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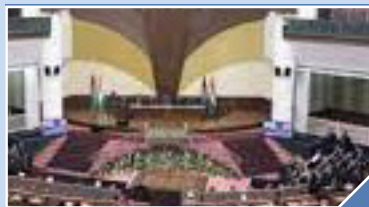
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Wolasi Jirga: UN Should Pressure Taliban to Attend Peace Summit

Afghan lawmakers on Monday called for the United Nations to pressure the Taliban to attend the Turkey conference and to end the ongoing violence in the country.

The committee of human rights and women of the Parliament in a statement asked the Taliban to respect human rights, especially women's rights, and to allow the education of girls in areas under their control if they want to earn the people's trust.

The Turkey conference is expected to be held on April 24.

"We ask influential countries in the region and the United Nations to encourage the Taliban to attend the Turkey conference," Parliament speaker Mir Rahman Rahmani said.

"They should come and sit ... **P2**



1,000 Families Displaced as Clashes Continue in Ghazni

At least 1,000 families have been displaced by the Taliban in the district center due to the raging clashes in Qarabagh district of Ghazni province for a week now.

Ghazni governor's spokesperson Wahidullah Jumazada said on Monday that the Taliban are using civilian homes as strongholds and that people have been forced to flee from their homes.

He said that about 150 families had arrived in central Ghazni and that first aid had been distributed to them. The families have been provided shelter at the Islamic Culture Center in Ghazni.

The Taliban attacked the center of Ghazni's Qarabagh district about a week ago, four times. Local officials in Ghazni say the attack was aimed at capturing Ghazni's Qarabagh district. Wahidullah Jumazada said that the clashes were currently ongoing and security forces had prevented ... **P2**

No Guarantees About Afghanistan's Future Post-Pullout: U.S. NSA



No one can offer guarantees about Afghanistan's future after U.S. troops leave, a top White House official said on Sunday, even as he stressed the United States would stay focused on terrorist threats emanating from the country.

This comes after US President Joe Biden announced on Wednesday that United States will withdraw all

remaining troops from Afghanistan by September 11.

In an interview with Fox News Sunday, the White House National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan was asked about the risk of a repeat of what happened in Iraq, where Islamic State (ISIS) militants seized territory after U.S. troops withdrew in 2011.

That led then-President Barack Obama to send troops back into Iraq.

Sullivan said Biden had no intention of sending American forces back to Afghanistan, but he added: "I can't make any guarantees about what will happen inside the country. No one can."

"All the United States could do

is provide the Afghan security forces, the Afghan government and the Afghan people resources and capabilities, training and equipping their forces, providing assistance to their government. We have done that and now it is time for American troops to come home and the Afghan people to step up to defend their own country."

But Afghan President Ashraf Ghani rejected what he said were "false analogies" with the war in Vietnam as well as any suggestion his government was at risk of folding under Taliban pressure after U.S. troops leave. Afghan security forces were capable of defending the country, he said.

"The Afghan defense and security forces have been carrying over 90% of the operations in the last two years," Ghani said in an interview with CNN.

Meanwhile former president Donald Trump said in a statement that leaving Afghanistan was "a wonderful and positive thing to do," but called for a more rapid departure. Trump had set a May 1 deadline to withdraw.

CIA Director William Burns told the Senate Intelligence ... **P3**

Civil War in 'No One's Interest' in Afghanistan: Blinken

The US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in an interview with ABC news said that the civil war in Afghanistan is in "no one's interest."

"Ultimately, it is in no one's interest in Afghanistan, whether it's the Taliban or anyone else and certainly not the people of Afghanistan, for the country to descend once again into civil war, into a long war," Blinken said.

"If the Taliban is going to participate in some fashion in governance, if it wants to be internationally recognized, if it doesn't want to be a pariah, it's going to have to engage in a political process," he said. ... **P3**



Meetings Held in Qatar as Istanbul Summit Approaches

Representatives of the United States, Qatar, United Nations and Turkey have held meetings with the Taliban over the last few days in an attempt to create an environment of trust between the US and the Taliban, sources said, who added there has been some progress.

Representatives at these meetings have been trying to assure the Taliban that all Doha agreement commitments will be addressed by Sept. 11, and, in exchange, they have asked the group to resume negotiations and attend the Turkey summit for meaningful talks, sources close to the Taliban said.

