



FROM POWER TO OPPRESSION: THREATS TO THE SECURITY OF AFGHAN WOMEN IN THE NEW ERA OF THE TALIBAN REGIME

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ABSTRACT

This research aims to analyze the policy impact of the Taliban regime on gender-based violence and its implications for human security in Afghanistan, focusing on the conditions of women and girls. Since the Taliban returned to power in 2021, Afghan women have been systematically oppressed. Gender-based violence has become pervasive in Afghanistan as a result of girls' limited access to education, limited freedom of movement, and limited job possibilities. Due to their low engagement in public life, women and girls are disproportionately affected by the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan, which has been made worse by these circumstances. This research was written using qualitative approaches, including the examination of pertinent literature and policy analysis as a means of gathering data. The results of this research demonstrate that women's physical and emotional safety can be seriously threatened by the Taliban. Additionally, the Taliban obstruct their access to necessities like healthcare and education. The research also demonstrates how the policy has made the environment unwelcoming for women, which has decreased their involvement in all facets of life. This research is expected to add to the scientific debate on gender security policies and will motivate the international community to increase the defense of women's rights in Afghanistan. The conclusion of this research is that the policies of the Taliban regime have drastically increased gender-based violence and exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan, with devastating effects on the security and well-being of women and girls.

Keywords: Taliban Regime, Afghanistan, Gender-Based Violence, Human Security, Education Restrictions, Humanitarian Crisis

INTRODUCTION

The return of the Taliban also became a turning point in the oppression experienced by women in Afghanistan. If we want to discuss the return of the Taliban in Afghanistan after two decades of not showing their faces, of course we must first know about the history of the Taliban itself. The Taliban first appeared in 1994 led by Mohammed Omar. Muhammed Omar was a former mujahideen in the war between the

Soviet Union and Afghanistan. In 1989 the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan. Unfortunately, after the departure of the Soviet Union, the Afghan people did not prosper, on the contrary, because the process of transition from the government created by the Soviet Union to the Islamic state of Afghanistan caused chaos and a power struggle that occurred between the splinter groups of the mujahideen.

The Taliban is one of the groups that wants to rule in Afghanistan, in which members are students who adhere to Sunni Islam and mostly come from the Pashtun tribe. The Taliban experienced its peak in 1996-2001. In fact, in September 1996, the Taliban succeeded in overthrowing Najibullah, the last communist leader in Afghanistan. After that, the Taliban managed to take over Kabul in just two years. They also took over ninety percent of Afghanistan. (Andini et al., 2024) The Taliban also managed to completely take over the Afghan government and create a de facto state, namely Da Afghanistan Islami Amarat. The Taliban managed to change the identity of the Afghan state into a state that could protect the mujahideen.

Before the Taliban, women received legal protection and were given rights in the state and society. This is evidenced by the Afghan constitution granting women the right to vote in the early 1960s. The government began to develop and provide tolerance and openness to women. The contribution made by women is greatly needed to bring Afghanistan to a democratic government. It can be seen that in the year women were 15% of the entire Afghan legislature. And it can be estimated that in the 1990s 70% of Afghan teachers were women, 40% of Afghan doctors in Kabul were women and 50% of government workers and students were women. It can be said that before the Taliban regime, women's rights and representation in government had been fulfilled and guaranteed by the government. But this disappeared after the emergence of the Taliban regime.

With the Taliban in power, many rules emerged that further oppressed women. Since 1998 girls over the age of eight have been forbidden to go to school. They are educated at home, though sometimes with difficulty. The Taliban have banned women from studying at Kabul University. In urban areas, the Taliban ruthlessly enforce a dress code that requires women to be covered under the burqa - a large, cloak-like outer garment that covers them from head to toe. An Anglo-Afghan writer explained that the burqa is so thick that the wearer finds it difficult to breathe; the burqa gives such a limited view that there is only a small opening that it is really difficult for women to cross the street safely. (*The Taliban's War Against Women*, 2001)

The United States with its allies in 2001 deployed military forces to Afghanistan, this was not without reason, because the United States wanted to end the Taliban government and also wanted to capture Osama bin Laden. This was motivated by the Al-Qaeda group attack that occurred in the United States on September 11, 2001. The terrorists hijacked four commercial airplanes, and three of them were used to attack important points in the United States. Among them; World Trade Center (Twin Towers), Pentagon, Shanksville, Pennsylvania approximately 3,000 civilians died in the attack,

including the passengers on the plane, building occupants, rescue workers, and government officials. This tragedy changed world history, altering global and domestic security policies. (Bergen, 2024)

