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# Too early to pull troops, Karzai says; Canadian Forces needed past 2009 or Afghanistan 'will fall back into anarchy'

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Afghanistan will return to "anarchy" with the threat of thousands of civilian deaths if Canada pulls its troops from the country in 2009, Afghan President Hamid Karzai says.

While expressing fresh optimism over the possibility of peace talks with Taliban insurgents, Karzai cautioned that the job of rebuilding his war-torn country is far from complete -- and that Canada can ill afford to leave.

"Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy. Anarchy will bring back safe havens to terrorists . . . and terrorists will then hurt you back there in Canada and the United States. Simple as such," he said.

"If you leave prematurely before we can defend ourselves . . . Afghanistan will fall back," he told Canadian journalists in an interview at his palace last night.

In the past, Karzai has gently nudged Canada to remain in Afghanistan. But as Canadians debate the merits of the Afghan mission, his appeal yesterday was direct. And the president didn't mince words when warning about the consequences of a premature troop withdrawal.

"Leaving Afghanistan alone now will bring back all the evils that were here. And we know they're still around. Look at the situation in Pakistan, look at the situation in Algeria. The suicide bombs there," Karzai said.

"Look around and see that the enemy is not yet finished, not yet defeated. Therefore it is our responsibility, all of us to continue to work to defeat terrorism and we cannot defeat terrorism unless we secure Afghanistan," he said.

Karzai also poured cold water on suggestions by some Conservative cabinet ministers that the Afghan army and police will be ready to take the place of Canadian troops by 2009 to ensure security in troubled Kandahar province.

"The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself. That day is not going to be in 2009," Karzai told reporters during a question-and-answer session held at the presidential palace.

Too early to pull troops, Karzai says; Canadian Forces needed past 2009 or Afghanistan 'will fall back into a

The Afghan president reiterated his optimism that moderate elements of the Taliban want to negotiate an end to the violence and he pledged that he has "open arms" for insurgents willing to rebuild the country.

"The road to peace is ultimately no doubt through negotiations," Karzai said, speaking in Gulkhana Palace, one building in his heavily guarded presidential compound.

"We will continue to work with all those Taliban who want to come back, our doors are open and negotiation is the best way," he said.

The recent release of 19 kidnapped South Korean missionary aid workers came after a landmark deal between Seoul and the Taliban. While some governments like Canada condemned the deal, it did spur speculation that insurgents were willing to talk.

Karzai dismissed the idea that foreign troops must pull out before the Taliban will participate in peace talks — reportedly one condition demanded by the insurgents.

Those calls are made by "terrorists and al-Qaida and their associates. Therefore we are going to ignore these calls," Karzai said.

"But we are going to engage the calls that are truly from some of the Taliban who want to come forward, settle down in the country again," he said.

Karzai said the government would not agree to a power-sharing arrangement with insurgents.

Yesterday's media event at the president's palace was extraordinary. Canadian journalists were flown to the capital from the military base in Kandahar — and there was no mystery as to Karzai's motivation.

"I'm aware of the debate in Canada," he admitted point-blank.

This rare audience with Canadian media was a chance for Karzai to deliver an appeal directly to the Canadian home front. It didn't go unnoticed either that the Canadian embassy in Kabul pulled out all the stops to make the media event happen, suggesting Ottawa also had an interest in making sure Karzai's message was heard.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has vowed that Canada's current mission will only be extended if there is a political consensus.

But the Liberals are pressing to have the troops take on a safer, noncombat role when the current commitment expires in 2009. And federal New Democrats want the troops brought home immediately.

In his opening remarks, Karzai was effusive in his praise of Canada's contributions of troops and cash to help his country "rebuild itself, defend itself and prepare for a better future.

"Canada has come to Afghanistan willing to sacrifice the life of its young men and women in uniform. Canada has also brought to Afghanistan the hard-earned taxpayers' money," he said.

Too early to pull troops, Karzai says; Canadian Forces needed past 2009 or Afghanistan 'will fall back into a

# Cdn. troops needed: Karzai; Afghan president says country could 'descend into anarchy' if Cdn. troops pull out before it can defend itself

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President Hamid Karzai warned yesterday that Afghanistan could descend into anarchy and become a dangerous haven for terrorists again if Canadian troops pull out before the Afghan government can stand on its own.

And Karzai was adamant that his government will not be ready to go it alone when the mandate for the current Canadian mission in Afghanistan ends in February 2009.

"Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy; anarchy will bring back safe haven to terrorists ... terrorists will then hurt you back in Canada and in the United States. It's as simple as that," Karzai told a handful of Canadian journalists flown into Kabul from the Canadian base at Kandahar Airfield to meet with him.

Despite the debate in Canada over the mission to this war-ravaged central Asian country that has claimed the lives of 70 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat, and perhaps because of a looming parliamentary showdown over the war, Karzai appealed for Canada to remain part of the international mission to defeat the Taliban.

"The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself and that day is not going to be in 2009," Karzai said.

Afghanistan cannot afford for Canada to withdraw its roughly 2,500 troops, he said. NATO officials have already sounded the alarm about a shortage of international troops in Afghanistan.

"Look around and see that the enemy is not yet finished; it is not yet defeated," Karzai said during the meeting at Gulkhana Palace, an ornate wing of the heavily guarded presidential compound in Kabul.

"Therefore, it is our responsibility, all of us, to continue to work to defeat terrorism and we cannot defeat terrorism unless we secure Afghanistan."

Karzai said he was aware of the controversy in Canada over the war, particularly in Quebec. The Valcartier-based Van Doos regiment from the province is currently on the ground in Kandahar province.

"My message to Quebec is that the sons and daughters of Quebec who are serving in Afghanistan today are accomplishing an extremely important task, not only for Afghanistan, but for Canada and all of us around this world as well," he said.

# Matt Minglewood's Kandahar a classic already

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On a late afternoon at the Harvest Jazz and Blues Festival in Fredericton last weekend, the veteran Cape Breton blues and rock musician Matt Minglewood brought the crowd to its feet more than once.

He did it predictably enough with a soulful rendition of Rita MacNeil's well-known Workingman, which he introduced as the blues for the Cape Breton coal miner.

But before that, he also brought people to their feet with a searing new song that has the makings of an equally powerful anthem for the working Canadian soldier on the ground in Kandahar.

The 60-year-old Minglewood, with more than a dozen albums behind him and a load of honours to boot, introduced the new song cautiously, as a tribute he wrote as a result of his experience playing for Canadian troops in a similar big tent in Afghanistan.

As he tore through the song in trademark style, tough and wild but never out of control, there were shouts of recognition from the audience. In the song there was respect and there was humour, and in the refrain there was also an undercurrent of ambivalence that acknowledged the dirt and dust and danger of the soldiers' mission: "Keep your head down, You're in Kandahar."

He did not have to spell out much more in a community where hundreds of families have been directly affected by the deployment and a region that has absorbed more than a fair share of the death and injury.

Yet, this was not a song for or against the Afghanistan mission. In the context of his performance, as was the case for Rita MacNeil's classic, it was a song of solidarity for the work force in a hazardous occupation where workers have little or no say over the purposes or conditions of their work.

In his own way, Minglewood has, over the years, been a kind of folk performer for his far-flung generation of Maritimers and their children, who have been as likely to be found in the Canadian Forces as in the oil sands of Alberta. As in the old folk tradition, his appeal has always drawn on his ability to share identity and experience between performer and audience.

For a few minutes in that tent in a parking lot behind city hall, Minglewood's performance was one of the unexpected highlights of the annual music festival in downtown Fredericton. In front of an audience that was moved to tears as well as cheers, Minglewood was keeping the tradition alive.

The song is unreleased, but the first verses of Kandahar (Keep Your Head Down) can be heard at the Minglewood website, [www.mattminglewood.com](http://www.mattminglewood.com).

David Frank teaches Canadian history at the University of New Brunswick.

# Relationship training eases military family stress, makes better soldiers

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It doesn't take a Philadelphia lawyer or a Rhodes Scholar to reach the conclusion that prolonged absence is tough on human relationships.

Nowhere is this more true than in the Armed Forces.

Whether soldiers are on exercise, responding to an emergency out of province or halfway around the globe, absence does not always make the heart grow fonder.

Sometimes, it can have the opposite effect.

This is the scenario faced by military spouses -- men and women -- regularly as they deal with the new reality of a post 9/11 world, a reality that's seen our military made part of the quagmire in Afghanistan.

Being away from the comforts of home and the arms of loved ones for six months of high stress duty can create problems for both soldiers and those who stayed behind.

While the military takes great pride in its support network and offers activities to members and their families, sometimes more is needed.

A survey carried out a few years ago within the Forces, showed 73 per cent of personnel in the Canadian military are in committed relationships.

That's where Basic Relationship Training comes into play.

Not to be confused with basic training, where physical fitness is the key to success or failure, this type of exercise is more for the mind.

