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## THE LEFT BEHIND AFGHANS

## ONE YEAR LATER

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# THE LEFT BEHIND AFGHANS – ONE YEAR LATER

The Association of Wartime Allies (AWA) has served as the preeminent advocate for Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) eligible individuals since 2019. AWA currently offers interactive, real-time support and education to 19,000 SIV principal applicants to enable them to navigate the complexities of the Special Immigrant Visa process with as few delays of their applications as possible. AWA works directly with the US Department of State (DOS), Consular services, National Visa Center, and numerous US based legal and Resettlement Organizations to offer a robust network of support to SIV applicants and recipients.

This is the third report in the Association of Wartime Allies (AWA) continuing series on the status of Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) eligible individuals left behind after the US Evacuation of Afghanistan. This report also coincides with the one-year anniversary of the Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation (NEO) conducted by the United States Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) in August 2021. In that operation 124,000 people were evacuated out of Afghanistan to the United States and other countries (76,000 to the United States directly)<sup>i</sup>.

AWA estimates that 81,000 SIV applicants in Afghanistan had visa applications pending as of August 15, 2021 (the day Kabul fell) and that at least 78,000 remain left behind - **96% of the SIV applicants were left behind.**

To date, the latest DOS reporting states that an estimated 160,000 SIV eligible applicants<sup>ii</sup> await processing for their SIVs. DOS also reports that between 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022, only 8,000 SIVs<sup>iii</sup> have been awarded – an average of 725 SIVs awarded per month by the US DOS. At the current rate, **it will take over 18 years to successfully bring our Afghan SIV Allies to safety, almost as long as the entire recent war in Afghanistan.**

The left behind Afghans face systemic Taliban retribution, a collapsed economy that imposes starvation, extreme poverty, and lack of available medical care. Simply put, our Afghan Allies do not have 18 years to wait for the US to bring them to safety.

## KEY FINDINGS

- AWA has lost contact with 62% of its survey respondents and the Military Community has lost contact with 40% of the Afghans they were assisting
- 41% of military community members report experiencing trauma because of the NEO
- 83.7% of Afghans report skipping at least 1 meal in the last month
- Over 90% of Afghans report economic hardships because of the NEO
- A kilo of rice has risen in price by 66% in the last year
- 46.3% of Afghans the military community evacuated during or after August 2021 reported that the Afghan they are in contact with is underemployed or unemployed
- 14.3% Afghans in contact with military members were able to be evacuated during or after August 2021

## METHODOLOGY

In the last [report](#) we modified our methodology to incorporate a survey that questions females specifically and we continued that with this report. With this iteration we partnered with the [Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America](#) and [Veterans for American Ideals](#) - a project of [Human Rights First](#) - to survey the military community specifically about their experiences before, during and after August 2021.

Another major component of this report is the expanded quotes from Afghans still in Afghanistan and from the military community who know Afghans themselves. There is fear, anger, confusion but remarkably from the Afghans, there is poise and grace despite their current conditions. **We urge all readers to please read a few of these stories.** They are just a fraction of the many stories Americans and Afghans are facing today.

## THE SPECIAL IMMIGRANT VISA PROGRAM

Congress created the Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program in 2006 to offer protection and a pathway to both lawful permanent residency and United States citizenship to all qualified Iraqis and Afghans employed by the U.S. government in their respective country. The SIV program represents a promise that the U.S. made to its allies to bring them to safety after they provide faithful and valuable service that puts their well-being, their lives, at risk. Following through on that promise is vital to maintaining the perception that the United States can be trusted and is still a leader in the world. Holding true to this promise is a matter of National Security. Without the support of local populations in conflict zones, our US Troops lack the critical interpretation of language and culture that allows them to surpass barriers and help ensure their safety and the success of their mission. Without the mission critical support of local populations our US Troops face significantly higher levels of danger.

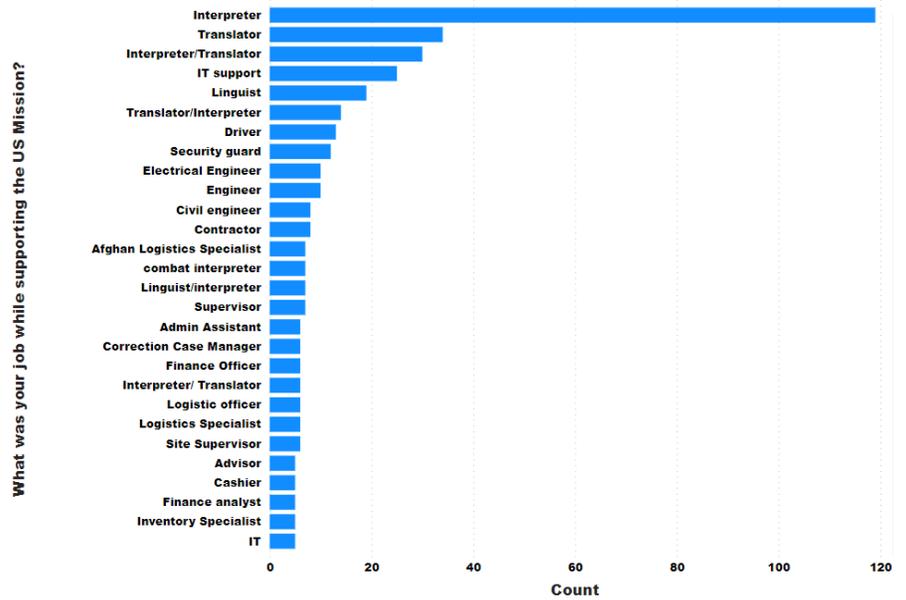
Backlogs and processing delays, a functional shuttering of the Iraqi SIV program, and the US evacuation from Afghanistan, have caused the SIV program to falter, leaving most interpreters and translators at grave risk. The U.S. has issued over 23,000<sup>iv</sup> visas to Afghans since the program's inception.

Since the last AWA report, we have seen SIV processing times decrease in two stages. The time needed for Chief of Mission (COM) approvals are now shorter due to the introduction of "Project Rabbit" (a partnership between DOD and DOS to confirm employment records of SIV applicants), and a surge of staffing at the National Visa Center (NVC) and COM offices. Additionally, on July 20, 2022, the US government announced a revision to the SIV program and removed the form I360 from the process – a step that will at best, reduce the time it takes for the US government to process an SIV application by about a month.

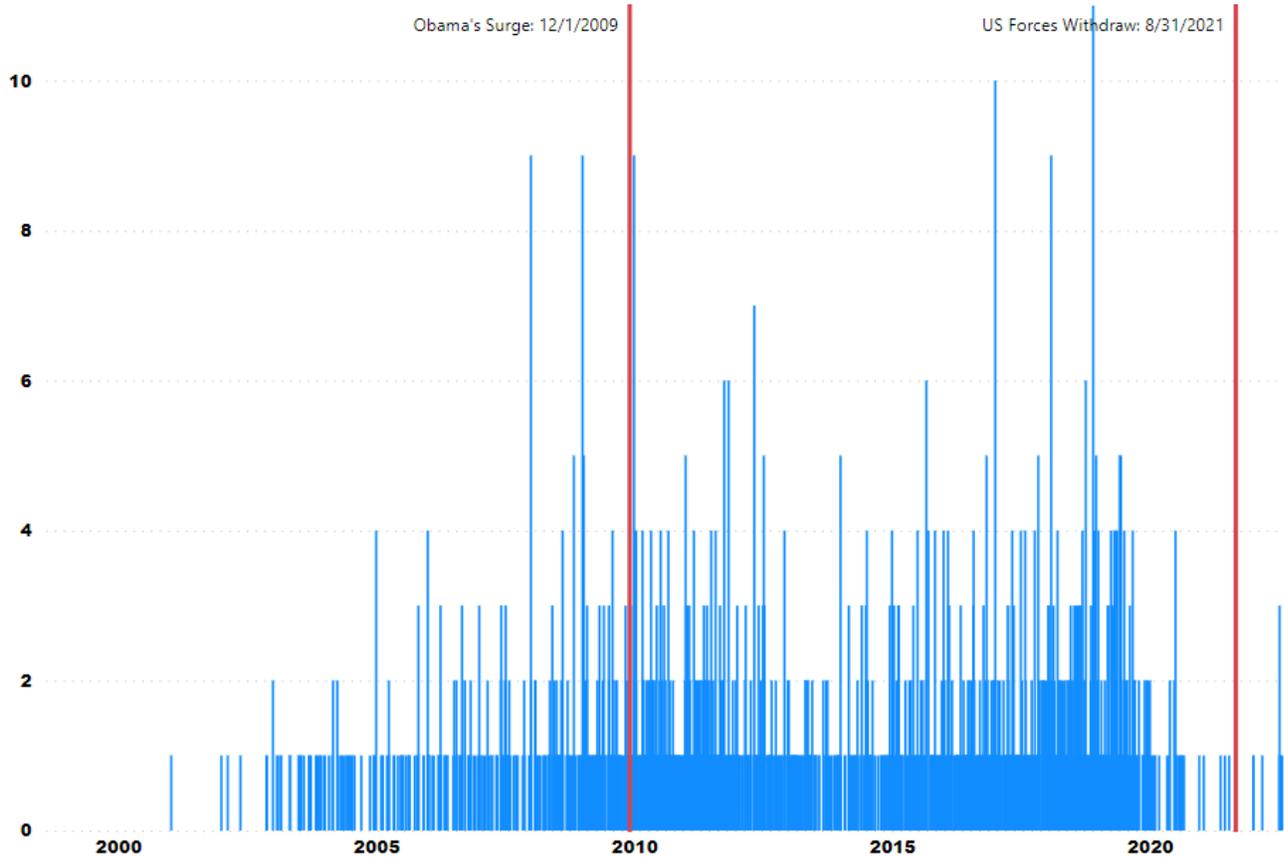
While we applaud any effort to reduce the processing time of the SIV program, effectively all these changes/improvements do is to move SIV applicants to a later stage in processing in which they await the mandated in-person interview. With no diplomatic presence in Afghanistan (Embassy), and a refusal to offer "remote" interviews,



The most common job conducted by applicants in our survey was interpreter/ translator/ linguist with an **average length of service across all jobs being 818 days (2 years, 3 Months)**. Often when the public thinks of 'helping those who helped the military' their imagination will jump to the interpreters. But there are many others who are eligible for an SIV who worked in several other support roles on military bases. These 'other' supporters were just as vital to the operational success of US focus in Afghanistan.