The Taliban, which was led by Mullah Omar at that time, who did not want to hand over Osama bin Laden to the United States government, finally on October 7, 2001, carried out a military operation called "Operation Enduring Freedom" which then succeeded in ending the Taliban leadership in Afghanistan in December 2001. The International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) was formed as a result of the Bonn Agreement, which was the result of the Bonn conference which determined to create a temporary government because there was a vacancy in the government after the end of the Taliban government. Ended with the Loya Jirga which is a Loya Jirga is a Pashtun tribal gathering that aims to determine a new head of state with certain conditions. Through this Loya Jirga, Hamid Karzai was elected president in the year with 1295 votes out of 1500 delegates, and officially led the country in July 2002.(Salsabila, nd)At this time with the support of the international community Afghanistan managed to improve the practice of oppression that had been felt by women. But it was again destroyed by the new Taliban regime.

The United States felt that the conflict between Afghanistan and the Taliban was getting more and more protracted in 2018 then the United States held talks with the Taliban, from these talks and also through a long process then in 2020 resulted in the Doha Agreement. Unfortunately the meeting was not attended by the President or Prime Minister of Afghanistan, namely Ashraf Ghani and Abdullah Abdullah, this happened because the Taliban firmly refused to hold talks with the Afghan government team. The existence of this meeting can be said that the Taliban has been considered a group that has an important role in the implementation of world peace, no longer considered a terrorist group by the United States. The Doha Agreement contains an agreement between the United States and the Taliban, namely the United States must commit to withdrawing military forces in Afghanistan then the Taliban must also commit not to attack United States troops and also groups such as Al-Qaeda should not operate.After 135 days of the signing of the agreement, the United States showed its commitment, as evidenced by the closure of 5 US military bases in Afghanistan. Then the United States and its allies in August 2021 withdrew their military troops. With the withdrawal of military troops from America who had protected the people of Afghanistan from the Taliban for 2 decades. On September 15, 2021, just a few weeks after the withdrawal of US troops in Afghanistan, the Taliban successfully recaptured the capital Kabul and most of Afghanistan. The Taliban now have a new face, having agreed to implement changes under their leadership to create a more democratic and moderate Afghanistan.

As a country with a high level of corruption, it has given rise to a sense of distrust among the people towards the government. This distrust was then exploited by the Taliban regime. They also approached the tribal elders in Afghanistan, because the connections of these tribal elders are very broad and can influence their tribal groups as

well. The new Taliban regime has promised to pay attention to women's rights and press freedom, and to avoid hostility with foreign powers. The Taliban's efforts to create a conservative impression are their strategy in order to gain local and international recognition aimed at maintaining their legitimacy in Afghanistan. In this context, the safety of women in Afghanistan is one of the most pressing and relevant issues to discuss. Security cannot be understood in terms of physical conditions alone, but includes social and political aspects. Threats to women's basic rights in Afghanistan are a serious setback to human rights, especially women's freedom to live freely and participate in public life.(Andini et al., 2024)

This study uses the human security theory developed by Jacqui True to analyze how the new Taliban regime is very dangerous for the welfare of the Afghan people, especially women. It emphasizes how important it is to be able to understand security from an individual perspective, not just from a national or military perspective. In this regard, Jacqui True integrates gender analysis to show how anxiety varies depending on gender identity and how social and economic structures strongly influence individuals' experiences of security and well-being. She emphasizes the importance of incorporating a gender perspective in conflict analysis as well as in peace efforts. Jacqui True argues that gender equality is not always about the number of women involved, but also about how society and government institutions can change to create sustainable peace.(Firman et al., 2023)

Human security is security that can affect the life and well-being of individuals, protecting individuals from various threats. This includes physical, economic, social and environmental aspects. Jacqui True argues that security should be seen as a condition that allows individuals to live safely and prosperously. Jacqui True in this theory follows a holistic approach, where security is seen not only based on military or political aspects but also from social and economic aspects. She emphasizes that threats to human security can arise from various sources, including poverty, social injustice, and gender-based violence. One of Jacqui True's most important contributions is the concept of Gendered Insecurity, which shows that anxiety is often experienced differently based on gender identity. Women are at greater risk of experiencing violence in situations of conflict and instability.(True, 2017)

Jacqui True's research shows that in order to comprehensively understand human security, it is important to consider how gender can influence individuals' experiences of insecurity. The aim of this research is to introduce the main problems faced by Afghan women after the Taliban returned to power. Showing the differences in women's protection from the first Taliban regime, the Taliban's fall and the Taliban's return. Focuses on threats to women's physical, social and political security. Identify how post-Taliban resurgence policies impact women's rights and safety using Jacqui True's human security theory.

