



Lausanne Movement

Connecting influencers and ideas for global mission

Pray for Afghanistan

Freedom and Justice

Issue Network

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free. *(Luke 4:18 – NIV)*

Taliban 1.0 – The Formation

- Formed in 1990s, following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. Preaching a hardline form of Sunni Islam (BBC)
- Captured Herat province in 1995 and took over 90% of Afghanistan in 1998
- Their Vision for Afghanistan
 - No foreign influence in the country (CNN)
 - Interpretation of Islamic law in the country (CNN)
- Killed many NGO workers for proselytizing Christianity (France 24)
- TV Music and Non-Islamic holidays were banned (CNN)
- Destroyed the Great Buddhas of Bamiyan (NY Times)
- Considered as haven for Al Qaeda resulting in US take over of Afghan in 2001 (CNN)
- Lost its voice in Pakistan after Malala was shot and Peshawar school massacre (BBC)
- Mawlawi Haibatullah Akhundzad - leader, named in 2016 (CNN)



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GROUND SITUATION

Facts to Engage

- Continent: Asia
- Capital City: Kabul
- Government: Islamic Republic
- Population: 34,124,811
- Major People Groups: Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara,
- Uzbek, other
- Religion: Muslim 99.7% (Sunni 84.7 - 89.7%, Shia 10 - 15%), other 0.3%
- Language: Afghan Persian or Dari, Pashto, Uzbek, English
- GDP Per Capita: \$1,900
- Literacy Rate: 38.20%
- **UNREACHED: 93.2%**

If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it. - John 14:14

- VP Amanullah Saleh and the resistance emerging from Panjshir the one unconquered province as he seeks to establish a legitimate Government based on Democracy and Constitution [Resistance forces capture 3 districts in Afghanistan, several Taliban fighters killed: Report - World News \(indiatoday.in\)](#)
- Afghan Christians worldwide that they will emerge into a body who will be the support and source of standing in the gap for their nation and their people and also churches across the world will come alongside them and stand to see the Salvation of the Lord in the world through Jesus Christ. Pray for protection over Afghan believers and perseverance despite suffering in their own nation and elsewhere. Largest church in Delhi

