

Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON THE UNITED STATES
STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Washington, D.C.

ALDERSON COURT REPORTING
1111 14TH STREET NW
SUITE 1050
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005
(202) 289-2260
www.aldersonreporting.com

1 rural areas, even -- there's a lot of Taliban ideology
2 sympathizers. They don't want to use violence anymore,
3 necessarily, but they -- and some of them are women -- so,
4 I don't think we can paint the whole country with the same
5 brush. But, the peace agreement certainly has to secure
6 the gains.

7 Senator Shaheen: Thank you.

8 I'm almost out of time, but I did want to raise one
9 other issue, because last week a Federal judge ordered the
10 Trump administration to end visa processing delays for
11 hundreds of Afghan and Iraqi nationals who have worked for
12 U.S. forces. And I have been very concerned that we have
13 many people who are in danger in Afghanistan who have
14 helped us, and yet we're not doing enough to ensure that
15 they are protected. So, I wonder if anyone on the panel
16 has worked with any of those Afghans who are trying to get
17 here, and if you can talk about the importance of ensuring
18 that we keep our promises that we made to those individuals
19 who helped us.

20 I guess, Dr. Jackson, you're nodding, I will ask you
21 to respond to that.

22 Dr. Jackson: Two observations. One, I think if we
23 look to past involvements, one of the greatest stains on
24 American honor at the end of the Vietnam War was our
25 inability or unwillingness to take care of the people who

1 had worked for us. They were the billpayers for our
2 withdrawal in Southeast Asia.

3 I think we can do better. I think we can take care of
4 people who have exposed themselves to enormous personal and
5 familial risk. There's one individual who has worked at
6 the ISAF headquarters for every commander for the last 12
7 years, Abdullah --

8 General Field: [Inaudible.]

9 Dr. Jackson: -- yeah -- has worked for every one of
10 these commanders. And to show the kind of risk that he's
11 encountered, he was one of the casualties in the attack
12 that almost injured General Miller last year. He was
13 severely wounded. He went for medical treatment and
14 returned to his job. In that same year, quite tragically,
15 his sister was killed in a helicopter accident in
16 Afghanistan -- again, trying to do the right thing in this
17 country. There are so many of these Afghans who have been
18 stalwart allies. They deserve everything we can do to take
19 care and protect them.

20 Senator Shaheen: Thank you all very much.

21 Mr. Chairman, I hope that you and Senator Reed and
22 this committee will weigh in with the administration on the
23 importance of ensuring that these SIV applicants are given
24 their due and we ensure that that process moves along.

25 Chairman Inhofe: Thank you.