METHOD

This study uses a descriptive-qualitative approach to explore the impact of Taliban policies on Afghan women's rights and safety. This approach was chosen as it aims to detail the experiences of women living under the Taliban's repressive policies, particularly in terms of education, freedom of movement, physical violence and political rights. A descriptive qualitative approach is well suited to understanding the social, political and cultural context that shapes women's experiences in Afghanistan after the return of the Taliban. This research focuses on analyzing the policies and regulations implemented by the Taliban and their impact on women's lives from the perspective of gendered insecurity introduced by Jackie True.

The data sources of this research use secondary data and primary data as follows; international reports from organizations such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and UN Women documenting the situation of women in Afghanistan after the takeover of power from the Taliban, official documents such as laws and regulations from the Taliban. Official documents such as Afghan laws, including the Law on Combating Violence Against Women (EVAW), and the 2004 Constitution of Afghanistan, which includes provisions that protect women's rights from returning to the Taliban regime; academic journals related to gender studies, women's security, and Taliban politics; and direct interviews with one of the interviewees from Afghanistan who provided up-to-date information on Taliban policies and their impact on Afghan women. The data collection process, namely secondary data, was collected through literature searches, both in the form of reports, magazines, and news articles published after the return of the Taliban in 2021. The researcher identified relevant sources based on the main issues facing Afghan women.

The data collected was analyzed using the Thematic Analysis method. The analysis process included several stages. First, initial coding: the data was categorized into relevant information regarding women's rights, Taliban policies, and forms of oppression against women. Second, theme identification: after coding, the main themes related to education, freedom of movement, physical violence, and political rights were identified. Then the third was the formation of main themes: these themes were then analyzed using the gendered insecurity framework. This framework highlights the different aspects of physical, social, economic, social and social insecurity that women face.

RESULT

During the reign of the first regime, the Taliban was famous for its policies that severely oppressed humanity, especially women. Afghan women were banned from attending school, working, and engaging in public life during their reign. During this time, the Taliban regime, of course, established Islamic sharia which was later used as

the sole law in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime's laws were essentially based on a very conservative and extreme interpretation of Islamic law, particularly derived from the Hanafi Sunni ideology. This led to the prohibition of women from working, getting an education, and moving around in public without a mahram. The Taliban have imposed strict restrictions since taking over Kabul in 1996. These rules are not only political, but also enshrined in local laws and enforced by the Ministry of Amar Ma'ruf Nahi Munkar (Ministry of Virtue Enforcement and Crime Prevention).

Based on Mullah Omar's orders at the time, there are several rules, especially for women. First, women must cover their faces to their feet. This is because it is considered a temptation (defamation) that can cause social unrest, and it is forbidden to show your face in public. Second women are not allowed to go to school, work outside the home, or even leave the house without a male guardian/mahram. third there is a ban on entertainment such as music and television, a ban on non-Islamic holidays Women are prohibited from washing in the river. Fourth if they were caught, they would be placed under the care of a male guardian and face severe punishment. Fifth music and dancing are prohibited at weddings. Sixth violations of this law can result in the offender receiving corporal punishment. These punishments are carried out in public, such as flogging, imprisonment, and even the death penalty. (Diva Safitri, 2012)

The Taliban closed several girls' schools, with Afghan girls only allowed to attend school until the age of 10. This is because their interpretation of Islamic law makes education incompatible with women's role in society. Apart from being banned from school, women are also prohibited from working in all sectors, but there are exceptions in certain situations such as in the health sector, but it is still done with strict restrictions. Women must wear a full burqa in public and are not allowed to leave their homes without a mahram.(Salsabila, n.d.)

Collapse Of The First Taliban Regime

The end of the first Taliban government brought fresh air to the people of Afghanistan so that the government could reduce the percentage of systematic gender-based violence, especially against women. The Afghan government with the support of the international community and also the military intervention carried out by the United States and allies, women in Afghanistan can feel the rise of their rights that have been oppressed. They have easy access to everything from education and employment to their participation in the running of the Afghan government. Although Afghanistan has made great progress with the empowerment of women and the recognition of women's rights. The government's efforts to make changes can be clearly seen with Hamid Karzai signing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are goals set by the United Nations (UN) in 2000 that address development goals. There are eight main goals of the global Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), some of which aim to improve the welfare of women. (*Launch of the UN Sustainable Development Goals*, n.d.)