### DATE AFGHAN STARTED SERVICE TO THE US MISSION



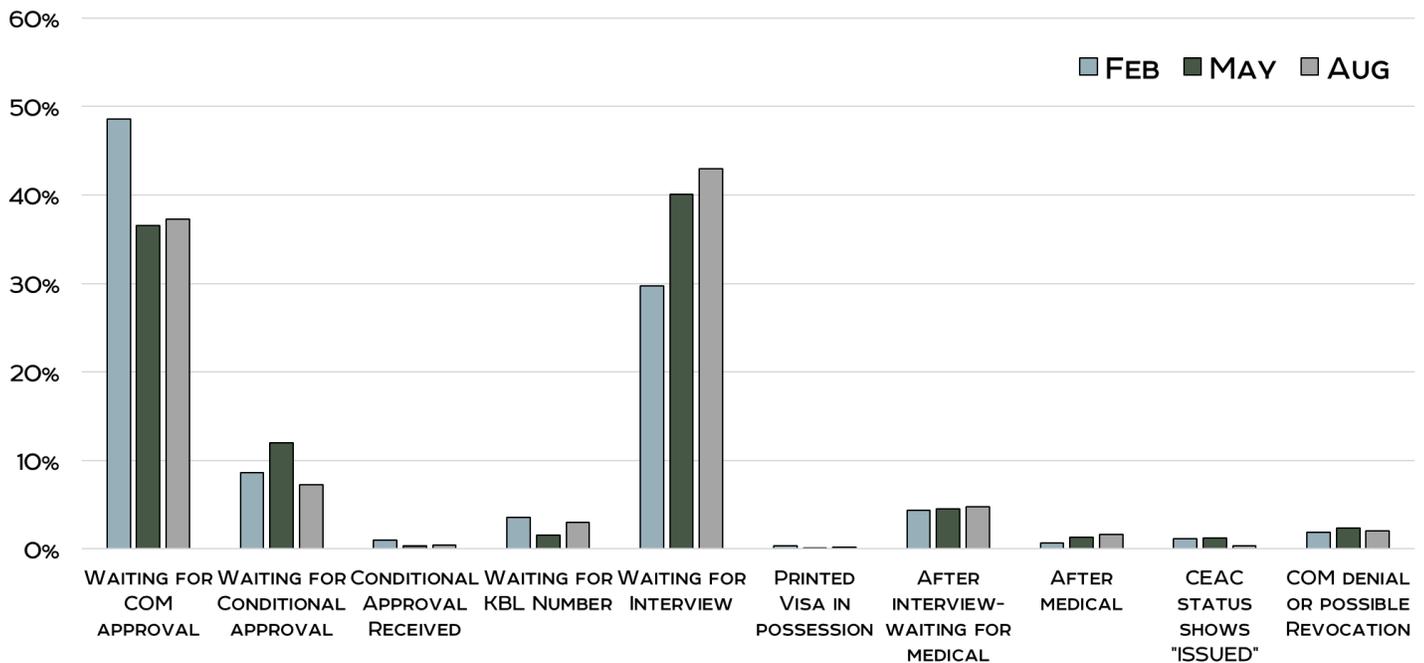
The number of responses was surprisingly close to our June report which collected 1934 responses but is still considerably down from our February report where 3988 responses were collected. Put in context, during the height of the evacuation on August 20th 2021, AWA was able to collect 5209 de-duplicated responses. **Between August 2021 and July 2022 survey responses dropped by 62.8%.** The following are the leading theories on why the decrease occurred:

- Applicants applying to the SIV program have lost faith in the system and have voluntarily withdrawn from continuing with the process
- Applicants have lost the means to communicate with the outside world
- Applicants have passed away

**Further investigation is needed to determine the validity of these theories.**

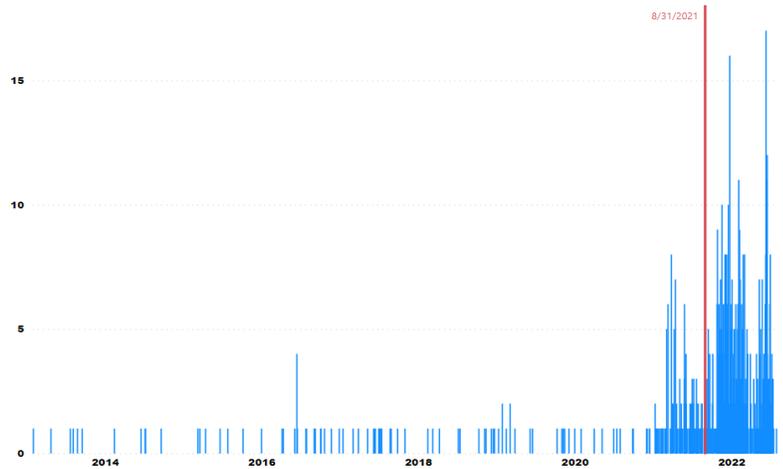
Applicants surveyed have steadily moved from the beginning stages of the SIV application process but have been stalled ‘waiting for interview’. According to our analysis, survey respondents spend on average 827 days (2 years, 3 months) in the application process.

### SIV PROCESS STAGE



The SIV application process begins when an applicant requests an application number known as a KBL Number. We asked our survey applicants when their KBL numbers were issued and learned that the vast majority were created within the last year, after the NEO was completed on 31 August 2021. We also learned that nearly half of those responding currently experience serious processing delays, with the oldest reported case dating back to 2013. The volume of KBL issue dates before 2021 could also signal that Afghans are being processed in the system.

### DATE KBL NUMBER WAS RECEIVED



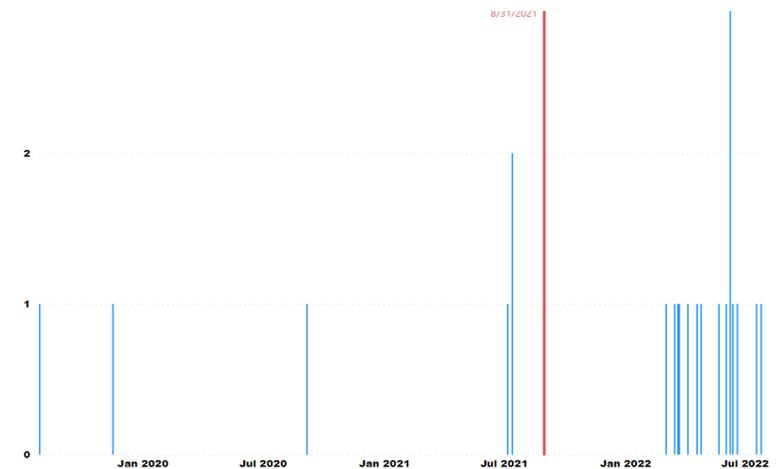
While KBL Numbers are still being issued, interviews are not happening at the pace needed to address the tens of thousands of primary applicants in this stage of the process. Our survey data shows that only a handful of interviews are happening, and the rate is trending down. This volume is in no way adequate to overcome the many applicants at the interview stage.

### DATE INTERVIEW OCCURRED



Exacerbated by, and as a direct result of the interview stage block, applicants are not having final medical interviews at the pace needed to address how many are needed.

### DATE MEDICAL EXAM OCCURRED



## MILITARY COMMUNITY

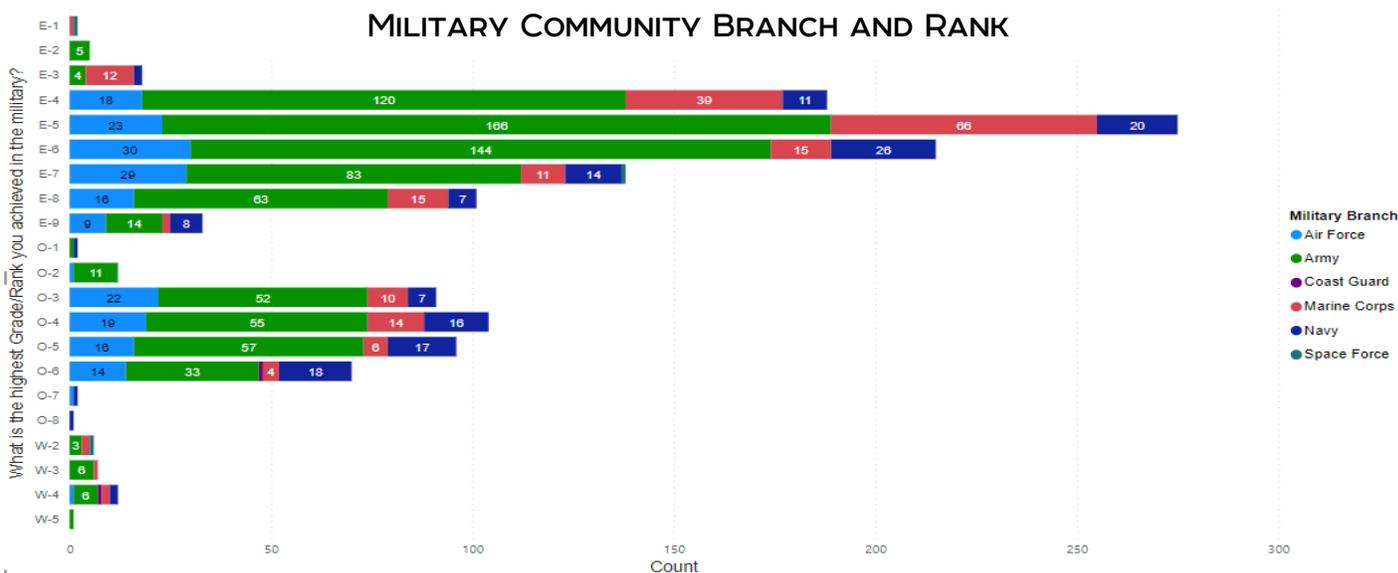
The Association of Wartime Allies partnered with the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America and Veterans for American Ideals - a project of Human Rights First - to survey the military community on their experiences before, during, and after the NEO of August 2021. The Military Community played a special role in this crisis given that in spirit, those that were meant to be evacuated worked directly with US forces. Applicants fought and died in the trenches with the military community, they are brothers in arms, and in many cases military veterans are alive today because of the sacrifices and service applicants performed. Surveying the military community on their relationships with these applicants serves to corroborate the survey the Association of Wartime Allies conducts with the Afghans left behind. This survey also serves to gauge how the military community is coping with the trauma of the US evacuation at the end of 20 years of war.

Our survey had 1450 respondents - 11.1% Female, 87.59% Male, 1.31% prefer not to say. Responses were received 50 states including Puerto Rico. Members of the Army Community, given the nature of the population sample, were the predominant responders to the survey.