It is based on the Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program currently used by the U.S. military.

Basic relationship training was created by the Canadian military to offer the support, information and tools needed to help military personnel and their spouses maintain the good health of a committed relationship.

Its creators call it a research-based approach specifically designed for high stress military relationships. It aims to help couples discover and practice effective communication, work as a team to solve problems, manage conflict without damaging closeness and preserve and enhance love, commitment and friendship."



It is an opportunity for couples to learn the kind of skills, attitudes and actions that add up to relationship success.

The training process focuses on relationship building, health promotion and spiritual encouragement.

The military believes if soldiers and their spouses can be strong in these areas, relationships will be better able to withstand the stresses and uncertainties of military life.

Erika Lefebvre, a psychologist with the Strengthening the Forces program, has said the training was launched because the military wanted to be very cutting-edge and proactive by building skills, not by "spill-your-guts counselling."

"Even if couples aren't being deployed, I think anybody could benefit from this. Relationships require regular maintenance," she said.

"The Forces' operational environment requires mentally focused, operationally ready personnel," says the military in a message to its personnel.

"Strong, supportive relationships are paramount to your ability to remain mission-focused. By providing you and your spouse or partner the skills to sustain and improve your relationship, and to keep it adaptable to change."

In a day and age where stress is more than common, whether it be in military or civilian circles, such a program can only make a better soldier and a better soldier means a better home life.

For more information about basic relationship training, contact the Galetown Military Family Resource Centre at 422-2000 ext. 3352.

Michael Staples covers the military for The Daily Gleaner. He can be reached at [staples.michael@dailygleaner.com](mailto:staples.michael@dailygleaner.com).

# Afghanistan president warns of anarchy if troops leave

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President Hamid Karzai warned Tuesday that Afghanistan could descend into anarchy and become a dangerous haven for terrorists again if Canadian troops pull out before the Afghan government can stand on its own.

And Karzai was adamant that his government will not be ready to go it alone when the mandate for the current Canadian mission in Afghanistan ends in February 2009.

"Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy; anarchy will bring back safe haven to terrorists ... terrorists will then hurt you back in Canada and in the United States.

"It's as simple as that," Karzai told a handful of Canadian journalists flown into Kabul from the Canadian base at Kandahar Airfield to meet with him.

Despite the debate in Canada over the mission to this war-ravaged central Asian country that has claimed the lives of 70 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat, and perhaps because of a looming parliamentary showdown over the war, Karzai appealed for Canada to remain part of the international mission to defeat the Taliban.

"The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself and that day is not going to be in 2009," Karzai said.

Afghanistan cannot afford for Canada to withdraw its roughly 2,500 troops, he said. NATO officials have already sounded the alarm about a shortage of international troops in Afghanistan.

"Look around and see that the enemy is not yet finished; it is not yet defeated," Karzai said during the meeting at Gulkhana Palace, an ornate wing of the heavily guarded presidential compound in Kabul.

"Therefore, it is our responsibility, all of us, to continue to work to defeat terrorism and we cannot defeat terrorism unless we secure Afghanistan."

Karzai said he was aware of the controversy in Canada over the war, particularly in Quebec. The Valcartier-based Van Doos regiment from the province is currently on the ground in Kandahar province.

"My message to Quebec is that the sons and daughters of Quebec who are serving in Afghanistan today are accomplishing an extremely important task, not only for Afghanistan, but for Canada and all of us around this world as well," he said.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives are in favour of extending the military mandate, but the Liberals and Bloc Quebecois are opposed.

The NDP wants Canadian troops withdrawn immediately from Afghanistan.

Harper has said the mission would continue only if his minority government could get a consensus in Parliament.

He has no plans for a vote on the issue in the near future.

Where the Conservatives and Karzai appear to part company is over negotiation with the Taliban.

Both Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and Canada's top military commander in Afghanistan have ruled out negotiation with the insurgent group.

But Karzai said "our doors are open."

"The road to peace is ultimately, no doubt, through negotiations," he said.

The Taliban are extremists who ruled Afghanistan and allowed al-Qaida to operate terror training camps until a U.S.-led coalition ousted them from power in late 2001.

# 'Presence of Canada is needed'; Afghan president urges nation to stay

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# Afghan leader fears anarchy if Canadians pull out in 2009; Karzai says his government won't be ready, terrorist threat will be bolstered

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KABUL – President Hamid Karzai warned Tuesday that Afghanistan could descend into anarchy and become a dangerous haven for terrorists again if Canadian troops pull out before the Afghan government can stand on its own.

And Karzai was adamant that his government will not be ready to go it alone when the mandate for the current Canadian mission in Afghanistan ends in February 2009.

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"The road to peace is ultimately, no doubt, through negotiations," he said.

The Taliban are extremists who ruled Afghanistan and allowed al-Qaida to operate terror training camps until a U.S.-led coalition ousted them from power in late 2001. The Taliban, however, have maintained their influence over various parts of the country and are waging a bloody insurgency against coalition and government forces. Public opinion in Canada about Afghanistan remains uneasy.

Nearly six years after helping topple the Taliban government, Canadians are still fighting and dying in Kandahar province, the ideological heartland of the Taliban. And they're fighting and dying over land they had already won, only to see corrupt or inept Afghan national security forces let it fall back into the hands of insurgents.

Under criticism for corruption in his own ranks, Karzai admits it's a problem that has yet to be overcome.

It is "the legacy of three decades of desperation and destruction and upheaval in this country," Karzai said during the half-hour question-and-answer session with Canadian media.

"We have to have patience. It's not going to be fixed in a day or two." 'Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy; anarchy will bring back safe haven to terrorists. . . . Terrorists will then hurt you back in Canada and in the United States. It's as simple as that.'

# Karzai appeals to Canadians to stick with mission in Afghanistan; He says his country could plunge into chaos if Canadians leave too soon

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Karzai appeals to Canadians to stick with mission in Afghanistan; He says his country could plunge into chaos



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Karzai appeals to Canadians to stick with mission in Afghanistan; He says his country could plunge into chaos

# Byelection results prompt talk of throne speech showdown

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The federal Conservatives have to be energized by their success in Monday night's Quebec byelections, and the abject failure of their Liberal opponents.

But that new dynamic doesn't necessarily make a fall general election any more likely, and in fact may give Prime Minister Stephen Harper's minority government more room to flex its policy muscles.

The paradox is that the electoral spankings of the Liberals and the Bloc Quebecois appear certain to raise the political volume over the next month as four parties jostle for the high ground in anticipation of the Oct. 16 throne speech that will reset the Tory government's agenda.

Whether Harper's minority will fall in the ensuing confidence vote and force an election was the subject of intense speculation – and partisan bravado – on Tuesday.

Conservative thinker, pundit and sometime Harper mentor Tom Flanagan believes the byelection setbacks for the Bloc Quebecois and the Liberals make an autumn election "considerably less likely."

"I think at this point Harper would have to push the other parties awfully hard to get all three of them to vote non-confidence on the throne speech," he said.

And if the prime minister really did drive a wedge issue that hard, it would likely hurt him among the broader electorate, Flanagan argued.

That wouldn't appear to be a palatable option for the Tories. A new poll released Tuesday doesn't exactly inspire confidence.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey, taken before the Quebec byelections, put Conservative support at 32 per cent nationally, compared to 29 per cent for the Liberals, 17 per cent for the NDP, 14 per cent for the Green party and five per cent for the Bloc.

Pollster Bruce Anderson said Harper's quest for majority support in the 40 per cent range "looks as hard now as it has for months, despite the travails of the Liberals under Mr. (Stephane) Dion."

So just whose interests would a general election serve?

The New Democrats won a massive upset in Montreal's Outremont riding Monday night, knocking off Dion's hand-picked star candidate by a huge margin to win just the second NDP seat ever in the province.

Party leader Jack Layton, despite his fourth-party stature in the Commons, was a portrait of partisan cockiness in the aftermath.

Layton said Harper "seems to take more direction from the Bush White House than he does from the Canadian public."

"He doesn't seem to understand that he's in a minority situation and he needs to work with other parties," Layton said. "Instead, he's taken a somewhat arrogant approach."

So if NDP support for a throne speech seems unlikely, what about the Bloc Quebecois?

"One thing is certain, we have to be more aggressive with the Conservatives," Bloc MP Mario Laframboise, the party's main Quebec election organizer, said Tuesday.

"We got the message ... yes, we have to be tougher on the Afghanistan file, on the environment, on the agriculture problems, the forest industry problems."

# Plea to stay; Karzai says Afghanistan could plunge into chaos if Canadians leave too soon

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**PUBLICATION:** The Telegram (St. John's)

**DATE:** 2007.09.19

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** A10

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Dene Moore

**DATELINE:** kabul

**ILLUSTRATION:** Hamid Karzai; An Afghan man carries a hunting gun and a second hand radio for sale at a market in Kabul, Afghanistan, Tuesday. – Photo by The Canadian Press

**WORD COUNT:** 413

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President Hamid Karzai warned Tuesday that Afghanistan could descend into anarchy and become a dangerous haven for terrorists again if Canadian troops pull out before the Afghan government can stand on its own.

