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**„Assistance and Promotion of Afghan Women“**

**Stellungnahme**

**Öffentliche Anhörung**

**zum Thema**

**„Neuausrichtung, Anpassung und Abzug  
2015 bis 2021: Ziele, Anpassungen und Dynamiken  
auf internationaler, nationaler, lokaler Ebene“**

**am 22. Mai 2023**



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*Prepared Statement for the public hearing of the  
German Bundestag's Study Commission on Afghanistan on Monday, 22 May 2023*

Dear Members of the German Parliament, Study Commission on Afghanistan,  
Ladies and Gentlemen, Greetings.

I am happy to participate in an important hearing of this committee of parliamentary affairs on behalf of Afghan women and share the current situation of Afghan women with you.

Let me, first of all, thank the international community and allies for their entire support to Afghanistan, especially the German government for its social participation, health and economic empowerment efforts, which have led to the awakening of the new generation of Afghanistan, and I am a good example of that today, which gives me the ability to sit in front of you, defending the rights of women, the women of Afghanistan.

I would like to discuss the past 20 years and the current situation of Afghanistan in the following four sections, which will clearly give you an open eye on the matter of Afghanistan.

At the start, whenever we are talking about Afghanistan, the role of international community's engagement comes first and then the question follows: What factors prevented the formation of a stable and liberal society in my country?

If we come to the discussion of international community's engagement, the effects of international interaction were that the new majority generation of Afghanistan became educated and got access not only to the digital world, but somehow also to the modern world of education. Women became a part of society and political participation; Afghanistan was ahead of neighboring countries in terms of freedom of expression and democratic values. Yes, poverty and unemployment, corruption, illegal immigration, and drug trafficking were big concerns, but there were still some efforts happening around it. So it was not totally out of control, and even it could get better as we were sure for some time more, the new generation were raising to get the political leadership and lead of the country like the young generation of the Western world. But unfortunately, all the efforts of this generation were sold in one day during a contract in Doha.

The only factor preventing the formation of an open and liberal society was the open support of the international community to the gun lords, bandits, smugglers, mafia, and war criminals. Instead of the young generation, in particular women, the international community gave the power of the government of Afghanistan, money, and support to the former criminals, killers of the people and until the end they supported the same groups, and the young generation was kept in the margins and corners always. If youth and women had been receiving enough support, we would have been able to form not only a liberal government but more qualified one.

Secondly, there's always a discussion around the question: Was there a real chance to fight corruption in Afghanistan during the years 2015 to 2021?

So let me clear it, the only chance to fight against corruption was the presence, raising and leadership of the young generation inside and outside of Government, especially women. Because recently the warlords, mafia men, and former corrupt leaders were forced to give up and retire, because they were not able to compete with this new generation of rising talents, and the power was transferred to the new generation. So I can say with certainty, that as the new generation was not corrupt and fully determined to serve with dignity and honor, there was a chance to overcome the small problems before selling the entire 40 million people and a country to another conflict, a humanitarian disaster. But as we all know, let me repeat it so it can remain in the memories of everyone here that, unfortunately, the international community did not invest in Afghan youth and the women of Afghanistan in the way it should have been.

Ladies and gentlemen; I know always talking about the past leads to a point with no solution, so let me share a short note on current Afghanistan, on what happened to us, the Afghan women, after 15 of August 2021, since the world has left us all alone.

Unfortunately, as a result of the withdrawal of the international community, and more importantly, as a result of forgetting Afghanistan, Afghan women lost all their rights and hopes, they are not only deprived of education, work, social and political participation. Much more profoundly, the reason of their presence in that society has been changed from the position of a free human being to the position of a slave for the well of a male dominated society. Afghanistan is the only country in the world where women are banned from education and are stoned and killed by men in stadiums with illegal trails. Afghanistan is the only country in the world where women are allowed to sell their body parts, children, household, but are not having the right to work, to education, life, and human values. Women cannot go to the doctor appointments without a man, and women are not even allowed to go to the market for daily good shopping. Most of the convicted women are those whose husbands were killed in the joint fight against terrorism alongside your forces. They are left all alone today. There are also examples of widows and wives of former martyred soldiers being forcibly married by the Taliban to the Talib soldiers. Overall, it can be said that the main victims of current conflict and disaster are Afghan women and children, which are really facing a great humanitarian disaster.

But I believe, you all are agreeing with me that now, it is time for action. We need to help, but how? Here is the answer:

Afghan mothers, sisters, daughters, and wives need social and financial support, and it is possible through implementation of some of humanitarian projects by supporting initiatives lead by women.

It will not be an exaggeration if I say that the main reason of failure of our joint efforts in the last 20-year in Afghanistan was ignoring the people at the country sides but supporting projects in big cities and mostly working in central areas. This caused on all of us a big pay, as the people of the country sides were left behind, and remained ignorant of democracy, human rights, internationalism, and other values because they were not reached out to and given a platform. And this was the main reason why, intelligence involved in war including ISI of Pakistan and the Taliban were able to rise from the country sides. They gave them guns, and made them fight against us, and this led them to be able to destroy all our joint efforts.

Therefore, if there is an attempt to interact with Afghanistan again, it will be necessary, unlike before, to design and implement projects for women's public awareness, economic empowerment and health problems in villages and country sides.

I am a strong supporter of the implementation of projects in the fields of vocational education, development of textile industry, agriculture and livestock in the current difficult conditions and I can say with certainty that these projects are not only applicable, but also are so useful too.

Dear all,

I as an Afghan woman I have been through so much hard times during serving the country as a mayor, as well now, because of living in exile. Working as a mayor despite its hardship was still joyful because I knew I am doing it for my people, but the wrong deals of leaders of the world made me to live in exile which was never my choice and I am sure this is happening to hundreds of other women and men the same.

The open and hidden hostility of the hard-liner religious groups, land mafia, corruptors and extremism of men dominated society with a female mayor in the field of work and social life were the main challenges that kept me from working for the first 9 months, then attacks on my life, and when they could not kill me, they killed my father and finally this chaos forced me to leave my country. Today I am sitting in front of you all with a heart full of pain, speaking about our broken dreams but still showing the resistance of not giving up.

Last but not least, dear leaders of democratic world, please!

Start looking into the solutions through political leadership and save Afghanistan from terrorism, humanitarian disaster, and human conflict. It is very sad that even today the whole world treats Afghan women, men, and children differently than others. We can clearly see that the women and people of Iran and Ukraine are more supported than the Afghan women, while we are experiencing more deprivation and subjugation than anyone else. And unfortunately, while not only we fought against terrorism with NATO last 20 years, but during the Russian empire, Afghans defeated Russia so good things like falling of the Berlin wall can happen so for the sake of humanity,

We are not a nation to forget!

Don't forget us! Don't forget Afghan women!

Help us to not only save our country but the world from another humanitarian disaster in 21st century.

Thank you for your attention!