

Manifesto of the Freedom Front of Afghanistan

Political Narrative and the Struggle Outlook of the
Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF)

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Introduction

The post-2001 political development in Afghanistan, under the comprehensive support of the international community, despite its shortcomings, brought about unprecedented historical opportunities. These opportunities could have marked the beginning of a new chapter in the political and social life, economic development, and cultural prosperity of our homeland, and could have been an endpoint to the enduring crisis, conflict, and the countless sufferings of our people. However, this process was wrecked by irreversible mistakes and the shortsighted approaches of the internal players, the unrealistic calculations and mistrust of international allies in democratic processes and their outcomes for Afghanistan, and most importantly, the insurgency and terrorism of the Taliban and their international terrorist allies.

After the fall of the Republic government, we have entered the most challenging phase in our country's history. The usurping and despotic rule of the Taliban over Afghanistan, due to its violent nature and lack of national and international recognition and legitimacy, has deprived the people of Afghanistan of the possibility of forming a lawful, legitimate, and democratic government. This situation imposes a significant and serious obligation on the current generation of our homeland. This obligation is a persistent and comprehensive national struggle for the liberation of our country from the Taliban's occupation and the establishment of a new order that reflects the will of all the people of Afghanistan.

The Freedom Front of Afghanistan (AFF hereafter), which is at the forefront of resistance and struggle to liberate our homeland from the despotic rule of the Taliban terrorist group, considers the absolute overthrow of this usurping regime inevitable. As a mature political-military movement that believes in the principle of consultation and collective decision-making, the AFF has drafted its manifesto of struggle after extensive consultations with the representatives of various segments of our society, including political, civil, and social activists, and academia. This manifesto reflects the current social and political realities of Afghanistan and outlines the strategic vision of the AFF regarding the principles of our struggle for the national liberation, the post-Taliban political system, and the AFF's principled collaboration with other progressive political forces, both in exile and within the country.



Since the formation of the modern nation-state in Afghanistan in the latter half of the 19th century, our country has experienced violent political upheavals. The ongoing power struggles and external interventions have deprived our people of the opportunity to establish and sustain a legitimate and accountable government. Despite the efforts and sacrifices of freedom seekers and intellectuals over the past one and a half centuries, significant developments in political progress and governmental accountability only occurred during the final decade of the monarchy. However, for various reasons, these developments lacked the advantage of continuity and institutionalization.

Afghanistan is now facing a vacuum of political governance and has become a territory without a legitimate government. The people have lost their sense of ownership over their fate and homeland. Valuable concepts such as national pride, social dignity, human rights, and individual freedoms are systematically and deliberately trampled upon by the illegitimate Taliban regime.

Afghanistan's women and girls, who are at the forefront of human resistance against the Taliban, have been barred from participating in social, political, and economic spheres. The reduction of women's rights and status, based on misogynistic interpretations of religious texts and cultural beliefs, has eliminated the possibility for half of society to attain hope, freedom, and a safe and secure life.

From the perspective of the AFF, the factors contributing to the instability of the past half-century in Afghanistan are numerous and multifaceted. Generally, the following can be identified as the main causes of the crisis and political instability:

1. Lack of political legitimacy
2. Lack of a reasonable foreign policy
3. Unjust distribution of national wealth
4. Excessive and unreasonable concentration of political power in the center
5. Incorrect, rigid, and inflexible definition of nationalism as the foundation of state and national identity
6. Lack of a comprehensive economic system compatible to the necessities of the country
7. Geopolitical challenges and lack of access to seaports
8. Lack of separation of state powers, especially the absence of an independent and just judicial system
9. Ideological extremism (left and right) and pervasive dogmatism resulting from it
10. Lack of a precise and realistic definition of national interests and unity

According to the AFF, the past and present actions of the Taliban group are a complete example of barbarism, lawlessness, violence, and organized gender, religious, and ethnic discrimination and prejudice. As long as Afghanistan remains



under the Taliban's rule, it will continue to be an isolated, impoverished, and insecure land for its inhabitants, a haven for radical extremists, and a ground for mafia and intelligence rivalries in the region.

Since from the day the country handed over to the Taliban, the AFF, by realizing its historical responsibility, faith-based duty, and national liability, has initiated a persistent and conscious struggle to rescue the country from the illegitimate, usurping, and despotic rule of this terrorist group and to restore sovereignty to the people as its rightful owners.