And Karzai was adamant this government will not be ready to go it alone when the mandate for the current Canadian mission in Afghanistan ends in February 2009.

"Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy; anarchy will bring back safe haven to terrorists ... terrorists will then hurt you back in Canada and in the United States. It's as simple as that," Karzai told a handful of Canadian journalists flown into Kabul from the Canadian base at Kandahar Airfield to meet with him.

Despite the debate in Canada over the mission to this war-ravaged central Asian country that has claimed the lives of 70 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat, and perhaps because of a looming parliamentary showdown over the war, Karzai appealed for Canada to remain part of the international mission to defeat the Taliban.

"The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself and that day is not going to be in 2009," Karzai said. Afghanistan cannot afford for Canada to withdraw its roughly 2,500 troops, he said. NATO officials have already sounded the alarm about a shortage of international troops in Afghanistan.

"Look around and see that the enemy is not yet finished; it is not yet defeated," Karzai said during the meeting at Gulkhana Palace, an ornate wing of the heavily guarded presidential compound in Kabul.

"Therefore, it is our responsibility, all of us, to continue to work to defeat terrorism and we cannot defeat terrorism unless we secure Afghanistan."

Karzai said he was aware of the controversy in Canada over the war, particularly in Quebec. The Valcartier-based Van Doos regiment from the province is currently on the ground in Kandahar province.

"My message to Quebec is that the sons and daughters of Quebec who are serving in Afghanistan today are accomplishing an extremely important task, not only for Afghanistan, but for Canada and all of us around this world as well," he said.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives are in favour of extending the military mandate, but the Liberals and Bloc Quebecois are opposed. The NDP wants Canadian troops withdrawn immediately.

Harper has said the mission would continue only if his minority government could get a consensus in Parliament. He has no plans for a vote on the issue in the near future.

Where the Conservatives and Karzai appear to part company is over negotiation with the Taliban. Both Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and Canada's top military commander in Afghanistan have ruled out negotiation with the insurgent group.

# Good news from France

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**DATE:** 2007.09.18

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 641

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How exactly the French got their reputation as the osurrender monkeysv of the Western alliance after 9/11 is not entirely clear, but they did and it stuck. Having surrendered early in two world wars didn't help, even though it was perhaps unavoidable, and playing it safe in Afghanistan and steering clear of Iraq perhaps contributed. The policies of the government of former president Jacques Chirac, which appeared solely bent on confounding American interests internationally, did not help either, particularly when it meant accommodating renegade states such as Iraq and Iran despite the latter's obvious nuclear ambitions but it was a reputation that was never really deserved. The French are actually pretty fierce when it comes to defending their own interests. It is just that only occasionally do their interests coincide with the interests of other members of the Western alliance, such as Canada and the United States. Apparently, in the mind of the new government of President Nicolas Sarkozy, today those interests do coincide. In the last few days, the French have promised to send Mirage warplanes to the Kandahar region of southern Afghanistan where they can support Canadian combat troops. The French also have hinted they might agree to deploy actual fighting soldiers to the hot zone of the south where they could assume part of the burden of the war that Canadians are now disproportionately bearing. This is good news for Canada, for NATO and for Afghanistan. It is also a remarkable about-face on the part of France, changing from osurrender monkeysv to oles gorilles de guerrev the chest-beating gorillas of war. French Foreign Minister Bernard Kouchner's comments in Washington about Iran on Sunday were particularly redolent of the new breeze from Paris. Mr. Kouchner said the world should prepare itself for war with Iran if that country's government will not abandon its nuclear program that seems, despite Tehran's denials, designed to produce nuclear weapons. Although stressing the importance of negotiations, he said the world should be ready ofor the worst... which is war.v His comments echoed a statement from Washington on the same weekend that warned the Iranian government that oall options were on the tablev in dealing with Iran's nuclear ambitions. They also reinforced an earlier warning from Mr. Sarkozy that the West needs to prepare itself for a choice between oan Iranian bomb or the bombing of Iran.vThat's tough talk, coming from France, which had been the chief appeaser of Iran among the Western allies. But it is also the kind of talk that is consistent with French traditional foreign policy. Far from a being a surrender monkey, France has been consistently interventionist in pursuing its own interests, in a military way in its former colonial empire in Africa where French troops are routinely at work, and in a very hardball diplomatic way in its relations with its European neighbours. There is no doubt in the European Union about who are the major players France and Germany and it is clear now that France is about to step up to the plate on the broader international scene as well. This time, however, it seems that Paris will play with the rest of the West, rather than against us.

# Karzai says Afghanistan could plunge into chaos if Canadians leave too soon

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**DATE:** 2007.09.18

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 573

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KABUL (CP) \_ President Hamid Karzai warned Tuesday that Afghanistan could descend into anarchy and become a dangerous haven for terrorists again if Canadian troops pull out before the Afghan government can stand on its own.

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Where the Conservatives and Karzai appear to part company is over negotiation with the Taliban.

Both Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and Canada's top military commander in Afghanistan have ruled out negotiation with the insurgent group.

But Karzai said ``our doors are open."

``The road to peace is ultimately, no doubt, through negotiations," he said.

The Taliban are extremists who ruled Afghanistan and allowed al-Qaida to operate terror training camps until a U.S.-led coalition ousted them from power in late 2001. The Taliban, however, have maintained their influence over various parts of the country and are waging a bloody insurgency against coalition and government forces.

Public opinion in Canada about Afghanistan remains uneasy.

Nearly six years after helping topple the Taliban government, Canadians are still fighting and dying in Kandahar province, the ideological heartland of the Taliban. And they're fighting and dying over land they had already won, only to see corrupt or inept Afghan national security forces let it fall back into the hands of insurgents.

Under criticism for corruption in his own ranks, Karzai admits it's a problem that has yet to be overcome.

It is ``the legacy of three decades of desperation and destruction and upheaval in this country," Karzai said during the half-hour question-and-answer session with Canadian media.

``We have to have patience. It's not going to be fixed in a day or two."



# U.S. air strike kills Taliban leader behind South Korean kidnappings

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**DATE:** 2007.09.18

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE

**PUBLICATION:** cpw

**WORD COUNT:** 325

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KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) \_ U.S. air strikes targeting a meeting of Taliban leaders killed a commander who orchestrated the kidnappings of 23 South Koreans, Afghan officials said Tuesday.

Mullah Abdullah Jan, the Taliban commander of Qara Bagh district in Ghazni province, was among the 12 killed in the strike on a mud-brick housing compound overnight, said Ghazni provincial police chief Gen. Ali Shah Ahmadzai.

Jan watched as his fighters stopped and kidnapped a tour bus full of South Koreans in July, Ahmadzai said. Officials previously said they had killed another commander behind the kidnappings, a Mullah Mateen, but Ahmadzai said Jan was higher-ranking.

Neither the U.S. military or NATO's International Security Assistance Force had any immediate comment.

There have been several military operations in Ghazni since the release of the last of the captives on Aug. 30, possibly reflecting the desires of the Afghan government or U.S. and NATO forces to assert authority over the rebellious region following the abductions.

Afghanistan's Interior Ministry on Sunday said police had killed three Taliban commanders allegedly involved in the abductions, and Mateen was said to be killed in fighting earlier in the month.

Two of the Korean hostages were slain soon after the kidnappings on July 19. Two women were released later during the Taliban's negotiations with South Korea, and the remaining 19 were freed after days of negotiations between two Taliban leaders and a delegation from South Korean.

Elsewhere, an explosion on Monday killed a NATO soldier and wounded another in southern Afghanistan, the alliance said Tuesday. The statement from NATO's International Security Assistance Force did not provide further details about the incident or the nationality of the victims.

In Helmand province, a gunbattle in Garmser district Monday killed six suspected Taliban, while nine others were killed in an air strike in Kajaki district, the Ministry of Defence said.

Insurgency-related violence has killed more than 4,300 people \_ mostly militants \_ in Afghanistan this year, according to an Associated Press count based on figures from western and Afghan officials.

# 'Negotiation the solution': Ex-Taliban leader

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190092  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Ont  
**SECTION:** World And Comment  
**PAGE:** AA04  
**ILLUSTRATION:** BRUCE CAMPION-SMITH TORONTO STAR Mullah Abdul Salam Rakiti, a member of parliament, isn't sure if the Taliban can make good on pledges of peace. ;  
**BYLINE:** Bruce Campion-Smith  
**SOURCE:** Toronto Star  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 408

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Mullah Abdul Salam Rakiti has a tough message for foreign troops in Afghanistan – the Taliban cannot be beaten with military might alone.