Afghanistan also implements CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women), an international-based convention established by the United Nations (UN) in 1979 that is used to eradicate discrimination experienced by women. CEDAW aims to ensure that women get the same rights as men such as civil, political, economic and social rights. In 2003 in an effort to overcome discrimination against Afghan women. It then obliged the Afghan government to protect and provide women's rights equal to international standards.

Hamid Karzai also signed and ratified the 2004 constitution in January 2004, which contained 162 articles. The 2004 constitution was a turning point in the development of Afghan political and social structures. This constitution became the foundation for all Afghan legal and political systems after the collapse of the Taliban regime. The constitution recognized Islamic sharia as the basic law but also incorporated democratic values, human rights and the protection of women's right to education, employment and participation in politics. The recognition of the basic rights of Afghan women is stated in several articles, namely:

- Article 22

This article emphasizes that all Afghans, whether male or female, have the same rights and obligations before the law. This is certainly an important aspect for women's welfare. Because during the reign of the first Taliban regime women were discriminated against. They were not allowed to participate in any public aspects, including getting basic education or working outside the home. But with the passage of this article, it means that the constitution explicitly recognizes that women are in the same position as men in terms of civil rights. When the Taliban regime ruled Afghanistan this was almost impossible to achieve.

- Article 24

One of the main components of human rights is freedom. All individuals have the right to these freedoms, but they are not absolute and must be considered alongside the freedoms of others and the public interest. This article obliges the government of Afghanistan to regulate the limitation of such freedoms through legislation to prevent conflicts between the rights of individuals and the rights of society at large. In essence, freedom and human dignity are things that cannot be underestimated or violated. The state has a duty to protect and respect these freedoms and must ensure that all Afghans enjoy their rights fairly and equally. The state also has the responsibility to ensure that human dignity is maintained without jeopardizing or infringing on individual freedoms.

- Article 43

All Afghans have the right to education, which is officially recognized by the state. Article 43 requires the Government of Afghanistan to provide free education up to university level in state educational institutions. Because it can be seen that previously girls in Afghanistan only received education until they were 10 years old. The

government must also provide more equitable access to education throughout Afghanistan. The Afghan government has the responsibility to develop and implement policies that support educational development. Such policies should include the provision of compulsory secondary education, which should be available throughout Afghanistan.

- Article 44

This article further strengthens the protection of the rights of Afghan women, especially in the aspect of education. Article 44 states that the Afghan government has the responsibility to improve women's education which was previously limited. Especially in rural areas, because women living in rural areas face more obstacles when they want to access education, this happens because of cultural, social, and economic factors. In this article, the government is indirectly required to come up with creative ideas to create access to proper education for women in hard-to-reach areas, and can promote local language education in areas that use certain native languages, so that education not only covers the formal curriculum but also contributes to the preservation of local culture. With this article, the gender gap in education can be reduced over time.

- Article 48

Employment is a basic right for all Afghans. Everyone has the freedom to choose the job they want and the job that suits their abilities and skills, subject to the limitations set by the applicable laws and regulations. The state has an obligation to regulate various aspects of employment, such as working hours, holidays, and the rights that workers should receive and it is the company's obligation to provide this. In this case, the government has an obligation to develop fair and transparent regulations regarding working conditions, guarantee the welfare of workers, and balance workers' rights with the interests of the national economy. The state should enact labor laws to ensure that everyone can work in a workplace that is supportive, safe, and in accordance with human rights.

- Article 83

Article 83 regulates the mechanism for electing members of Parliament through direct voting, secret ballot, and general voting. Parliament is the representative of the people and is elected by the people under a system that guarantees the democratic right of every individual in Afghanistan to vote and be elected. However, one of the key elements of this article is that the Afghan government in its political process ensures the representation of women. The law requires that at least two women in each district must be elected to the House of Representatives in each constituency, with the number of seats determined based on population. The affirmative action policy aims to address the gender gap in the legislature, which is often characterized by male dominance. The introduction of women's quotas in each region demonstrates the Afghan government's efforts and commitment to increasing women's participation in political decision-making processes at the national level. This regulation not only allows women to passively

participate in elections, but also guarantees them a seat in parliament and amplifies their voice and interests in the legislative process.