For them to have a divine encounter

KEY TALIBAN LEADERS



HAIBATULLAH AKHUNDZADA
SUPREME LEADER



ABDUL GHANI BARADAR
POLITICAL HEAD

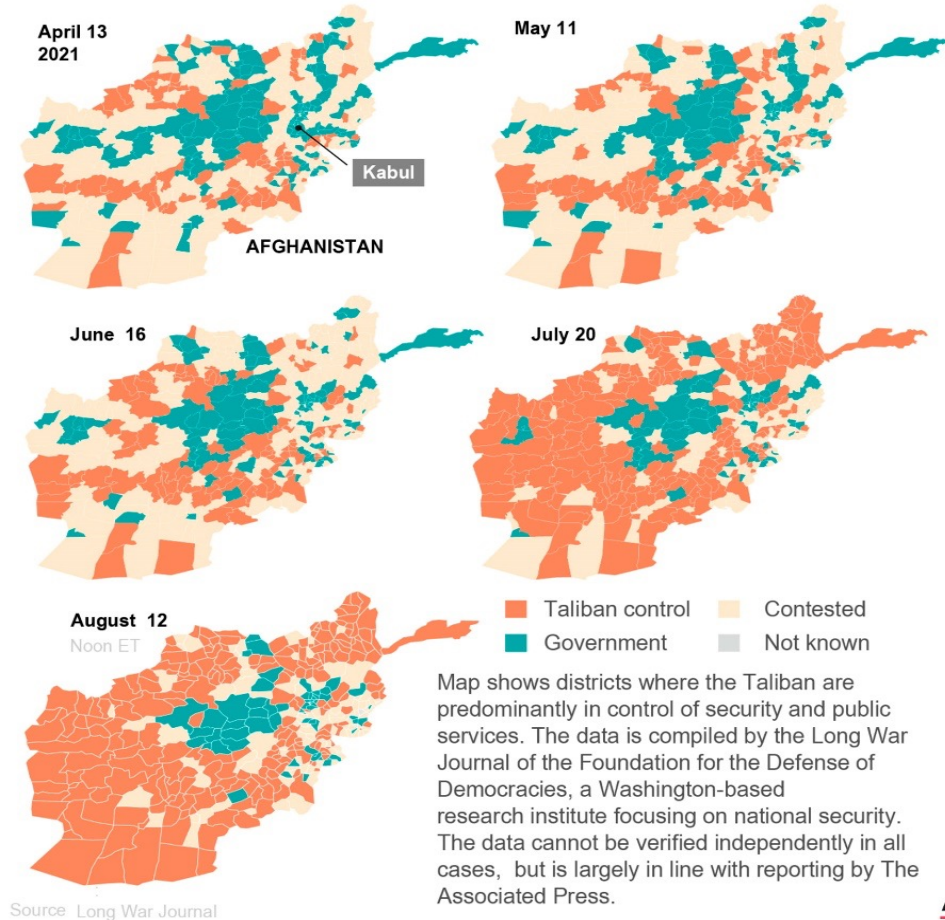


MULLAH YAQOOB
MILITARY HEAD

Pray for the 29 M Pashtuns Globally

Afghanistan	2813000
Australia	9100
Canada	47000
Chile	4800
Denmark	12000
France	39000
Germany	39000
Kyrgyzstan	600
Malaysia	6100
New Zealand	1800
Pakistan	26061000
Russia	5500
Tajikistan	4900
Turkmenistan	10000
United Arab Emirates	399000
United Kingdom	54000
United States	151000
Uzbekistan	2800

Taliban gains in Afghanistan



Pray to avert

- Forgiveness and mercy of God to be extended upon Afghanistan for the atrocities committed over the years by terror groups.
- Against Drug trafficking, people trafficking and carnage
- God's glory to shine upon Afghanistan

Wisdom, financial & moral integrity in western forces which intervene



- 2 decades of war, more than 6,000 American lives lost, over 100,000 Afghans killed and more than \$2 trillion spent by US.
- Among the key causes, analysts say, are intelligence failures, a more powerful Taliban, corruption, money, cultural differences and willpower.
- [Gauntlet to reach Kabul airport taking evacuees 24 to 48 hours | UK news | The Guardian](#)

Women and Children

- Nilofar Ayoubi Smuggled Women In Kabul To Safety. Now She's Hiding From The Taliban.

<https://www.buzzfeednews.com/article/nishitajha/afghanistan-woman-hiding-taliban-blacklist>Point One

- ['My Dreams Died': On Kabul's Streets With a Woman Protest Leader - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)
- [A Baby Passed Over a Wall in Kabul Is Reunited With Family - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Pray for many Major Thomas Schuemans



- [Victory after Marine's tireless battle to rescue translator from Kabul \(msn.com\)](#)



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Persecution Report & Future

Naeem John

Persecution Report

- Contradictory Media Reports
- Ground Realities / Firsthand Experiences
- Taliban hunting around for Pashtun, Dari & Farsi speaking believers

Persecution Report

- Evacuation to other countries a temporary solution
- Church in other countries must be ready to help
- Future: The believers in Afghanistan will be persecuted



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Women & Children

Afghanistan

Weep & Lament

Let's begin by humbling ourselves in the sight of the Lord with deep sorrow, weeping, even lamenting on behalf of the women and children of Afghanistan as we cry out to God on their behalf, knowing that He weeps with us, that He hears ***and will answer:***

“Lament and mourn and weep! Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.”

James 4:9-10

Pray for all who are in positions of authority to protect vulnerable women and children. 1 Timothy 2:2 “First of all, pray”

Foreign ministers from the G7 group of advanced economies will discuss the ongoing crisis in Afghanistan, setting the stage for a meeting of national G7 leaders early next week.

The G7's current president — U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson — had voiced his intention to host such a leaders meeting in calls with other G7 leaders this week. Governments across the G7 — which also includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United States — have faced criticism over their attempts to coordinate following the fall of Kabul, as scrambled evacuation efforts continued in the days after the Taliban's swift takeover on Sunday. **“We are now asking our international partners to match the U.K.'s commitments and work with us to offer a lifeline to Afghanistan's most vulnerable people.”**
(Politico)

Deliverance from evil—Matthew 6:13

The women and children of Afghanistan would be supernaturally delivered from evil. And they would be able to give testimony that God has delivered them.

