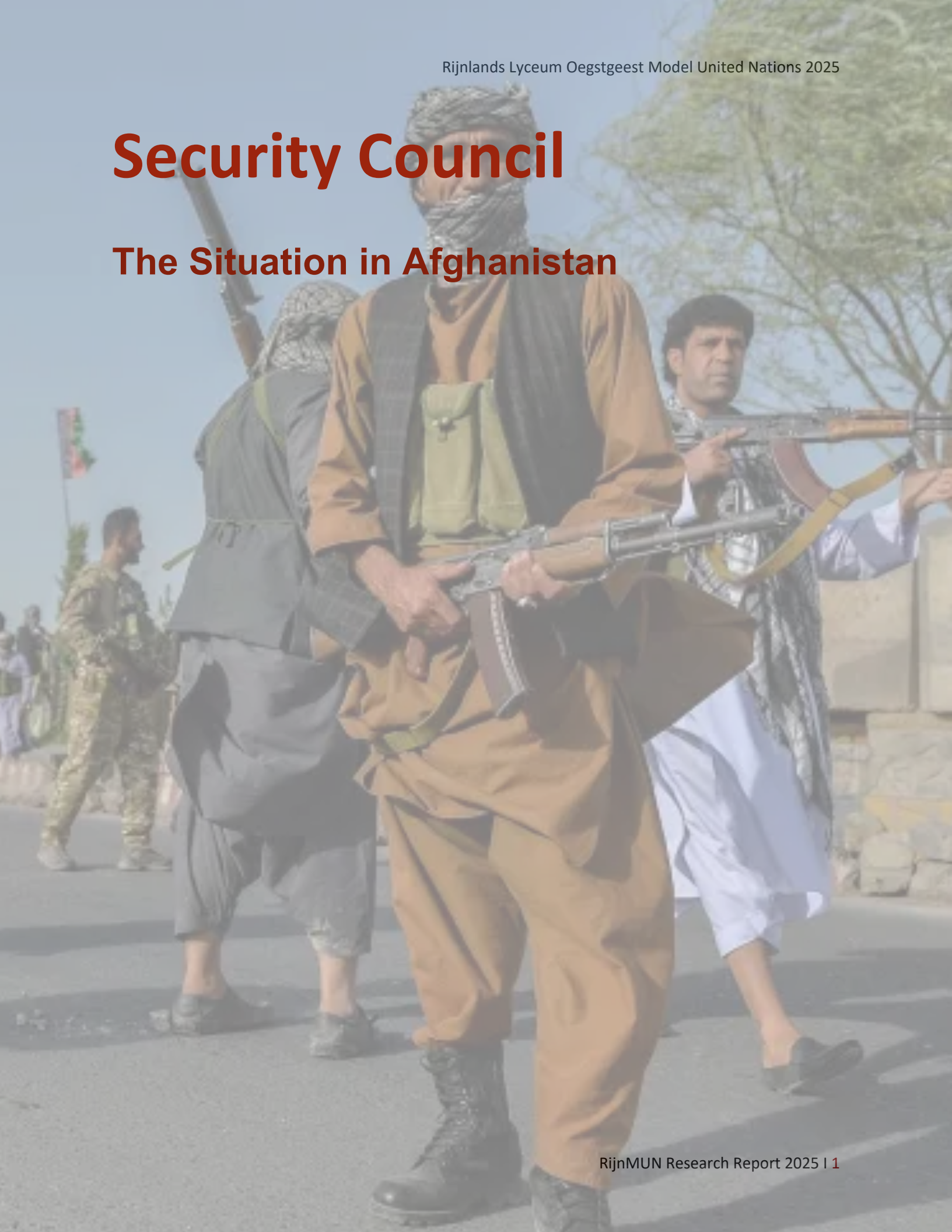


# Security Council

## The Situation in Afghanistan



<b>Forum:</b>	Security Council
<b>Issue:</b>	The situation of Afghanistan
<b>Student Officer:</b>	Akshavanth Pramod
<b>Position:</b>	Deputy Chair

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## Introduction

As far back as it can ever be traced, wars have often been waged in the name of religion, rule, natural resources and much more. An interesting case in point is the case of Afghanistan where the Taliban which is a militant group that is based on Islam fundamentalism calling itself the self-proclaimed Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has taken a strong presence since 1979 (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2025). Famous due to its high religious conservatism and authoritarian politics, the Taliban domination of Afghanistan land has been causing a series of conflicts and a substantial violation of human rights. The long existence of this crisis demonstrates its long historical and geopolitical value and states the issues it creates to stability of the region and international peace and security.

