



**United States Department of State**

*Washington, D.C. 20520*

October 7, 2024

Case No. FL-2022-00011

Mr. Jordan Sekulow  
201 Maryland Avenue, NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Mr. Sekulow:

As we noted in our letter dated August 26, 2024, we are processing your request for material under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"), 5 U.S.C. § 552. The Department of State ("Department") has identified an additional eight responsive records subject to the FOIA. Upon review, we have determined that one record may be released in full, one record may be released in part, and six records must be withheld in full.

An enclosure explains the FOIA exemptions and other grounds for withholding material. Where we have made redactions, the applicable FOIA exemptions are marked on each record. The records withheld in full are exempt from release pursuant to FOIA Exemption 5, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(5). The document identification numbers for the records withheld in full are A-00000769197, A-00000769212, A-00000769359, A-00000769358, A-00000769357, and A-00000769356. Where applicable, the Department has considered the foreseeable harm standard when reviewing these records and applying FOIA exemptions. All non-exempt material that is reasonably segregable from the exempt material has been released and is enclosed.

We will keep you informed as your case progresses. If you have any questions, your attorney may contact Thomas Duffey, Assistant U.S. Attorney, at [thomas.duffey@usdoj.gov](mailto:thomas.duffey@usdoj.gov). Please refer to the case number, FL-2022-00011, and the civil action number, 21-cv-03083, in all correspondence about this case.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeanne Miller".

Jeanne Miller

Chief, Programs and Policies Division

Office of Information Programs and Services

Enclosures: As stated.

The Freedom of Information Act (5 USC 552)

FOIA Exemptions

(b)(1) Information specifically authorized by an executive order to be kept secret in the interest of national defense or foreign policy. Executive Order 13526 includes the following classification categories:

- 1.4(a) Military plans, systems, or operations
- 1.4(b) Foreign government information
- 1.4(c) Intelligence activities, sources or methods, or cryptology
- 1.4(d) Foreign relations or foreign activities of the US, including confidential sources
- 1.4(e) Scientific, technological, or economic matters relating to national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(f) U.S. Government programs for safeguarding nuclear materials or facilities
- 1.4(g) Vulnerabilities or capabilities of systems, installations, infrastructures, projects, plans, or protection services relating to US national security, including defense against transnational terrorism
- 1.4(h) Weapons of mass destruction

(b)(2) Related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency

(b)(3) Specifically exempted from disclosure by statute (other than 5 USC 552), for example:

ARMSEXP	Arms Export Control Act, 50a USC 2411(c)
CIA PERS/ORG	Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949, 50 USC 403(g)
EXPORT CONTROL	Export Administration Act of 1979, 50 USC App. Sec. 2411(c)
FS ACT	Foreign Service Act of 1980, 22 USC 4004
INA	Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 USC 1202(f), Sec. 222(f)
IRAN	Iran Claims Settlement Act, Public Law 99-99, Sec. 505

(b)(4) Trade secrets and confidential commercial or financial information

(b)(5) Interagency or intra-agency communications forming part of the deliberative process, attorney-client privilege, or attorney work product

(b)(6) Personal privacy information

(b)(7) Law enforcement information whose disclosure would:

- (A) interfere with enforcement proceedings
- (B) deprive a person of a fair trial
- (C) constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy
- (D) disclose confidential sources
- (E) disclose investigation techniques
- (F) endanger life or physical safety of an individual

(b)(8) Prepared by or for a government agency regulating or supervising financial institutions

(b)(9) Geological and geophysical information and data, including maps, concerning wells

**Other Grounds for Withholding**

NR Material not responsive to a FOIA request excised with the agreement of the requester

<b>From:</b>	(b)(6)	(b)(6)	@state.gov>
<b>To:</b>	(b)(6)	(b)(6)	tate.gov>
<b>Subject:</b>	GLOBAL ALERT: POTUS Announcement on Afghanistan		
<b>Date:</b>	Wed, 14 Apr 2021 21:58:22 +0000		