“**As violence intensifies in Afghanistan**, United Nations leaders are aware of a massive humanitarian crisis in the country that is having a devastating impact on civilians, **particularly women and children**. Since May, nearly 250,000 people have been forced from their homes; 80% of them are women and children, said Shabia Mantoo, a spokesperson for the U.N. refugee agency.” (NPR)

In the areas collapsing under the Taliban, women make up the most vulnerable group. Civilian deaths are up by nearly 50% and more women and children were killed and wounded in Afghanistan in the first half of 2021 than in the first six months of any year since records began in 2009, the UN said.

Deliverance from evil—Matthew 6:13

There is so much at stake. A generation of Afghan women who have taken their place in society are now watching that space shrink before their eyes. They entered public life as lawmakers, local governors, doctors, lawyer, teachers and public administrators, working for two decades to help create a civil society and generate opportunities for those who come after them.

Now the Taliban are going door-to-door in some areas, compiling lists of women and girls aged between 12 and 45 years for their fighters to forcibly marry. Women are again being told they cannot leave the house without a male escort, they cannot work, study or dress as they please. Schools and colleges are being shut and businesses destroyed. (Bloomberg)

Love

Jesus teaches us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us:

“But I say to you, Love your enemies, bless those who persecute you that you may be children of your Father in heaven...” Matthew 5:44-45

Pray that the women and children may have supernatural ability from Christ and from the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, so that all who see them will marvel and know that our God reigns. And that their captors, the Taliban themselves, would fall down in worship of Jesus Christ, their Savior, even as Saul of Tarsus, who became the Apostle Paul. (Acts 9, The Bible)

Courage, wisdom, hope

As the Holy Spirit prays for them, and Jesus, who is seated at the right hand of the Father prays for them, too, join with their prayers asking God to grant undaunted courage, uncanny wisdom, and unshakeable HOPE in spite of the intense suffering to open a gateway of HOPE even through and out of their valley of trouble:

“And I will make the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope.”

Hosea 2:15

Taliban 1.0 - Formation

- Women to wear from head to toe, can't study or work, forbidden to travel alone (CNN)
- Lost its voice in Pakistan after Malala was shot and after Peshawar school massacre (BBC)
- **Let us pray that God who is GREATER than the Taliban will stand with the women and listen to their cries and HE WILL ANSWER—Psalm 55:17**

Taliban 2.0 – Until Takeover

- Women staff told to leave jobs at Kandahar and Kunduz (NY Times)
- Accepted three women in Doha consultations (Indian Express)
- **That our prayers on their behalf, even songs of unrelenting praise, will defeat the work of the Taliban—2 Chronicles 20:22 “and they were defeated.”**

Taliban 2.0 – Strategies or Change?

- Some rights for women on education and work within the Sharia law will be given, says Sohil, the Taliban spokesman (CNN)
- Girl students were allowed to go to schools, write exams, however, were given scarfs (AP)
- A women anchor interviewed a Taliban official (AP) though most of the women anchors stayed indoors due to threats
- **Pray with us that the Strategy of our Lord Jesus will remain steadfast and they will receive the dignity that is theirs as equal heirs of His Kingdom— Joel 2 & Acts 2**



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REFUGEE CRISIS

Refugee Crisis

- They comprise the largest protracted refugee population in Asia, and the second largest refugee population in the world.
- This latest situation is only adding more suffering to an already tragic situation, in which over 5 million Afghans are displaced in the country and across borders.

World Wide:

- There are 2.5 million registered Afghan refugees.
- In addition to 2.9 million Afghans already IDPs at the end of 2020
- Some 550,000 Afghans now IDPs since the beginning of the year
- Some 80 per cent of nearly a quarter of a million Afghans forced to flee since the end of May are women and children.

Where are Afghan Refugees Going?

- In addition to Pakistan, Iran, India and other countries receiving refugees:
- Canada: 20,000 Afghan refugees
- UK: 20,000 refugees
- US: 30,000 refugees being relocated
- Tajikistan: 100,000 refugees



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Taliban 2.0 – Until Takeover

- Created a political base in 2020 at Qatar and made a peace deal with Trump (CNN)
- Have local support (CNN), increased their numbers to 85000 (BBC)
- Well equipped Afghan security forces put up little resistance (CNN)
- Amrulla Saleh (former VP) says he is the legitimate President (AP)
- Looters pretending as Taliban are more dangerous (AP)

