



BCHigh MUN 30



Afghanistan Security Council



Welcome From the Chair and Co-Chair

Dear Honorable Delegates,

I am your chair for the Afghanistan Security Council. I thank you for being in the committee and fully indulging yourself in this topic. I have been a part of Model United Nations at my school since 7th grade. As a junior, I have done many committees all around New England. At BC High, I run for the cross country team, and am a leading boat on varsity sailing. For clubs, I attend philosophy club, music discussion, art magis and climate committee. Looking forward to my college studies, I hope to major and minor in foreign studies and the arts!

I am all too well a hardcore Swiftie and Lorde stan. I love to read and listen to all genres of music, favorably pop, indie, rap, and soft rock.

Any position papers can be emailed to me at sm.schuhwerk23@students.bchigh.edu for eligibility for the Ben Maher '10 Position Paper Award. If you need any help with conducting research, how to frame a position paper, or any other analytics of debate please contact me!

Best Regards,

Sam Schuhwerk'23, Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Nico Bezzerides and I'll be in the co-chair position for this Afghanistan Crisis committee. I am also a Junior here at BC High, and have been participating in Model UN sporadically for several years. I am a member of the Botolphian Literary Magazine, which will most likely be publishing two editions this year. I attend the BC High music discussion club (with Sam), and I play in the Jazz Rock band here at BC High as well, among other things.



Some fun facts about me: I enjoy obscure things. I like linguistics, cycling, and progressive jazz. Like Sam said, I hope that you all have a wonderful time in this committee. , Good luck to all of you as you prepare for this conference. I look forward to meeting you!

Nico Bezzerides'23, Co-Chair

Background:

Over the past 50 years, Afghanistan has had constant conflict and foreign occupation. Since the Soviet Union invasion in 1979 and the American occupation in 2002, Afghanistan has been a war-torn region. Following the withdrawal by the United States government in August 2021, the Taliban controls this nation. It is uncertain if the Taliban will protect the rights of women and children. The Security Council must weigh the benefits and drawbacks of foreign intervention and figure out how to protect the human rights of all Afghanistans.

History of the Topic:

The Afghan War, beginning in 1978, was an internal conflict in response to anticommunist Muslims that led to the overthrow of the Afghanistan government in 1992. After the horrors of the 9/11 Terrorist attacks on American soil led by Osama Bin Laden in an action to create regime among the Middle East, the United States launched a counter attack on the leader's stationed in Afghanistan. Afghanistan played a key role in the rise of Al-Qaeda, in which it is head-quartered in. The ties between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union put political targets on their backs.

Conflict with the Soviet Union preceded late December of 1979. In support of the Communist agenda, Nur Muhammad Turaki led a coup, resulting in a split of power within the new People's



Democratic Party of Afghanistan. With very little popular support, the new government formed a bond with the Soviet Union. Their alliance sparked a series of land and social reforms that were ill favored by the people.

Seen as vulnerable, the Soviet Union, in December of 1979, 30,000 soldiers were deployed to cease the government. The Afghanistan War quickly became dominated by the Soviet Union as over 100,000 troops were controlling Afghanistan's territories. In order to veil popular support, the Soviet bombed rural areas, and almost 5 million Afghanistans fled to Pakistan and Iran. Unsympathetically, the Soviet Union signed with the United States, Pakistan and Afghanistan to remove troops in 1988.

The Taliban shocked foreign affairs as they swiftly obtained shire power and control. Consequently, resistance groups like the Islam and Muslim rose to fight against the Taliban's exonerating forces of torture and abuse to the Afghanistan nation. In 1992, the United Nations tried creating an approach to end the conflict that would accommodate all parties, and it failed. Any threat to the Taliban was abruptly terminated, and humanitarian groups were ravished, vehicles and work places destroyed, and critical death threats. Tensions rose, and any result to take over Taliban control resulted in the death of innocent Afghanistan citizens.

Now, thousands of families are displaced, seeking refuge, or living under horrendous conditions. In April of 2021, the United States declared the removal of troops in Afghanistan territory, allowing for the Taliban to stretch and strengthen both their offensive and defensive capabilities into new territories. Prior to this, in February of 2020, the United States signed a peace treaty with the Taliban to slowly remove all United States troops from the area, however, the Taliban continued to force threats upon the people of Afghanistan and opposing forces. The