"The Taliban wants the Turkey conference to be a landmark decision-making event and they believe that the implementation of the Doha agreement is the key to achieve this goal," said Faiz Mohammad Zaland, a university lecturer.



Besides the United States, Qatar, Turkey, and the UN, Pakistan has also begun efforts to pressure the Taliban to attend the key summit, say reporters familiar with the matter.

"It can also be a challenge for Pakistan--whether it can push the Taliban to attend the Turkey summit or not," said Tahir Khan, a Pakistani journalist.

Moreover, the US Secretary of State Antony Blinken in an interview with

ABC news said that the civil war in Afghanistan is in "no one's interest." "If the Taliban is going to participate in some fashion in governance, if it wants to be internationally recognized, if it doesn't want to be a pariah, it's going to have to engage in a political process," he said.

US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said on Sunday that no one can offer guarantees about Afghanistan's future after US troops leave, but he stressed that the ... **P3**

By Sumantra Maitra

Lessons for The World from The Latest Failed War in Afghanistan

"I'm now the fourth United States president to preside over American true presence in Afghanistan; two Republicans, two Democrats. I will not pass this responsibility onto a fifth." So intoned President Joe Biden in a speech marking the potential end of the War in Afghanistan on the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Had Donald Trump won his second term, the war would have ended in May, instead of September.

As the "war on terror" raged across the globe during the last 20 years, it affected life all around us, from air travel to the so-called "Arab Spring," to the rise of China. More than 2,500 American men and women died stabilizing Afghanistan. More than 20,000 were wounded and maimed. If you count British and North Atlantic Treaty Organization members, that figure increases to around more than 4,000 dead, and double the number of wounded.

Those of a certain age will remember more than 100 British soldiers died in Helmand alone in the last decade. It is currently a Taliban stronghold.

One of the first countries to give aid to "liberated" Afghanistan was India. That generosity was paid back by a Taliban attack on the consulate with Indian police trainers dead among them. That was in 2008.

As is sadly too often the case when we stare at cold statistics, we can forget that all of those who perished in the War in Afghanistan — Americans, Canadians, Australians, Europeans, Indians, and British, among others — had families. Some didn't get to marry and have children before they died. Trillions of taxpayer dollars were

spent.

I spoke to Will Ruger, a professor of international relations, President Trump's nominee for ambassador to Afghanistan, and an advocate for a pullout from Afghanistan and the greater Middle East. Ruger is also a veteran who was stationed in Kabul and focused on Regional-Command South, which at that time encompassed the Taliban strongholds of Kandahar, Helmand, and Nimruz.

"The argument for a thoroughgoing policy shift — a speedy and full military withdrawal from the war — stands on its merits regardless of who makes it and what their prior experience is," Ruger said with the characteristic reticence of a veteran, "but I'd also say that my experience there certainly has helped inform how I think about the war, the country, and the culture."

The hopeful wait for an Afghan James Madison proved elusive. There was nothing conservative about a utopian mission to turn a feudal region into a liberal democracy. In fact, that idea is as revolutionary and ideological as it gets. Ruger puts it thusly: Conservatives should learn that what we've been saying for decades about domestic policy is also applicable to foreign policy. Namely, that we ought to have humility about big government 'solutions' to pressing problems; what is more big government and hubristic than trying to nation-build in and reshape the culture of a far-away country like Afghanistan that is so foreign to us in so many ways? ... I hope that conservatives reject the Bush-era vision, and it's callow idealism, in

favor of a more hard-headed realism that counsels strategic restraint in how we conduct our foreign policy. This will be good for conservatism and great for our country. Back in 2001, the first Harry Potter film was the highest-grossing film, iTunes was launched, and Billie Eilish was born. Twenty years might be a blip in history, but it's a quarter of an average human life. Yet Afghanistan remained the same. It was the same when the British empire retreated from Kabul in 1842, realizing that, unlike other parts of the globe that had some coherent form of civilization, Afghanistan had none, and as a result, had little chance of any genuine improvement. Upon their exit, the British kept a wary eye on the region and on the potential Russian imperial invasion that never came. The empire often took punitive counter-insurgency operations against tribal rebels, but never tried to occupy or pacify the proud region ever again (there are archival photos



of the British-Indian air force bombing Afghan rebels in 1937). Nearly a century passed, and the Russians ultimately came. In 1979, after a decade of flying high with anti-colonial puppet governments in Africa and the American retreat from Vietnam, there was no place on earth that wasn't ready for the Red Banner. That also not only ended in retreat, but the collapse of the Soviet Empire, hollowed out from within, wasting blood and treasure in a region that took everything thrown at it and only gave corpses in return.