MILITARY COMMUNITY GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION



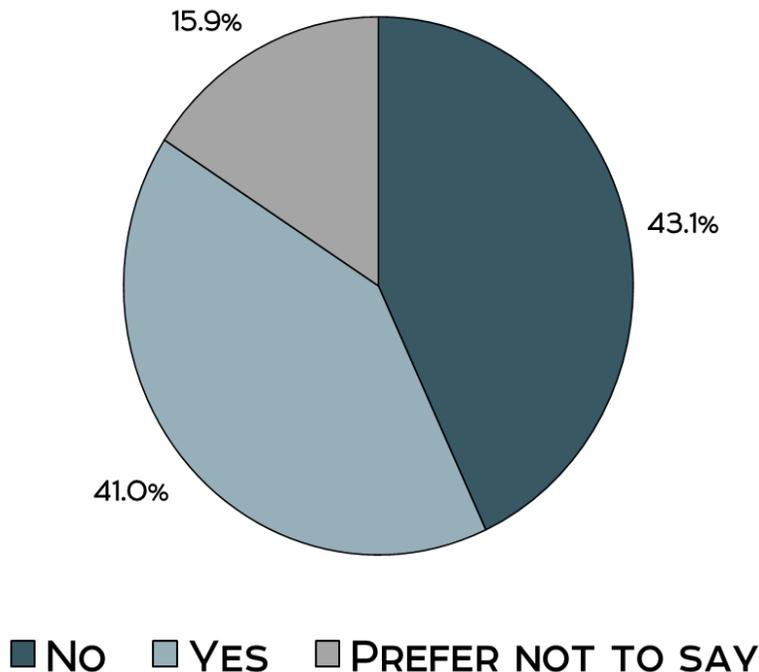
MILITARY COMMUNITY BRANCH AND RANK



Of those responding, 34.8% (484) of the Military Community reported being in contact with their interpreter or other Afghan. **70% who were in contact with an Afghan report that the Afghan they were in contact with either did not get out or they lost contact with them (29.1% left behind, 40.9% “Not in contact”) since 2021.** The 40.9% who have lost contact represent a similar scenario to the decrease in response rates in our survey to Afghans and begs the question: *what is causing the silence of Afghans?*

The military community is actively engaged in the full pipeline of evacuation and resettlement of Afghan newcomers. The crisis of August 2021 spawned action by the Military community and there are countless stories of many heroic efforts by veterans who felt they owed it to the Afghan they were in contact with to ensure they were safe. Many of those efforts, however, were unsuccessful. The combination of the failure to assist their left behind Afghans and the perceived dishonorable way the US abruptly left Afghanistan, caused **41% of respondents to report suffering from trauma because of the NEO.** Respondents reported suffering from either mental, physical, structural, or emotional trauma because of the NEO.

VETERANS WHO REPORTED SUFFERING FROM MENTAL, PHYSICAL, STRUCTURAL OR EMOTIONAL TRAUMA AS A RESULT OF THE NEO



Continuing with their support, Military community members have gone above and beyond in their support by spending physical and political capital to support Afghans as well as countless hours of support. **17.3% of military community members report providing financial support to the Afghan they are in contact with.** These funds are usually used for the visa application process or direct support for life sustainment.

**37.3% of veterans reached out to Congress** or other governing bodies to act in reference to the NEO and 51.4% of military Community Members Surveyed said they would continue to support other Afghans signaling long term support.

The Afghan Adjustment Act (AAA) is a bipartisan, bi-cameral legislation organized by the Evacuate our Allies Coalition including but not limited to the Association of Wartime Allies, the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and Veterans for American Ideals. The AAA allows certain Afghan evacuees to apply for permanent status after one year or two years, respectively, of being paroled into the country. It relieves the immediate burden on the SIV process (and asylum process) which currently has over 1.4 million cases in the backlog, and prevents Afghans paroled in the U.S. from losing their jobs or being deported to a third country while their applications for these statuses are pending. As thousands of vulnerable Afghans currently remain in hiding in Afghanistan or at-risk in third countries, the AAA legislation would cover at-risk Afghans who were evacuated by the U.S. military and received temporary humanitarian parole protection. If the deadline is missed, then the applicant risks legal jeopardy, a revocation of access to work, and at worst deportation. The Afghan Adjustment Act hopes to achieve a rule change that would allow Afghans to skip the re-application process. **78.5% of the military community supports the passage of the Afghan Adjustment Act.**

## THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

The situation in Afghanistan is specifically perilous for those that served the US/NATO mission in Afghanistan. Month over month, Afghans consistently have reported on their condition. A call out with this data, it appears that those reporting they skipped meals has improved in the last two months. Skipping meals is still prevalent but appears to be easing as many people report they skipped meals has shifted from 6-10 to 1-5 times in a month. However, the affordability of food is still at the point where respondents need to skip meals at all. AWA specifically asked more questions regarding food security this month and those results are called out in a later section.

	FEBRUARY N=3429	MAY N=1610	AUGUST N=1527
<b>HAVE YOU BEEN IMPRISONED BY THE TALIBAN FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES?</b>			
No	71%	71%	70%
YES	29%	29%	30%
<b>HAVE YOU BEEN DETAINED OR QUESTIONED BY THE TALIBAN FOR YOUR SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES?</b>			
No	48%	49%	46%
YES	52%	51%	54%
<b>HAVE YOU LOST A JOB OR AN ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY DUE TO THE US EVACUATION?</b>			
No	12%	8%	8%
YES	88%	92%	92%
<b>HAVE YOU FACED ECONOMIC HARDSHIP DUE TO THE US EVACUATION?</b>			
No	6%	3%	3%
YES	94%	97%	97%
<b>DO YOU FEAR LEAVING YOUR HOME DUE TO RETALIATION FROM THE TALIBAN?</b>			
No	5%	3%	5%
YES	95%	97%	95%
<b>HOW MANY TIMES IN THE LAST MONTH HAVE YOU HAD TO SKIP MEALS IN THE LAST MONTH BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T / COULDN'T AFFORD FOOD?</b>			
0	20.4%	16.3%	16.4%
1-5	37.9%	18.6%	37.5%
6-10	22.4%	40.3%	28.2%
10+	19.3%	24.7%	18.0%
<b>HAVE YOU HAD TO SKIP NECESSARY MEDICAL CARE OVER THE PAST MONTH BECAUSE OF LACK OF MONEY OR FEAR OF GOING OUT TO VISIT A DOCTOR?</b>			
No	16%	14%	13%
YES	84%	86%	87%
<b>HAVE YOU PERSONALLY WITNESSED VIOLENCE TOWARDS INDIVIDUALS WHO SUPPORTED THE UNITED STATES MISSION IN AFGHANISTAN?</b>			
No	23%	24%	22%
YES	77%	76%	78%

## AFGHAN WOMEN ARE FACING TARGETED PERSECUTION

The Association of Wartime Allies continued to ask females responding to our survey a discrete set of questions to understand their unique conditions. Anecdotal evidence of female persecution and discrimination have come out of Afghanistan since the NEO and our survey serves to quantify some of that anecdotal evidence.

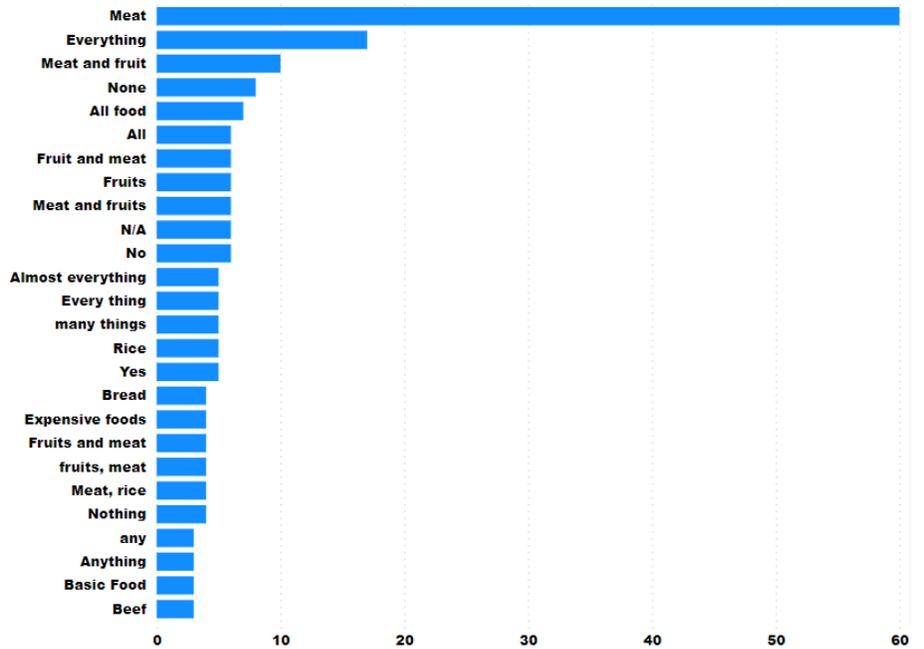
	MAY N=125	AUGUST N=120
<b>HAVE YOU LOST ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY SINCE THE TALIBAN TOOK CONTROL BASED ON YOUR GENDER?</b>		
No	1.8%	3.8%
YES	98.2%	96.2%
<b>HAVE YOU LOST EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES SINCE THE TALIBAN TOOK CONTROL BASED ON YOUR GENDER?</b>		
No	5.5%	4.6%
YES	94.5%	95.4%
<b>HAS YOUR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT (ABILITY TO LEAVE YOUR HOUSE) BEEN REDUCED SINCE THE TALIBAN TOOK CONTROL?</b>		
No	3.7%	2.3%
YES	96.3%	97.3%
<b>HAVE YOU BEEN FORCED TO CHANGE THE WAY YOU DRESS IN PUBLIC SINCE THE TALIBAN TOOK CONTROL?</b>		
No	3.7%	4.6%
YES	96.3%	95.4%
<b>HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED VIOLENCE BASED ON YOUR GENDER SINCE THE US EVACUATION?</b>		
No	13.1%	19.0%
YES	86.9%	81.0%
<b>HAVE YOU BEEN PREVENTED FROM ACCESSING HEALTHCARE FOR YOURSELF OR YOUR CHILDREN SINCE THE TALIBAN TOOK CONTROL?</b>		
No	51.4%	45.7%
YES	48.6%	54.3%
<b>PRIOR TO THE TALIBAN TAKEOVER, WERE YOU THE PRIMARY BREADWINNER/INCOME EARNER FOR YOUR FAMILY?</b>		
No	12.0%	14.4%
YES	88.0%	85.6%
<b>HAVE YOU LOST ACCESS TO FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS SINCE THE TALBAN TOOK CONTROL?</b>		
No	16.8%	25.0%
PREFER NOT TO SAY	41.6%	26.6%
YES	41.6%	48.4%
<b>HAVE YOU OR YOUR DAUGHTERS OR A FEMALE MEMBER OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD BEEN SEXUALLY PROPOSITIONED BY A MEMBER OF THE TALIBAN?</b>		
No	65.4%	82.5%
YES	34.6%	17.5%
<b>HAVE ANY OF THE MANDATES MADE BY THE TALIBAN CREATED CONFLICT / TENSION BETWEEN YOUR FAMILY MEMBERS?</b>		
No		28.3%
YES		71.7%

Women have been specifically targeted for their gender and continue to face real persecution, rolling back the progress made in the 20 years of US intervention. The Taliban force women to change the way they dress, restrict them from the jobs they can take, shut them out from educational opportunities, and perpetuate violence against them based on their gender.