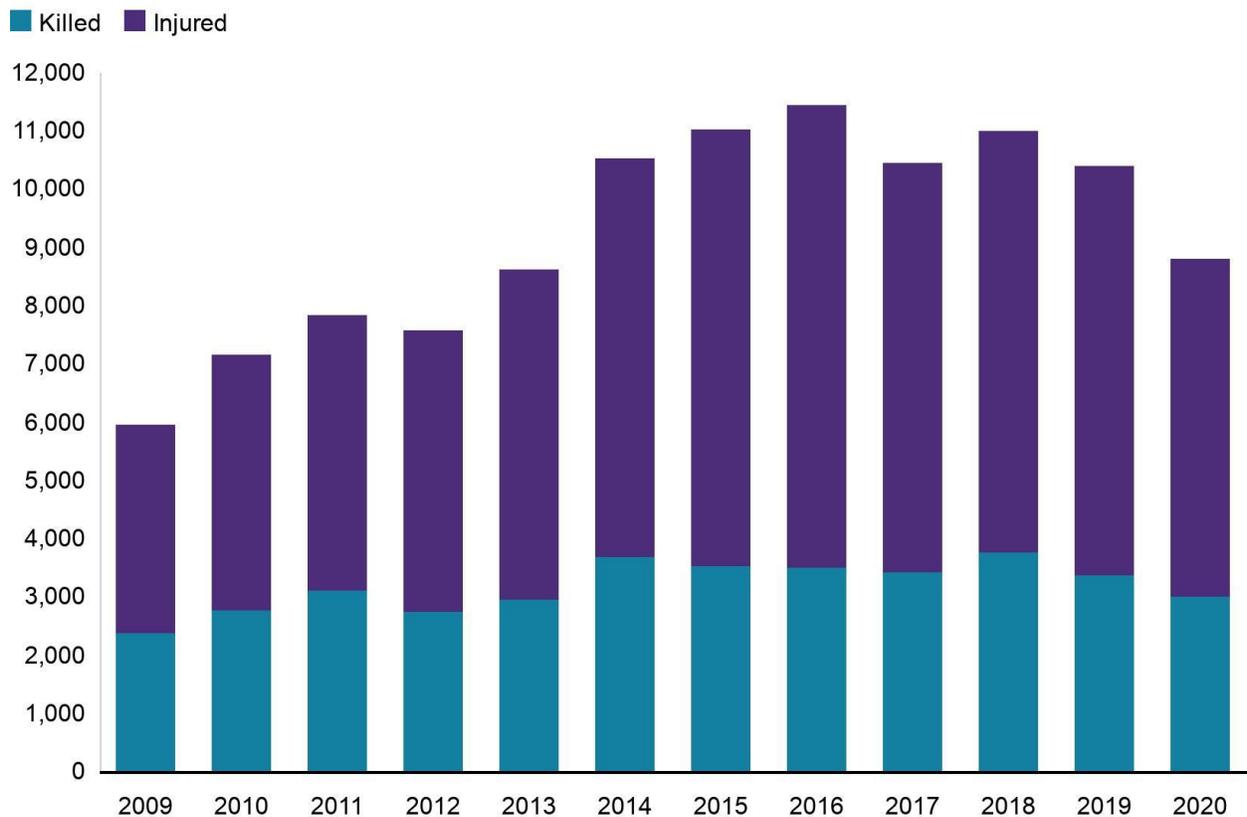


Afghanistan community experienced losses of thousands of people per year, while their rights and freedom were already limited. While the United States pledged to protect those rights, the takeover of the Taliban opposed threats to anyone working to help the terrorist haven Afghanistan.

<https://www.bbc.com/news/56779160>

Total civilian casualties in Afghanistan

2009-2020



Source: UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan





Problems/Obstacles/Threats/Strengths/Weaknesses:

There are several problems currently pervading the Afghan region. As delegates, your job will be to discuss and attempt to alleviate this situation. First, with the Taliban takeover and the resulting economic sanctions on Afghanistan, there is a massive humanitarian crisis concerning hunger.

As winter closes, up to 23 million Afghans have been thrust into emergency levels of food insecurity, without enough food and materials to survive without help. 97% of the population is expected to be at or below the poverty line in mid-2022, and without aid, many of them will suffer and likely die. UNAMA, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, was established as a special organization of the United Nations to try to assist Afghanistan in building a stable, peaceful, and hunger-free society, and one of your tasks as the Security Council will be to decide whether to renew the charter when it expires on March 17, 2022.

Secondly, a major problem with the Taliban's control of Afghanistan is the resultant restriction of women's rights. While the Taliban have said that they are "formulating a nationwide policy on the right to girls' education," the freedoms enjoyed by women and girls in Afghanistan have been restricted. The restrictions include access to education, the workplace, and public areas. Women are being denied or limited in their right to work, denied positions in major organizations, and denied public life, and girls are no longer able to attend school, cutting off their lifeline to the future.

