

# Images show barbaric Afghanistan reality after Taliban seized control

By

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Distressing images show the barbaric reality in Afghanistan after the Taliban seized control of the country, with women and children covered in blood and militants patrolling streets with rocket launchers — all despite the Taliban's promise of a more peaceful regime.

Shocking scenes captured across Afghanistan on Tuesday — the day the Taliban's longtime spokesman promised peace and an “inclusive, Islamic government” — showed militant mobs instead firing high-powered weapons in the air and randomly beating passersby.

Video footage shared on social media also shows groups of people being corralled by armed groups, some carrying what appear to be rocket launchers while others patrol on rooftops.

Other reports also claim that [Taliban fighters are trolling Afghan villages](#) looking for girls as young as 15 to marry, as well as going door to door looking for Afghans who had worked with the Americans.

In one image [taken by the Los Angeles Times](#), a woman is seen apparently unconscious on the ground near Kabul Airport with blood over her head and hands, while a young boy is carried with his hair completely soaked in blood.

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A man carries a bloodied child, as a woman lies wounded on the street after Taliban fighters used gunfire, whips, sticks and sharp objects to maintain crowd control over thousands of Afghans who continue to wait outside the Kabul airport.



Another shows a seemingly limp woman being picked up by two men outside the airport that has been the scene of desperate — and often [fatal](#) — [attempts](#) to flee the troubled nation.

They were among at least a dozen people injured Tuesday as “amped-up Taliban fighters” corralled hundreds of unarmed Afghans who were [trying to reach the airport](#) to flee the new regime, Yam wrote. This is despite the Taliban vowing “safe passage” for everyone trying to leave the country.



Men are paraded through the streets of Herat, tarred and with ropes around their necks, by the Taliban.

In reality, the brutal enforcers indiscriminately [fired automatic weapons](#), both into the air and at times even toward the crowd of helpless Afghans, the photojournalist said.

They also used sticks, lengths of rubber hose, knotted rope and their rifle butts to beat the crowds, including some who were simply squatting on the ground trying to avoid the militants, Yam said.

Meanwhile, video footage shot elsewhere shows Taliban soldiers trawling streets in military vehicles with machine guns attached.

These distressing reports even came on the same day as the [Taliban’s spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid](#), promised that the regime would be “positively different” from the savagery it was known for before the US invasion after Sept. 11.

“If the question is based on ideology, and beliefs, there is no difference ... but if we calculate it based on experience, maturity, and insight, no doubt there are many differences,” Mujahid told reporters.

He also promised an amnesty for Afghans who had helped the US, insisting, “We will not seek revenge.”

However, the disturbing scenes emerging from out of the country appear to be already contradicting many of the promises.



A crying Afghan woman begs for help from US troops.



At least a dozen people were injured as “amped-up Taliban fighters” corralled hundreds of unarmed Afghans who were trying to reach the airport to flee the new regime, the LA Times reported.

National security adviser Jake Sullivan confirmed at the White House on Tuesday that the Taliban had pledged “safe passage of civilians to the airport.”

“We intend to hold them to that commitment,” he insisted, despite noting multiple reports of people “being turned away or pushed back or even beaten.”

The chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Karim Khan, said he is “most concerned by recent reports of escalating violence in the country.”

He noted allegations of “extrajudicial executions in the form of revenge killings of detainees and individuals who surrendered, persecution of women and girls, crimes against children and other crimes affecting the civilian population at large.”

As well as an increase in violence, the Taliban have “continued to maintain its relationship with al Qaeda, providing safe haven for the terrorist group in Afghanistan,” according to a Department of Defense report [cited by Business Standard](#).



Taliban fighters patrol in the Wazir Akbar Khan neighborhood in the city of Kabul, Afghanistan, Wednesday, Aug. 18, 2021.

When the Taliban were last in power, they sheltered Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda group, which carried out the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Other terror groups, including Somalia’s al-Shabaab and Palestinian groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad, have all sent congratulatory messages to the Taliban, Reuters said.

“Jihadists writ large are jubilant and electrified by the Taliban’s return,” Asfandyar Mir, a South Asia security scholar affiliated with Stanford University’s Center for International Security and Cooperation, told the wire service.

“Major jihadist constituencies across South Asia, Middle East and Africa have taken note ... (and) al Qaeda’s eco-system sees the Taliban’s return as its own victory.”

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