Forty years since the Soviet invasion, it was Americans' turn to learn the same lessons of all great powers who venture into Afghanistan. This time, instead of civilizing Afghans with communism, it would be with liberalism and human rights. Hundreds of non-governmental organizations propped up to ensure women's empowerment in a land that had just recently shelled centuries-old Bamiyan Buddhas a few short years

before. The young civilizational power once full of optimism and idealism then grew up, becoming jaded and cynical, like the older powers before her. Such is the inevitable course of history. Trough it all, Afghanistan didn't change. Enough. There are some typical reactions about the withdrawal from those such as Sen. Lindsey Graham and columnist Max Boot. "Don't believe a word of it," Jacob Heilbrunn, editor in chief of the Center For the National Interest, relays. "Biden, in acknowledging that Afghanistan was a lost cause long before he ever became president, is bowing to the inevitable." The neoconservatives and the bleeding-heart humanist liberals can still organize a Facebook group (note: Facebook wasn't there when the war started), pick up some old AK-47s, and head to Afghanistan to fulfill their fantasies of fighting tyranny and establishing feminism. No one's stopping them. But normal people shouldn't... P3

By Xi Meng

United States or United Empire

The United States has unilaterally announced that the deadline for its withdrawal from Afghanistan will be postponed from May 1 to September 11, of course, many uncertainties remain. In addition, a joint statement has come out after the meeting between the leaders of the US and Japan, which accused China of its territorial and internal affairs. It can be seen that the US government is very "concerned" about other countries' internal affairs and frequently adopts political intimidation, economic sanctions, military threats and even direct interference against countries that do not conform to its wishes. The United States is more and more like an empire coming from the Middle Ages, hoping that it would be exclusive in international community. When the leaders of the United States and Japan met bilaterally, why did they have to gossip about China's internal affairs? This is not in line with the minimum of interpersonal politeness. The United States and Japan preach

"freedom and opening up", but in fact, they engage in "small circles" and incite group confrontation. This is totally against the trend of the times and runs counter to the common expectations of the region and the vast majority of countries in the world for peace, development and cooperation. In the face of a big country like China, the United States naturally does not dare to use force easily. It is an inevitable choice for the United States to engage in political and economic blockade through slander and rumor. For other small and weak countries, the United States is not so polite. According to incomplete statistics, 248 armed conflicts occurred in 153 regions of the world from the end of World War II in 1945 to 2001, of which 201 were initiated by the United States, accounting for about 81%. The United States is so found of military works. Take the Afghan war as an example, the United States has paid trillions of dollars and more than 20000 U.S. soldiers'

casualties in the 20-year war, but has the United States won? At least for the Afghan people, it is a great humanitarian disaster, and it is impossible to count how many people have been killed or hurt there, how many families are displaced, and how many valuable opportunities for economic development Afghanistan has lost. Peace and development are the big tide of the world today. Economic globalization is an irreversible trend. Global cooperation is an inevitable choice to deal with climate change and epidemic diseases. There is no way out to change another country through brute force. The Afghan people will not agree, nor will the Chinese people, nor even the American people. The United States had better give up its imperial dream and be the real United States of America without racial discrimination and oppression. (Xi Meng, Senior Researcher, Research Center for the Belt and Road of Lanzhou University)

Wolasi Jirga:...

and talk with Afghans face-to-face," said Ziaduddin Akzai, an MP from Badghis. The human rights and women committee of the Parliament said the Taliban is a reality in this society and that the group cannot take power through force.

"They should practice human rights and women's rights in their programs and open girls' schools in areas under their influence," said Nahid Farid, an MP and member of the human rights committee of the parliament.

Some lawmakers meanwhile said the US's mission in Afghanistan over the last two decades "has not been successful." "The US and its allies should know that they started the Afghan conflict and they should end it," said Nasir Farahi, an MP from Farah.

"I see the US and NATO forces presence as the continuation of war," said Mamoor Ahmadzai, an MP from Baghlan.

