

Historical Security Council

Addressing the 9/11 terrorist attacks and subsequent invasion of Afghanistan



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Introduction

On September 11th 2001 the United States of America (USA) was devastated by a coordinated terrorist attack, which targeted well-known important infrastructure with the intend of mass-destruction and death. Four commercial aircrafts were hijacked of which two crashed into the north and south towers of the World Trade Center in New York. Another plane crashed into the Pentagon whilst the fourth and last plane crashed into a field. Overall the casualties amounted to around 3000 civilians and military personnel.

President George W. Bush was informed by the director of the CIA that the Counterterrorism Center had found Osama Bin Laden and al-Qaeda to be connected and behind the attack, which would later be given the name 9/11.

Referencing its right to self-defence under the United Nations Charter, the United States declared that a campaign against international terrorism would be launched, targeting both those who harboured and supported terrorists and the terrorists themselves. On September 15, George W. Bush named Osama bin Laden as the prime suspect in the September 11 attacks. While the Taliban expressed condolences for the terrorist attacks, they denied Osama bin Laden's involvement in order to prevent blame and association to the terrorism on the day of 9/11.

The current president of the USA George W. Bush called for the Taliban to hand over Osama Bin Laden. The Taliban refused this request on grounds of lack of solid evidence, demanding for further proof. Subsequently the US and UK launched a joint invasion into Afghanistan. This invasion, labeled 'Operation Enduring Freedom' which is part of the "Global War on Terrorism".



Definition of Key Terms

Six plus two group

A coalition formed after the Afghan Civil War with the purpose of peaceful political dialogue and peaceful settlements. The members are neighbouring countries of Afghanistan: China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. As well as two countries which do not share borders however play a big role in finding peace solutions, the United States and Russia.

CIA

The Central Intelligence Agency is a branch of the United States federal government in charge of gathering intelligence on other countries or foreign groups. The CIA until now has conducted intelligence gathering in order to find the people responsible for the attacks, it has determined Al-Qaeda to be responsible and seeks to obtain it's leader on charges of islamist terrorism.

FBI

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is the main investigative arm of the United States federal government. The bureau is responsible for conducting investigations in cases where federal laws may have been violated. In response to 9/11 the FBI has restructured itself into focus on national security rather than law enforcement. FBI has designated 7000 of the 11000 special agents to the investigation of the twin tower and pentagon bombings.

Global War on Terrorism (GWOT)

Also known as the 'War on Terror'. The GWOT was an American-led global counterterrorism campaign made as a result of 9/11. Led by US president Bush the coalition has gained support from more than 136 countries. More than 130 countries have taken a stance against terrorism worldwide through the financial sanctions and freezing of assets known or suspected to be held by terrorist organizations or networks.



Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)

In response to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) began on October 7, 2001, with American and British bombing strikes against al-Qaeda and Taliban forces in Afghanistan.

General Overview

Pre-invasion

The Taliban

Following the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989 and the fall of the Afghan Communist government in 1992, a protracted civil war raged between various factions of anti-Communist Afghan fighters widely self-recognized and identified as Mujahadeen.

Mullah Mohammed Omar, a Pashtun ethnic group member and Mullah (Islamic religious leader), led the Taliban, a new armed group. The name Taliban translates as "student," and they gained the support of Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida organisation. The Taliban established a reputation for order and military success after attacking and defeating local warlords in 1994.

Since then, the Taliban has fought against numerous militias and warlords, defeating nearly all of them. The Taliban has controlled most of Afghanistan since 1996, and due to the scale of their operations, they are able to provide resources and protection to al-Qaeda.

Throughout the autumn of this year, the Taliban maintained pressure on the Northern Alliance, frequently with the assistance of Osama bin Laden and his Arab forces. Northern Alliance leader Ahmad Shah Massoud was mortally wounded in an assassination attempt carried out by two Arab men posing as journalists on September 9, 2001, just days before 9/11. This attack was carried out by bin Laden's organization as a possible precursor to the September 11th airline hijackings and terrorism in the United States. The Northern Alliance responded to Massoud's assassination with an aerial attack on Kabul on September 11 (the same day as 9/11).