Thirdly, there is low political stability in the Afghan region. Even the Taliban cannot curtail the encroachment of the Islamic State (IS) and other Islamic terrorist organizations into



Afghanista. Despite forming a de-facto government, the Taliban have instituted martial law in many areas. Peace is not yet present. Much work must be done to increase the level of stability and decrease the level of violent extremism in the area. One of your main tasks is to consider whether the United Nations should send a peacekeeping force into the Afghan region. And if a UN peacekeeping force is sent in, how that should be done and what should be the extent of that authority.

Alliances/Enemies/Bloc Positions:

There are three main bloc positions in this particular debate: 1) countries who will be happy with anything that involves political stability in the Afghan region (China, Russian Federation, Pakistan, and Iran); 2) countries who are very concerned about terrorism and violence and would like to see a harsher crackdown on the Taliban government (Gabon, Kenya, UAE); 3) those who are most interested in humanitarian aid, human rights and possibly diplomacy (France, the United States, Joe Biden, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Norway, Mexico, Ireland, Brazil, Albania, Martin Griffiths, Asfandyar Mir, and India).

Despite the fact that humanitarian aid, human rights, and diplomacy are the most popular stances taken, each nation within that group has differing opinions on what specifically to do, and there are several countries who have wildly differing opinions. Your job as members of this Council will be to mediate between these different points of view and come to a conclusion about what should be done regarding this volatile situation.



Delegations/People:

People:

Dr. Asfandyar Mir: Dr. Asfandyar Mir is a Senior Expert at the United States Institute of Peace. He is chiefly concerned with stability in Afghanistan and Pakistan and believes that other violent extremist groups in the area, like the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), are more confident in their operations because of the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan.

Joe Biden: The current President of the United States. He ordered the removal of troops and official American support from the Afghan region in an effort to reduce the amount of American encroachment on international affairs. He is interested in keeping the peace as long as it doesn't involve heavy American involvement on-site, and would be especially interested in plans that involve the United States as a background rather than foreground presence.

Martin Griffiths: Martin Griffiths of the United Kingdom is the current Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. He is committed to providing support for regions in dire need of humanitarian aid, such as Afghanistan, and he believes that rich countries should pay their fair share in helping humanitarian efforts around the globe, especially in Afghanistan, where \$4.5 billion will be needed to alleviate the problems caused by war, political instability, and famine.

Countries/Delegations

China (permanent member): China is most concerned with stability in its own country. To that end, it will be largely approving of any Taliban government that can maintain stability in the



region and prevent more violence from occurring in Afghanistan and the surrounding region, and are interested in helping the current government achieve that stability.

France (permanent member): France, under the moderate current president Emmanuel Macron, is potentially interested in opening a diplomatic mission with Afghanistan to negotiate with the Taliban, which, they hope, would involve several European countries coming together. They are not yet interested in recognizing the Taliban state as the rightful sovereignty over the Afghan region, but they are interested in beginning diplomatic relations, largely on the condition that the Taliban will respect the rights of Afghans.

Russian Federation (permanent member, veto power): Russia would like for the Taliban to form a government in Afghanistan to establish political stability as soon as possible, but emphasizes that this government must include all political groups in Afghanistan. They will look to help create a government in the region, and are willing to provide aid to Afghanistan as well. They are friendlier with the Taliban and are less concerned about humanitarian issues than they are with political stability.

United Kingdom (permanent member, veto power): The United Kingdom is being criticized for its messy withdrawal from Afghanistan after the pulling of international support. They would like to improve their international image, and are currently primarily concerned with providing humanitarian aid to the Afghan region in order to do so uncontroversially.

United States of America (permanent member, veto power): The USA has been widely criticized for its chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, largely from opponents of its current government. It is focused on sending select special operations groups into Afghanistan if



necessary, and otherwise staying as far out as possible with the exception of providing humanitarian aid.

Albania (term on SC ends 2023): Albania is welcoming Afghan refugees into its borders, but Albania is small and may not be able to house all of the refugees that want to enter the country. They are asking the Taliban to provide full access to aid from humanitarian organizations regardless of gender or social status, and they are deeply concerned about the upholding of universal rights in the region, favoring movement from the Taliban on those issues.

Brazil (term on SC ends 2023): Brazil has been granting humanitarian visas to some Afghans, but is primarily concerned with keeping civilians in the region safe, and not with granting lots of visas to Afghan citizens. They would look favorably upon a peace force from the UN to work in Afghanistan.

Gabon (term on SC ends 2023): Gabon is chiefly concerned with terrorist attacks instigated by the Taliban in North and Sub-Saharan Africa as a result of this power takeover. They favor a slightly more militaristic approach in order to prevent the Taliban's newfound power from getting out of hand.

