

MEMO TO INTERESTED PARTIES

From: Ian Sams, Special Assistant to the President and WH Oversight Spokesperson
Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Re: House Republicans Are Playing Politics on Afghanistan Instead of Doing Their Job to Protect Afghan Allies

Today, led by the most extreme MAGA members of their caucus, House Republicans on the Oversight Committee are holding a hearing where they will attack President Biden's decision to end the nation's longest war and bring American troops home from Afghanistan.

You can expect they will continue to falsely claim that the Biden Administration has "[obstructed](#)" oversight – despite the fact that we have provided thousands of pages of documents, analyses, spreadsheets, and written responses to questions, as well as hundreds of briefings to bipartisan Members and staff and public congressional testimony by senior officials, all while consistently providing updates and information to numerous inspectors general.

But let's be very clear: with their politically-motivated attacks, these MAGA House Republicans are hoping to distract from their own failure to even agree upon, much less act on, solutions that are desperately needed *today* to protect the progress the Biden Administration has made to safely evacuate tens of thousands of people from Afghanistan at the end of the war.

When President Biden made the decision to finally bring our troops home and end the 20-year war that cost us countless lives and tens of billions of dollars a year with no end in sight, he also committed to safely evacuating tens of thousands of Americans and to welcoming Afghan allies who worked alongside the U.S. throughout the war, including by surging resources to improve the processing of special visas that had been all but stopped by the Trump Administration.

Instead of supporting these successful efforts to evacuate Americans and give Afghan allies safe harbor, MAGA House Republicans are refusing to acknowledge their own history of opposing efforts to aid Afghan allies and are turning their backs on those who risked their lives alongside American servicemembers for two decades in Afghanistan by opposing and delaying legislation like the Afghan Adjustment Act, revealing that these hearings are nothing more than political stunts solely aimed at attacking the President.

MAGA HOUSE REPUBLICANS' LONG AND ONGOING HISTORY OF OPPOSITION TO ASSISTING AFGHAN ALLIES

House Republicans are refusing to move forward the Afghan Adjustment Act that would protect tens of thousands of Afghan allies, including those who risked their lives while working alongside the United States, from the threat of being deported back to Afghanistan under Taliban rule.

As they hypocritically attack the Biden Administration for how it conducted the historic effort to successfully withdraw tens of thousands of Americans and Afghan allies at the end of the war, MAGA members of the House Oversight Committee, including Chairman James Comer, have continuously shown their disregard for the fate of Afghan allies who are now at risk of being sent back to Afghanistan and into the hands of the Taliban:

1. Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene derided Afghan refugees as “[known terrorists](#).”
2. Rep. Scott Perry said allowing more Afghan refugees into the U.S. could lead to little girls being “[raped and killed in the streets](#).”
3. Rep. Paul Gosar said Afghan refugees “[do not belong in our country](#)” because the U.S. is “not the world’s dumping ground for every third world country.”
4. The [majority](#) of Republican members of House Oversight – including Chairman Comer – voted against [\\$7 billion in funding](#) to assist in the resettlement of Afghan refugees.
5. Multiple MAGA members of the committee including Reps. Biggs, Boebert, Greene, and Perry [voted against the ALLIES Act](#) to expand and speed up efforts to relocate Afghan allies.
6. And to this day, Republicans in Congress have blocked the passage of the Afghan Adjustment Act, drawing fire [from American veterans who fought in Afghanistan and refugee organizations](#).

This is in stark contrast to the Biden Administration’s efforts to restart SIV interviews that had not happened in more than 300 days under the previous administration, surging resources and staff and increasing the pace of SIV arrivals in the U.S. by nearly 8-fold between January and July 2021, and the work that has continued that has allowed the Administration to welcome approximately 100,000 Afghans to the U.S. and help them resettle in communities across our country.

All this progress remains at risk if House Republicans refuse to act on the Afghan Adjustment Act and fail to assist the Administration in improving the SIV program. **If they really care about America’s ongoing commitments on Afghanistan, instead of staging political stunts aimed at attacking President Biden, House Republicans should do their job and take action on these important ongoing priorities.**