

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. RES. 229

Recognizing the devastating attack on a girls' school in Kabul, Afghanistan, on May 8, 2021, and expressing solidarity with the Afghan people.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 24, 2021

Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

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## RESOLUTION

Recognizing the devastating attack on a girls' school in Kabul, Afghanistan, on May 8, 2021, and expressing solidarity with the Afghan people.

Whereas, on May 8, 2021, a car bomb and several other mechanisms were detonated at the front gates of the Sayed Ul-Shuhada High School in Kabul, killing more than 85 people, many of whom were girls attending the school;

Whereas the attack took place as the girls and their families prepared to celebrate Eid al-Fitr;

Whereas the school provides education to the Dasht-e Barchi neighborhood, an underserved area of Kabul where many members of the Hazara minority community live;

Whereas the Hazara in Dasht-e Barchi have been the target of extremist violence for many years;

Whereas, on March 12, 2020, assailants attacked a maternity hospital in Dasht-e Barchi, killing 24 people including 2 newborn babies, mothers, and members of the hospital staff;

Whereas 1 of those killed in the attack on the hospital was Maryam Noorzad—

(1) who was a midwife serving the Hazara community;

(2) who dedicated her life to providing access to healthcare to women in remote parts of Afghanistan;

(3) who was murdered after refusing to leave the bedside of a patient in labor; and

(4) whose bravery was recognized by the Department of State with an honorary International Women of Courage award;

Whereas Afghan girls were restricted from accessing an education under the Taliban, forcing some girls to dress up as boys in order to attend secret schools and continue their education;

Whereas, according to a report by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence—

(1) there are approximately 3,500,000 girls among the 9,000,000 children who are enrolled in school in Afghanistan;

(2) only 17 percent of girls in rural parts of Afghanistan attend school, while 45 percent of girls in urban areas in Afghanistan attend school;

(3) 80 percent of Afghan women older than 15 years of age are illiterate; and

(4) schools are increasingly being forced to close due to rising insecurity;

Whereas the education of girls is a necessary requirement for any country to achieve long-term stability and peace;

Whereas the attack coincides with an escalation of violence in Afghanistan, perpetrated by the Taliban, the Islamic State of Iraq, and the Levant (ISIS) and other terrorist organizations; and

Whereas the recent escalation in violence has disproportionately impacted women, who have been targeted while working as reporters, administering vaccines, serving in prominent positions, and helping their communities: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the Senate—

2               (1) extends its heartfelt condolences to, and  
3       stands with, the people of Afghanistan and the  
4       Hazara community;

5               (2) condemns all forms of violence against  
6       women and girls in Afghanistan;

7               (3) supports United States and international ef-  
8       forts to ensure that girls in Afghanistan are able to  
9       safely attend school;

10              (4) affirms that the United States should con-  
11       tinue to provide assistance to support the rights of  
12       women and girls to achieve an education;

13              (5) calls on the Government of Afghanistan to  
14       support girls' education and to ensure that girls are  
15       able to safely attend school;

1           (6) calls for international condemnation of vio-  
2           lence against Afghan women and girls; and

3           (7) asks the international community to devote  
4           the resources and attention necessary to provide for  
5           the continued safe education of girls in Afghanistan.

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