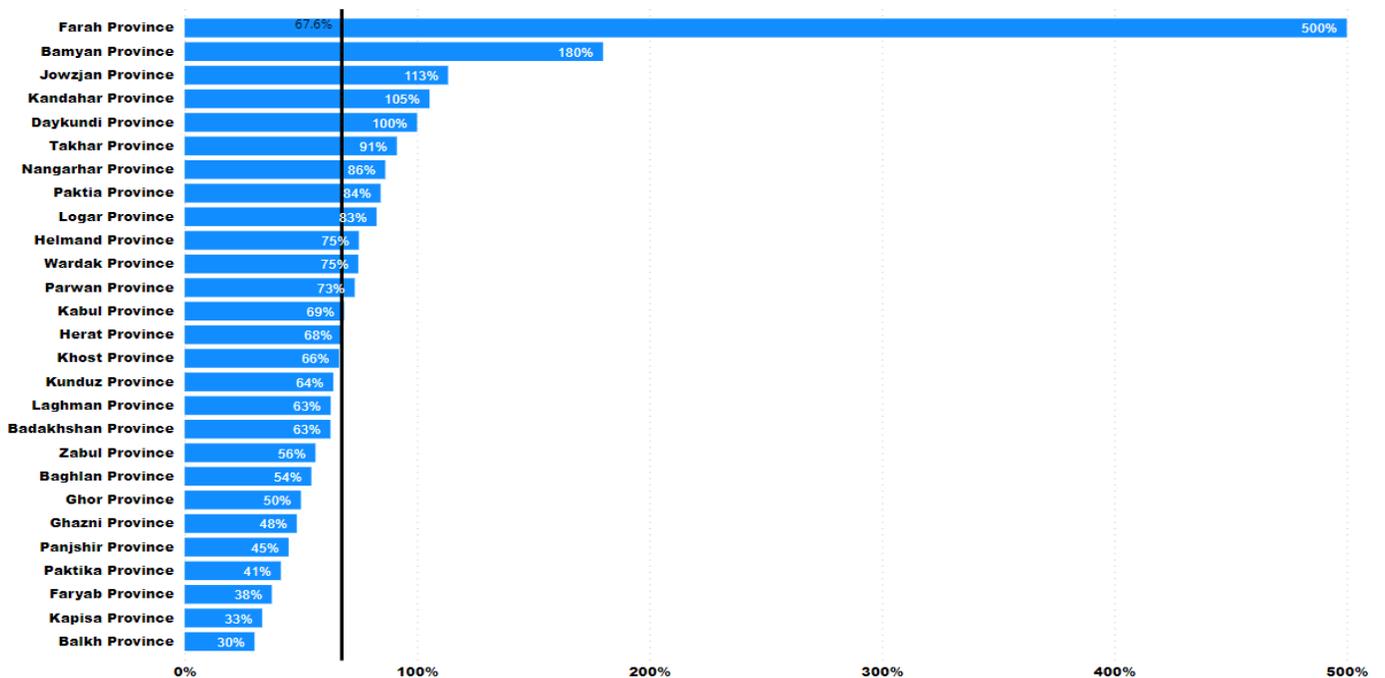
## NUTRITION CRISIS

83.7% of Afghans reported skipping a meal in the last month. Afghans report that increased difficulty in acquiring meat and fruit. **89.7% of respondents report that food is available, but unaffordable.** Food prices increased substantially over the past year with a median price for **a kilo of rice increasing by 67.6%.** We attribute the increase in price due to supply issues and the lack of economic opportunity

REPORTED FOOD SHORTAGE ITEMS



PRICE INCREASE FOR A KILO OF RICE BY PROVINCE



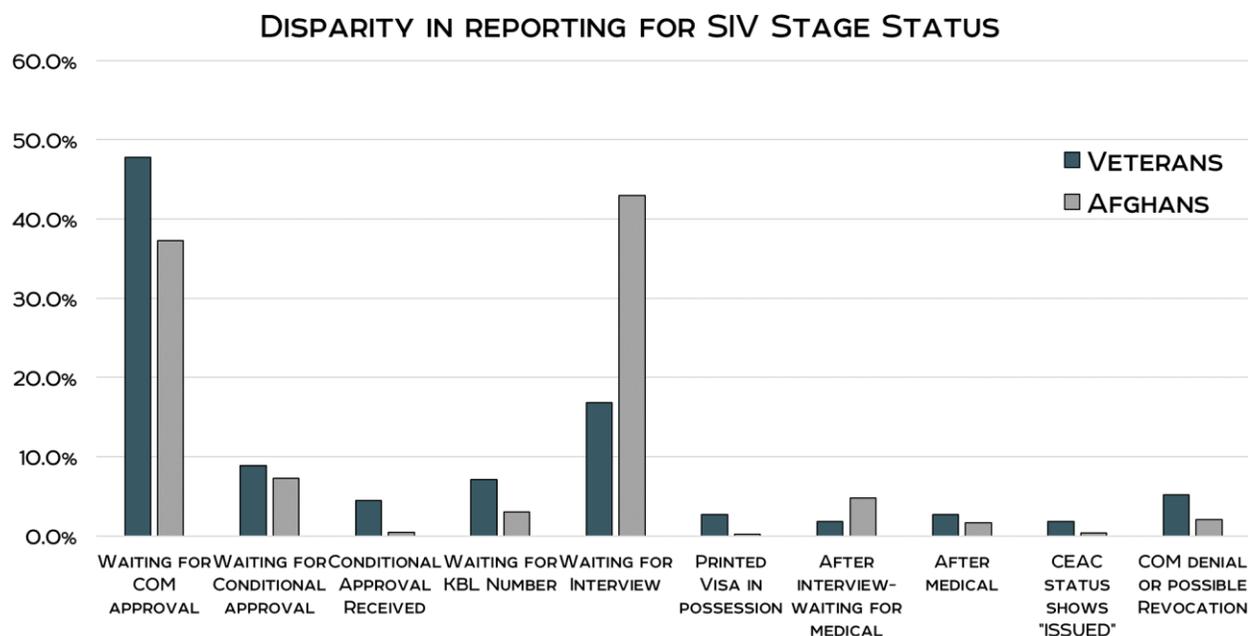
## MILITARY COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVE

An important caveat to the military perspective of the current situation is that it is hearsay for the most part. There are very few instances where military veterans are on the ground in Afghanistan in the last six months and none are represented in this survey. However, as stated earlier, the relationships that the military community share with Afghans still serve as an important bridge between the United States and Afghans. What the military community can report back about the Afghans they are in contact with is an important data point but should be considered hearsay.

As stated earlier, of over 1400 survey responses received, 484 reported that they were in direct contact with an Afghan. Of those in contact with an Afghan, **only 14.3% were able to be evacuated during or after August 2021** – further evidence that the vast majority of the SIV applicants remain left behind.

Of those left behind who are still in contact with military members, **80% report losing economic opportunity since the NEO** – corroborating our previous survey in which 92% of Afghans themselves report losing economic opportunity. Furthermore, 67.9% of military community members report that the Afghan they are in contact with has experienced violence – a fact further backed up by Afghans themselves who 78% report witnessing (experiencing) violence towards those who supported the US mission.

There were slight disparities in the SIV stage Afghans and Veterans reported they were in, however, this is likely due to the Afghan having a more intimate knowledge of their individual case.



## RESETTLEMENT

As stated earlier only 14.3 % of the Afghans in contact with Military Community Members were evacuated. **Only 10% of Afghans in contact with Military Community Members were evacuated to the United States** (others evacuated are in third countries – “lily pads”). Despite these low numbers, SIVs who made it to the United States are seeing mixed results for their resettlement. **46.3% of the Afghans who made it to the United States and in contact with military community members report being underemployed or unemployed.** 28.9% of those Afghans who are in the United States and in contact with a member of the military community report housing security issues.

## POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

The SIV program will not save the vast majority of the left behind Afghans, it is moving too slowly and they are dying too quickly. Thus, in order to save the most lives possible, we recommend the following:

- Create a ‘Uniting For Afghanistan’ movement modeled on the Uniting For Ukraine program.
- Pass the Afghan Adjustment Act
- Increase the number of officials processing SIV applications. At the current rate, it will take the US government 18 years to process the remaining applications.
- Add additional “lily pads” to house Afghans in transit to the US. The current and sole remaining “lily pad” in Qatar is a single point of failure – should we lose it, a backup option currently does not exist.
- Increase food aid to Afghanistan to be administered by the World Food Program
- Investigate the ‘missing data’ with Afghans losing communication with organizations and individuals.

## SELECTED QUOTES FROM AFGHANS

Me and my family are in bad situation of economic and security because of Taliban We can't go outside they are searching for those they that help Us government So hopefully you can help me to get out of this situation

*Afghan Male - 43 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Conditional Approval*

As you know, the Taliban are making the environment tougher for us to live in. Your help in this regard will be highly appreciated.

*Afghan Male - 31 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

I am a Direct Hired from a U.S. Projects (DoS-ATA-JATC/Joint Afghan Training Center). Because of my working background in the U.S. Projects my family and I are under threat. We have lost our home, our vehicle, and all our possessions, plus lost our employment. Our work with the U.S. company has caused us to be targeted by the present Taliban government. We have gone into hiding and some of us are being killed, beaten, and put in jail as the Taliban are actively searching for those of us who worked for the U.S and foreigners. Our lives are in extreme danger. We truly risked our lives while being employed with the U.S. Projects. We have witnessed our fellow employees being wounded or killed while serving in the U.S. Government projects and after August 2021.

