



[The United States, Qatar, and Others Engage in a Massive Evacuation Operation of Civilians from Afghanistan](#)

In the aftermath of the Taliban's recent takeover in Afghanistan, the United States, Qatar, and others have helped initiate a massive evacuation operation of civilians. The U.S. and Qatar have been two of the countries at the forefront of the efforts. Of the tens of thousands that have been evacuated by the United States in recent weeks, many have transited through the Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Additionally, senior U.S. military commanders have met with the Taliban in Doha to try and negotiate the safe passage of refugees leaving Afghanistan – further highlighting the key role that Qatar has played in the evacuation process. In total, the United States has secured agreements with around a dozen countries in Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia to allow for the temporary transit of evacuees through those respective nations. Over the preceding month, human rights activists have been dismayed by the Taliban's swift takeover in Afghanistan which has prompted the ongoing largescale exodus.

Qatar has been one of the main actors working to create a path for the Afghan refugees to leave the country. They have set their embassy up in Kabul to process and verify refugees who are then sent to Qatar. The embassy normally holds only slightly more than 500 people, but efforts have been made to process 800 people as the circumstances surrounding helping refugees flee is so urgent and dire. Realistically, some will unfortunately not be able to be evacuated, however several nations including Qatar are stepping up to aid as many as they can. There has been dissent from other countries, especially in the EU, about the possibility of taking on refugees. Some like Belarus have also been accused of using the incoming refugees to their advantage by overwhelming neighbors with new migrants. All told, the refugee crisis in Afghanistan continues to grow amid reports of the Taliban committing atrocities against local citizens.

The U.S. is prioritizing the evacuation of American citizens and Afghan allies from Kabul airport, and they are then screened before being granted access to the United States. Planes have been constantly flying out of the airport as the U.S. faces the quickly approaching withdrawal deadline. Once that arrives on August 31st, they must either be gone or commit more troops to the evacuation efforts. In one of the latest developments, President Biden announced that the United States appears on track to finish them by the deadline. Besides the mere logistical issues of staying past the deadline, two gunmen have already been shot at the Kabul airport, three gates were evacuated because of bomb threats, the airport security continues to grow thinner, and the Taliban have also threatened repercussions if it is not abided by.

With the return of Taliban rule comes the suppression of rights, oppression of women, and door-to-door searches for anyone who worked with foreign governments. This has caused thousands of citizens to attempt to flee the country, creating a major refugee crisis that has not only regional but also worldwide ramifications due to the diverse collection of nations that are opening their doors to provide asylum. For all of the chaos that the Taliban's regaining of control in Afghanistan has induced, it is encouraging to see that several countries have made significant efforts to aid the civilians that have been so detrimentally impacted by the recent course of events.