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- Farid Ahmad Farhang, Director of Govt. Dailies  
Mob: 0704008080
- Editor-in-Chief, Hamidullah Arefi  
Mob: 0700163568, 020-250.1766
- E-mail, Hamidullah\_arefi@yahoo.com
- Deputy Editor-in-Chief, Fathulbari Akhgarg  
Mob: 0707030595
- Graphic designers, Edris Akhary, Baktrah Shaibani and Ali Ahmad
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## Editorial

### Inclusive support a must for uprising forces

With intensification of Taliban attacks on a number of provincial capitals, thousands of countryside voluntarily took arms and are practically fighting Taliban in support of Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF).

Herat, Takapan, Kunduz and Sheberghan are most witnesses of heavy presence of public uprising forces. At present these forces have undertaken responsibility of a essential military support.

Ex-Ihadi leader Mohammad Ismail Khan who has recently undertaken leadership of uprising forces against Taliban in Herat said that fighters under his command are fighting the Taliban despite of limited resources and defend their city bravely.

Ismail Khan added, the promises which had been given to support his forces with equipment and ammunition have not been implemented. At the same time, the uprising forces who are fighting Taliban in Takapan, the provincial capital of Takhar province have been surrounded since few weeks, but saying they are yet to receive support and that break the besiege.

Some times before, a number of Taliban people had set up a sit in tent in Kabul, requested increase of air strikes on Taliban positions and dispatching of reinforcements to break Taliban besiege. But no change has taken place, however the local forces are bravely defending the city.

Indeed, ANDSF are required to support them on time and don't allow these resistance against Taliban to fail. ANDSF and local forces in Takhar, Jawajan, Kunduz, Takapan and Herat sustain heavy pressure and every hour repulse Taliban offensives from several directions. In case emergency support is not supplied to ANDSF and the local forces, the cordon and search operations are not conducted, resistance cordons and tiers will be broken and Taliban militants will easily influence onto these and other major cities.

According to the official policy, the government should exploit local forces against Taliban. The Afghan government has promised to support these forces. During his last week address to the national assembly, president Ghani requested jihadi leaders, political parties, lawmakers and Pan-Afghan people to mobilize against Taliban and support ANDSF.

Lawmakers and political leaders present in the meeting had all agreed to mobilize their followers to defend the country against Taliban attacks. At present resistance spirit and incentive against Taliban militants is very high in Afghan society. If the government essentially support the local forces, majority of countrymen are ready to depart to frontlines voluntarily, fight the Taliban and defend their homeland.

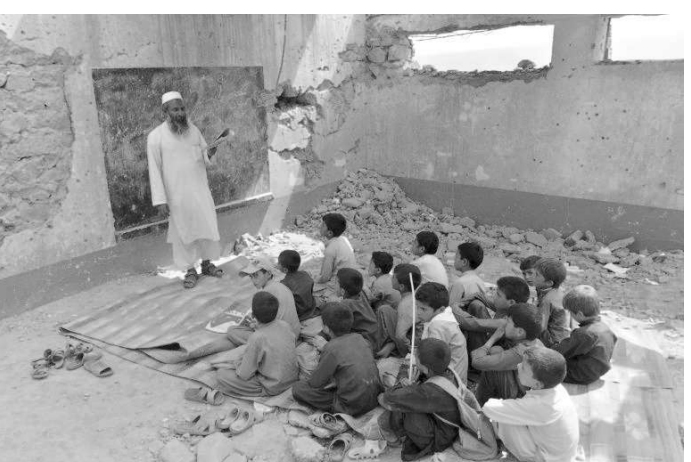
Meanwhile, chanting of Allahu Akbar in support of ANDSF in a number of cities is a clear and good example and high spirit of resistance against Taliban. Even in some provinces girls and women have taken weapons and fight the Taliban.

The Afghan government required to strengthen the ranks of resisting forces and with its generous support, prevent Taliban attacks and restore security to cities and districts. Inclusive support of the local forces are key to defeat terrorists and fulfill our Islamic and patriotic responsibility towards the country. If not today, then the terrorists will undermine our all national, cultural and human values tomorrow and would spare no effort to demolish them.

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## Education and Afghanistan's security

By: Karen J. Greenberg



Alghanistan's chances of defying the prophecies of doom by providing education and training to the country's security forces. However, as Secretary of Defense, I have seen the importance of education in Afghanistan. The US will "continue to lead key Afghan capabilities". Drones, cruise missiles, and other attacks. The US will stay vigilant. Sullivan promises, albeit tentatively.

But such hard power tactics alone will not stabilize Afghanistan, let alone put it on the path toward long-term peace and prosperity. For that, soft power solutions are also essential.

Even as US and NATO troops arrive, the United Nations is managing displacement in Afghanistan. The US is also a donor to deliver aid. So, reportedly, are some of the international agencies. Last week, the US State Department pledged \$20 million in new assistance to help in humanitarian purposes in the country. deliver support to those in need, including millions who are internally displaced.

Some experts have advanced promising proposals for leveraging such aid to improve Afghanistan's prospects. Robert Gates, another former CIA director who was also US secretary of defense, suggests establishing an international Afghan development fund whose funds would be coordinated.

Sullivan continued, the aid administration can improve or on a peace agreement that includes "basic rights for women and a division of resources".

Likewise, Ashley Jackson and Robert M. Loeferer argue that the international aid can be leveraged to ensure that women and girls retain the rights they have gained over the last two decades, even if the "retrogression" Taliban returns to power. After all, they point out, the current Afghan government relies on international aid for 75 per cent of its budget.

Jackson and Anni emphasize the role of education — and for good reason. With over 70 percent of the Afghan population under 25 years of age, educating today's young people means creating a generation of skilled workers, potentially effective leaders, and engaged citizens. But it is a formidable political stability and sustained economic development.

Over the past 20 years, significant progress has been made on the education front. After 2001, access to education among boys and girls increased wildly. The US Agency for International Development (USAID), citing the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education, reports that "student enrollment grew from 900,000 students in 2001 to more than 5.5 million students, 39 per cent of whom are girls, in 2020".

Lack of this progress has been enabled by foreign donors. With such support, NGOs, working with UNICEF, have contributed to strengthening elementary education. US AID has developed programs that engage US universities and scholars to bolster the development of Afghan educational institutions. Drones supported general programs, including training, certification programs and graduate-level standards have helped professional teaching and emergency research.

But delivering quality universal education in Afghanistan remains an uphill battle. According to UNICEF, an estimated 5.7 million Afghan children are out of school, more than half of them girls. The COVID-19 pandemic and the recent attack in violence have created additional headwinds. As the withdrawal of US and NATO troops raises the risk of further violence, the maintenance — and expansion — of educational support is essential.

Given security and health concerns, remote partnerships will be central to this effort. Fortunately, such arrangements can build on the rapid development of virtual learning platforms and teaching methodologies, as well as expanded access to telecommunications hardware, that the pandemic opened.

To be sure, while education is a necessary condition for stability and prosperity in Afghanistan, it is not sufficient to ensure that outcome. But, as USAID's Paul Samanthia Power observed in her recent submission on achievable goals, "Thanks to the efforts of the past 20 years, this has already happened for many girls and women in Afghanistan. Ensuring that it continues to happen is set up in international treaties. But it is up to the international community."

Karen J. Greenberg, director of the Center on National Security at Fordham University's School of Law, is the author of the forthcoming "Bleed Into: The Disfranching of American Democracy from the 19th to the 21st Century".

