



Wednesday, August 18, 2021

REF: THE RNHA ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT ON AFGHANISTAN

Washington, D.C. - On behalf of the RNHA, we affirm and honor the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces that have answered the call to fight global terrorism, both on the shores of our great nation and abroad — past and present — and we thank you for your bravery and commitment to protect the freedom and security of the American People.

With heavy hearts, we convey our deep concern for the safety of our fellow Americans and Afghan allies that have been abruptly and direly impacted by the oversight and gross mismanagement of the Afghanistan withdrawal by the Biden Administration. We take our responsibility as an organization representing the Hispanic community and others with a deep commitment to humanitarian responsibility and aid. We urge The White House and Congress to take immediate action on behalf of the safety of Americans and Afghan allies currently in Afghanistan, including interpreters, intelligence, politicians, armed services, missionaries, journalists, and more.

As has been made evident, President Biden stated in his recent speech, "The truth is, this did unfold more quickly than we had anticipated." We disagree with the President in his hasty and reckless decision to withdraw prematurely, giving the Afghan government only two months to resolve unrealistic diplomatic expectations.

In addition, for an American president who, by the way, has more than forty-seven years of political experience to confirm his weakness on the world stage, admitting that his plan did not unfold as expected is unacceptable. Did this Administration take into account the extensive American investment to combat global terrorism in Afghanistan? What about the gold star mothers who lost their son/daughter in Afghanistan? There is nothing more precious to a mother than a child.

We agree that an endless military presence in Afghanistan is not the solution; however, the haste and incomprehensible action taken to withdraw from Afghanistan has resulted in a devastating humanitarian crisis. Additionally, these negligible actions have birthed a threat to our national security unlike we've afforded since 9/11, with Taliban and other terrorist prisoners freed from their prison cells



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in one day, the collapse of Afghanistan's government overnight, the abandonment of our citizens and allies, and the wide-open U.S. border — all a culminating disaster within months of Biden taking office.

Our national security and that of nations abroad depend on a neutralized region in and around Afghanistan. We uplift the global balance of strength and light that our great United States of America sets forth at times such as these, engaging diplomatic resolve from this position of fortitude and mercy. May the current Administration and those following ever seek to maintain this legacy of wisdom and stature, with God at our helm.

Sincerely,

Shanda Hasse,
RNHA Middle Eastern Policy Director