The AFF Manifesto, which is the political narrative and the struggle standpoint of the Front, is dedicated to the martyrs of the freedom path and revolves around the pillars of "resistance" against discrimination, extremism, and terrorism, "struggle" for freedom and equality, and "faith" in the "Freedom" of the homeland from the dark and usurping rule of the Taliban. The acronym formed from the initial letters of these valued words in Persian is "AMIR", to honor the memory of the martyrs of the 2023 spring season in Salang valley and other parts of the country. These martyrs were the vanguards of the national liberation struggle, and this manifesto aims to keep their legacy eternal in the historical memory and fighting spirit of our people.

Resistance and Struggle

Afghanistan is currently experiencing its worst days in modern history, under the usurping rule of a terrorist group and in the absence of a legitimate government and administration. The Taliban, to maintain their usurping dominance, resort to all means, including terrorism, war crimes, human rights violations, crimes against humanity, forced displacement, ethnic cleansing, drug production and trafficking, the relocation of international terrorists to specific parts of the country, and every other conceivable crime.

The Taliban has placed Afghanistan's educational system, along with all its resources and human capital, at the service of fostering violence and promoting their extremist ideology. In doing so, they are subjecting the current and future generations of the country to ideological brainwashing, turning them into expendable soldiers for regional and international terrorist networks.

Therefore, the AFF commits to resistance and struggle to eliminate the Taliban's presence from our sacred homeland and is dedicated to overthrowing the Taliban Emirate in the country. Reclaiming the country from the Taliban terrorists and returning power to the people are the pillars of the resistance and struggle of the AFF.



Faith in Freedom

At a time when astonishing advances in technology and knowledge have fundamentally transformed the outlook of human life, the handover of Afghanistan to the Taliban in 2021 was a massive shock to our society. Under the nascent Republic Government, the literacy rate, global interaction, people's expectations, and social, economic, and cultural desires of our society grew to an extent that the coercive and medieval rule of the terrorist Taliban over our land is perceived unacceptable by any name or title. The constant downfall of autocratic and imposed regimes in our half-century-long history, as well as the freedom struggles of oppressed nations worldwide over the past century, have made the freedom of our people and homeland from the Taliban, inevitable.

The AFF, as the vanguard organization in the national freedom struggle, committed to social justice and equality of all citizens before the law, with an awareness of historical experience, the structural diversity of society, and the crisis-prone geopolitics of the region, acknowledges the discontent and frustration of the people and the international community. Relying on the vibrant and passionate force of the country's new generation, the AFF has an unwavering and absolute faith in the liberation and freedom of our land from the dark rule of the Taliban group.

The faith in the legitimacy of the struggle and the national liberation war and the certainty of victory in this sacred battle form the existential logic of the AFF and the driving force of freedom fighters in pursuing this great historical mission.

The strategic vision of the AFF is to achieve a new social contract that meets the needs and requirements of building a prosperous society endowed with freedom, equality, and human dignity. This contract should be the result of comprehensive dialogues and settlements among all social and political groups of Afghanistan.

The core principles of the AFF, as a progressive political-military organization, aimed at accomplishing the national mission of overthrowing the illegitimate Taliban rule and paving the way for establishing a new social contract reflecting the aspirations of all strata and ethnic groups of the country, are as follows:

Principles of Our Struggle

1. Belief in and adherence to the principles of the noble religion of Islam, relying on moderation, tolerance, and peaceful religious coexistence within society.
2. Belief in freedom as a natural and inherent right of humans, which has no limitation other than respecting the freedom of others and maintaining social order.
3. Belief in the fundamental individual and social rights and freedoms of citizens, considering the ethnic, religious, gender, linguistic, cultural, and geographical diversity of the country.



4. Belief in Afghanistan as a unified country owned by all its ethnic and social groups, with national sovereignty belonging to its people.

5. Belief in the equality of all Afghanistan citizens before the law, regardless of their ethnicity, language, gender, religion, place of birth, race, and color.

6. Belief in and striving for the creation of a decentralized political system that fully reflects the ethnic, cultural, and social diversity of Afghanistan.

7. Commitment to the people of Afghanistan, whom the AFF views as comprising the residents of its thirty-four provinces.

8. Firm and unwavering belief in and purposeful efforts towards establishing a democracy based on ballots in Afghanistan.