Ghana (term on SC ends 2023): Ghana is in a similar position to Gabon; being chiefly concerned about terrorist attacks in and around West Africa. Given that many Islamic terrorist groups have in the past bombed parts of many different African countries, they along with the other African countries on this committee are concerned for their border security and their peoples' safety.

India (term on SC ends 2022): India is historically one of the largest donors to Afghanistan,



using over three billion dollars for humanitarian aid, but their primary issue in helping Afghanistan is their poor relationship with Pakistan. Only recently has Pakistan allowed Indian shipments of aid supplies to go through Pakistan, and only on Afghan vehicles. Thus, any decision they make will most likely not be approved by Pakistan. They are reluctant to provide political support to Afghanistan until they are sure that the Taliban will respect and uphold the humanitarian rights of Afghans.

Ireland (term on SC ends 2022): Ireland has been providing some visas to Afghan refugees, but are primarily concerned with safely removing their own citizens from the Afghan region and making sure that the Taliban uphold internationally recognized humanitarian rights before offering any sort of political aid.

Kenya (term on SC ends 2022): Kenya, like other countries, is prioritizing humanitarian concerns over political ones. They want to see the elimination of restrictions against women and the alleviation of terrorism in the region; and they ask the Taliban to commit to fighting terrorism to make Afghanistan a safer place to live. After those requirements are met, they will start considering political relations with the Taliban.

Mexico (term on SC ends 2022): Mexico, like Norway, is amenable to opening dialogue with the Taliban, but, like Norway, only regarding issues of rights and humanitarian distress. They want to avoid further tragedy and loss of life and are seeking ways to do that without further military unrest in the region. They heavily support UNAMA and other groups that are helping to form Afghanistan into a liveable nation amenable to human thriving.

Norway (term on SC ends 2022): Norway is concerned about the progress of humanitarian



affairs in the Afghan region and is interested in opening a line of communication between the Taliban and the providers of aid for better cooperation and understanding. They recently hosted a delegation in Oslo from the de-facto authorities in Afghanistan, the Taliban, to discuss how the needs of the Afghan people will be met, facing adversity from threats of widespread hunger and poverty. They are willing to work with the Taliban but are primarily concerned with humanitarian and rights issues, not that of recognizing the Taliban as the official authorities in the Afghan region.

United Arab Emirates (term on SC ends 2023): Being closer in proximity to Afghanistan than other nations on the Security Council, the UAE is focused on combatting terrorism where possible in addition to providing humanitarian aid. The UAE has evacuated over 40,000 people in recent months and recognizes that in order for Afghanistan to be stable in the future, the Taliban must “take a stand” and fight against terrorism where it appears.

Pakistan (not a member of SC, but are being invited for their usefulness on this committee): Directly next to Afghanistan, Pakistan is noticing an uptick in extremist activity as a result of the collapse of Afghanistan’s National Government, with groups like the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan emboldened by the Afghan Taliban’s recent successes in taking control of the region. They have a very poor relationship with India and will look to contradict moves that India makes. Pakistan is looking to help stabilize the current situation in Afghanistan before moving forward with any other decisions.

Iran (not a member of SC, but are being invited for their usefulness on this committee): The Iranian government is glad to see the departure of US forces from Afghanistan, and are convinced that the US and other Western powers must not be present in the Afghan region for



any progress to be had in Afghan society. The government is not likely to want to accept any Afghan refugees, as it did in the past, as the Iran-Afghanistan border is closed. The new government, under President Ebrahim Raisi, would like to spend more time in negotiations with their neighbors and as such are open to talks with the Taliban and further progress in diplomatic relations.

Questions to Consider

1. Is it possible to balance foreign intervention with the protection of human rights of the Afghani people today?
2. Should a United Nations peacekeeping presence be brought into Afghanistan?
3. Should the Taliban remain in power? Should military action be taken?
4. Should the UNAMA charter be renewed?

Resources

<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-war-afghanistan>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/September-11-attacks/The-attacks>

<https://www.history.com/topics/21st-century/osama-bin-laden>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2021/sc14706.doc.htm>

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/soviet-tanks-roll-into-afghanistan>

<https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-war-afghanistan>

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/09/taliban-seek-recognition-offer-few-concessions-intern>



[ational-concerns](#)

<https://www.usip.org/publications/2021/09/china-and-us-exit-afghanistan-not-zero-sum-outcome>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/12/4/macron-eu-afghanistan>

<https://apnews.com/article/afghanistan-sports-lifestyle-europe-tirana-7d42800e36343b12622272fa6c803f29>

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<https://www.mei.edu/publications/indias-search-new-role-afghanistan>

<https://www.un.org/press/en/2022/sc14776.doc.htm>

<https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/war-afghanistan>