*Afghan Male - 38 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

I am a woman with 3 children. My husband doesn't have a job right now to support our family and if the Taliban found out that I was working with USAID they will kill my entire family....

*Afghan Female - 31 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Conditional Approval*

I had Interview on 2/September/2021 after 31/August/2021 the U.S embassy suspended its services in Afghanistan. Kindly help me and save my family life. It's been almost 3 months that I haven't met my family. I was faced with a threat and also I am receiving calls from different numbers and asking about my location, I don't feel safe.

*Afghan Male - 31 - Nangarhar Province - Waiting for Interview*

I performed my duty honestly on behalf of the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and provided faithful and valuable service to the United States of America in Afghanistan. I have supported the US and Coalition Forces for over a decade working for multiple personal services contractors, I dedicated my life and career to providing excellent support for the missions I was assigned on behalf of the US and Coalition forces. Due to my years of service as a Local National Quality Assurance Representative (LNQA) and my family's privacy and security are at risk, life situations are very bad here for those who have been working with the US government.

*Afghan Male - 41 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

I am at KBL stage but I still have not filled the DS-260 form because my kids don't have passport waiting for some more months to get the passport and fill the form

*Afghan Male - 39 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

I sent the missed documents (Revised LoR) on 26 September-2021, but still, I didn't receive any update. it is around 10 months with no updates about my case status, If possible, update me about mine. SIV case I am the principal applicant

*Afghan Male - 34 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

Secret murders are occurring these day of previous military members, people who comes from USA and Europe and people who has worked with US army or have any connection to USG

*Afghan Male - 26 - Nangarhar Province - Waiting for Interview*

I provided valuable and faithful service during my duty to the US government as an employee of [REDACTED] services that was a prime contractor of US Embassy Kabul. After the collapse of the Afghanistan government the Taliban group wanted to take revenge from people who worked for the US government. Hence, they started house to house searching to recognize the location of former allies and Afghan colleagues of the US government, therefore, we used to change our residence location due to the threat of death by the Taliban group. The situation is getting worse with passing of everyday for US government allies in Afghanistan. I can't support my family expenditure, even basic necessities due to loss of my job after August 2021. Therefore, I kindly request from you to include me on relocation flights from Kabul, Afghanistan to Doha, Qatar to get to safety and also further process of my SIV case from there.

*Afghan Male - 36 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

I personally requested any update on my case status after the Government seized and The Taliban in power I am certain that you are comprehending the gravity and severity of our worsening situation. Our stay in here in Afghanistan is becoming more difficult due to lack of certainty, security, meaningful income and inability to actively look for work and feed my family. I would greatly appreciate it if you enlighten us with some clear information and instructions on the steps on our case statues to prepare ourselves accordingly

*Afghan Male - 51 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

I'm in a very bad situation at the moment and my life is under the threat of Taliban and I receive many phone call from unknown people and they threaten me and they know that I worked with the USA (infidels) therefore I'm worried about family and children please help me and don't let me alone with all these problems

*Afghan Male - 33 - Herat Province - Waiting For COM Approval*

I had received a call from the CARE team on 18 May 2022 and I have sent my passport scan copies then I received an email from them for the case to be updated and still waiting for any further process. I do not know if they will evacuate us or not.

*Afghan Male - 31 - Nangarhar Province - Waiting for Interview*

I'm an approved SIV applicant and my case status is waiting for interview with my immediate family of 3 members ( myself , My WIFE and my 1 year old daughter ) but we are still stuck in Afghanistan we are in grave danger it's been a long time that we are hiding from Taliban , I left my own house and I'm living in one of our relatives house , dear sir / madam i and my family are in bad situation, we are very scared and we really need your help if you can do anything to help us get of this bad situation that will be highly appreciated and lifesaving , I'm sending my information for your consideration , if you need any further documentation please let me know through my email or my WhatsApp number.

*Afghan Male - 25 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

I would like to mention that my spouse has been pregnant and I would like to travel to the USA before the delivery as our expected child may prolong the length of our case procession. Due to security threats and the current economic situation in Afghanistan, I am unable to support my family and I have been unemployed for almost a year. Therefore I am kindly requesting you to speed up the process of my SIV case and schedule an interview to receive our U.S. visas.

*Afghan Male - 27 - Paktia Province - Waiting for Interview*

I have been waiting for my Chief Of Mission COM approval as I sent my work badges to DOD via ASIV.inquiries@mail.mil but did not receive any reply. I worked for almost more than 3 years with DOS OGA Annex Jalalabad Base. Now I am not in touch with my supervisor or team leader to get a new HR and LOR and I do not have their email addresses to make contact with them. And I am still stuck in Kabul and our life is in danger. We suffer from Taliban threats and they are taking those people who worked or supported USG to unknown places. Me and my family members are hiding separately in different places. Please help us to live in a peaceful environment like the USA.

*Afghan Male - 51 - Nangarhar Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

It has been more than two months since I have sent all the required documents for further process of manifesting my family to fly out of Afghanistan to CARE department as they asked me for, this is to let you know that i have been going through really tough time both feeling insecure with lots of threat and economically in worse situation even though i have sold all my housing staffs to maintain food supply for my family recently my wife was under a serious medical condition i did not have money I got loan from a friend, considering the above mentioned situation i hope you will assist me with my SIV case of charter to get out of this miserable time and place where Taliban has created here in the country especially for those who helped US missions in Afghanistan.

*Afghan Male - 33 - Balkh Province - Waiting for Interview*

It is better known to you that the situation in Afghanistan is deteriorating day by day and the Taliban is looking for people who worked with America.

*Afghan Male - 32 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

This might sound like a fairytale, but I survived a definite death, which was my worst life experience. A full magazine of a pistol was emptied on me hitting four critical parts of my body including left and right face, left and right shoulders, the bullet in my left shoulder is still in my body close to my liver.

*Afghan Male - 38 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

I was transferred from Ghazni Emergency hospital to Kabul Emergency hospital. I knew this was an attack by the terrorist Taliban as I was earlier warned by them too and I saw him before firing at me. They took responsibility for shooting me, announcing on their social media that their fighters have shot a former US spy close to Kandahar Ada in Ghazni city. Even my former colleagues and friends expressed their condolences on social media

*Afghan Male - 44 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

My son has been sick for 5 months, but I don't have money for treatment. I am unemployed and I don't even have money to spend, I live in a rented house. I cannot pay the rent, and etc. life problems. Please please please help me to treat my sick son. Because I worked for the American government in Afghanistan's prisons, all the Taliban prisoners knew me and I couldn't leave my house. My place of duty was Pole Charkhi prison and Bagram prison. Thank you so much for your help.

*Afghan Male - 29 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

10 months waiting to get COM approval and no job

*Afghan Male - 27 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

2 times Taliban attacks on my home. I escaped. My identity was exposed.

*Afghan Male - 30 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

A serious problem for many; They are those who were terminated from their duties for some reason and today their lives are not taken into consideration. Please pay serious attention to this important issue. Do they have the right to expect death? In general, we have very bad and unimaginable conditions. The secret life that we sometimes hide in one place and sometimes in another place is difficult and annoying.

*Afghan Male - 33 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

Actually I am living in grave danger both economically and from threats. I applied for SIV on 10 August and received my NVC case number on 23 September, but still not any email recessive regarding my application. Just a request to help me in this section.

*Afghan Male - 37 - Parwan Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

Actually I had a very good job as a “business development manager” with private sectors and I had a very good income i was able to support my FAMILY And children’s education, food, etc,

In 2011 I joined A US Military organization as operational Site Manager. I had very good achievements for my project, but I was recognised and targeted by Taliban in 2013, they attacked my home and killed my Little brother, We fled from the country and gone to Pakistan, submitted our Immigration case with UN in Pakistan, we were waiting for it if our case approved by an embassy and we will able to get out of there, but unfortunately Pakistan government started crackdown operation against Afghan Citizens, We had to come back Afghanistan and settled down in Kabul After some time Taliban’s took over this revolution happened very immediately, no one imagined it, on 14th August we fled from home with my family and little Daughter Nehal she was only a month old, we were trying to get into the airport as thousands other Afghans who were desperately wanted to fled from the country, Because it was so crowded, we were afraid we would lose the baby, due to one of our babies was one month old and it was so crowded that even we could not breathe, After much effort, we could not enter the airport. Later, a Non profit organization (Human First) brought us to the safe house from the airport (Abbey)gate, The weather was very cold and we did not have the facilities to keep my children warm this made her very sick, she was diagnosed “Pneumonia”, and due to threats we are not able to provide her best treatment she had troubles in breathing, Caught, and Fever, These problems and diseases caused the my daughter to not grow at all, she is still under treatment, she need professional treatment and we are not able here to provide to Nehal at all, due to we are still living in safe house with limited sources, My children stay away from education, we live like prisoners since six months, And it is still not clear to us what will happen, whether we can go abroad or not, whether we can give our Children a chance to learn and educated as needed or not? Or they should stay in trouble like the same, because their only guilt is that their father helped the United States forces and he was wartime Ally. As we sacrificed, and helped America, and proved our sincerity, will they also fulfill their promises or will we be left destined? These are the questions that still bother me and I could not find the answers!

*Afghan Male - 29 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

Afghanistan is in a bad situation these days, there are no jobs, the people are in a bad economic situation. Believe me, I have been unemployed for 14 months now, I have no money, I have no bread to eat for my family, we had to sell our household equipment, but no one is willing to buy it, Afghanistan is no longer a place to live. Please do something for us if it is possible, we need it.

*Afghan Male - 27 - Balkh Province - Waiting for Interview*

The Afghanistan situation is getting worse everyday Taliban search people who work with USG.

*Afghan Male - 51 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

There is a lot of pain and suffering living in Afghanistan in the current situation, and the life situation after the collapse of the Government is very difficult particularly for those people who worked with the US government in Afghanistan for the past twenty years, and it is pitiful and fragile in reality. We have witnessed the torture, insult and humiliation of a large number of people and families who worked with the US government in Afghanistan by the Taliban. I am one of those who worked with the US Government for seven years, and I am one of the applicants of the SIV program as well. I received KBL on January 11, 2022, but I have not been included in the evacuation program yet while I live a very hard life under the Government of the Taliban. Therefore, I am kindly requesting you to include me and my family in the evacuation program so that we are not targeted by the Taliban.

*Afghan Male - 35 - Panjshir Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

Afraid from Taliban for our life threats, There is no job and suffering live without money, our children could not go to school and cannot get education, some time we do not receive meal.

*Afghan Male - 37 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

After ending our work with US GOV in MOD Afghanistan I couldn't get any job to pay my life necessities.