As the US assigns blame for the attacks on bin Laden and al Qaeda, preparations are made to fight to al-Qaeda and the Taliban

9/11

After the incident had occurred, the suspicion of the terrorists had been clear. The USA promptly shut down all flights, however in advance to this the damage had already been done. Four passenger loaded aircraft successfully changed the Nation forever. On the day known as 9/11 (named in accordance to the date of the attack), there were 3000 casualties of which 2200 were civilians.



north and south towers of the world trade center on 9/11

The Central Intelligence Agency of the US had identified Osama bin Laden and al-Qaeda to be responsible for these attacks. However the Taliban would later refuse these claims and request Bush 43rd President of the USA to provide concrete claims and evidence. Under these conditions the Taliban would make negotiations in order to hand over Osama Bin Laden, who the CIA identified as prime suspect. Later FBI Investigations in later November had concluded the same results.

The invasion of Afghanistan

October 7, 2001, America started the campaign against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. So called 'Operation Enduring Freedom' (OEF) was carried out swiftly by President Bush. In cooperation with the British forces the OEF started with a long lasting airstrike. The OEF had a catastrophic impact on Afghanistan and throughout the campaign America has been shelling Taliban controlled regions.

OEF

On the ground, US, British, and other Allied special forces troops collaborated with the Northern Alliance to launch a military offensive against the Taliban. This alliance between the Northern Alliance and the Allies resulted in coordination between Allied air attacks and Northern Alliance ground attacks. These attacks resulted in the fall of Kabul on November 13, 2001, as the Taliban withdrew from the majority of northern Afghanistan.



Major Parties Involved

United Kingdom (UK)

The UK had sent troops to Afghanistan in order to aid and support the US troops in operation enduring freedom. They were involved in mediating hostile actions and have not yet removed their troops from Afghanistan.

Al-Qaeda (al-Qa'ida) (al-Qaida) (Qaedat al-Jihad)

Led by Osama Bin Laden. al-Qaeda also known as al-Qa'ida is a known terrorist organization currently in Afghanistan and in connection with the Taliban. They have been accused by the US of the 9/11 attacks and threatening international peace and security. These accusations have been a result of their actions from the 1990s until now, 2001. In 1993 the first attempt of terrorism on the World Trade Center in New York, a truck loaded with explosives had left several hundred wounded people and 6 casualties. 1998 Osama Bin Laden would declare publicly that it was god's will to harm americans due to muslim aggression.

Taliban

The Taliban have been offering assistance and protection for the islamist terrorist organization Al-Qaeda. Having refused multiple demands from the USA in order to mediate casualties, the Taliban continues to protect Usama Bin Laden who has not yet taken a public appearance in which he takes responsibility for the attacks on september 11th. The Taliban have offered their own perspective and solutions which include more detail and proof of the wrongdoings from the organisation and Osama Bin Laden.

United States of America (USA)

The US is the main leader of the campaign 'Global war against Terrorism'. With the current president George Walker Bush. The USA fell victim to a ruinous hostile attack on national monuments and infrastructure with mass-casualties (September 11th). Using the right to self-defence in the UN charter, they have launched an invasion and airstrike campaign against the suspected perpetrating group, al-Qaeda. Demanding that the Taliban turn him over to the US.



European Union (EU)

The European Union has been funding humanitarian efforts and operations in Afghanistan since 1994. Directly in response to 9/11 the EU member states declared solidarity with the US. Later vowing EU “stands firmly and fully behind the US.”

The northern alliance (United Islamic National Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan)

The northern alliance is an Afghani military organisation. They hold a section of northern Afghanistan and have-currently are battling against the Taliban with US assistance. During the campaign the northern alliance successfully claimed previously Taliban held and controlled regions such as Kabul.

