



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
5/18/2021

Washington, D.C. - The Special Operations Association of America (SOAA) applauds Chairman Meeks and Ranking Member McCaul for [calling on the Secretary of State](#) to take immediate and swift action to ensure that the brave Afghan Interpreters that risked so much to support our troops are not left behind as U.S. Forces leave Afghanistan.

SOAA has [been calling on politicians](#) and policymakers for months to take immediate action to ensure the safety of those that sacrificed so much to help American Forces in Afghanistan. With the impending U.S. draw down in Afghanistan, the men and women who acted as interpreters and intermediaries for American Troops, at the risk of their own lives and the lives of their family, will be left unprotected and in jeopardy because of their service to the U.S. The Special Immigrant Visa (SIV) program was designed to bring these folks to safety but to date there are still roughly 18,000 applicants still needing to be processed.

SOAA is founded by members of the SOF community who have directly worked side by side with these local interpreters. Founder and Director Daniel Elkins explained, “While the SOF community is honored to serve abroad, we are always thankful to be able to come back to the safety of home. To leave behind those that gave up so much to help our country’s success is a not just a betrayal to the promise we made to these courageous interpreters but a betrayal to who we are as Americans.”

We urge Secretary of State Antony Blinken to be inspired by the bold leadership being shown by Chairman Meeks and Ranking Member McCaul and direct the Department of State to not leave those who gave so much for our country behind to be killed. Please utilize whatever resources are needed to bring these heroes to safety.

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