Taliban 2.0 – Conflicting Strategies

- Taliban 2.0 (India Today) different, says Sohail, the spokesman (CNN)
 - Talks on inclusive government on (insisted by Pakistan Prime Minister)
 - Diplomats, Journalists and Non-Profits could continue to operate
- Avoided inflammatory rhetoric, Taliban commanders told (NY Times)
- Ready to forgive and no revenge on those worked with US or with Govt (AP)
- Negotiations with senior politicians and leaders of former government (AP)
- No more harboring of Al Qaeda as per peace deal (AP)
- Private Media would be independent but not against national values (AP)
- Protests spread against Taliban, though 12 killed in firing during protests (Hindu)
- Children are killed during mass evacuation at airport (Hindu)
- Cell phone services in many areas were cut by Taliban (Hindu)
- Panjshir valley still out of reach for Taliban (Deutsche Welle)

Taliban 2.0 and Immediate Neighbors

- Pakistan divided on Taliban takeover (Guardian)
- Pakistan held discussions with ousted President of Afghan (Dawn)
- Iran expects peace as US withdraws and opens its borders for Afghan refugees (Al Jazeera)
- Iran talks about Afghanistan with China, Russia (Moscow Times)
- Central Asia was not interested in a weak Afghan government (USIP)
- Turkmenistan strengthened its borders after Taliban delegation met the leadership (Yahoo)
- Uzbekistan shot down fleeing Afghan military plane (AA), force lands Afghan aircraft carrying Afghan military (India Today) and closes borders for refugees (Hindu)
- Tajiks, being the second highest ethnic group after Pashtuns have cross border relations with Tajikistan, and it worries Tajikistan (Indian Express)
- Tajikistan receives erstwhile Afghan soldiers (AA), rejects refugees (Al Jazeera)

Taliban 2.0 and Regional Repercussions

- China recognized Taliban leadership (Economic Times), but waits for recognized government for diplomatic ties (Hindu)
- We won't host Uighur militants, promises Taliban to China (News 18)
- India, the 5th largest donor of Afghan (Foreign Policy) has a tightrope to walk with Taliban as reports state that Pakistan PM is endorsing the Taliban takeover (BBC)
- Should not recognize Taliban, says ex Prime Minister of Sri Lanka (Hindu)
- Human smuggling on rise in Baluchistan as Afghans flee (Dawn)
- India vacated all its diplomats from Kabul (Hindu)
- Taliban escorts 150 Indians to airport (Dawn)
- Taliban takeover will help BJP (pro Hindu party) in 2022 elections (Times of India)

Taliban 2.0 – Beyond the Borders

- Virtual G7 meet next week to discuss Afghanistan, says Biden and Johnson (Hindu)
- US to work with China on Afghan issue (Global Times)
- Kabul safer under Taliban, says Russia (News 18)
- Russia and China to work with Taliban (Financial Times)
- China, Russia not evacuating their staff (Quartz)
- Securities for embassies and foreign organizations, says Taliban (Dawn)
- Taliban making door to door visits to find people who worked with US and NATO forces (Al Jazeera)

Journalist working for German's *Deutsche Welle* was killed (Hindu)

- *Not every Taliban is a terrorist, but someone who doesn't want foreign involvement*, says Rev Thomas Reese, the Jesuit priest of Religion Today

Lebanon – ***Dangerous*** Economic Crisis

NO power, NO RX, Little Food, Little Petroleum, VERY little HOPE. As many of you already know, Lebanon continues its long downward spiral and there seems to be no end in sight to the current crisis. From medicine to power, gasoline and bread, there seems to be a scarcity of everything. Soon we might not even be able to connect to the outside world as internet providers are stopping their services one after the other.

I am still not sure what God's purpose in all of this is, but I know that our Lord reigns and that in the midst of the storm He is refining us and shaping us into Christlikeness by teaching us to rely on Him and using us as salt and light. As Tim Keller wrote, we are learning that "Christ did not suffer so [we] wouldn't suffer. He suffered so when [we] suffer [we] will become like Him."

In Christ,

Nabil K. Costa

Chief Executive Officer, Lebanese Society for Educational & Social Development (LSESD)

THANK YOU FOR JOINING

Please write your thoughts to justice@lausanne.org

Please write to us by mailing to justice@lausanne.org if you are interested in receiving updates on Lausanne Freedom and Justice issue network's activities