



June 24, 2021

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington D.C. 20515-0001

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
United States Senate  
S-128, The Capitol  
Washington D.C. 20515-0001

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Shelby:

Our military service associations appeal to you to appropriate funds as soon as possible to enable the Department of State and Department of Defense to expeditiously transport to a safe location and process Special Immigration Visa (SIV) applications for the Afghan people who have provided interpreter services and other important support to the United States. Our concern is for the safety of these Afghan people who have helped our country and are therefore in danger of life-threatening retribution by the Taliban.

As a nation we have a moral obligation to help and protect those who have risked their lives supporting our diplomats and armed forces. The world is watching and the credibility of the United States Government (USG) is at stake with regard to this situation in Afghanistan.

Thus, we ask that you appropriate additional funding as soon as possible so the Department of State and Department of Defense can begin "at scale" to expeditiously process visa applications and/or transport the Afghan people who have provided interpreter and other important support to the United States.

We would welcome an opportunity to meet with your staffs to further explain our concerns. We can be reached through Stuart Bradin, GSOF, [sbradin@gsf.org](mailto:sbradin@gsf.org) , Daniel Elkins, SOAA, [daniel@soaa.org](mailto:daniel@soaa.org) or Mark Haaland, AUSA, [mhaaland@ausa.org](mailto:mhaaland@ausa.org) .

Sincerely,

Carter F. Ham  
General, U.S. Army, Retired  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Association of the United States Army

Jason Beardsley  
Executive Director,  
Association of the United States Navy

MATTHEW G. KRENZ  
SGM, USA, Retired  
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NGAUS



SPECIAL FORCES ASSOCIATION



SOAA  
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