden proudly proclaims to have ended the war in Afghanistan, the US has merely shifted tactics. The abrupt end to aid, the current sanctions regime imposed on Afghanistan as well as its seizure of the Afghan people’s sovereign reserves are choking the Afghan economy and leading to widespread starvation and malnutrition.

This shift to an economic type of warfare is ensuring widespread deprivation and death, as many have started to sell their children and kidneys in a bid to remain alive.

WHERE WE STAND

Pressure the Biden Admin to gradually release all $7.1B in frozen funds to the Afghan Central Bank so that the economy is given life and the people have access to their funds.

Sign our petition: bit.ly/unfreezefunds
Contact Congress: bit.ly/afghanfunds
As the Taliban gained strength and managed to capture the entire country last summer, President Biden decided to adhere to President Trump’s agreement with the Taliban to fully withdraw from Afghanistan. The administration ignored warnings, from groups like ourselves, that it was deeply unprepared for the chaos that might unfold in the wake of such a withdrawal, leaving behind countless vulnerable groups within the Afghan population.

Afghan diaspora, non-governmental organizations, and veterans groups were forced to charter planes that were often left partially empty. Countless lives were lost and children were separated from their parents. The botched evacuation has left hundreds of thousands of Afghans vulnerable to Taliban retribution while many others have been targeted, killed, or forcibly disappeared.

WHERE WE STAND

The Biden Admin must resume and speed up the facilitation of evacuations, especially for the most vulnerable in Afghanistan.
While the Biden administration’s ad-hoc evacuation helped bring over almost 80,000 Afghans to the United States, the barriers remain steep for at-risk Afghans who wish to seek refuge in the United States. The US immigration policy remains deeply hostile to Afghans, as well as other groups, despite the power held by the administration to break down said barriers. In the wake of the withdrawal, government officials suggested Afghans file for humanitarian parole, one of the very few pathways to gain entry to the United States.

Almost 40,000 Afghans have filed for this process, coming at a steep cost of $575 per person. Since last fall, however, our community has seen a steep rejection rate, with families receiving blanket denials, leaving countless Afghans with no recourse. Many remain on the run from the Taliban, have sought safe haven in third countries, and are hiding in safe houses.

WHERE WE STAND

The Biden Admin must more broadly approve humanitarian parole applications & waive its fee; pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.

GRADE: F
The administration has handed over much of the task of welcoming new arrivals to resettlement organizations and the Afghan-American community. Even with the efforts of resettlement organizations, the private sector, many find themselves struggling to integrate into American society. Steep housing costs, lack of access to affordable healthcare, and lack of governmental guidance and support have made the task deeply challenging for almost 80,000 new arrivals.

Furthermore, roughly 36,000 Afghans find themselves in legal limbo, because their status gives them no path to permanent residency in the United States. Humanitarian parole is temporary and there is a need for legislative action to provide a pathway to permanent protection, which would come in the form of an Afghan Adjustment Act.

WHERE WE STAND

The Biden Admin must act swiftly to resettle Afghans in a timely manner, including those stranded in third countries. The Biden Admin must pass the Afghan Adjustment Act.