This veteran Afghan fighter should know. He was once a top commander with the Taliban.

Instead, Rakiti says negotiations with the Taliban are the only way to truly end an insurgency that is killing foreign troops and civilians in Afghanistan.

And he urged Canada to rethink its opposition to holding discussions with insurgent leaders.

"If we solve the problems with the Taliban (with) negotiations, believe me, you will have a good economy ... we'll have more schools, we'll have more education," said Rakiti, speaking through an interpreter.

"Which way is the solution? Negotiations or fighting. Negotiation is the solution. Fighting cannot solve the problem.

"In my way, negotiation is good way for the future of Afghanistan, for the reconstruction of Afghanistan, for the stability of Afghanistan and for peace."

Rakiti was detained by U.S. forces for six months after the fall of the Taliban in 2001. His past has drawn condemnation from critics who are angry that this former war fighter now sits in the Afghan parliament representing the district of Zabul.

In recent weeks, President Hamid Karzai has signalled that his government is open to talks with the Taliban, a comment he repeated yesterday to Canadian journalists.

Yesterday, Rakiti expressed support for the idea of talks, even though he admits he's not sure what the Taliban seek to achieve in peace discussions.

"They have a different idea about the future of Afghanistan. They want foreign troops to leave Afghanistan. They want to fight to bring peace in Afghanistan."

Nor is he even sure if Taliban leaders can make good on any pledges of peace made at the negotiating table. Certainly, local deals struck between coalition leaders and insurgents don't offer much hope.

But one thing is clear, Rakiti said. The Afghan government should not agree to the Taliban demand that foreign troops leave the country, as a precursor for talks to even begin.

"If all foreign troops leave Afghanistan, we will have civil war," he said in the courtyard of his Kabul home.

"The foreign troops should stay here until that time we should bring good police, good army. If we had all these things, then it's possible foreign troops leave. Now is not the time for the foreign troops to leave."

While the suicide attacks now used by insurgents signal a certain desperation, Rakiti said the Taliban remains a force that is able to slow redevelopment.

"The Taliban have a good power right now. No schools, no reconstruction ... . (They) are kind of an opposition party so we should discuss with them what they want."

And he warned that continued fighting carries a steep price for his country and foreign soldiers sent here to help quell the violence.

"Fighting, you're losing lots of your soldiers ... during the fighting you're killing lots of civilians, so people are getting more upset.

"This is not too late. We can negotiate anytime."

# Karzai fears the return of chaos; Afghanistan will become 'havens to terrorists' if Canada pulls its troops from country in 2009

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190085

**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Star

**DATE:** 2007.09.19

**EDITION:** Met

**SECTION:** World And Comment

**PAGE:** AA01

**ILLUSTRATION:** BRUCE CAMPION–SMITH toronto star President Hamid Karzai says Afghanistan's army and police are not yet able to defend the nation without help from Canada and other NATO countries. ;

**BYLINE:** Bruce Campion–Smith

**SOURCE:** Toronto Star

**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation

**WORD COUNT:** 747

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Afghanistan will return to "anarchy" with the threat of thousands of civilian deaths if Canada pulls its troops from the country in 2009, President Hamid Karzai says.

While expressing fresh optimism over the possibility of peace talks with Taliban insurgents, Karzai cautioned the job of rebuilding his war-torn country is far from done and Canada cannot afford to leave.

"Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy. Anarchy will bring back safe havens to terrorists ... and terrorists will then hurt you back there in Canada and the United States. Simple as such," he told Canadian journalists at his palace last night.

"If you leave prematurely before we can defend ourselves ... Afghanistan will fall back."

In the past, Karzai has gently nudged Canada to remain in Afghanistan. But as Canadians debate the merits of the mission, his appeal yesterday was direct. And the president didn't mince words when warning about the consequences of a premature troop withdrawal.

"Leaving Afghanistan alone now will bring back all the evils that were here. And we know they're still around. Look at the situation in Pakistan, look at the situation in Algeria. The suicide bombs there," Karzai said.

"Look around and see that the enemy is not yet finished, not yet defeated. Therefore it is our responsibility, all of us to continue to work to defeat terrorism and we cannot defeat terrorism unless we secure Afghanistan."

Karzai also poured cold water on suggestions by some Conservative cabinet ministers that the Afghan army and police will be ready to take the place of Canadian troops by 2009 to ensure security in troubled Kandahar province.

"The presence of Canada is needed till Afghanistan is able to defend itself. That day is not going to be in 2009," he said.

The Afghan president reiterated his optimism that moderate elements of the Taliban want to negotiate an end to the violence and he pledged that he has "open arms" for insurgents willing to rebuild the country.

"The road to peace is ultimately, no doubt, through negotiations," Karzai said. "We will continue to work with all those Taliban who want to come back. Our doors are open and negotiation is the best way."

The recent release of 21 kidnapped South Korean Christian aid workers came after a landmark deal between Seoul and the Taliban. While some governments, such as Canada's, condemned the deal, it did spur speculation that insurgents were willing to talk.

Karzai dismissed the idea that foreign troops must pull out before the Taliban will participate in peace talks – reportedly one of the conditions demanded by the insurgents.

Those calls are made by "terrorists and Al Qaeda and their associates. Therefore we are going to ignore these calls," Karzai said.

"But we are going to engage the calls that are truly from some of the Taliban who want to come forward, settle down in the country again."

Karzai said the government would not agree to a power-sharing arrangement with insurgents.

"No, nothing like that. This country belongs to all," he said.

"The Taliban and everybody else should remember president (John F.) Kennedy's words when he said to the American people, 'Ask not what America can give, ask what you can give to America,'" Karzai said, mangling the famous quote from the 1961 inaugural address.

"That's our position. They should not ask what Afghanistan can do for them but ask what it is they can do for their own country and people."

This rare audience with Canadian media was a chance for the president to deliver an appeal directly to the Canadian home front. But it didn't go unnoticed either that the Canadian embassy in Kabul pulled out all the stops to make the media event happen, suggesting that Ottawa had an interest, too, in making sure Karzai's message was heard.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has vowed that Canada's current mission will be extended only if there is a political consensus. But the Liberals are pressing to have the soldiers take on a safer, non-combat role when the current commitment expires in 2009. And federal New Democrats want the troops brought home immediately.

Canada now has 2,300 soldiers serving primarily in Kandahar. Seventy Canadian soldiers and one diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan since the mission began in 2002.

In his opening remarks, Karzai was effusive of his praise for Canada's contributions of troops and cash to help his country "rebuild itself, defend itself and prepare for a better future.

"Canada has come to Afghanistan willing to sacrifice the life of its young men and women in uniform. Canada has also brought to Afghanistan the hard-earned taxpayers' money," he said.

"The toil, the hard work of the Canadian people is spent in Afghanistan in order to make the lives of the Afghans better. All of that is seen and felt and recognized by the Afghan people."

Karzai fears the return of chaos; Afghanistan will become 'havens to terrorists' if Canada pulls its troops from

And in a nod to the presence of Quebec-based troops now in Kandahar – and a Quebec population not keen on the mission – Karzai ended his remarks with "Merci beaucoup, Canada."

# Karzai's dire warning Canada mission must continue if Taliban to be defeated, Afghan prez says

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**SOURCETAG:** 0709190417  
**PUBLICATION:** The Winnipeg Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 12  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of HAMID KARZAI "Look around"  
**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, CP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**WORD COUNT:** 270

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And Karzai was adamant that his government will not be ready to go it alone when the mandate for the current Canadian mission in Afghanistan ends in February 2009. "Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy; anarchy will bring back safe haven to terrorists ... terrorists will then hurt you back in Canada and in the United States. It's as simple as that," Karzai told a handful of Canadian journalists.

## 'IMPORTANT TASK'

"The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself and that day is not going to be in 2009."

Afghanistan cannot afford for Canada to withdraw its roughly 2,500 troops, he said.

NATO officials have already sounded the alarm about a shortage of international troops in Afghanistan.

"Look around and see that the enemy is not yet finished; it is not yet defeated," Karzai said at Gulkhana Palace, an ornate wing of the heavily guarded presidential compound in Kabul.

Karzai said he was aware of the controversy in Canada over the war, particularly in Quebec. The Valcartier-based Van Doos regiment from the province is currently on the ground in Kandahar province.

"My message to Quebec is that the sons and daughters of Quebec who are serving in Afghanistan today are accomplishing an extremely important task, not only for Afghanistan, but for Canada and all of us around this world as well," he said.

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KEYWORDS=WORLD

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**SOURCETAG:** 0709190613  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 14  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of HAMID KARZAI "LOOK AROUND"  
**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, CP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**COLUMN:** World Watch  
**WORD COUNT:** 270

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KEYWORDS=WORLD



# TTC set to show support for troops

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**SOURCETAG** 0709190609  
**PUBLICATION:** The Toronto Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 12  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of ADAM GIAMBRONE Might wear pin  
**BYLINE:** ZEN RURYK  
**WORD COUNT:** 187

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TTC drivers could soon have the option of sporting pins to show their support for Canadian soldiers.

The Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Local 113, which represents TTC operators, had called on transit commissioners to allow the placement of yellow ribbon decals on buses and streetcars.

TTC officials have come up with a slightly different idea, recommending commissioners approve a plan today that would let employees wear pins to show their support.

"It doesn't force employees to drive in a bus that they may feel uncomfortable with. This is an issue where there are people on all sides," said TTC Chairman Adam Giambrone. "If you weren't comfortable as a driver, why would we force you to do this? This allows you to take a very personal stand — if you choose to."

Giambrone said he's willing to wear one of the pins from time to time.

"I don't support the action in Afghanistan, but I do support the men and women in the Canadian Armed Forces," he said.

Plans initially called for the TTC and union to split the \$6,500 cost for 9,000 pins.

But Bob Kinnear, Local 113 president, said his union will pay the bill.

Noting TTC commissioners recently decided to boost fares, Kinnear said he wanted to extinguish any controversy that might arise from a decision by the TTC to put up money for pins.

"What we're concerned with is showing that our members — that the TTC — support the troops," he said  
**KEYWORDS=**TORONTO AND GTA

# Karzai's dire warning Canada mission must continue if Taliban to be defeated, Afghan prez says

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**SOURCETAG:** 0709190102  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 7  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of HAMID KARZAI "Look around"  
**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, CP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**COLUMN:** World Watch  
**WORD COUNT:** 270

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KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Anarchy predicted if Canadian pullout proceeds in 2009

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**SOURCETAG:** 0709190491  
**PUBLICATION:** The London Free Press  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A4  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of HAMID KARZAI  
**BYLINE:** CP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**WORD COUNT:** 225

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"Look around and see that the enemy is not yet finished; it is not yet defeated," Karzai said during the meeting at the heavily guarded presidential compound in Kabul. **KEYWORDS=WORLD**

# Karzai's dire warning Canada mission must continue if Taliban to be defeated, Afghan prez says

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**SOURCETAG:** 0709190845  
**PUBLICATION:** The Edmonton Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 20  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of HAMID KARZAI "Look around"  
**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, CP  
**WORD COUNT:** 272

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## 'IMPORTANT TASK'

"The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself and that day is not going to be in 2009."

Afghanistan cannot afford for Canada to withdraw its roughly 2,500 troops, he said.

NATO officials have already sounded the alarm about a shortage of international troops in Afghanistan.

"Look around and see that the enemy is not yet finished; it is not yet defeated," Karzai said at Gulkhana Palace, an ornate wing of the heavily guarded presidential compound in Kabul.

Karzai said he was aware of the controversy in Canada over the war, particularly in Quebec. The Valcartier-based Van Doos regiment from the province is currently on the ground in Kandahar province.

"My message to Quebec is that the sons and daughters of Quebec who are serving in Afghanistan today are accomplishing an extremely important task, not only for Afghanistan, but for Canada and all of us around this world as well," he said.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has said the mission would continue only if his minority government could get a consensus in Parliament. While Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and Canada's top military commander in Afghanistan have ruled out negotiation with the Taliban, Karzai said "our doors are open."

KEYWORDS=WORLD

# Karzai's dire warning Canada mission must continue if Taliban to be defeated, Afghan prez says

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**SOURCETAG:** 0709190723  
**PUBLICATION:** The Calgary Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** 10  
**ILLUSTRATION:** photo of HAMID KARZAI "Look around"  
**BYLINE:** DENE MOORE, CP  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**WORD COUNT:** 270

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KEYWORDS=WORLD

# THE AFGHAN MISSION: A GRAVE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE Karzai pleads for Canadians to stay The country will 'fall back into anarchy' if troops exit too quickly, Afghanistan's leader warns

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072620241

**DATE:** 2007.09.19

**PAGE:** A1 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** GRAEME SMITH

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Kabul AFGHANISTAN

**WORDS:** 1040

**WORD COUNT:** 1082

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GRAEME SMITH KABUL Afghanistan risks a descent into chaos if Canadian soldiers withdraw from the country too quickly, President Hamid Karzai said yesterday, warning of dark consequences for his country and the entire world if the foreign troops abandon the fight against the Taliban before the war is finished.

In an unprecedented move, Mr. Karzai summoned Canadian journalists to his heavily guarded palace in Kabul and spoke passionately about the need for a renewed commitment of troops after the Canadian mandate expires in February of 2009.

He evoked the worst period in his country's recent history, when civil wars killed tens of thousands in the early 1990s, saying a similar disaster could happen again if his military support falters.

"Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy," he said. "Anarchy will bring back safe havens to terrorists, among other things, and terrorists will then hurt you back there in Canada and the United States. Simple as that." It was an unusually bleak assessment from a leader whose optimism has sometimes led to criticisms that he is too cloistered inside his Kabul fortress. But he finds himself facing a difficult campaign of persuasion in the coming months, as Canada considers the future of its 2,500 troops and Dutch parliamentarians debate the withdrawal of 2,000 soldiers whose commitment ends next year.

Even the current number of troops isn't enough to give the Afghan government the confidence it needs to fight corruption and solve problems of human rights, Mr. Karzai said, because those reforms would force confrontations with armed factions.

"We definitely need the steady, strong backing of the international community, and that has not been there," Mr. Karzai said.

"If there is a concern about corruption, or violation in instances of human rights and law and order, the international community must come forward with the requisite application of force." Mr. Karzai also described progress in his attempts to negotiate with the Taliban. Initial investigation of the insurgents' calls for peace talks have shown that some Taliban appear to be genuinely interested in dialogue, he said, while some hard-line factions don't seem serious in their demands.

He has rejected two of the main ideas suggested by the insurgents in their public calls for talks, saying he isn't interested in any negotiations preconditioned on the withdrawal of foreign troops and he does not want a power-sharing arrangement that would rewrite the rules of Afghan democracy.

"There is a constitution, there is a way of life," he said. "Let them come and participate [in elections] and win." But the President seemed keenly aware that his hard line on peace talks will be impossible to maintain if the Canadians and other foreign troops withdraw from the dangerous south.

Towns and district centres would fall to the insurgents, he said, and the countryside would resemble the confused battlefield that existed from 1992 to 1996, when factional wars left Afghanistan divided into countless rival fiefs.

"Exactly that will happen, exactly," Mr. Karzai said. "If you leave prematurely, before we can defend ourselves in terms of our own abilities, government, institutions, and all associated factors, Afghanistan will fall back." Mr. Karzai showed a keen awareness of Canadians' ambivalence about the Afghan mission, even offering a "merci beaucoup" for viewers in Quebec where support is weakest, and he seemed eager to contradict some ideas raised in the Canadian debate.

Canadian officials have said that Afghan forces could be ready to take over the lead role in protecting Kandahar by the time the Canadian commitment expires in 18 months, but the Afghan President bluntly disagreed with that assessment.

"The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself, and that day is not going to be in 2009," he said.

Rather than emphasize the human cost of withdrawal, Mr. Karzai repeatedly came back to the theme of Canadian security relating to the fight against extremism in Afghanistan.

"Leaving Afghanistan alone now will bring back all the evils that were here," he said. "We know they're still around – look at the situation in Pakistan, look at the situation in Algeria, the suicide bombs there." He continued: "You can look around. You can see the enemy is not yet finished, is not yet defeated. Therefore it's our responsibility, all of us, to continue to work to defeat terrorism. And we cannot defeat terrorism unless we secure Afghanistan. If we do not, it will become a base for them again." Despite his sombre message, the President said he remains optimistic about Afghanistan's overall progress over the past six years.

He faces elections next year, and says the country has enjoyed great achievements with the help of foreign donors.

**History of violence** The history of Afghanistan is a litany of wars, but few periods were as dark as the years between the overthrow of the Soviet-backed government and the Taliban taking control of the country. **FALL OF THE SOVIETS** The last Soviet troops left Afghanistan in 1989, but the war was far from over. The mujahedeen fighters who had pushed the Red Army out fought to overthrow Afghan president Mohammad Najibullah, succeeding in 1992 and leaving at least 10,000 dead in their wake, mostly civilians.

**CHAOS AND CARNAGE** Now victorious, the mujahedeen factions who had come together to take on Soviet troops and overthrow the communist government battle over the spoils of war. Successive governments and peace agreements fall apart as almost as fast as they are established, and alliances among warlords are built and betrayed almost as quickly.

More than 50,000 Afghans perish in the battles and sieges.

