

An Open Letter to President Joe Biden

Dear Mr. President,

We are profoundly saddened by the news that the Afghan funds deposited by the Central Bank of Afghanistan with the Federal Reserve Bank will be taken by the US Government to be split between humanitarian assistance and payments to the families of the victims of September 11.th While we share the sorrow of 9/11 and the lives lost as a result, both in the U.S. and Afghanistan, this decision by the world's most powerful country over the resources of the world's poorest country is extremely unfair. It will drive Afghanistan's economy further into the ground.

Our people stood side by side with your nation for years, sacrificing more than any other nation in the war on terror. Moreover, the funds that the U.S. seeks to redistribute belong to the Afghan people, who were not responsible for the acts of Al Qaeda terrorists or the Taliban. The 9/11 terrorists were not Afghans. Evidence shows that the mastermind and co-conspirator, Osama Bin Laden, who lived in Pakistan military custody for ten years, and Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, a Pakistani radical Islamist, were killed and captured in Pakistan.

Today, Afghans are going through some of the darkest days of our history, partly because of over-confidence in our friends and allies during the 'cold war' and 'war and terror'. The support of the U.S. for the most radical elements of the mujahideen during the Cold War, and the abandonment of Afghanistan by the international community after the Soviet withdrawal, gave rise to the terrorists that have victimized both of our countries. Thousands of Afghans have died every year in what was called the 'war on terror' by the U.S. and allies.

We are now dealing with the pain of a hasty withdrawal of troops, and a 'peace deal' which allowed for the safe withdrawal of your troops, and return of the Taliban to power yet brought nothing but pain for Afghanistan and its people. Many of us are now in exile, uprooted from our country and having left everything behind, trying to save what little dignity we can. Although we lost everything personally, it is this most recent decision by you which has been even more painful. As women, we do understand the hurt and sorrow experienced by each family member of the victims of September 11. However, we are sure they will not be healed or appreciate one penny of Afghan money when the men and women of Afghanistan feel they are being forced to sell one child to feed another because of life-threatening poverty.

We are also the victims of the short-sighted policies of big nations and the corrupt leaders that our international allies chose for us. The people of Afghanistan should not be victimized again by this collective failure. The assets of Afghanistan belong to its people. The Central Bank and the economy must be supported if the people are to survive.

Taking funds from the Afghan people is the unkindest and most inappropriate response for a country that is going through the worst humanitarian crisis in its history. It is the squeezing of a wounded hand. We ask you to reconsider this decision as we are still trying to heal what is left of us as a nation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Roshan Sirran

Dr.Sima Samar

Fatima Gailani

Palwasha Hassan

Mary Akrami

Horia Mosadiq

Dr Nilab Mubarez

Shukuria Barakzai

Mahbouba Saraj

Habiba Danish

Sonia Ahmady

Mashal Roshan

Nilab Pazhwak

Najiba Ayubi

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Habiba Ashna Marhoon

Wahida Salam

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Shahla Farid

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Liah Jawad

Nooria Safi

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Shinkai Karokhail

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Wazhma Forogh

Maryem Khalil

Robina Hamdard

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Spozhmai Jabarkhail

Nahid Farid

Fauzia Amini

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Nasira Talib

Fauzia Sadat

Rahima Zarifi

Rahila Sidiqi

Qazi Marzia Babakarkhail

Nawida Bayat

Karima Rahimyaar

Mahbooba Siraj

Najia Rahil

Farhanaz Nawabi

Spouzhmai Akbarzai

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Sozhmai Syam

Saliha Wulkar

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Nilofar Sayar

Amena Afzali

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Spouzhmai Siam

Maliha Malikpur

Fouzia Raufi

Nahid Olumi

Gharsany Saho

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Pakiza Arzoo

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The letter is on behalf of over 4000 women from the **Afghan Women's Network** and Women leaders from **Women Caucus & Women Commission of Afghan Parliament, Women Coalition for peace Our Voice Our future, Afghan American Women Association, Afghan Women Peace and Freedom Organization (AWPFO)**