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"Echoes of Suffering: Women's Resilience Needs Attention Under Taliban Cruelty"

Introduction: In the aftermath of the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan on August 15, 2021, following two decades of U.S. occupation, the region has witnessed a tumultuous period marked by political turmoil, ethnic tensions, and the resurgence of extremist groups. The two preceding decades were dominated by the leadership of two incompetent figures, Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani, whose divisive policies exacerbated ethnic conflicts and weakened the nation's institutions. The power struggle within the puppet regimes, fuelled by ethnic rivalries and external influences, ultimately paved the way for the Taliban's resurgence.

Since then, when the Taliban assumed power following 20 years of American occupation under the pretext of counterterrorism efforts, Afghanistan has undergone a tumultuous transformation. The preceding two decades witnessed the installation of two ostensibly incompetent figures, Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani, who pursued a divisive "divide and rule" policy contributing to the chaotic situation in Afghanistan, their governance fuelled ethnic conflicts, purged experienced personnel from key governmental roles, and replaced them with inexperienced individuals from abroad. These recruits, largely of Afghan descent from Western countries, lacked a genuine understanding of Afghanistan and were appointed based on personal connections and ethnic considerations.

During the puppet governments' tenure, power struggles and conspiracies among various ethnic groups took precedence over addressing the country's challenges. The Taliban, favoured for their ethnic affiliation with the Pashtun group, received substantial financial and logistical support, including terror training facilities. These developments culminated in the orchestrated release of Taliban members from prisons, a move facilitated by Zalmay Khalilzad, the US special envoy for Afghanistan. However, Khalilzad's actions have been widely

perceived as manipulative and biased, with many blaming him for providing false information to American decision-makers.

Despite assurances of amnesty for former government employees, the reality on the ground has been grim. Over the past two years, individuals associated with the previous military, civil service, parliament, women's rights, arts, music, education, and healthcare have been systematically targeted, resulting in killings, maiming, imprisonment, and assassinations under the Taliban's rule. This reign of terror persists due to ongoing financial and logistical support from the USA, its allies, and Pakistan. Furthermore, the Taliban's influence is expanding as they garner support from various countries, including Iran, India, Russia, and China. This geopolitical scenario places the USA in a challenging position, contending with regional power dynamics involving key Asian rivals vying for influence over the Taliban.

Consequently, the people of Afghanistan endure immense hardships, marked by poverty, insecurity, and the brutalities of the Taliban. Women, in particular, face severe restrictions akin to being confined in a Labor detention camp. The responsibility for this dire situation rests heavily on the USA, and even casual observers can recognize that the Afghan population is subjected to inhumane conditions imposed by a group that many view as terrorists, some of whom are listed by the UN.

In conclusion we are witness, Afghanistan grapples with the consequences of a swift and chaotic regime change, the impact on its people is profound. The promises of amnesty and inclusion made by the Taliban remain unfulfilled, with targeted attacks on various sectors of society, including military, civil, artistic, and academic circles. The plight of Afghan women, confined within a regime that denies them basic rights, underscores the urgent need for international attention and intervention. The complexity of this situation extends beyond national borders, involving geopolitical rivalries and the role of external actors, notably the United States and its regional competitors. In navigating the path ahead, the fate of Afghanistan hangs in the balance, shaped by the interplay of historical dynamics, global interests, and the resilience of its people.

Urgent Plea for International Attention and Action to Liberate the People of Afghanistan

Women's Endurance Amidst the Cruelty of American and Pakistan Proxies.

I pen these words with a heavy heart, a heart burdened by the cries and suffering of the people of Afghanistan, who find themselves ensnared in the cruel clutches of the Taliban. It is an urgent appeal to your collective conscience, a

plea for attention, and a call to action to free Afghanistan from the shackles of oppression.

The current predicament in Afghanistan is a tragic tale, one woven with the threads of a complex history and geopolitical manoeuvres. The Taliban, once notorious for heinous acts against humanity, were paradoxically catapulted to power by the very forces that occupied Afghanistan for two decades – a coalition led by the United States, Pakistan, and their allies.

The Taliban, comprised largely of individuals associated with suicide bombings, civilian massacres, road bombings, attacks on travellers, robbery, drug trafficking, and affiliations with terrorist groups, now find themselves at the helm of power. This stark contradiction to the aspirations and wishes of the Afghan people raises grave concerns about the objectives and motives of those orchestrating this power shift.

The Afghan people, who suffered immeasurably under the Taliban's previous rule, are once again living under their draconian regime. The security situation is precarious, poverty is rampant, and starvation looms large. Women, in particular, are stripped of their rights – deprived of education, employment, and basic human dignities.

The international response, so far, has been disappointingly inadequate. The United Nations and other global organizations seem confined to delivering hollow speeches, falling short of meaningful action to liberate the Afghan people from the clutches of the Taliban.

What adds to the irony is the alleged financial support provided by the United States to sustain the Taliban's oppressive rule. It is a bitter truth that demands international attention – the very force that once fought against the Taliban is now accused of facilitating their tyranny.

The consequences of this inaction are dire and far-reaching. Afghanistan risks becoming a breeding ground for extremism, a hotbed of fanaticism that not only endangers its own people but poses a significant threat to global security. The current trajectory, if unimpeded, could transform Afghanistan into an unsafe haven, fostering violent ideologies that may reverberate across borders.

It is imperative that we, as global citizens, unite in our condemnation of the Taliban's actions and demand swift and decisive action to rescue the people of Afghanistan. We must implore the international community to intervene, to restore the fundamental rights of the Afghan people, and to prevent Afghanistan from becoming a crucible for extremism.

The time for passive observation has long passed. The world must rise to the occasion, collectively denounce the oppression in Afghanistan, and work towards securing a future where the people of Afghanistan can live free from fear and tyranny.

Let our collective voice echo across borders, resonating in the halls of power, and let our unified call for justice serve as a beacon of hope for the people of Afghanistan.