9. Full commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the internationally recognized human rights covenants, the Statute of the International Criminal Court, and other international documents to which the Afghanistan is a party.

10. Belief in and commitment to supporting the cultural and geographical diversity of the country and striving for balanced development throughout Afghanistan.

11. Belief in and commitment to the right of Afghanistan citizens to speak and be educated in their mother tongue and efforts to formalize all prevalent languages within the framework of the constitution.

12. Commitment to fully supporting the resistance and freedom-seeking and justice-demanding struggles of Afghanistan's women, aimed at eliminating injustice, discrimination, gender apartheid, and achieving equal rights in all areas.

13. Commitment to the full observance of international humanitarian law, especially the four Geneva Conventions, during military operations and armed struggle to overthrow the autocratic and oppressive Taliban Emirate.

14. Opposition to any form of discrimination and supremacy based on ethnicity, language, region, race, gender, color, and place of birth.

15. Full support for all anti-Taliban movements (except terrorist groups) and civil movements, and cooperation with them in the struggle for freedom.

16. Belief in and commitment to laying the groundwork for sustainable peace and genuine national reconciliation in the country through the signing of a comprehensive peace agreement (charter) among all parties to the conflict, inspired by global experiences and accepted international mechanisms.

17. Commitment to establishing a transitional justice mechanism (non-judicial) to heal the wounds caused by continuous conflicts, address the victims of war, and eliminate discrimination, extremism, and hate-mongering in society.

18. Working towards defining and institutionalizing a mixed economic system, formed by experienced domestic and foreign economic experts, which guarantees the mutual interests of individuals and society to facilitates the country's attainment of prosperity.



19. Full faith in and commitment to the actual separation of the three branches of the government.

20. Commitment to reforming the country's judicial and legal system to ensure meaningful independence of the judiciary as a main pillar of the system, recognizing that the functionality and independence of the judiciary guarantees democracy.

21. Establishing a tax system appropriate to the country's economic condition and ensuring its efficiency and accountability.

22. Establishing an independent election commission and ensuring its impartial and fair performance through the establishment of a new, professional, and reliable mechanisms and methods that guarantees the holding of free, fair, transparent, and impartial elections.

23. Efforts to prevent non-transparent and unprincipled engagements of governments and international organizations with the Taliban and to raise global public awareness of the consequences and dangers of international recognition of the group.

24. Efforts to persuade countries that have relations with the Taliban to cut off their relations and expel the Taliban representatives from their lands.

25. Dialogue and negotiation with all countries, especially Afghanistan's neighbors, to convey the message of the Afghanistan people, which is to reclaim the country from the controls of terrorism and return the political power to its rightful owners, the people.

26. Dialogue and negotiation with foreign countries to obtain their cooperation in transforming Afghanistan from a safe haven for multinational terrorists into a useful member of the international community.

27. Negotiation and dialogue with the United Nations and its components to ensure the organization's (UN) adherence to the provisions of its Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the relevant international human rights conventions, as well as the Security Council and General Assembly resolutions in dealing with the Taliban.

28. Dialogue and correspondence with the International Criminal Court to prosecute Taliban leaders for war crimes and crimes against humanity.

29. Assuring foreign governments, especially neighboring countries, that post-Taliban Afghanistan will adhere to the basic and common norms of the international system, including non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, good neighborliness, respect for national sovereignty, and territorial integrity within internationally accepted borders.

30. Conducting a referendum as one of the democratic means to adopt a new constitution as the social contract of Afghanistan's citizens, reflecting the desires and aspirations of the people across the country.

31. Ultimate attention to culture and the arts as the foundations for peaceful



coexistence and a driving force for development and progress in society.

32. Efforts to strengthen and revitalize subcultures, common languages, and moderate religious values and norms in the country as the bases for convergence and the promotion of a culture of peace and the fight against extremism and violence.

It is noteworthy that the principles outlined in this manifesto can be amended and revised in accordance with the evolving circumstances through principled processes. Additionally, the AFF will share its detailed proposals on important and vital issues of the homeland with the people of Afghanistan, particularly on the following matters:

- **Peace and national reconciliation**
- **Structure of the govt.**
- **Economy and development**
- **Society and culture**
- **Transitional period**
- **Foreign policy**