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**For full region-by-region coverage, open the attached Global Alert.  
Also be sure to read tonight's GPA/RA Evening Insights for continuing coverage of the  
President's Afghanistan announcement and the Secretary's meetings in Brussels.**



(b)(6)

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# Global Alert - U.S. Troop Withdrawal from Afghanistan

April 14, 2021

*This report reviews digital and social media coverage of President Biden's speech on the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan across all languages from 4/13 to 4/14. Data is as of 3:00PM EST on 4/14. Click for [Methodology](#).*

## BLUF

- President Biden's remarks on ending "America's longest war" and Secretary Blinken's statement that NATO troops in Afghanistan will withdraw in coordination with the U.S. by September 11 garner engagement. Coverage of President Biden and former President Obama paying tribute to lives lost in Afghanistan gains traction.
- Global media cover the withdrawal's impact on peace, noting the Taliban's refusal to engage in negotiations until all foreign troops withdraw from Afghanistan and concerns that the Taliban will regain control in the absence of U.S. forces.

## Key Takeaways

- As of 3PM EST, 17.8K articles and 222K tweets mention President Biden's announcement of the withdrawal of U.S. troops remaining in Afghanistan.
- U.K. and U.S. media lead [coverage](#) of President Biden's April 14 speech, [highlighting](#) his comments on the thousands of Americans and Afghans who lost their lives in the war, the President's [assertion](#) that now is the "right time" for a U.S. troop withdrawal, and [former](#) President Obama's [support](#) for the decision.
  - Global media [highlight](#) the September 11 deadline for the withdrawal as coinciding with the 20-year anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.
- President Biden's [remarks](#) on ending "[America's longest war](#)" and Secretary Blinken's [assertion](#) that a coalition of NATO-led troops in Afghanistan will [leave](#) the country in [coordination](#) with a U.S. withdrawal planned by September 11 trend globally.
- U.S. tweets drive social media discussion on the withdrawal and show mixed reactions, with some [praising](#) President Biden's [decision](#) as a [timely](#) end to the post-9/11 era and others [doubting](#) the U.S. [commitment](#) to the [plan](#).
- Coverage of the U.S. troop withdrawal's impact on Afghanistan's peace negotiations gains global coverage, highlighting the Taliban's [warning](#) that it will not [attend](#) the Istanbul Summit peace talks if foreign troops remain on Afghan soil and indicating it will resume attacks if Washington does not honor the May 1st deadline.
  - Op-eds [predicting](#) that a peace agreement is "[unlikely](#)" and noting [fears](#) that the Taliban will regain control of Afghanistan gain traction globally.



# Top Narratives by Region

## Global Overview

- U.K. and U.S. media lead coverage of President Biden's April 14 speech, highlighting his comments on the thousands of Americans and Afghans who lost their lives in the war and his assertion that now is the "right time" for U.S. troops to leave.
  - Top tweets come from audiences in the United States sharing a statement from former President Obama supporting President Biden's decision to withdraw U.S. troops and paying respects to lives lost in the conflict.
  - Posts highlighting mixed reactions from U.S. politicians to President Biden's decision to withdraw forces appear among top retweets from audiences in the U.K.
  - U.S. op-eds warn that President Biden is "making a major mistake" on Afghanistan and that the withdrawal could prompt a resurgence of terrorist threats that fueled the conflict 20 years ago. U.S. conservative media report that President Biden is facing "bipartisan criticism" over the decision.
  - A U.S. article highlights Kabul's fears that the Taliban will regain control and reverse freedoms Afghans gained over the course of the past 20 years if all U.S. troops withdraw.
- Anticipation of President Biden's announcement of the withdrawal continues to trend globally and receives high engagement in U.S. and German press.
- Audiences in the United States drive Twitter conversations on the U.S. troop withdrawal. Some top tweets support President Biden's decision, calling it a timely ending to the post-9/11 era, while others doubt that the United States will follow through and question why the Administration increased the U.S. military budget.
- Twitter audiences in Afghanistan retweet Afghan President Ghani's thread on working with U.S. and NATO allies to ensure a "smooth transition" and the capability of Afghan security forces to defend the country.
- White House Press Secretary Psaki's tweet on President Biden visiting Arlington National Cemetery to pay respects to Americans who died in Afghanistan trends globally.
- U.S. Spanish-language media feature a video of an analyst discussing the consequences of U.S. and NATO troop withdrawal as he argues that the President's decision will trigger a political vacuum and the collapse of the Afghan government.