- Article 84

Meanwhile, Article 84 regulates the process of selecting and appointing members of the council of elders, which is a representative body that has a complementary function to the House of Representatives. In this article, it says that members of the council of elders are elected from provincial and district councils for various terms of office. This article gives the president the authority to appoint one-third of the members of the council of elders. In these appointments, the president must appoint at least 50 percent women. This means that women not only have the opportunity to participate in the election process of the Council of Elders, but also have a clear guarantee of representation through appointments made by the president for women's representation. The appointment of a large number of women to the Council of Elders proves the importance of women's participation in political decision-making processes at various levels of government. It also shows that the Afghan government has viewed women's representation not only as a symbol of equality, but also as a key element in achieving social justice and inclusive politics. The Afghan state strengthens the role of women as leaders and decision-makers in society by giving them access to influential positions in key legislative bodies. (https://www.constituteproject.org/Constitution/Afghanistan_2004, n.d.)

These articles reflect the efforts of the new Afghan government after the collapse of the Taliban regime to fulfill human rights obligations, particularly in the protection of basic rights such as personal freedom, access to education, employment and women's representation in politics. Therefore, through the elaboration of these articles, it can be seen that each article that discusses individual rights as well as state obligations contained in the Constitution reflects a great responsibility to protect the dignity and welfare of the Afghan people as a whole. The implementation of these rights depends on the commitment of the Afghan government to remain consistent with internationally recognized human rights standards.

The improvement of women's well-being has been further strengthened by the military involvement of the United States. Efforts to improve the oppression experienced by Afghan women were seen with the promulgation of the Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) law in 2009. (Hakimi, 2020) The Elimination of Violence Against Women EVAW law was introduced in 2009 as one of the largest initiatives in the country to combat gender-based violence and protect women from various forms of violence such as domestic violence, forced marriage, and sexual harassment passed in Afghanistan EVAW aims to protect Afghan women from violence in the home, community, and workplace, and to ensure they have access to fair justice. The state must be able to draft and enforce laws that guarantee the rights of citizens, especially women, to be respected and properly implemented. This principle is in line with the social

contract theory which states that citizens can relinquish some of their natural rights to the state, and in return, the state guarantees the protection of their human rights.(Salsabila, n.d.)

Taliban's new regime

Taliban with a new face is trying to improve its name by saying that they are open-minded with technology and the outside world. At first, the Taliban strictly prohibited the use of technology, but now some Taliban people make videos and become photographers. The Taliban also said that they would protect human rights and the rights of women. Women are said to be able to work and study without any restrictions. But all of that is just hogwash. Because in fact the Taliban group also abolished the Afghan Election Committee in August 2021, stripping the country of democratic freedoms through elections to elect the president. These promises are only used by the Taliban to gain support from outsiders and Afghans themselves through tribal chiefs. (Salsabila, n.d.)

Education Restrictions

One of the first actions. Taliban was to close the all-girls secondary school. Despite promises to allow girls to attend school, in practice this policy directly restricted girls' education in Afghanistan. Over the past two decades, women's access to education increased, and many of them successfully completed higher education and pursued professional careers. However, the return of the Taliban undermined these achievements. In her theory of gendered insecurity, Jackie True states that access to education is an important part of women's social and economic security. By denying women access to education, the Taliban effectively created unfavorable conditions for women, increasing their dependence on men and exacerbating gender inequality in society. (Dasadwiastaning, 2023)

Restrictions on Freedom of Movement

The Taliban reissued a regulation that prohibits women from traveling without a maharam (male family member). This limits women's freedom to move independently in public spaces and increases their dependence on men even for everyday needs such as shopping and work. Freedom of movement is a fundamental human right and is critical to women's access to education, employment and public life. However, under the Taliban regime, these restrictions resulted in women being isolated at home and limited their participation in society. These restrictions not only threatened physical freedom, but also exacerbated psychological and social anxiety. Jackie True's gendered insecurity theory emphasizes that this violence is not just physical violence, but is hidden in social structures that oppress women.

Physical and Social Violence

Physical violence against women also increased again after the Taliban took power in Afghanistan. Reports of women being beaten for violating dress codes or

traveling in public without maharam created a climate of fear among women. The Taliban enforced laws, often openly and violently, as a form of intimidation against women who attempted to break the rules. According to Jackie True, this type of physical violence is particularly troubling because women are not only threatened by individual violence but also violence institutionalized by the state. It increases social control over women's bodies and reduces their ability to live free from fear.