There are concerns that the country's infrastructure and military installations left by foreign forces will be damaged after the foreign forces leave the country. "Equipment left behind is either destroyed or sold at lower prices and then sent to neighboring countries," said Khan Agha Rezaee, an MP and member of the internal security committee of the Parliament.

"If the Americans are leaving, it is a good opportunity to change Bagram airbase to a civilian airport," said Mir Haidar Afzali, head of the defense committee of the Parliament.

US President Joe Biden announced it would withdraw its forces from Afghanistan by Sept. 11.

1,000 Families...

the Taliban from advancing further into the district.

The spokesperson added that the Taliban had suffered heavy casualties, but no casualties were reported from government forces and civilians. However, two days ago, local officials in Ghazni had announced that two civilians had been killed in a roadside

bomb blast. Residents say Qarabagh district has been under siege by the Taliban for a week now, and the residents have limited access to food during Ramadan.

Sultan Mahmoud Hospital and School, which has about 1,500 students, has also been closed.

The Taliban have not commented on the matter yet.

Air Corridors' Closure Affects Afghan Carpet Exports

The Afghan carpet industry says their export business has been affected by the loss of subsidized air routes, commonly known as air corridors, as the government has stopped paying the subsidy costs for the exports.

The business community said carpet exports have dropped by 90% over the last month following the closure of the air corridors.

They said exporting carpets at \$14 per square meter to Europe and China is not viable, and that they cannot afford to send their products without the government subsidizing the air corridor transportation costs. "We used to export carpets to China and Europe through the air corridors; unfortunately, the corridors are closed now," said Mohammad Hadi Hussaini, a member of the Union of Carpet Production and Export Companies.

Previously, 80% of the export costs through the air corridors were

being paid by the government and industries paid only \$0.60 per square meter of carpet to China, and \$0.50 to Europe.

The Afghan Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the government allocated AFN354 million (over \$4.5M) for the air corridor sector as a subsidy, but the government is behind in payments, so the airlines are not providing the freight transport at the subsidized cost.

"The airline companies are not allowing, under any conditions, the transfer of cargo and shipments abroad under the subsidy framework. Their argument is that the government has not paid their previous invoices which are up to 1-3 million dollars," said Shafiqullah Attayei, CEO of the Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Previously, the Afghanistan Central Bank said that the financial issues with the airline companies had been solved; nevertheless, the air



cargo companies say they have not received their owed payments from the government.

The Ministry of Industry Commerce and Industry said it plans to subsidize some of the carpet export's costs. It added that after adjustments in the national budget over the next two months, the exports via air corridors will be resumed.

"The Ministry of Industry Commerce and Industry will soon reveal a

"6% cooperative package" to help facilitate the exportation of Afghan hand-woven carpets to other countries," said the spokesman of the Ministry of Industry Commerce, Fawad Ahmadi.

The Union of Carpet Production and Export Companies said that producing one square meter of carpet costs them \$70 and they can sell it for \$90 in China and €100 in Europe.

No Guarantees...

Committee on Wednesday that America's ability to collect intelligence and act against extremist threats in Afghanistan will diminish after the departure of U.S. troops, Reuters reported.

A United Nations report in January said there were as many as 500 al-Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan and that the Taliban maintained a close relationship with the group. The Taliban denies al-Qaeda has a presence in Afghanistan.

Announcing his decision to withdraw troops, Biden said the United States would monitor the threat, reorganize counterterrorism capabilities and keep substantial assets in the region to respond to threats to the United States emerging from Afghanistan.

"He has no intention of taking our eye off the ball," Sullivan said of the president.

"We have the capacity, from repositioning our capabilities over the horizon, to continue to suppress the terrorist threat in Afghanistan."

Meetings Held...

United States would stay focused on terrorist threats emanating from the country.

According to a Reuters report, Sullivan was asked on the Fox News Sunday program about the risk of a repeat of what happened in Iraq, where Daesh militants seized territory after US troops withdrew in 2011. That led then-President Barack Obama to send troops back into Iraq.

The Taliban stated they would not attend the Turkey conference after US President Joe Biden announced a new date for the full withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan. The group said they will not attend any talks on peace unless the US leaves the country.

Civil War in 'No...

He stated: "Our goal ultimately is an Afghanistan that finds a just and durable settlement to this conflict that has been going on for four decades. And in that situation and that environment, terrorism is less likely to emerge."

