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AFGHANISTAN SECURITY & HUMANITARIAN NIGHTMARE A REAL THREAT TO HOMELAND SECURITY

President Biden's disastrous and politically-motivated decision to haphazardly withdraw American forces from Afghanistan has created a security and humanitarian crisis as the entire country has fallen under control of the Taliban. This breeding ground for terrorism will pose real and pressing threats to our homeland.

BOTTOM LINE: We are witnessing the horror of President Biden's tragic decision to ignore the advice of virtually all national security experts and create a terrorist breeding ground simply to fulfill a campaign promise.

Make no mistake - this is not simply a foreign policy issue with regional implications. Rather, this preventable humanitarian and security crisis will pose real threats to American homeland security. This threat is only amplified by a porous border in the United States.

CNN

Top US general says terror groups could reconstitute in Afghanistan sooner than expected

The threat here is not hypothetical. Homegrown violent extremism inspired by foreign terrorist groups like ISIS and al Qaeda reared its ugly head with alarming regularity the past decade - including the Boston Marathon Bombing, Fort Hood shooting, truck driving attack in Manhattan, San Bernardino shooting, and Pulse Night Club shooting.

The vacuum left from the United States' retreat will only further embolden nation states like China, Russia, and Iran. They already have, and will continue to, fill the American void and legitimize the Taliban, denigrate the perception of the United States, and use misinformation and propaganda to sow doubt with other allies about whether the United States can be a trusted security partner going forward. Emboldened nation states that don't share our values are dangerous for our homeland security posture.

IMMEDIATE ACTIONS WE MUST TAKE TO PROTECT THE HOMELAND:

- 1. Demand answers on the identities and threat profiles of the thousands of individuals released from detention facilities, including Bagram and the Pul e Charkhi Prison.** We know that at least 250 prisoners were previously transferred from Guantanamo to Pul e Charkhi. The prison had an entire Taliban wing with a population around 3,000 people.

- 2. Force executive branch accountability.** Did our intelligence community completely miscalculate the Taliban's capabilities and resurgence or did the White House simply ignore the facts? Why was there no military withdrawal strategy or a plan for getting thousands of Americans and Afghan allies out of the country? Why did the Afghan security forces struggle against the Taliban resurgence without American support? Why did the Biden Administration refuse to communicate with Congress, our NATO allies, and most importantly, the American people, about what was really going on?
- 3. Provide Americans with transparency on known or suspected terrorists crossing our border.** These numbers must be made public as they previously were. The current border crisis only amplifies the threat from new terrorist havens in Afghanistan. Outgoing Border Chief Rodney Scott recently said they are seeing suspected terrorists crossing the border "at a level we have never seen before."

The 20th anniversary of 9/11 was supposed to be about honoring the mantra of 'Never Forget' to ensure a failure of imagination never again threatens our homeland and way of life. Instead, this anniversary will be marked with the Administration having abandoned those lessons seemingly overnight.