*Afghan Male - 30 - Kabul Province - Waiting for interview*

After I graduated from university I worked with Global rights and Afghan Women Network (AWN). After that I worked as a Judge with the Supreme Court of Afghanistan until the Taliban came and right now I lost everything.

*Afghan Female - 32 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

After the Balkhab war, the threats to the people of Hazara have intensified and no media is willing to publish them. Please save us.

*Afghan Male - 33 - Kabul Province - After Interview, Waiting for medical*

After the evacuation we had to leave our district to a different district because all the neighbors knew me working in Media special for Tolo Tv, the TV has not enough budget to relocate all new and old staffs but they did for the active key staffs, they only could introduced us to P2 and provide us case number wanted us to go to a 2nd country for further process, we can't afford living in a 2nd country for months with my 3 children it is very costly for us.

*Afghan Male - 37 - Kabul Province - Waiting from Conditional Approval*

After the fall of Ashraf Ghani Government on 15th of August the situation was extremely serious and unpredictable for those who supported the US mission in Afghanistan. Our lives are under serious threat because we have supported the US mission and US government. I am hiding along with my family since the Taliban have taken control of the

country. I have supported the US mission and US forces in Afghanistan by providing them Cristal Bottled Water. I have also supported PAE GOVERNMENT SERVICES, PAE Embassy, ANHAM BAGRAM, Supreme Food Services, DoD and MoD being a Sales Manager I have supplied them their bottled water needs under the brand name of Cristal. I am in need of an emergency evacuation. Please help and support me as I did during the US mission in Afghanistan.

*Afghan Male - 25 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

After the United States left Afghanistan, I lost my job and the amount of money I had was used up, then I borrowed money from my friends outside of Afghanistan and prepared food for my family. but now I live in poverty and destitution, my children do not have food to survive. My friends don't lend me money anymore, we don't have the smallest means to move forward with life, I'm getting poorer and more helpless with each passing day. When I apply online for a position in charitable institutions and organizations, I am not shortlisted because I belong to the Hazara Shia religious minority and most of the institutions are headed by Pashtuns. Until now, I have not received a single humanitarian aid from any organization. My children and wife are hungry and angry. My family and I are severely depressed and mentally disturbed, we may die of hunger at any moment. I haven't been able to pay the rent for almost a year. After the United States left Afghanistan, I was evicted from several houses by the landlord. In order to buy food, we had to sell my wife's valuables and jewelry for a very small price.

*Afghan Male - 36 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

After the US evacuation i am living in fear, and a bad security status even when my house was searched by Taliban. No specific job, i have worked for more than 5 years with US, i can not fill that experience in my resume now because of the fear of Taliban. I hope we can get evacuated soon. I also applied 3 times for passports but all the times my application got lost. Now it's in process, I hope I can get passports soon.

*Afghan Male - 35 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Conditional Approval*

After the US evacuations I lost my job and now I live in a bad situation.

*Afghan Male - 28 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

After the US. Evacuation, I am in a bad condition of security and economy. I can not go anywhere for work because the Taliban recognized my identity and they will know about my past working with the US. Forces in Afghanistan and We live like house prisoners.

*Afghan Male - 29 - Takhar Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

After the withdrawal of the US from AFG everything has changed, nothing is like before. We are scared and have no idea of what will happen next. I have lost my job and day by day the prices are getting high. Living in AFG has become costly and on the other hand no job and source of income. I have applied for a passport for myself and my wife but unfortunately have not heard back from the passport yet. Today I checked the status and

it shows that I shall wait another 2 months. For SIV I applied on 21 Aug but have heard back from them too. Let's hope for the best days to come.

*Afghan Male - 28 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

After US Army started evacuation we left behind with much problem. That we are face we want from State department about the SIV process to speed up because it is too much slow and we have faced with most economic problem

*Afghan Male - 36 - Nangarhar Province - Waiting for Interview*

After the US left Afghanistan I lost my job which till now I am jobless and borrowing money to run my family/trips, I have no other source of income. restrictions in beard and clothing plus insulting dialogues around town on behalf of those who have worked with US gov makes me more freighter. I don't believe they will not harm us when their government gets recognized.

*Afghan Male - 35 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

After the US withdrawal I am jobless and I am not able to do a job with the Taliban. The reasons are: 1) They will never hire me because they are only Taliban and their relatives. 2) Our experiences only with US government so we haven't any other experiences to apply for job. 3) I have been afraid since withdrawal to apply because we have biometric with ministry of interior I know the people that apply for job when the administration or organization sent them to biometric Taliban arrested them and tell now they are in jail.

*Afghan Male - 31 - Kabul Province - Waiting for KBL Number*

Again I asked you to please advocate for Sivs specially for women, there is no place for living here. Now we don't have jobs, we don't have life. I got depressed and I lost hope, freedoms. Thank you in advance.

*Afghan Female - 40 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

I was born on 08 September 1982 in qarabagh District Ghazni Province and I got married in 2013. We have one child and my wife is 6 month pregnant and it is a Gir. I Graduated from Noor High School Quetta Pakistan in 2002 after I joined Kabul polyTechnic University at Kabul Afghanistan and I Graduated from KPU in Early 2008. I started my first Career With Zohak Technology Kabul Afghanistan year 2008 Who were Subcontractor With Network Innovation (Canadian Company) and implementing US Army projects over the Internet and PBX Telephone for MOD and MOI Bases We have completed several projects in Kabul, Kandahar and Khost provinces Unfortunately, I do not have contact with any of my supervisors at the moment because the company has relocated all its employees from Afghanistan and Blocked There Official Emails. I only have Some Photos to Provide as proof. I start my 2nd Career as a Site Engineer with Barak Durani Construction Company year 2011 we were Constructing Compound for Supreme Group of Company (KRDC Canadian Company) In Kandahar Afghanistan near KAF the Company were Supplying Fuel and Goods for ISAF and US Army over Kandahar Helmand and some Others Province. I did many other Projects too With Barak Durani

Construction Company in Kabul and Kandahar. We Start Constructing Kandahar Airport Road (General Razig Road) in 2013. I started my 3rd Career with Housing Construction Co ( under National Development Co) in Kabul Afghanistan as an architect at sanayi Ghaznawi Township project after my high Activities in this Project I Promoted as a Project manager at Milli Afhan Palace In Dehmazang Kabul and presently I am Working here in Milli Afghan Palace. I was appointed on October 2 2020 by the National Development Company to lead the construction work of the Afghan National Palace. This project site was near Dehmazang Square. Due to its peculiar location, the then government provided firearms to around 30 individuals who acted as project guards. Unfortunately, after the rise of the Taliban to power, all the security personnel decided not to return their allocated arms. As the general manager of the project I was responsible for all the personnel and thus when they captured Kabul, Taliban approached me and inquired about the guns. However they were unable to find me despite many visits. I was away from work and my colleagues were nice enough not to share my address or phone number with them. I went into hiding in order to avoid interrogation by the Taliban. I was called from unknown numbers but I avoided responding to them. After a while I was informed that the Taliban had forcefully entered our office building and had shown extra interest in its location which they thought could be used by Daesh/ISKP. During their search, they unfortunately found a PK machine gun that had been concealed by one of the guards. This contradicted our initial statement that there were no guns in the building. They arrested many of our employees and established total control over the building. In the process, they searched all the offices, broke the lockers of the project documents, and then inspected all the project documents. They even took with them my laptop which I had left on the first day of the fall of Kabul. All my textbooks, experience letters, and my photos with my foreign colleagues were inside my Laptop. I also had some confidential documents on my laptop that I cannot name for the fear of my email being hacked. In addition to that, my online research is also stored in my google drive account. No friends and members of my family will be safe if the Taliban could access the documents inside my laptop. I ask my friends to help me in this matter before it is too late.

*Afghan Male - 40 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

All I can say is, due to challenges, delay in case, we are hiding, hungry, sick and hopeless, I lost about 28 KGs around this 11 month hiding at home. and I am smaller than my normal size now. I might die like that if I don't get help to survive.

*Afghan Male - 30 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

All in a statement that living here is almost like dying every day, because of food crisis, unbearable economical situation, threats towards us and a dark future, the only hope we have is our cases to be expedited and letting us us to be evacuated for living in peace, calmness and bright future!!!

*Afghan Male - 30 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

Although I am still fine and trying to stay hidden as much as possible but the situation is getting worse day by day, I have no hope left to live here. I feel like a prisoner.

*Afghan Male - 25 - Kabul Province - Conditional Approval Received*

I am in a bad living situation, I know that Taliban that threatened me on 15 September 2019 are searching me, although I am changing my living place but I don't feel safe, and I am in bad financial situation, therefore I am requesting you to please save me and my family, I know you all working tirelessly for us and I am thankful for that.

*Afghan Male - 31 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

As an Afghan and educated girl, I want you to evacuate me. There is no place for educated girls, and Afghanistan is like a hell to me. Please please please speed up the SIV and evacuation. I can't continue like this, I am not able to suffer this situation any more.

*Afghan Female - 31 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

As a father of three daughters stranded in Afghanistan with my family need evacuation

*Afghan Male - 31 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Conditional Approval*

As a linguist/ interpreter since the Taliban took over Afghanistan, I definitely don't feel safe anywhere, even at home, if they know I was an interpreter/translator they will kill me. Additionally my economical situation is definitely bad.

*Afghan Male - 33 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

As a SIV Applicant who is originally from Panjshir Province, a province who remained a loyal ally to USA since defeat of Taliban in 200, after US withdrawal the Taliban threatens Panjshir due to their previous defeat 2001 or ongoing resistance in Panjshir Province. Two days ago my cousin was arrested no one knows where they took him? I request immediate Evacuation

*Afghan Male - 37 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

As all the world knows about Afghanistan, what is happening here now. Especially those who worked with the US Army as interpreter and translator in different provinces in Afghanistan. Now interpreters have a lot of problems with money, threats in life. Changing houses every month because the United state government left us behind. I request the government and people of the United States to please help us and fight for us. My best regards

*Afghan Male - 38 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

As an Ally of the US government left behind just trying to stay low and survive, at least even left my home even though my family keeps telling people that I left Afghanistan and consider as I am in the US now just to help me and stay alive. There are lots of death threats for the Allies here in Afghanistan. I am sure everyone is staying low as if Taliban or their agents know about these allies location they will be dead for sure Taliban are not

killing them directly but as an accident or as some random thieves kill them they just show it like this.