ABC asked: "Right now, in some of the Taliban-held areas, you have young women, you have girls, who are beaten; there's no chance for an education. Why is that acceptable?"

Blinken replied: "It's not acceptable. And when I was in Kabul, I met with some extraordinary women who are leading as a mayor, a member of parliament, a youth activist, and doing other things. And what they've done with our support is quite remarkable. And I think Afghanistan in many ways is a transformed society."

He further said: "But again, here is the thing: No one, starting with the Taliban, has an interest in going back to a civil war, because I think what everyone recognizes is there's no military resolution to the conflict. So if they start something up again,

they're going to be in a long war. That's not in their interest either."

"Second, we're going to be continuing to support the Afghan security forces. We've trained more than 300,000 over the years, and it's a strong force. It's going to continue to have international support, including ours. We're going to be engaged in the peace process to see if we can move this in a better direction."

"And the final thing is this, and I want to repeat it: If the Taliban has any expectation of getting any international acceptance, of not being treated as a pariah, it's going to have to respect the rights of women and girls. Any country that moves backwards on that, that tries to repress them, will not have that international recognition, will not have that international status, and indeed, we will take action to make sure to the best of our ability that they can't do that," he added.

Afghan politicians hope that the government of Afghanistan and the Taliban will achieve a political agreement on peace

ahead of the announced date for the withdrawal of international troops from Afghanistan, predicting that an alternative scenario will not be in the country's favor.

Former mujahideen leader Mohammad Ismail Khan said that the remaining five months for the full withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan should be used as an opportunity for peace in the country, not for fueling war.

He warned that Afghanistan will be plunged into another civil war if both sides refrain from entering meaningful talks.

Other political figures, including presidential adviser Mohammad Mohaqiq and Ahmad Massoud, son of Ahmad Shah Massoud, have also warned of a civil war after the US forces withdrawal if the situation is not managed well.

"A complete civil war can be expected after the withdrawal of foreign forces," Mohaqiq said.

"The war will be more complicated than the past and more intensive--more bloody than the past," Massoud said.

Lessons for...

be asked or expected to take on this kind of thankless imperial burden. The Americans and others who died alongside them were admirable — they went to war when the bugle sounded. But this isn't Oddball on a Sherman tank in "Kelly's Heroes," heroically in front of a column as "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" plays in the background. That war had a clear enemy and an end game, a total war where you survive or perish.

If America and the West are attacked in another great-power war, men and women like them would still rally around the

flag. But this is dusty death in a feudal region that will never change from external influence. It might change someday, but if it does, that evolution must come from within.

The real lesson from a story of another mighty hegemon with 21st-century egalitarian ideas stemming from Lockean enlightenment is the chastening in the hands of seventh-century feudalism, natural hierarchy, and geography. America, at its peak, ended up following the British and Soviet Empires at their peaks.

After an idealistic attempt to shape the history of the region, American leadership found

out what major powers across centuries had also learned the hard way: culture and tradition are the major determinant factors in the history of a region, not blank-slate ideology or naïve faith in secular humanist liberalism. Remember the British policy of punitive raids and wary eyes from a distance. The real lesson of Afghanistan isn't that war is bad — sometimes, it is necessary. Frankly, the lesson isn't even just about Afghanistan. It's about destructive idealism and the cautionary tale of the painful maturation of a republic that's still young but increasingly tired.

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Macron Says Nations Must 'Define Red Lines' With Russia

French President Emmanuel Macron says that while dialogue with Russia is essential, "clear red lines" carrying possible sanctions must also be drawn with Moscow over Ukraine. Referring to a recent buildup of Russian troops on Ukraine's border, Macron said in an interview with American broadcaster CBS News, "We will never accept new military operations on Ukrainian soil." The West must demonstrate diplomacy and credibility in making that point, he said. "And I think after an unacceptable behavior, indeed, we have to sanction," Macron said when asked about the possibility of sanctions. "And I think we have to define clear red lines with Russia. This is the only way to be credible." However, he added "I think that sanctions are not sufficient in themselves, but sanctions are part of the package." The interview aired Sunday on "Face the Nation."

