



SCHOLARS
STRATEGY NETWORK

Afghan Insurgents Are a Dead End

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Following the United States' withdrawal of ground forces from Afghanistan and the Taliban's renewed control, **members of Congress** and **Afghan opposition actors** called for supporting new **anti-Taliban rebellions**. The National Resistance Front, now based in **Tajikistan**, has been ramping up **lobbying efforts** in Washington in recent weeks, **seeking support** for a new fight against the Taliban. Amid a **humanitarian crisis** in Afghanistan, renewed repression of **women** and **minorities**, and doubts about the **Taliban's pledges** not to offer a base to al Qaeda or other terrorist organizations, some policymakers might be increasingly tempted to give insurgents a chance.

That would be a mistake, **repeating U.S. errors** of creating partnerships with unaccountable and potentially abusive or corrupt armed groups in Afghanistan and elsewhere. It would also potentially violate international law. If the Biden administration wants to fulfill its **promises** to value human rights and **shore up** a rules-based international order, it should cut off aid to nonstate armed groups in Afghanistan and beyond.