Ignoring the Women's Protection Law

Until recently, Afghanistan had passed important laws such as the 2009 Elimination of Violence Against Women (EVAW) Law, which protected women from gender-based violence and provided access to justice. However, this law was repealed after the Taliban took power. The Taliban rejected laws that protected women's rights and replaced them with regulations that further exacerbated women's insecurity. Women's lack of access to justice under the Taliban regime exacerbated the structural violence institutionalized by the state. Jackie True points out that women's inability to seek justice in situations of violence is a tangible form of gender insecurity, where the state does not provide equal legal protection to women.

DISCUSSION

An interview I conducted with Afghan native Qurbani Ali Naqi confirmed the reality of oppression in Afghanistan under Taliban rule, including violations of women's rights and injustices. His statement said the Taliban not only oppressed women by denying them access to education and employment, but also implemented discriminatory policies that disadvantaged minority groups socially and economically. This oppression has a significant impact on the social welfare and stability of Afghan society.

Oppression Of Women

One of the key points of the interview was the severe restrictions on women, especially in access to education and employment. Ali Naqi said Afghan women could not go to school or work, and the Taliban crackdown caused great fear among women, including Ali's cousin, who feared for the future of her education. Women who broke Taliban rules, such as working outside the home or traveling without a mahram, risked brutal physical punishment, including being beaten with electric cables. These policies exacerbate the gender insecurity described by Jackie True, where women face multiple threats to their safety, including not only physical but also social and economic threats. The loss of rights to education and employment has made women completely dependent on men, eliminating their opportunities for economic independence and exacerbating gender inequality in Afghanistan. This systematic oppression not only destroys women's rights, but also the social and economic potential of the country's young women.

Violence Against Society

As Ali Naqi said, the Taliban's oppression is not only directed at women but also men. He recounted how a man was forced by Taliban guards to cut his hair immediately because his appearance did not meet Taliban rules. This shows that the Taliban regime restricts the personal freedom of women and men and controls their daily lives through the threat of physical violence. The Taliban implemented a strict surveillance system that kept Afghans under constant threat of physical violence if they broke the rules, even though the rules were often arbitrary.

Discrimination Against Non-Pashtun Groups

The Taliban also discriminated against non-Pashtun ethnic groups, including Hazaras, Tajiks and Uzbeks. Ali Naqi explained that ethnic groups other than Pashtuns are subject to higher taxes than Pashtuns. This indicates systematic economic and social discrimination by the Taliban. This discriminatory treatment exacerbates ethnic tensions in Afghanistan and exacerbates long-standing injustices. This inequality of control not only adds to the economic burden on minority groups, but also weakens the social cohesion of the Afghan state. The gender insecurity faced by Afghan women intersects with the social and economic insecurity faced by non-Pashtun ethnic groups. The discriminatory system implemented by the Taliban makes these groups even more vulnerable to exploitation and oppression.

Hope For Change And International Role

Ali Naqi also expressed his hope that the Taliban can evolve by withdrawing from Afghanistan, or at least that the Taliban can provide equal rights to women and other non-Pashtun ethnic groups. This hope shows that the Afghan people recognize the need for structural change to form a more inclusive government. She also suggested that the international community should be more involved in helping Afghanistan restore women's rights and create a government that is fair to all. The role of the international community is critical in pressuring the Taliban to respect human rights, particularly the rights of women and minority groups. However, the success of these efforts will depend on the strong commitment of the international community and influential countries to uphold human rights standards in Afghanistan. The Taliban's gender and ethnic discrimination causes physical, social and economic insecurity for women and ethnic minorities in Afghanistan. Ali Naqi's statement shows how the Taliban's policies restrict women's freedom, impoverish minority groups, and keep people in constant fear. Urgent international efforts are needed to restore lost rights and promote more inclusive governance in Afghanistan.

CONCLUSION

The result of this argument is that the first Taliban regime in Afghanistan imposed regulations that oppressed human rights, particularly the rights of women. They faced various restrictions, including being prohibited from attending school, working, and even traveling without a male mahram. Women in Afghanistan were forced to follow strict rules that violated basic rights such as the right to education and freedom of movement. After the fall of the Taliban, significant progress has been made in women's empowerment in Afghanistan, including the recognition of basic rights under the 2004 Constitution and the implementation of international treaties such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Afghan government is committed to promoting women's rights in education, labor, and politics, which is reflected in several constitutional provisions. However, the return of the Taliban in 2021 undermined progress, including the repeal of women's protection laws such as EVAW. While the Taliban initially claimed to have changed, the reality is that they continue to restrict women's rights, particularly in relation to education and freedom of movement, and perpetrate physical and structural violence against women.

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