**RISE OF THE TALIBAN** Fed up with the lawlessness under the warlords by 1994, a group of disgruntled

**THE AFGHAN MISSION: A GRAVE PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE** Karzai pleads for Canadians to ~~37~~ The c

religious students take on one rogue checkpoint in Afghanistan's south. Their easy victory inspires them to keep going, and brings them popular support and help from Pakistan. They quickly take control of Kandahar, and over the successive years manage to drive the remaining warlords out of Kabul and most of the rest of the country by 1996. Once in control, they establish a strict Islamic regime that provides a haven for Osama bin Laden and eventually draws the wrath of the United States.

Source: Staff

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; human rights; foreign policy; defence; foreign relations; political; history; statements

PERSONAL NAME: Hamid Karzai

ORGANIZATION NAME: Taliban



# THE AFGHAN MISSION Two wars, one objective – pulling back Parallels for Canada to be drawn with warning from U.S. commander about leaving a mission too soon

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**PUBLICATION:** GLOBE AND MAIL

**IDN:** 072620240

**DATE:** 2007.09.19

**PAGE:** A21 (ILLUS)

**BYLINE:** PAUL KORING

**SECTION:** International News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:** Washington DC

**WORDS:** 695

**WORD COUNT:** 686

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PAUL KORING WASHINGTON Buried deep in the piles of testimony delivered last week as the Bush administration grappled with a timetable to pull troops out of Iraq, was a stark warning that could just as easily apply to Canada's role in Afghanistan.

"There is a real danger in handing over tasks to the Iraqi security forces before their capability and local conditions warrant," General David Petraeus, the top U.S. commander in Iraq, warned members of Congress who want to see U.S. troops pulled out of the front line and spend more time training Iraqi soldiers.

There's a rising chorus – mostly from legislators rather than military types – in both Canada and the United States to shift from combat to training, to let Afghans and Iraqis shoulder more of the burden and do more of the dying to defend their own countries.

"Training and partnering with the Afghan Army is increasingly becoming the CF's [Canadian Forces] primary role in Kandahar," Gordon O'Connor, the retired general and defence minister since demoted by Prime Minister Stephen Harper, said this summer.

The rush to shift from fighting to training – driven at least in part by the notion that it will cut Canadian casualties – has been echoed by General Rick Hillier, the chief of the defence staff who often seemed out of step with the former brigadier who became his civilian boss.

Earlier this summer, Gen. Hillier also said the newly arriving Royal 22nd Regiment, the Vandoos, mostly from Quebec, would concentrate on training Afghan forces. "That's what we focused on, what are we doing right now, summer, fall, early winter, to put the Afghan security forces specifically in a much better position," he said.

The attractions of such a shift are obvious – especially if it reduces casualties among Canadians.

If infusions of equipment and training can turn the Afghan army into an effective fighting force within the next year, it would also clear the way for Canada to make a graceful exit from Kandahar province – the heartland of the Taliban where the counterinsurgency campaign has been at its bloodiest – when the current mandate expires in February, 2009.

THE AFGHAN MISSION Two wars, one objective – pulling back Parallels for Canada to be drawn with warn

But Gen. Petraeus, who led the 101st Airborne Division in the initial invasion of Iraq, returned to the country to train the newly recreated Iraqi army and is now back as the top commander, made it clear that the United States must commit for the long haul.

Any politically driven shift to training followed by an early departure of troops would be a mistake, he warned this week.

The just-completed National Intelligence Estimate – considered the best summary of the collective wisdom of all the spy agencies in the United States – issued the same sort of caution in even starker terms. "Changing the mission of coalition forces from a primarily counterinsurgency and stabilization role to a primary combat support role for Iraqi forces and counterterrorist operations to prevent A.Q.I. [al-Qaeda in Iraq] from establishing a safe haven would erode security gains achieved thus far," it said.

While the Iraqi army now numbers nearly 500,000 soldiers, it still relies heavily on U.S. forces. Only a handful of Iraqi units have the equipment, training and leadership required to operate independently.

It's too soon to let them to fight alone – while shifting U.S. forces to training and support – was the message to Congress.

While there are important differences between Iraq and Afghanistan, and the challenges facing foreign forces seeking to wage counterinsurgency wars in both countries, there are also similarities. The push to shift foreign forces from fighting to training exists in both wars and, in both cases, is driven largely by domestic political considerations rather than military imperatives.

New democratically elected governments in both Kabul and Baghdad are struggling to overcome ethnic divisions to build effective armies.

In Afghanistan, with a population and area larger than Iraq, the army is still far smaller than its projected size of 70,000. It is still chronically short of equipment and despite a massive training effort cannot be relied to hold areas cleared of the Taliban by foreign troops. Meanwhile, the Taliban insurgency seems to be growing.

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: United States; Iraq; Canada; Afghanistan

SUBJECT TERM: strife; defence; foreign policy; internal security

ORGANIZATION NAME: Armed Forces

THE AFGHAN MISSION Two wars, one objective – pulling back Parallels for Canada to be drawn with war

# POLITICS Dion takes on Khadr issue, plans to meet suspect's lawyers

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**IDN:** 072620200

**DATE:** 2007.09.19

**PAGE:** A4

**BYLINE:** COLIN FREEZE

**SECTION:** National News

**EDITION:** Metro

**DATELINE:**

**WORDS:** 618

**WORD COUNT:** 570

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COLIN FREEZE With other controversies freshly brewing, Opposition Leader Stephane Dion is to meet today with American military lawyers acting for a suspect held in Guantanamo Bay – signalling the Liberals' growing interest in an issue long viewed as too volatile for any Canadian political leader to touch.

Omar Khadr, a Canadian citizen who turns 21 today inside the U.S.

military prison in Cuba, was arrested in Afghanistan as a 15-year-old militant. Accused of being an al-Qaeda fighter and killing an American soldier during a battle, he has spent five years awaiting trial.

Despite Mr. Khadr's youth and growing international condemnation of the U.S. prison experiment often known simply as "Gitmo," Canada has been reluctant to publicly criticize the prison camp or lobby for Mr. Khadr's release to face due process at home.

The position partly flows from the gravity of the U.S. allegations against Mr. Khadr – past charges have included "murder" – and partly because members of his fundamentalist family are notorious for links to al-Qaeda figures.

Arabs by heritage and Canadians by citizenship, the Khadr's have mostly lived in Pakistan and Afghanistan. In 1995, the patriarch of the clan was held in Pakistan under suspicion of financing a deadly embassy bombing.

Under public pressure from the Canadian news media, Prime Minister Jean Chretien raised the issue of Mr. Khadr's rights with his Pakistani counterpart during a Team Canada trade mission.

The Liberals have been criticized for this intervention ever since.

Mr. Khadr was let go, only to be listed by United Nations as a key Osama bin Laden associate after the 9/11 attacks. The Pakistani Army killed him in a 2003 battle.

Mr. Dion, now weathering criticism for failing to win a seat during this week's by-elections, last month spoke out about the Khadr case by describing Prime Minister Stephen Harper as the only Western leader not to go to bat for the rights of a citizen held in Gitmo.

The Liberal Leader is set to meet Mr. Khadr's U.S. military lawyers at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto this morning, and make statements about his impressions afterward.

U.S. Lieutenant–Commander William Kuebler, the military lawyer who contacted Mr. Dion to the arrange the meeting, said he is "very encouraged" by the Opposition Leader's interest.

"The political process is finally starting to engage, as Canadians grow frustrated with the treatment of a fellow citizen," he said, adding, "I hope he [Mr. Dion] takes away a consequent appreciation of the essentialness of the Canadian government stepping up." Fissures have also developed within the Khadr legal team, with the Canadian lawyers who have represented Mr. Khadr for five years complaining that they have been snubbed – only the U.S. military lawyer appointed to the case this summer is to meet Mr. Dion.

"Here we have Canadian politicians choosing to speak to an American military lawyer who is not Omar's chosen lawyer ... and who was appointed by the same U.S. authority that gave us Guantanamo Bay and all its horrors," Dennis Edney, who represents several members of the Khadr family, said in an interview last night.

Members of the Khadr family say they are planning to be present at the hotel.

A U.S. soldier who lost an eye in the battle said he's disturbed that the case is becoming a political issue. "He has a better chance of being brought to justice in Guantanamo Bay than he would under the Canadian system," said Layne Morris in a phone interview. "You don't want this kid running around Canada waiting for the next jihad .... This kid made his decisions in life."

ADDED SEARCH TERMS:

GEOGRAPHIC NAME: Canada; United States; Guantanamo Bay

SUBJECT TERM:terrorism; suspects; prisoners of war; canadians; human rights; political

PERSONAL NAME: Stephane Dion; Omar Khadr

# Karzai pleas for Canadians to stay

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190020  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A10  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 337

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KABUL — Afghan President Hamid Karzai made an unusually direct and candid appeal to Canada Tuesday to extend beyond February 2009 its robust military commitment in the southern province of Kandahar, in order to save his country from further bloody turmoil.

