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Distinguished friends,

On behalf of the Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan (RAWA), the oldest political/social organization of Afghan women, advocating for peace, freedom, democracy and women's rights in Afghanistan, I would like to express heartfelt thanks for giving me the opportunity to talk about the situation of my country which has been the victim of terrorism.

You might expect me to talk about Afghanistan as a free, peaceful and liberated country but painfully and unfortunately the reality is not what you might be aware of through media.

Five years ago, the US and allies attacked Afghanistan in the name of bringing "Human Rights", "Democracy", and "Freedom" to the war-torn country. The Taliban regime fell and Hamid Karzai's puppet regime, which included the world-known Northern Alliance criminals, took over in the name of a fake democracy. However, today, the deceitful policies of Mr. Karzai and his Western guardians have brought Afghanistan to a very critical situation in which disaster is a ticking time bomb that can explode any minute. Treason and mockery have efficiently been used under the name of "democracy" and "freedom" in these five years, and the human rights situation in Afghanistan is a product of the painful deception of the warlord led government.

No doubt the war on terror toppled the misogynist and barbaric regime of Taliban. But it did not remove Islamic fundamentalism, which is the root cause of misery for all Afghan people; it just replaced one fundamentalist regime with another.

Now we have a parliament full of warlords. The most disgusting faces include Jehadi criminal leaders, former Taliban commanders and some former puppets of the USSR. Those who ought to be prosecuted before anyone else for their crimes against our nation are going to legislate to the Afghan people!

The rule of private armies of the warlords in different parts of the country and infighting between different groups of them has resulted in the loss of innocent lives.

-Opium poppy cultivation has expanded and the government has stopped poor and hungry farmers from growing opium but let the powerful warlords keep dealing in the dirty drug trade.

-Afghanistan has received 12 billion dollars in aid while another 10 billion more were pledged at the London conference. But Even a fraction of this aid has not been used for the benefit and welfare of our people. Government corruption and fraud directs billions of dollars into the pockets of high-ranking officials.

-The security situation in Afghanistan is critical. Women and girls have been particularly affected by the insecurity. Armed men from the "Northern Alliance" are involved in raping, kidnapping, killing, looting and other form of violation.

-Despite the presence of thousands of peace keeping troops in Kabul and other cities, NGOs and UN foreign workers are kidnapped in broad daylight, and innocent people are killed in suicide bomb missions.

-According to the United Nations, Afghanistan is a land that is facing health disasters even worse than the lands struck by the 2004 Tsunami. 700 children and 50-70 women die each day due to the lack of health services. Afghanistan is a land where hundreds of people die because of a lack of food and bitter winters.

-Contrary to the claims there are no signs of freedom of speech. According to the Afghan Independent Journalists Association last year alone, there were more than 40 cases of attack on journalists including murder and several cases of abduction, assault and imprisonment. Recently the Afghan Journalist's Union also complained of the degree of censorship imposed on them by the government.

The disgraceful defeat and embarrassing situation in the war in Iraq left no option for the US except to illustrate Afghanistan as a success, whether it results in pain and suffering for the Afghan people or not. The disagreement among NATO members and the stand of some member states against the will of the US made the situation harder for the White House. Therefore, America tries to keep a fragile, temporary stability in Afghanistan in order to promote a sense of accomplishment in producing a "democratic" Afghanistan all around the world, a "B52 democracy" in expance to treason against the majority of Afghan people.

Dear friends,

In this short time it is not possible to cover all the details of the plight of my crying nation but I hope you have realized that my devastated country is not free at all. We strongly believe that conditions will not change positively and Afghanistan will not be liberated from the dirt of terrorism and fundamentalism as long as the warlords are not disarmed and removed from the political scene and brought to trial for their war crimes.

We had a critical approach to the US Afghan policies in the past 23 years especially the recent decade mainly because it was nobody else but the US government which created, armed and supported the criminal fundamentalist groups in Afghanistan as well as Arab mercenaries which finally led to the terrible tragedy of the 9/11.

It is an open secret today that all of these dirty Islamic terrorist bands from the NA to the Taliban and Al-Qaeda are products of the US government who has made life a torture to Afghan people and threats even the US people.

Now, the NA, the most treacherous rapists and murderers, are ruling the country backed by the US! They are worse than the Taliban and Arab terrorists. Today all of the key leaders of the Northern Alliance are in power and have key positions in the government.

Even the Human Rights Watch wrote on Sep.27, 2006: **"The Taliban and other anti-government groups in Afghanistan have gained public support due to the Afghan government's failure to provide essential security and development, and have used the presence of warlords in the government to discredit President Karzai's administration and its international backers."**

RAWA has been advocating for a democratic and secular government as the only cure to the wounds of Afghan people and particularly women. As women living in this very un-liberated country, it is clear that outspoken RAWA members who advocate against warlords and fundamentalism remain at high risk in a country still controlled by armed warlords and fundamentalists. After 27 years of underground resistance, RAWA continues its struggle to provide for the needs of the Afghan people, to empower women, and to work for democracy, peace, freedom and human rights for all.

RAWA has concentrated on raising awareness and organizing masses of women in legal and social sectors, and increasing education and literacy among them. We strongly believe that education is power and Afghan women cannot fight for their rights as long as they are not equipped with this sharpest weapon against ignorance and fundamentalism. With the weapons of education, Afghan women's rights could not be ignored by any government in the country.

RAWA has asked time and again that those who are the real friends of our people should support democratic forces and not our bloody enemies. They should put pressure to remove fundamentalists from power and disarm criminal commanders and bring the criminals to justice through an international court.

If the enemies of democracy and peace can be united why shouldn't the ant-fundamentalist and freedom-loving people all over the world get united? Please raise your loud and firm voice with us together against injustice and to defend democracy and freedom.