Osama bin laden (Usama bin Laden)

The current founder and leader of al-Qaeda. Known to be an extremist violent person with Islamic ideologies. Since June 7, 1999, Osama bin Laden has been placed on the top 10 most wanted fugitives by the FBI in connection with violent al Qaeda attacks. One of which being the 1998 bombings of US embassies in Kenya’s capital Nairobi, Tanzania and Dar es Salaam.



USAMA BIN LADEN

leader of al-Qaeda Usama (Osama) bin Laden

Timeline of Key Events

Date	Description of event
1988	Al-Qaeda (Qaedat al-Jihad) established by Osama bin Laden
1995-1996	The Taliban become the strongest force in Afghanistan
August 7 th , 1998	US embassies are bombed in East Africa
June 7 th , 1999	Osama bin Laden is placed on ten most wanted fugitive list of the FBI



September 11 th , 2001	Four commercial airliners are hijacked of which two crash into the towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, United States.
September 11 th , 2001	CIA identifies connections to Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden.
September 12 th , 2001	The Security Council condemned the September 11 terrorist attacks unequivocally in Resolution 1368 (2001), describing such acts of international terrorism as a threat to international peace and security. Those who aid, support, or harbour perpetrators, organisers, or sponsors of such acts will be held accountable, according to the Council.
September 25 th , 2001	FBI investigations connect al-Qaeda to the 9/11 series of planned attacks.
September 28 th , 2001	The UN Security Council adopts resolutions 1373 on international peace and security threats
October 7 th , 2001	The USA starts OEF in cooperation with the UK
November 14 th , 2001	The UN Security Council adopts resolutions 1378 on Afghanistan, reaffirming previous resolutions and condemning the Taliban in connection to al-Qaeda.
October 15 th , 2001	After a week of bombings and military campaigns from Britain and the US, the Taliban offers the opportunity to talk about the surrender of Osama bin Ladin under the conditions that the US withhold it's bombing of Afghanistan. This is however strictly denied by current president Bush of the US. 43 rd president of US: "This is non-negotiable."
December 4 th 2001	UNSC Meeting on Afghanistan

UN involvement, Relevant Resolutions, Treaties and Events

- Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, 12 September 2001 (S/RES/1368)
- Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts, 28 September 2001 (S/RES/1373)
- Afghanistan, 14 November 2001 (S/RES/1378)



Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

There have been numerous attempts at reaching an agreement between the Taliban and the US in order to create a solution to the issue. However there have been no solutions that both parties agree and cooperate with until this date.

Possible Solutions

In this conflict the US has constantly requested the Taliban to give them Osama bin Ladin. In the eyes of the Taliban, this is not viable as there is not enough evidence. A solution to the problem could be the implementation of a middle ground, this could be the six plus two group, a foreign country or a neutral entity decided upon by both parties of the agreement. This middle ground would detain the individual until the evidence for crimes have been found and Osama bin Ladin has been found or pledged guilty of crimes against the US on 9/11. This negotiation could lead to a cease fire and potential peace talks and withdrawal of troops from the US within a short period or a few years.

A taskforce with neutral grounds could prosecute the accused individual. This task force could be led by both afghani Taliban and UN individuals in order for the trial to be fair. With agreement to this, the conflict could end within this year or quickly mediating more casualties from both Afghanistan and the US.

Creating a treaty or agreement to restrict military activity and lower hostile attacks. Producing an agreement which would have the intention of recreating the power structure of the Afghanistan government and re-produce an Islamic State of Afghanistan in the process with democratic approval.

During the conflict the Afghan civilians are under immense pressure and vulnerability. Member states could attempt to protect the larger cities with either military efforts and support or long and short term economic assistance.



As the conflict continues, the international humanitarian laws become harder to upkeep and maintain. In order to protect and ensure these laws are upheld a UN chartered humanitarian law protection task force can be created.

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