## Key Terms

### Authoritarian

Belief that people must obey certain rules and guidelines, at all costs. Usually lead to their loss of personal freedom. ("Authoritarian Adjective - Definition, Pictures, Pronunciation and Usage Notes | Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary at OxfordLearnersDictionaries.com")

### Civil unrest

Civil unrest is where large groups of people conduct protests, demonstrations, or violent disturbances. This is usually due to political, social, or economic dissatisfaction.

### Extremism

The advocacy of an ideology considered to be outside the main ideas of society. It is a term used in a religious and political context and most extremist ideas are very controversial.

### **Resurgence**

Resurgence is the revival of something (usually after a decline). It is often used when referring to the recovery of a movement, force or conflict.

### **Sharia Law**

The Sharia law acts as a code all Muslims should adhere to and how they should live life according to god's wishes. It consists of prayers, fasting, donations, and more. (BBC News)

### **Terrorism**

Terrorism is the wrongful use of violence or threat against civilians to achieve political, ideological, or religious objectives.

## **General Overview**

The war in Afghanistan has already taken place during more than forty years since the invasion of Soviet forces in 1979, the civil war, the involvement of external powers and the emergence of Taliban. The Taliban is an Islamic fundamental group whose first ascendancy took place in the 1990s and who became the ruling group in 2021 with the exit of the U.S and NATO troops. The group has reaffirmed its vivid religious laws, flattened civil liberties, and heavily condemned the way it treats women, ethnic minorities and political disagreement since assuming control again. The problem of whether to meet Taliban diplomatically as a government or to ostracize the regime through penalties, sanctions, and refusal to recognize them has rekindled the international discussion that it has created. Although there are supporters of the idea that cooperation is required to supply humanitarian aid to the targeted individuals, there are also those who think that engagement would give legitimacy to a government that repeatedly goes against international principles and infringe on human rights. This has also contributed to the complex situation of peace-building and humanitarian access due to the absence of a common international response. This lingering crisis has severe international ramifications. It poses a risk to the stability of the region, there are some concerns of creating a breeding ground of terrorism, illegitimate processes like drug trading, and a great population of displacement and humanitarian crises. The case of

Afghanistan continues to be an urgent issue of the international community and the Security Council because it is directly linked with the aspects of peace, security, and protection of basic rights. Also, the Taliban has tried to negotiate with the regional powers of China, Iran, and Russia to support them economically and politically. Besides, internal economic failure, mass food shortage, and blocked Afghan central bank accounts have aggravated the agony of the population and overwhelmed foreign humanitarian aid. Lack of inclusive governments and absence of girls in getting education have also made the condition in Afghanistan draw condemnation all around the globe and thus, Afghanistan presents a critical test of credibility and cohesiveness of the international community in promoting human rights and stability in regions.

## **Major Parties Involved**

### **Taliban (Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan)**

Being the current governing regime in Afghanistan, the Taliban is in the center of the situation causing the crisis. The organization subjects Afghans to strict Islamic rule; it has been reported to cause human rights violations especially against women, ethnic minorities, journalists and political opponents. The policies of the Taliban still block the way to education, jobs, and civil freedoms that cause international public condemnation. Even with Afghan territory being mostly controlled by the Taliban, the international community does not recognize it.

### **Internationally Recognized Afghan Government (Pre-August 2021)**

Before the Taliban resurgence, the Afghan government was under the leadership of President Ashraf Ghani who was backed by the international community and was keen in ensuring the setting up of democratic institutions and observing human rights. Even with international support, it did not remove corruption and unrest.

### **United States of America**

The USA was an important party in the international military expedition in Afghanistan since 2001 attempting to break the Taliban regime and aid the development of an Afghan government. This was agreed later in the Doha Agreement in 2020, which finally saw a successful withdrawal of U.S troops in 2021, which was shortly followed by the rapid takeover of Taliban control. The US is also taking

punitive action by using sanctions, humanitarian assistance and counter terrorism activities to ensure that Afghanistan is not allowed to become a safe haven to the terrorist groups like the Taliban

## Pakistan

Pakistan is a very important party that has had a massive contribution to the political and security scenario in Afghanistan. It has been accused of aiding the Taliban, but claims to have no interaction with them whatsoever (Jones 142 and Rashid 87). The Pakistani government states that its interests lie in the necessity to maintain stability on the border and strategic depth over the rivals in the region. It continues to play roles in the diplomatic aspects and securities cooperation as well as it is also home to a multi-million population of the Afghani refugees.

## United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) is one of the most important political missions undertaking endeavors to bring peace, stability, as well as human rights in Afghanistan. It has an active role in organizing humanitarian assistance, human rights observation as well as mediating between the Taliban and international community (UNAMA 5). UNAMA likewise aids inclusive government and has repeatedly put focus on repression of women and minorities under Taliban ahead.