It was recorded after Macron met Friday in Paris with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the two held a virtual conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Macron and Merkel demanded the withdrawal of Russian troops concentrated in western Russia as tensions with neighboring Ukraine rise. The United States and NATO have described the buildup as the largest since 2014, when Russia annexed Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula and fighting broke out in eastern Ukraine between Ukrainian forces and Russia-backed separatists. More than 14,000 people have died during the 7-year conflict in eastern Ukraine. Germany and France helped negotiate a 2015 peace deal for eastern Ukraine in Minsk, the capital of Belarus. Since taking office in 2017, Macron has worked for a constructive dialogue with Russia on a range of issues, and he continued to promote the need



for dialogue in the "Face the Nation" interview. "I'm sure that President (Vladimir) Putin can be ready to reopen dialogue," the French leader

said. "We need an open and frank dialogue with Russia" regarding a raft of topics from arms control to stabilizing world crises.

A look at the world

Iran, Indonesia Foreign Ministers Discuss Trade, Economy

Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif discussed trade and economic issues in a meeting in Jakarta on Monday with his Indonesian counterpart, the two countries said.

Zarif emphasized the importance of finalizing a preferential trade agreement in his talks with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi, Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.



He expressed Iran's readiness to continue negotiations, it said in a statement.

"Supporting the international law as well as exchanging views on the latest developments in the Afghanistan peace process were among other issues discussed in the meeting," it said. The United States has said it will withdraw its last troops from Afghanistan in September.

Indonesia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the foreign ministers focused on joint efforts to overcome the coronavirus pandemic and accelerate economic recovery.

During his visit, Zarif also met Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

Zarif's visit to Jakarta came three months after Indonesian authorities seized the Iranian-flagged tanker MT Horse and a Panamanian-flagged tanker, the MT Freya. The ships were suspected of a variety of violations, including illegally transferring fuel at sea, spilling oil, not displaying national flags, covering the names on their hulls, shutting off their identification systems and anchoring illegally.

The two foreign ministries did not indicate whether the ministers discussed the seizure of the tankers.

John Kerry Optimistic About China's 'Strong' Language on Climate Crisis Following Talks



It's rare that China and the United States are on the same page these days, but it appears the two powers made some progress when it comes to addressing climate change this past week.

In a joint statement on Sunday, Washington and Beijing announced they have agreed to cooperate with each other and other countries to "tackle the climate crisis." They will keep discussing "concrete actions in the 2020s to reduce emissions aimed at keeping the Paris Agreement-aligned temperature limits within reach."

Prior to the release of the statement, John Kerry, the Biden administration's climate envoy, traveled to Shanghai last week to meet with his Beijing counterpart, Xie Zhenhua. Kerry said Sunday that his discussions were productive, noting that "this is the first time China has joined in" calling climate change a "crisis." He also expressed optimism about the Chinese delegation saying the issue must be met with "urgency" and the fact that they talked about "enhancing" their emissions reduction goals. The language, at least, is "strong," Kerry said.

Li Shuo, the senior climate adviser for Greenpeace, said the joint statement "is as positive as the politics would allow," given that before its release the message of cooperation between the two countries was not one "we could assume."

President Biden will host a virtual climate change summit this week, with many world leaders expected to attend. Chinese President Xi Jinping has not formally confirmed his participation, but people familiar with the matter said he'll be there, The Wall Street Journal reports.

7,000 Central African Republic Refugees Arrive in Chad

At least 7,000 refugees from the Central African Republic have arrived in Chad for the past few days, the UN refugee agency said on Sunday.

In a series of tweets, the UNHCR said that as of March 31, some 107,280 Central African refugees and asylum seekers were living in Chad.

The situation in the landlocked African country worsened after the rejection of former President Francois Bozize's candidacy for the December 2020 presidential election.

Hostilities between a coalition of non-state



armed groups and the government forces have continued over the last four months, plunging the country into a new cycle of violence.

Despite the coronavirus pandemic, Chadian authorities have kept the country's border open and allowed access to asylum to thousands of refugees who have been fleeing since the beginning of this year.

Earlier this month, the UNHCR said it is working with the government and partners to relocate thousands of refugees to safer and better-equipped sites further from the border.

The Central African Republic is one of the world's poorest countries and has been facing one of the 10 most under-reported humanitarian crises for five years in a row. It has been troubled by unrest for years, but since May 2017, fresh and fierce clashes between armed groups have wrought increasing suffering, deaths, and destruction of property.

Violence and insecurity following the December 2020 general election have also forced tens of thousands more to flee, according to the UNHCR.



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