## AF

- Nigerian, Kenyan, Ugandan news accounts on Twitter amplify President Biden's announcement to withdraw U.S. troops from Afghanistan.
- A Kenyan outlet highlights that Afghanistan's fate is uncertain with the pullout, noting an Afghanistan specialist's assessment that the U.S. troop withdrawal will intensify the war in Afghanistan and "torpedo" hope for peace in the country.
- South African and Nigerian outlets focus on the Taliban's threats to attack U.S. troops if they remain past the May 1 deadline and a U.S. threat assessment report highlighting the Taliban's confidence in military success without U.S. troops present.

## EAP

- President Biden's plans to withdraw 2,500 remaining U.S. troops from Afghanistan by September 11 trend in Singaporean, Hong Kong, Japanese, Malaysian, and Chinese state-affiliated media, highlighting that the withdrawal date comes 20 years after the terrorist attacks in the United States that triggered "America's longest war."
- Hong Kong's *South China Morning Post* covers the findings of a U.S. intelligence report forecasting low chances of a peace deal this year and warning that the Afghan government "will struggle to hold the Taliban at bay without support."
- Singaporean and Chinese state-affiliated media quote Secretary Blinken saying that the "time has come" to withdraw forces from Afghanistan and that Washington will coordinate with NATO allies for the withdrawal, emphasizing that the Secretary's remarks come ahead of Wednesday's formal announcement.
- A Singaporean article notes that prior to the U.S. announcement on the U.S. troop withdrawal, a Taliban spokesperson said on April 12 that the Taliban will not attend a peace conference that had been tentatively planned for later this week in Turkey. The article claims that the Taliban's decision jeopardizes U.S. efforts toward a peace deal.

## EUR

- Amplifications of President Biden's previewed remarks on ending "America's longest war" and continuing to provide non-military support for Afghanistan appear across German, U.K., Russian state-affiliated, French, and Russian-language media.
- The Russian Foreign Ministry claims the U.S. troop withdrawal risks escalating the conflict and "derails" peace talks.
- Spanish press highlight a U.S. threat assessment report indicating that an Afghan peace agreement is "unlikely" due to the withdrawal.





- German, U.K., Finnish, and Russian state-affiliated media report that U.K., German, and Finnish forces plan to withdraw from Afghanistan by September 2021 following the U.S. announcement.
- U.K. and French outlets cover Secretary Blinken and Defense Secretary Austin's Brussels trip to brief NATO allies on the withdrawal of forces.
- A U.K. outlet highlights Afghan women's fears of a Taliban takeover after U.S. troops withdraw from the country.

## NEA

- Pan-Arab, Saudi, and Jordanian media share President Biden's previewed remarks on ending "America's longest war."
- Reports of Secretary Blinken speaking with NATO allies about the withdrawal and offering U.S. support for a coordinated withdrawal by NATO members gain traction in pan-Arab, Emirati, Tunisian, and Arabic-language Russian state-affiliated press.
- Reports that the U.K. plans to withdraw the majority of its troops from Afghanistan following the U.S. announcement gain limited traction in an Arabic-language article from Monaco.
- Israeli and pan-Arab press highlight CIA Director Burns's statement that the U.S. withdrawal poses a "significant risk" that the Taliban will regain control in Afghanistan.
- A French Arabic-language article covers U.S. criticisms of the decision, namely that U.S. military absence in Afghanistan may "encourage" the Taliban to regain control.
- Reports that the President's announcement of the withdrawal coincided with Turkey announcing it will host the Istanbul Summit for Afghan peace talks garner engagement in Arabic-language French press, highlighting the Taliban's response that it will not attend the Istanbul talks until all foreign troops leave Afghanistan.
- Israeli and Emirati Twitter audiences frame the U.S. troop withdrawal as a lesson and "acknowledgement of defeat" for the United States.