*Afghan Male - 30 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Conditional Approval*

As female I lost all my right and opportunities, in simple word I lost all my rights as a human

*Afghan Female - 29 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

As I am still stranded in Afghanistan and await uncertain destiny, I am constantly in danger of either being arrested or prosecuted by the current regime, because of my previous working history with the U.S government in Afghanistan. I am afraid to say that my life as well as the lives of my other family members are in great danger, and to avoid being prosecuted I am constantly shifting my living place to different locations. Whereas I have been jobless for the past 10 months, the cost of living burdens me, and some days I am not even able to provide proper meals for my kids. Now, I am humbly requesting your kind assistance in helping me with my evacuation process as soon as possible. It would be kind of you to follow up on my SIV case through legitimate channels.

*Afghan Male - 33 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

As I am still stranded in Afghanistan and await uncertain destiny, I am constantly in danger of either being arrested or prosecuted by the current regime. In order to avoid being prosecuted I am constantly shifting my living place to different locations.

*Afghan Male - 31 - Laghman Province - Waiting for Interview*

As I have mentioned, not only are economic problems facing me, but the security problems are threatening us each second. Believe Taliban sent more than three fake court letters to my home province in Kunar to my relatives, indicating that people have money on me and I have to present in court, but I am hidden in Kabul, I have changed more than three resident homes, and they searched the very first following my leaving. I have changed more than 10 cell phone numbers. One of my friend provided to get the Pakistani visa for me and my rest 6 family members, but I can't afford to travel and stay over, my request to help in evacuating either from here or from Pakistan as I have already have my Pakistani visa along my active and valid pass

*Afghan Male - 33 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

As I have worked for US government projects for more than 7 years, Taliban are searching my home many times and I'm hiding.

*Afghan Male - 38 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Conditional Approval*

As I mentioned above I was an interpreter with USSF and Military at different provinces which US had bas, so as you know I'm in Afghanistan right now and I have bad situation beyond Taliban threat and economic, no work here no security and I'm with my family are not safe, in deed I'm living in my father in law house and I'm jobless so I have respect

request you and you're great organization to evacuate me as soon as possible to Qatar. I'm wasting in Afghanistan.

*Afghan Male - 31 - Parwan Province - Waiting for Interview*

As I started working for Under USG Contract the helping of the US and NATO forces at Kandahar from 1st August 2007 up to 2011 in a Transportation company (AIT) to provide the food, water and other materials to US and NATO forces all over Afghanistan, than I joined the other Transportation company (LEGO) in Bastion Helmand province under USG Contract from 2012 up to end of 2014 we were responsible to provide the all the necessary materials to US and NATO forces, but unfortunately during my Job at Bastion I lost my leg on 2 February 2012 when Taliban attacked on my Car and I lost my leg above knee, as they were trained to keep me quiet from my Job, they couldn't, and after 6 months Rest because of my injury I returned to my job again, So I have 7 small kids and mine and my family's life is under heavy threat because of Taliban.

*Afghan Male - 35 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

As I was supported US army and US government inside the public a lot of people knew me that I was support US in this reason they hit me and they don't like me and my life is under serious threat

*Afghan Male - 27 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

As it's clear for all no need to mention that again, the situation is getting worse day by day , it's really hard for us to deal with life challenges now, because having no job, low economic status, fear ... Hopefully this survey gets done and helps us out. Thanks for your hard work and assistance.

*Afghan Male - 28 - Kabul Province - Waiting for Interview*

I have worked more than 6 years in several projects of USG in different positions. I have applied for SIV Since 14 July 2019, I have received an Under Review Email on 01 July 2022, it means soon I will get my approval because my documents are Verified.

*Afghan Male - 34 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

As per my duties & responsibilities which I provided to USG me and my family are in danger of losing our lives. I was an interpreter with Burhan security services in which we were providing security to Camp Eggers safe houses, I was sales executive in Federal Express, and according to my duties I went to many US funded NGOs, Military Camps and other areas that a lot of people knows that I was with a US based company. I was CEO for my own company and I was a subcontractor for the national Afghan trucking (NAT) project for which my company carried more that 1000 cargo trucks of USG life support materials through Afghanistan, this is my biggest concern and because of my contract I am very scared.

*Afghan Male - 41 - Kabul Province - Waiting for COM Approval*

## SELECTED QUOTES FROM VETERANS

My interpreter "Musa" was left behind. I think he is dead now but I'm unsure. The last I heard from him he was at the Kabul International Airport. Left to die...I have not heard from him since.

*Army Veteran - 2009-2013 - E4*

I started going to just my state elected officials but no help had come, so I started messaging officials in states where I had lived & still nothing. A few months later, I finally got a message back from one of the staff of Duckworth. Then I finally heard back from one of my state officials. Not much help has come from it as the process has been slow, not only for SIVs but for P1/2 nominations as well. When the news that a closed door hearing on the events in Afghanistan was to happen, I contacted as many of the members of that committee as possible. I now send updates every two-three weeks. I have yet to get anything beyond an auto response but am still sending the updates. I'm the updates, I highlight key wins and setbacks and the amount of money I've spent out of my own pocket and the amount I've donated (not that much). I go on to explain I'm getting ready to retire and spend around 20% of my monthly salary on my partners who were promised those who want out will get out. I do most of my correspondence outside of work hours and like most, I'm exhausted. This is not how I wanted my last 1.5 years in the military to go. On top of that, I get to hear about how the people who no-shit risked everything to protect me and my Western coworkers while we were there during a spike in insider threats. They did so out of culture and the sense of duty and responsibility that we had taught them. Several of my guys tried to help get families on evac flights between mid Aug and Nov, knowing that they could have easily snuck on one of the lists and bump someone off. They chose not to do this because they felt compelled to uphold their integrity and stay honest, plus there was still the promise made in Aug certainly it would be upheld. Since Aug, I've had to help all of the families run for their lives while being followed by the Taliban. I've been sent lots of videos and stories of the torture of my families and their extended families. I've been sent videos from their friends to show what happens. I've been their primary support. It seems very unfair to have to carry all of this. We've gone through the processes, tried to nominate the military and aid/NGO workers for P1/2, received some numbers but lots of kickbacks as I did not directly work with them, and have been ghosted by the NGOs/Orgs and western supervisors that we've been able to contact. We have tried to submit the aging parent form but most of my stateside guys are either not eligible for citizenship yet (not enough time here) or are students without adequate income. So now I'm left with lots of families who, by the rules of the P1/2 program, are eligible for consideration but can't get in touch with their supervisors or didn't speak English well enough to remember their names, making them apparently less worthy of helping. The HPs I was helping are still pending. after a full year. My SIV applicants have resubmitted and are now stuck in limbo as they wait for the slow email processing to find out if maybe the new documents they have will meet the requirements. And everyday I get to hear about how the kids and families are slowly starving to death because several have actual warrants out for their

detention and can't work. And off of this continues, based on a promise I didn't make but am now carrying. If you think the vets are struggling, I would strongly encourage you to poll the non-vets/military. At least we kind of knew what we were getting into. These civilians were fed to the wolves, leaving most of us trying to help them get back up. To date, I've done three moral injury/graphic content/stress classes for those helping and countless sidebar discussions with those needing help. I would encourage individuals to start looking at the effort as a joint mil/civ effort. We're now a team and have been trudging along for about a year. There is no mil/civ seam at this point. We're in it together.

*Air Force Veteran - 2003-2022 - E7*

I am a retired U.S. Army soldier working to get my interpreter, Zabi to the U.S. and his family safely out of Afghanistan. I contacted my detachment commander and he agreed to sign a P2 work verification for Zabi covering 2009-2010 when he worked with me as an interpreter. That application has been submitted. I have also enlisted the help of Congressman Graves (LA) to look into Zabi's status with the State Department.

*Army Veteran - 1995-2018 - E7*

I am not an activist. I have written to my US Senator and US Representative and coordinated with their staff.

*Army Veteran - 1988-2010 - O4*

I am still in contact with the brother of an interpreter I was originally working with, who was killed early in the process. The brother was an employee of Aegis during the war.

*Army Veteran - 2002-1018 - E5*

I am working with some still in the military to get information passed along in a quicker fashion. Our interpreter is close to coming to the US but this should have been resolved a long time ago since it has been about 12 years since I saw him. Promises made to the Afghan people have not been upheld and those in political authority should feel ashamed at the two faced views of this nation and what they have been representing. There is more to share but since this is still ongoing, to protect parties involved I cannot say much more.

*Marine Corps Veteran - 2007-2011 - E4*

I have been involved in helping guide Afghan SIVs on the ground. So far one has made it through the process and is in the US. I've lost contact with others. But I have also been a volunteer with the Resettlement Agency in my town who's been working with about 70 Afghans . I volunteer to teach ESL classes.

*Marine Corps Veteran - 1992-2014 - O4*

I tried everything to get things moving, and hundreds of our allies are stranded, abandoned in Afghanistan being hunted like prey by our enemies, all because Biden wouldn't give the DOD the resources they needed in 2020!

*Army Veteran - 2004-2022 - E6*

I volunteered at Ft Bliss from 8/22 - 11/22 with Team Rubicon to assist the resettlement of Afghans who had been sent there.

*Army Veteran - 2009-2019 - O4*

██████ was a good man, and a friend, but his family is still there, and any attention to his story may get them killed. Through back channels I am trying to get his wife and daughter out through some people I know.

*Army Veteran - 2002-2019 - E6*

My Afghan was granted Humanitarian Parole by DHS but DOS refused to issue the boarding foil so he cannot come to the US. I am very disappointed with the State Department; they appear to be completely inept. DHS/USCIS/HAB has approved the parole repeatedly but DOD refuses to do its part and so he cannot come to the US and is stuck in Pakistan.

*Army Veteran - 1982 -2010 - O5*

My senator, Tillis, gave empty promises and said that they were on a roster for a flight to Albania. When I tried to contact his aid to check on the status of said flight I was completely ignored. No returned phone calls or emails. They were near abbey gate when the bomb went off and were completely terrified to attempt to leave again. This was my husband's interpreter family. The same interpreter that saved my husband's life when he was shot in the face in Afghanistan in 2014. We have let them down.

*Army Veteran - 2005-2013 - E5*

No one wants to hear it. I've fucking tried. My fucking dipshit commander told me I "need to start making better choices". So I've shut the fuck up. No one cares.

*Air Force Veteran - 2007-2022 - E4*

I'm working with 10 Afghans. 9 are currently in Kabul. The 10th is in Istanbul, she was an Afghan Army Officer.

*Army Veteran - 1976-2006 - E9*

[The] most despicable and humiliating actions of this government in my life time. Disgraceful and I have zero faith in our highest echelon military leaders, nor politicians.