"If you leave prematurely, Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy," Karzai warned in a 30-minute interview with 11 Canadian journalists in an opulent marble and wood-panelled room in Gulkhana Palace, where he usually meets with heads of state. "It will be a weak body prone to attack."

The president added: "The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself, and that day is not going to be in 2009."

Karzai made clear he is "aware of the debate in Canada" over the future role of its troops in Afghanistan after the current mandate expires in early 2009. Indeed, he revealed a keen understanding of the nuances of the controversy, including that support for the Afghan mission is shakiest in Quebec.

"My message to Quebec is that their sons and daughters are accomplishing a very important task, not only for Afghanistan but for Canada as well," Karzai said in a wide-ranging conversation that also touched on the prospect of negotiation with Taliban insurgents, corruption in Afghanistan, and the best way to cope with the war-torn nation's bumper crop of opium poppies.

Nobody was saying whether the idea for the session with the Canadian journalists was initiated in Ottawa or Kabul, but the circumstances were unprecedented. Setting up the meeting involved close co-ordination between the Canadian military, the Canadian embassy and the Afghan government.

Again and again during the conversation with his Canadian visitors, Karzai thanked Canada for what its troops have done since first coming to Afghanistan in 2002.

He also emphasized the need for Canada to keep its 2,300 soldiers in the volatile south of the country, where Canadians have been involved in combat since March 2006. Seventy Canadian soldiers and a Canadian diplomat have been killed in the fighting

"Leaving Afghanistan alone now will bring back all the evils that were here," Karzai said.

## Social progress being made

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190018  
**PUBLICATION:** The Leader-Post (Regina)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A8  
**BYLINE:** Heather Polischuk  
**SOURCE:** Leader-Post  
**WORD COUNT:** 468

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Canadians are used to hearing about fighting and fatalities in Afghanistan, but many are not as aware of the successes that country is now seeing -- something David Sproule, former Canadian ambassador to Afghanistan, is hoping to change.

Sproule, now Canadian ambassador to Thailand, is in Saskatchewan this week speaking to chambers of commerce and universities about Canada's role in Afghanistan. He said no matter where Canadians stand on military deployment to Afghanistan, it's clear people support their troops and diplomats. Regina city council passed a motion this week to provide yellow ribbons and decals to city employees as a show of support for Canadian troops.

While Sproule would not comment directly on the city's motion, he said shows of support help boost morale, which he says is quite high among troops right now -- in part because troops and diplomats alike can clearly see they are making a difference. However, Sproule said there is also a frustration that Canadians can't always see exactly how much is being accomplished in areas like reconstruction, development, health care, governance and institution building.

"I think I can quite honestly say that the more Canadians find out about what Canada's doing in a comprehensive sense -- not only in the security and military sense, but also in that governance and reconstruction and development area -- the more supportive they are," he said. "I want to help Canadians understand that Canada has a very coherent plan which integrates all those aspects, but also is part of a larger international plan with goals and benchmarks and objectives."

Sproule said success stories are mounting, including that basic health care is now available to 83 per cent of the population as opposed to nine per cent under the Taliban regime.

Training is underway in both the judicial and education systems, with about 9,000 teachers undergoing training, an emphasis being on bringing more females to work in and attend schools. Since 2001, the number of kids going to school has skyrocketed from 700,000 to six million -- one third being girls.

To date, more than 12,000 CDC-related projects have been completed. Those successes mean Afghans in most provinces have come to accept the changes taking place in their country, evidenced by large election turnouts, he added.

"I think it's worth noting that there are 34 provinces in Afghanistan and the vast majority of those are relatively stable," Sproule said. "It's six or seven where there are security challenges, one of which of course is Kandahar, which is the traditional and historic seat of the Taliban. So people need to look at Afghanistan in perspective, and sometimes they extrapolate a lot from what's happening in the south, which is more volatile."

# Please don't abandon us, Karzai tells Canadians

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190029  
**PUBLICATION:** Times Colonist (Victoria)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A12  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Hamid Karzai: Predicts anarchy;  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 294

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The journalists were flown from the Canadian military base at Kandahar to Kabul on a Canadian Forces transport aircraft, and taken to and from the palace in armoured vehicles from the embassy.

Seventy Canadian soldiers and a Canadian diplomat have been killed in Afghanistan.

# Stay beyond Feb. 2009, Karzai begs Canada; Leaving prematurely will cast Afghanistan 'back into anarchy,' president warns Canadian media

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**IDNUMBER:** 200709190029  
**PUBLICATION:** Edmonton Journal  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A11  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Journal Stock / (Afghan President Hamid)Karzai ;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; NOBEL PRIZE; CANADA; AFGHANISTAN  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 726

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The journalists were flown from the Canadian military base at Kandahar to Kabul on a Canadian Forces transport aircraft, and taken to and from the palace in armoured vehicles from the embassy. A Canadian diplomat even presided over the news conference, introducing reporters to Karzai when it came their turn to ask questions.



In a hint of the importance that Karzai attached to the meeting, he saw the journalists shortly after breaking his Ramadan fast and just before Gen. Dan McNeil, the American four-star commander of the 36,000 U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan, entered the palace to see him.

Again and again during the conversation with his Canadian visitors, Karzai thanked Canada for what its troops have done since first coming to Afghanistan in 2002. He also emphasized the need for Canada to keep its 2,300 soldiers in the volatile south of the country, where Canadians have been involved in combat since March 2006. Seventy Canadian soldiers and a Canadian diplomat have been killed in the fighting

"Leaving Afghanistan alone now will bring back all the evils that were here," Karzai said.

Should countries such as Canada pull out their combat troops or give them a less aggressive mandate, Karzai warned that his country would be as vulnerable as it was when the Soviet army was defeated by the mujahedeen in 1989 and the fundamentalist Taliban movement took advantage of the resulting power vacuum to seize power after a civil war in which tens of thousands of Afghans died.

"Anarchy will bring back safe havens to terrorists, among other things, and terrorists will then hurt you back there in Canada and the United States. Simple as that," Karzai said. "That happened before because of international neglect."

Recalling a trip he made to Canada last September, Karzai said: "I met the parents of the soldier who lost his life in Afghanistan and the parents of a soldier who lost her life in Afghanistan. I did not know what to say to those parents, to listen to their grief, to decrease their pain and to tell them that the lives that were lost in Afghanistan were not in vain. With which words of courage should I do that?"

"But to my surprise, I found that those parents were rather comforting me. That was the most remarkable thing that I saw in Canada."

The president emphasized that Canada had done more than only take on terrorists in Kandahar. "We are grateful for what Canada brings us ... schools, education, a better life."

The Harper government opposes negotiating with terrorist groups such as the Taliban. But Karzai said that "the road to peace is, no doubt, ultimately through negotiations."

If those in the Taliban who have recently called for peace talks were "not al-Qaida, we welcome them with open arms. Our doors are open for negotiations," he said.

# Afghan President urges Canadians to stay

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190025  
**PUBLICATION:** Vancouver Sun  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A15  
**COLUMN:** In Brief  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; AFGHANISTAN; CANADA  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 136

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# Murder -- or 'military politics'? Green Berets on trial for Afghan's death

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190016  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A6  
**DATELINE:** FORT BRAGG, N.C.  
**SOURCE:** Spectator wire services  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 492

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From his position about 100 yards away, Master Sergeant Troy Anderson had a clear shot at the Afghan man standing outside a residential compound in a village near the Pakistan border last October. When Captain Dave Staffel, the Special Forces officer in charge, gave the order to shoot, Anderson fired a bullet into the man's head, killing him.

In June, Staffel and Anderson were charged with premeditated murder. Yesterday, in a rare public examination of the rules that govern the actions of Special Operations troops in Afghanistan, a military hearing convened at Fort Bragg to weigh the evidence against the two men, both Green Berets.

The case revolves around differing interpretations of the kind of force that the Special Forces team that hunted and killed the man, Nawab Buntangyar, were allowed to use once they found him, apparently unarmed.

To the Special Forces soldiers and their 12-man detachment, the shooting, near the village of Ster Kalay, was a textbook example of a classified mission completed in accordance with the American rules of engagement. They said those rules allowed the killing of Buntangyar, whom the American Special Operations Command here has called an "enemy combatant."

Buntangyar had organized suicide and roadside bomb attacks, Staffel's lawyer said.

But to the two-star general in charge of the Special Operations forces in Afghanistan at the time, Frank H. Kearney, who has since become a three-star general, the episode appeared to be an illegal killing.

The soldiers' cases also highlight the level of scrutiny that Kearney, who also ordered swift investigations into an elite Marine unit accused of killing Afghan civilians last March, has given to the actions of specialized and independent American troops fighting Taliban along the border with Pakistan.

Mark Waple, a civilian lawyer representing Staffel, said the charges against his client and Anderson carry a whiff of "military politics." In an interview, Waple said Kearney proceeded with murder charges against the two soldiers even after an investigation by the Army's Criminal Investigation Command concluded in April that the shooting was "justifiable homicide."

