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S. RES. 465

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should prioritize within the Government and emphasize with allies the need to provide continued support to, and maintain legal pathways for the emigration out of Afghanistan of, individuals who do not wish to be governed by the Taliban.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 2, 2021

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should prioritize within the Government and emphasize with allies the need to provide continued support to, and maintain legal pathways for the emigration out of Afghanistan of, individuals who do not wish to be governed by the Taliban.

Whereas, on August 15, 2021, the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan collapsed, with President Ashraf Ghani fleeing to the United Arab Emirates;

Whereas, on the same day, the Taliban seized Kabul, the capital city of Afghanistan;

Whereas the United States immediately began an emergency evacuation of Afghanistan, focusing on United States

citizens, individuals with special immigrant visas, and refugees with Priority 1 and Priority 2 designations;

Whereas, on August 31, 2021, the United States ended its evacuation efforts in Afghanistan, leaving United States citizens and an unknown—but notably high—number of visa-eligible Afghans and other allies at risk of harm from the Taliban;

Whereas Afghan citizens in Afghanistan are increasingly at risk of food insecurity and poverty;

Whereas the increase of poverty in Afghanistan creates conditions that could lead to a dramatic increase in human trafficking and child, early, or force marriage, which disproportionately impact women and girls;

Whereas the United States has a legal duty to protect United States citizens and lawful permanent residents from harm;

Whereas the United States has a moral duty and security interest in protecting the Afghan citizens who worked to build a democracy for themselves based on assurances from the United States Government that such efforts would be defended by the United States and its allies;

Whereas the United States has a humanitarian responsibility to protect individuals who—

(1) are at risk of retribution based on their—

(A) religious beliefs;

(B) activities supporting democracy in Afghanistan; or

(C) defense of human rights, especially women's rights and empowerment;

(2) are in imminent danger due to the absence of the United States-led coalition in Afghanistan, which spanned two decades; or

(3) are at risk of hunger or starvation;

Whereas the United States has ended its military presence in Afghanistan and will conduct any remaining operations in Afghanistan from Doha, Qatar; and

Whereas the United States should not accept the loss of two decades of nation-building, civil society strengthening, elections monitoring, advances in rights for girls and women, cultural exchange programs, and many other initiatives in collaboration with the people of Afghanistan: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That—

2 (1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

3 (A) the Secretary of State, in consultation
4 with relevant Federal agencies, should lead a
5 coordinated effort—

6 (i) to extract United States citizens
7 and lawful permanent residents from Af-
8 ghanistan;

9 (ii) to support Afghan citizens in their
10 efforts to safely leave Afghanistan; and

11 (iii) to maintain open lines of contact
12 and help with individuals remaining in Af-
13 ghanistan under the Taliban;

1 (B) to carry out the coordinated effort de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A), the Secretary of
3 State should—

4 (i) advise and consult with appro-
5 priate parties to advocate for the rights
6 and freedoms of the people of Afghanistan
7 at all international venues and with the
8 governments of partner countries; and

9 (ii) oversee support such as—

10 (I) assistance mechanisms for Af-
11 ghan citizens who are in need of hu-
12 manitarian assistance or who are de-
13 fending the human rights and free-
14 doms of Afghan citizens; and

15 (II) other mechanisms sufficient
16 to continue to advocate for United
17 States interests with United States al-
18 lies and among the international com-
19 munity;

20 (iii) continue the coordinated effort
21 described in subparagraph (A) until the
22 later of—

23 (I) the date on which the Sec-
24 retary of State has assisted in phys-
25 ically relocating, from Afghanistan to

1 locations outside of the internationally
2 recognized border of Afghanistan,
3 any—

4 (aa) citizen of the United
5 States; and

6 (bb) lawful permanent resi-
7 dent of the United States;

8 (II) the date on which an inde-
9 pendent human rights monitor has
10 been established and is functioning in
11 Afghanistan; and

12 (III) the date on which the Sec-
13 retary of State identifies a neutral
14 international organization or entity
15 that is able to vie for United States
16 interests in Afghanistan till such a
17 time as Afghanistan is returned to le-
18 gitimate government;

19 (C) the United States should—

20 (i) work with the United Nations to
21 establish humanitarian corridors from and
22 to countries bordering Afghanistan, includ-
23 ing Tajikistan, which has indicated willing-
24 ness to receive Afghan refugees; and

1 (ii) work with such countries to en-
 2 sure the efficient and safe reception and
 3 processing of Afghan refugees, in accord-
 4 ance with international humanitarian law,
 5 to be registered by the United Nations
 6 High Commissioner for Refugees and proc-
 7 essed swiftly and equitably for travel to re-
 8 cipient countries, including the United
 9 States;

10 (D) such humanitarian corridors should be
 11 free from obstruction by the Taliban, and safe
 12 passage should be provided by the United Na-
 13 tions or any other organization;

14 (E) humanitarian assistance should con-
 15 tinue to be provided to Afghanistan through the
 16 United Nations and international nongovern-
 17 mental organizations, with special focus on the
 18 most vulnerable individuals, including women,
 19 girls, and individuals from ethnic minority
 20 groups, while also ensuring that the assistance
 21 does not benefit the Taliban politically or other-
 22 wise;

23 (F) the United Nations should appoint an
 24 independent, nongovernmental human rights
 25 monitor, who—

1 (i) should have continued free access
2 throughout Afghanistan to ensure the
3 Taliban is not brutalizing individuals and
4 families living in Afghanistan; and

5 (ii) should report to the United Na-
6 tions Security Council in an ongoing fash-
7 ion on the human rights and humanitarian
8 situation on the ground in Afghanistan;

9 (G) the United States should convene a
10 high-level summit to identify and consult with
11 countries willing and able to receive Afghan ref-
12 ugees; and

13 (H) the Secretary of State should ensure
14 robust interagency coordination and improve
15 collaboration and transparency with Congress,
16 United States civil society, and resettlement
17 agencies so as to improve processing, service
18 provision, and United States capacity to wel-
19 come; and

20 (2) the Senate discourages the United States
21 Government from engaging with the Taliban in any
22 way that would grant the Taliban benefits typically
23 afforded to legitimate governments or would other-
24 wise legitimize the Taliban, including by—

1 (A) making deposits through the World
2 Bank Group, the International Monetary Fund,
3 or the Department of the Treasury or facili-
4 tating any other transactions that would pro-
5 vide economic support to the Taliban;

6 (B) providing any foreign assistance for a
7 nonhumanitarian purpose that might benefit or
8 accrue to the Taliban;

9 (C) facilitating any exchange of Amba-
10 sadors or fielding any diplomatic mission that
11 goes beyond an “interest section” necessary for
12 diplomatic conversations without recognition; or

13 (D) allowing the Taliban to occupy Af-
14 ghanistan’s seat in the United Nations.

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