## SCA

- Reports that the United States will begin its troop withdrawal in Afghanistan before May 1 and complete the process before September 11 continue gaining traction across top Indian, Pakistani, and Afghan outlets.
  - A top SCA tweet from an Indian journalist warns about the return of Islamic Sharia law once President Biden pulls out all troops from Afghanistan.
- Pakistani media preview President Biden's official remarks on Wednesday, anticipating the President's assertion that "it is time to end America's longest war."



Articles note that a senior NATO official told *Reuters* that no ally “was expected to oppose” the President’s formal announcement.

- An Indian article [highlights](#) that President Biden has been anticipating for weeks that he was going to let the deadline pass, and, as the days went by, “it became clear” that an orderly withdrawal of the remaining 2,500 troops “would be difficult.”
- Pakistan’s *Dawn* [notes](#) that Moscow warned on Wednesday that Washington’s plan to withdraw troops by September could lead to an escalation of the conflict.
- Pakistani and Indian press [highlight](#) Secretary Blinken’s remarks that a coalition of NATO-led troops in Afghanistan will withdraw from Afghanistan in coordination with the U.S. withdrawal. Pakistan’s *UrduPoint* [indicates](#) that the U.K. is preparing to follow the United States in pulling its troops out of Afghanistan.
- Afghan media [highlight](#) that the Taliban warned on Tuesday that they will not participate in peace negotiations until all foreign military forces are withdrawn. An [article](#) cites a Taliban spokesperson calling on the U.S. and NATO “to stick” to the agreement of a May 1 deadline for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

## WHA

- President Biden’s decision to [withdraw](#) U.S. [troops](#) from Afghanistan trend in Canadian, Mexican, Colombian, Venezuelan, and U.S. Spanish-language press and gain traction among WHA tweets, [highlighting](#) that approximately 2,500 U.S. troops remain in the country.
- Canada’s *Toronto City News* [notes](#) that the President established September 11 as the deadline for the pullout as it coincides with the 20th anniversary of the 2001 attacks in the U.S. that sparked two decades of conflict.
- A Canadian article [emphasizes](#) that President Biden’s decision, which Secretary Blinken discussed Tuesday with Canadian FM Garneau, is expected to garner formal support from NATO.
- Secretary Blinken’s [assertion](#) that NATO troops will leave Afghanistan in coordination with the planned U.S. withdrawal trends in Canadian press.
- U.S., Spanish-language, Mexican, and Brazilian media [highlight](#) remarks by Taliban spokesperson Mohammed Nameed [announcing](#) that the group will not continue peace negotiations as long as foreign troops remain on Afghan soil.
- U.S.-based *El Tiempo Latino* [notes](#) the Taliban also warned that it will resume attacks if the United States does not pull out troops by May 1 as previously agreed.



# Methodology

Click [here](#) for the full Methodology. Contact [gpa-ra-an-monitoring@state.gov](mailto:gpa-ra-an-monitoring@state.gov) with any questions.