## Timeline of Key Events

[Date]	[Description of Event]
December 24, 1979	The invasion of Afghanistan by the USSR which starts a decade of war and international geopolitical issues.
September 27, 1996	The Taliban take control of the capital Kabul and form the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.
October 7, 2001	In response to 9/11, the U.S. and allies used military actions against the Taliban in an operation called Operation Enduring Freedom.

December 28, 2014	End of Nato's combat mission. This is replaced with a training and support mission instead.
February 29, 2020	The US entered into a peace agreement with the Taliban and created a timeline for troop withdrawal.
August 15, 2021	The withdrawal of U.S forces leaves Kabul to the Taliban, who overthrow the Afghan government.

## UN Involvement and Other Treaties

- United Nations Security Council Resolution on the situation in Afghanistan, 30 Aug. 2021 (S/RES/2593)

This resolution criticizes Taliban takeover and talks about the safe evacuation and humanitarian access of innocent citizens.

- Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institutions, 5 Dec. 2001 (S/2001/1154)

Also known as the Bonn Agreement, this agreement stated the way to a post-Taliban government during the reconstruction of the Afghan political institutions following the 2001 U.S-led invasion.

- United Nations Security Council Resolution on the Renewal of UNAMA Mandate, 17 Mar. 2022 (S/RES/2626)

The resolution saw UNAMAs mandate renewed and extended for a second time as they were to continue interacting with all Afghan parties and coordinating the humanitarian and developmental aid regardless of whether the Talibans were in power or not.

- Geneva International Conference on Afghanistan, 27–28 Nov. 2018, Geneva, Switzerland

Hosted by the UN and the Afghan government, the conference was on the topics of progress, reform, and donor support during Afghanistan's peace efforts.

## Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

The UN has already made several efforts in the perspective of the war resolution in Afghanistan. On the international level, the first effort at reconstruction of the Afghan political institutions started with the first collapse of Taliban regime (2001) through Bonn Agreement (2001). The UN established

UNAMA and its mandate is presently aimed at human rights, dialogue, and humanitarian assistance inasmuch as Resolution 2626 (“Document Viewer”, 2022).

After a Taliban takeover in 2021, UN Security Council added its voice in an appeal Resolution 2593 to Taliban welcoming safe evacuations, respecting the human rights, and standing up against terrorism. In addition, international donors were availed in such conferences as the Geneva International Conference (2018) to achieve development and governance.

Moreover, the U.S. and their agreement with the Taliban known as Doha Agreement (2020) outlined an exit plan and peace plan that was not in the UN. However, the critics have claimed that it lacked operations procedures, and it lacked assurances of actual changes. Together, they indicate the global readiness to resolve the crisis, however, it remains difficult, as instability, nevertheless, has been an issue, and there has been minimal collaboration in that regard on behalf of the Taliban capacity.



## Possible Solutions

The crisis in Afghanistan can be resolved through the application of a multi-dimensional approach that satisfies the practical realities of Taliban rule and humanitarian, and security issues involved. UNAMA should be the active component of the United Nations that would continue to build their role as mediators, but at the same time insist on higher levels of accountability towards human rights abuse and inclusion in the government. Increased international pressure, especially on the parts of powerful nations like the U.S. and China and regional players like Pakistan should be made to make certain that the Taliban leadership conforms to the basic international norms especially in the treatment of women and minorities as well as political protesters. A system of conditional engagement with the conditions of offering diplomatic recognition and financial assistance in exchange only for verifiable reforms could be contemplated to implement by the security council. This must entail admitting humanitarian agencies to freely move around, opening educational institutions to women and girls as well as destroying terror safe havens. Meanwhile, the sanctions regarding the Taliban leadership and coordinating financiers must be applied more precisely to exclude the risks of damaging the lives of Afghan citizens.

As well, the regime suppressing power could be reduced to a degree through the higher investment in the civil society net and the efforts of diaspora humanitarian activist movement that has the opportunity to build alternative support networks serving local populations. In the long term, the international community is supposed to facilitate a wider political process to all Afghan stakeholders, including former government officials, tribal leaders, and moderate religious. A council of regional cooperation, inclusive of Iran, China, Pakistan, and the Central Asian Republics, can be laid out to take care of mutual security threats and resettlement of refugees, in addition to promoting interdependence of the economy which may stabilize the region. Although this problem is quite complicated, fair, rights-based foreign policy and powerful humanitarian assistance is the key to guaranteeing progress and safeguarding the future of Afghanistan.

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## Appendix

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