Stenographic Transcript
Before the

COMMITTEE ON
ARMED SERVICES

UNITED STATES SENATE

HEARING TO RECEIVE TESTIMONY ON THE UNITED STATES STRATEGY IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Senator Shaheen: Thank you.

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

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

Dr. Jackson: Two observations. One, I think if we look to past involvements, one of the greatest stains on American honor at the end of the Vietnam War was our inability or unwillingness to take care of the people who
had worked for us. They were the billpayers for our
withdrawal in Southeast Asia.

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

General Field: [Inaudible.]

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

Senator Shaheen: Thank you all very much.

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

Chairman Inhofe: Thank you.