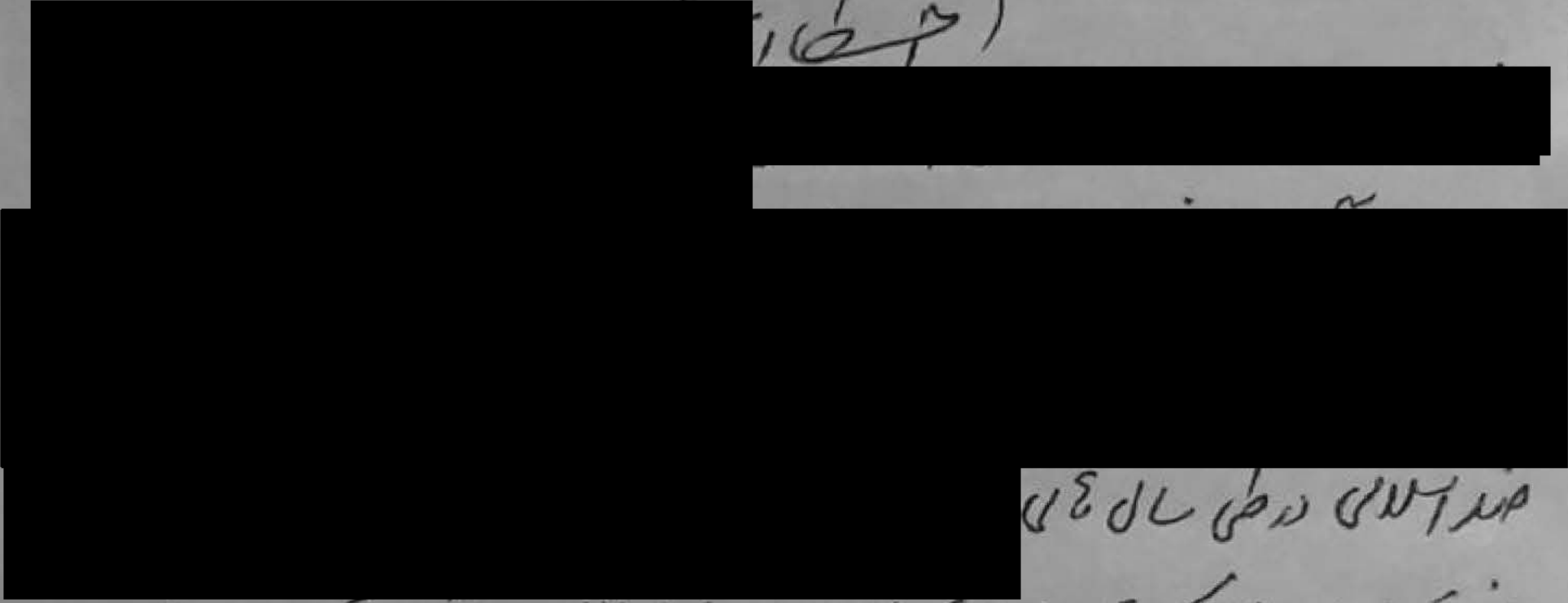
د افغانستان اسلامي امارت

د میدان وردک ولایت

د بهسود مرکز ولسوالی

تاریخ: ۱۴۰۰/۱۱/۱۳

(شخص)



صدا اسلامي در طی سال های

خودتان را در نزدیک ترین دفتر ساحوی امارت اسلامی بدست قانون عدالت  
در حاکمات امارت اسلامی سپارید. در غیر آن صورت خودتان و نامشروعان تحت  
پنلیرد جری قانون اسلامی امارت مجازات خواهد خوردید.

عادل



Handwritten signature

Unofficial translation of the Taliban Summon letter

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Date: 09/05/2021

This is a summon from the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan for [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]. Based on the accurate information of the Islamic  
Emirate of Afghanistan, you all had worked very closely with the occupying forces of the United  
States - the American anti-Islamic forces in [REDACTED] province in recent years. Therefore, you are  
ordered to submit yourself to the nearest field office of the Islamic Emirate where you will be  
served to face justice within the legal framework of the Islamic Emirate. Your failure to surrender  
yourself will have serious consequences both to you and your family as all of you including your  
families will be severely prosecuted and punished under the Islamic law of the Emirate.

Regards

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan



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