*Marine Corps Veteran - 1999-2013 - E6*

I have one who finally got here after 8 years of trying. I'm still working to get several others out of Afghanistan. This is not about me. It's about keeping our word to the men who fought alongside us.

*Marine Corps Veteran - 1996-2016 - W2*

This entire 20 year process was a disaster. I'm left with dead battle buddies, and permanent physical and mental injuries. The "evacuation" was the final straw for me. We invested so much. Gave so much. And when the time came for them to fight for themselves, they didn't want to! Now the same Taliban is back in charge except with multi-billion dollars worth of taxpayer equipment (of a sensitive military nature). I don't want any part of living through this nightmare.

*Army Veteran - E5*

I have a constant running story in our local paper. I am running a daily, major operation to save 9 families and some others. Nonstop for a year.

*Navy Veteran - 1982-2013 - O5*

[Our] Law Firm took my case to help nine Afghans immigrate to the US in September 2021. I have paid legal fees in full to {our Law} firm and their [legal] team [and] completed immigration forms in full with me as sponsor. I also paid all required DHS fees of over \$500 per Afghan. So far we only have received a form letter from DHS for each Afghan in early 2022. Most of the Afghans are out of work, terrorized, without necessities, starving, hopeless, and desperate. Five are women, four are men. They are all college educated at the American University of Afghanistan, one is a doctor, one is an electrical engineer, they all helped us or work for us. They have many US and NATO/ISAF certificates. They all feel betrayed.

*Army Veteran - 1993-2018 - O4*

The week of the pull out I was contacted by my interpreter pleading for help. He wasn't able to get through the Taliban controlled roadblocks to get to the airport. This man, though he was an interpreter, picked up a rifle and fought back against the Taliban. And we left him behind.

*Navy Veteran - 2008-2013 - E4*

We paid these guys and promised them a good life to help us out. Our country has put them and their families in danger. [REDACTED] is hiding out, moving from house to house with no money and a wife and 5 kids. Our Government has shown its true colors and left them high and dry.

*Army Veteran - 2009-2012 - E4*

Frustrated as only 2 of my Afghan colleagues made it out and I have 11 still stuck in Afghanistan.

*Air Force Veteran - 1983-2017 - E6*

I am a veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan, and was also part of the Afghan Evacuation Mission last year in Qatar and Kuwait as the public affairs NCO for the mission in Qatar. Although I do not have contact with the interpreters we had in Afghanistan, I made friends with many families during the evacuation who are now in America. Some are suffering from a loss in status and earning power and are living in small towns that do not provide them the opportunity to achieve the American Dream. What's more, their statuses are in limbo and we do not know for sure what the future holds. The kids are especially resilient and quickly adapting to American culture - they are basically American kids without much legal protection as Americans. I want to work to ensure that these families are protected and get the opportunities they deserve. I work for DHS when not in uniform. I live in the Washington Metro area and would be happy to assist in any way I can.

*Army Veteran - 2012-2022 - E5*

I never served in Afghanistan, but worked there after my retirement as a Civilian for a USAID contractor. We had many Afghan employees, and luckily most got out before the US abandoned their countrymen. I have provided letters of referral for several that worked for us, but at present there is only one [Afghan] that I am in contact with.

*Army Veteran - 1977-1997 - O4*

Yes, just to show the cowards from the Afghan Soldiers who pissed everything away we gave them for 20 years. Slap in every American's face. They deserve everything they get down there. 20 years of US money and lives just for them to not even put up a fight.

*Army Veteran - 2004-2022 - E8*

I have multiple Afghan partners that worked, and fought with our Special Operation Forces that were left behind, in danger and are still waiting.

*Navy Veteran - 1991-2013 - E6*

At the time I was at Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan 2008-09. I was able to write several letters of endorsement to the State Department that led to my interpreter's legal immigration to the US.

*Army Veteran - 1966-2006 - O5*

I founded Vets4Afghans (V4A), an informal network of concerned veterans and civilians alike to address gaps in information and assistance to Afghan partners in need of help during the evac crisis and beyond.

*Army Veteran - 2007-2022 - O4*

I have been working since July to get my Interpreters family out of Afghanistan. One younger brother is in the US now but his wife and kids are still back in the country. Mom, Dad and another younger brother are still in hiding as well.

*Air Force Veteran - 1990-2011 - E6*

I was able to assist in getting several out of Afghanistan but many still have family members in Afghanistan that are in great danger. We need to do more to support all of them.

*Marine Corps Veteran - 1990-2013 - O5*

I was able to successfully navigate the overly cumbersome SIV process for both my primary interpreters from my deployment in 2005-06. The first one was a 4 year process involving multiple letters and contact with my Congressman's office which ultimately enabled him to reach Japan where he is currently residing with his spouse and child. The 2nd interpreter literally obtained his SIV approval and documentation the night before the US embassy was evacuated. He was wounded in the initial Taliban takeover of HKIA but returned to the airport the next day. I helped direct him via facebook messenger to the north gate of the airport. There he waited 3 days until he was able to get the attention of a service member who checked his documentation and allowed him access through the airfield gate. He spent another 2 days on the airfield until he was successfully evacuated to the United States spending 2 weeks at FT Lee, VA until he was transported to California through the help of a Jewish humanitarian organization. He is now living in Colorado and grateful to be here.

*Army Veteran - 1983-2015 - O6*

I'm an Iraq veteran, but for some reason the withdrawal from Afghanistan affected me more than the Iraq failure. I was saddened for my brothers and sisters who fought over there and sad that no real change had been made in 20 years. A short time ago, my parents felt the need to help some local refugees and I became friendly with them through their activism. My friend is hurting. His parents are still in Kabul and he is worried everyday. I cannot imagine the stress he is under, but it makes me anxious for the future of Afghanistan, a place that the US has so much invested in. And not just money, but lost lives and the well-being of a people that we took the responsibility of liberating from an oppressive regime that slid right back into power the moment we left.

*Army Veteran - 2000-2010 - E6*

In my last deployment my interpreter supported his family with the funds he earned serving with us. There were several occasions we were confronted by Afghans on the street who wanted him to stop working for the Americans. Once while we were going by his family home we were shot at. He received threats to himself and family. His brother worked for the embassy and is in The UAE awaiting his SIV. His sister was threatened and was forced to leave after the U.S. evacuation. She is stuck in the UAE waiting for Parole. I have written to USAID and the state department and they say I cannot get any information on their progress.

*Army Veteran - 2003-2012 - E8*

Burned out.

*Army Veteran - 2007-2015 - O3*

Meeting with the house bipartisan working group on the AAA on Tuesday  
*Army Veteran - 2004-2012 - E6*

My interpreter from my deployment, who came to the states several years ago, reached out to me to attempt to have me write letters of recommendation for his friends who were trapped in Afghanistan. I was unable to write these letters and tried to contact my friends who still serve but they were unable to gain approval from their command to write letters for the Afghans left behind. These correspondence went on for months prior to the pullout and through the pullout, making me feel like there was nothing I could do for these people.

*Army Veteran - 2003-2012 - E6*

My interpreter has been in the US since 2017. His father (a police officer) was abducted and then murdered in spring 2021. We've been trying to get his mother, sister, and two younger brothers to the US on Humanitarian Parole since the arrival of the Taliban in August 2021. Their house was raided and an uncle was shot in the leg, though fortunately not finished off. My interpreter at this point fortunately has been in the US for long enough now to apply for citizenship which will allow him to sponsor his mother and siblings, but it will still take another year or more - and we've heard absolutely nothing about the status of the parole for his family since 12 October 2021, when the last word was simply that the paperwork has been received, and not a single update since then.

*Army Veteran - 2011-2015 - O3*

Only a few made it out. Several are still in Afghanistan. I had 80 Afghans working for me in 2017-2018, only 3 and about 5 SMW members made it out, that I am aware of. We have a group of West Point classmates and extended friends (all veterans) working well over 200 people still. Of that, I am personally trying to assist 14 families with 85 people in them. 3 of the families made it to Pakistan on temporary visas, 1 family made it to Iran on a visa and one and his wife made their way to Turkey and is registered with UNHCR.

*Army Veteran - 1988-2012 - O5*

Total mess at the start. I ran the hotel that was right at Abbey Gate. I am still actively involved with getting these poor folks out. Just today our main fixer on the ground had his cousin shot in the back my some Taliban muppet. On the ground is a total shit show.

*Army Veteran - 1984-1988 - E6*

Tried multiple times to help show proof that my interpreter helped us troops, they wouldn't help

*Army Veteran - 2006-2014 - E5*

Yes - but it's a long story and we're helping hundreds still in country - some who are now stuck in Iran and Pakistan

*Army Veteran - 1987-2014 - O3*

A complete disgrace and stain on our National honor. I hold our 4-star "leadership" in utter contempt: Incompetent, feckless, immoral/amoral, careerist toads. They and fellow jokesters like Jake Sullivan and Anthony Blinken, set the stage for Putin's move on Ukraine, by conveying American weakness, and lack of reliability with respect to allies. Just incredible to think of the men and women we (and our Allies - we invoked Art 5, lest we no forget) lost and who came back in "bits and pieces" whether physically, mentally or both. The destroyed lives, the broken homes, the marriages ruined. Yes, it's utterly maddening, especially when combined with Ukraine, which we could have and should have prevented in our National interest and that of the world's food supply. Standby for the PRC to move on Taiwan...hope we pass the Chip Act!

*Marine Corps Veteran - 1973-2008 - O6*

Absolutely, I failed a writing course at [College] because I prioritized evacuating Afghans over writing a research paper.

*Navy Veteran - 2010-2017 - E5*

I was shocked by the events. I actually know several Afghans who have made the trip. A few of them contacted me to see if I could help. One of their brothers was at the gate trying to get in. He was so desperate. He asked me to help and there was nothing I could do. It was awful.

*Army Veteran - 1986-2018 - E6*

ASSOCIATION OF WARTIME ALLIES - [HTTPS://WWW.WARTIMEALLIES.CO/](https://www.wartimeallies.co/)

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS OF AMERICA - [HTTPS://IAVA.ORG/](https://iava.org/)

VETERANS FOR AMERICAN IDEALS - [HTTPS://WWW.VFAI.ORG/](https://www.vfai.org/)

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<sup>i</sup> <https://www.ustranscom.mil/cmd/neo.cfm>

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/west-wing-playbook/2022/05/16/bidens-broken-promise-to-siv-holders-00032682>

<sup>iii</sup> <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/west-wing-playbook/2022/05/17/bidens-broken-promise-to-siv-holders-part-ii-00033024>

<sup>iv</sup> <https://www.wrapsnet.org/siv-iraqi-syrian-afghan-referrals/>