On Oct. 13, 2006, when Staffel learned that Buntangyar could be found in a home near the village where his detachment was guarding a medical convoy, he ordered a seven-man team to investigate the tip.

The Americans called the Afghan national police to assist them. Buntangyar had already been "vetted as a target" by American commanders, as an enemy combatant who could be legally killed once identified.

After the Afghan police called Buntangyar outside and twice asked him to identify himself, they signalled, using a prearranged hand gesture, to Anderson, concealed with a rifle about 100 yards away, Waple said.

From a vehicle a few hundred yards farther away, Staffel radioed Anderson saying "If you have a clear shot, take it."

Confirming the order, Anderson fired once. The American team drove to the village centre to explain to the local residents, "This is who we are, this is what we just did and this is why we did it," Waple said.

# Pullout could hurt Canada: Karzai

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190012  
**PUBLICATION:** The Hamilton Spectator  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** Canada/World  
**PAGE:** A3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Dene Moore, the Canadian Press /;  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**SOURCE:** Hamilton Spectator wire services  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 Torstar Corporation  
**WORD COUNT:** 114

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President Hamid Karzai warned yesterday that Afghanistan could descend into anarchy and become a dangerous haven for terrorists again if Canadian troops pull out before the country can stand on its own.

And Karzai was adamant his government will not be ready to go it alone when the mandate for the current Canadian mission in Afghanistan ends in February 2009.

"Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy ... terrorists will then hurt you back in Canada and in the United States. It's as simple as that," Karzai told Canadian journalists flown into Kabul to meet with him.

Under criticism for corruption in his own ranks, Karzai admits it's a problem that has yet to be overcome.

"We have to have patience. It's not going to be fixed in a day or two," he said.

# Extend mission: Afghan leader; Don't leave in '09, Hamid Karzai says

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190085  
**PUBLICATION:** The Windsor Star  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** C1 / FRONT  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Agence France–Presse; Getty Images file / Hamid Karzai ;  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 309

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KABUL – Afghan President Hamid Karzai made an unusually direct and candid appeal to Canada Tuesday to extend beyond February 2009 its robust military commitment in the southern province of Kandahar, in order to save his country from further bloody turmoil.

"If you leave prematurely, Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy," Karzai warned in a 30–minute interview with 11 Canadian journalists in an opulent marble and wood–panelled room in Gulkhana Palace, where he usually meets with heads of state. "It will be a weak body prone to attack."

The president added: "The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself, and that day is not going to be in 2009."

## AWARE OF DEBATE

Karzai made clear he is "aware of the debate in Canada" over the future role of its troops in Afghanistan after the current mandate expires in early 2009. Indeed, he revealed a keen understanding of the nuances of the controversy, including that support for the Afghan mission is shakiest in Quebec.

"My message to Quebec is that their sons and daughters are accomplishing a very important task, not only for Afghanistan but for Canada as well," Karzai said in a wide–ranging conversation that also touched on the prospect of negotiation with Taliban insurgents, corruption in Afghanistan, and the best way to cope with the war–torn nation's bumper crop of opium poppies.

Meanwhile in Canada, the Liberal opposition remained unmoved by Karzai's pleas and accused the Conservatives of stage–managing the Kabul event in order to influence debate on the mission in both countries. In fact, said Liberal foreign affairs critic Ujjal Dosanjh, the unusual interview preparations smacked of collaboration by Karzai and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

"It betrays a sense of desperation," he said.

Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre also raised questions about the use of military and diplomatic assets to transport journalists to a news conference.

# Enemy 'not yet defeated': Karzai Urges Canadianot to pull troops

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**PUBLICATION:** WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

**DATE:** 2007.09.19

**PAGE:** A12

**SECTION:** World Wire

**WORD COUNT:** 624

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CP Wire Dene Moore KABUL — President Hamid Karzai warned Tuesday that Afghanistan could descend into anarchy and become a dangerous haven for terrorists again if Canadian troops pull out before the Afghan government can stand on its own.

And Karzai was adamant that his government will not be ready to go it alone when the mandate for the current Canadian mission in Afghanistan ends in February 2009.

"Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy; anarchy will bring back safe haven to terrorists... terrorists will then hurt you back in Canada and in the United States. It's as simple as that," Karzai told a handful of Canadian journalists flown into Kabul from the Canadian base at Kandahar Airfield to meet with him.

Despite the debate in Canada over the mission to this war-ravaged central Asian country that has claimed the lives of 70 Canadian soldiers and one diplomat, and perhaps because of a looming parliamentary showdown over the war, Karzai appealed for Canada to remain part of the international mission to defeat the Taliban.

"The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself and that day is not going to be in 2009," Karzai said.

Afghanistan cannot afford for Canada to withdraw its roughly 2,500 troops, he said. NATO officials have already sounded the alarm about a shortage of international troops in Afghanistan.

"Look around and see that the enemy is not yet finished; it is not yet defeated," Karzai said during the meeting at Gulkhana Palace, an ornate wing of the heavily guarded presidential compound in Kabul.

"Therefore, it is our responsibility, all of us, to continue to work to defeat terrorism and we cannot defeat terrorism unless we secure Afghanistan." Karzai said he was aware of the controversy in Canada over the war, particularly in Quebec. The Valcartier-based Van Doos regiment from the province is on the ground in Kandahar province.

"My message to Quebec is that the sons and daughters of Quebec who are serving in Afghanistan today are accomplishing an extremely important task, not only for Afghanistan, but for Canada and all of us around this world as well." Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives are in favour of extending the military mandate, but the Liberals and Bloc Quebecois are opposed. The NDP wants Canadian troops withdrawn immediately from Afghanistan.

Harper has said the mission would continue only if his minority government could get a consensus in Parliament. He has no plans for a vote on the issue in the near future.

Where the Conservatives and Karzai appear to part company is over negotiation with the Taliban.

Both Foreign Affairs Minister Maxime Bernier and Canada's top military commander in Afghanistan have ruled out negotiation with the insurgent group.

But Karzai said "our doors are open." "The road to peace is ultimately, no doubt, through negotiations," he said.

The Taliban are extremists who ruled Afghanistan and allowed al-Qaida to operate terror training camps until a U.S.-led coalition ousted them from power in late 2001. The Taliban, however, have maintained their influence over various parts of the country and are waging a bloody insurgency against coalition and government forces.

Public opinion in Canada about Afghanistan remains uneasy.

Nearly six years after helping topple the Taliban government, Canadians are still fighting and dying in Kandahar province, the ideological heartland of the Taliban. And they're fighting and dying over land they had already won, only to see corrupt or inept Afghan national security forces let it fall back into the hands of insurgents.

Meanwhile, U.S. air strikes targeting a meeting of Taliban leaders killed a commander who orchestrated the kidnappings of 23 South Koreans, Afghan officials said Tuesday.

Mullah Abdullah Jan, the Taliban commander of Qara Bagh district in Ghazni province, was among the 12 killed in the strike on a mud-brick housing compound overnight, said Ghazni provincial police chief Gen. Ali Shah Ahmadzai.

Neither the U.S. military or NATO's International Security Assistance Force had any immediate comment.

— Canadian Press



# Karzai wants Canadians to stay in Afghanistan; Says anarchy awaits if troops leave in '09

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190095  
**PUBLICATION:** The StarPhoenix (Saskatoon)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** World  
**PAGE:** D4  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 540

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KABUL — Afghan President Hamid Karzai made an unusually direct and candid appeal to Canada on Tuesday to extend beyond February 2009 its robust military commitment in the southern province of Kandahar, in order to save his country from further bloody turmoil.

"If you leave prematurely, Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy," Karzai warned in a 30-minute interview with 11 Canadian journalists in an opulent marble and wood-panelled room in Gulkhana Palace, where he usually meets with heads of state. "It will be a weak body prone to attack."

The president added: "The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself, and that day is not going to be in 2009."

Karzai made clear he is "aware of the debate in Canada" over the future role of its troops in Afghanistan after the current mandate expires in early 2009. Indeed, he revealed a keen understanding of the nuances of the controversy, including that support for the Afghan mission is shakiest in Quebec.

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Nobody was saying whether the idea for the session with the Canadian journalists was initiated in Ottawa or Kabul, but the circumstances were unprecedented. The journalists were flown from the Canadian military base at Kandahar to Kabul on a Canadian Forces transport aircraft, and taken to and from the palace in armoured vehicles from the embassy. A Canadian diplomat even presided over the news conference, introducing reporters to Karzai when it came their turn to ask questions.

In a hint of the importance that Karzai attached to the meeting, he saw the journalists shortly after breaking his Ramadan fast and just before Gen. Dan McNeil, the American four-star commander of the 36,000 U.S. and NATO troops in Afghanistan, entered the palace to see him.

Again and again during the conversation with his Canadian visitors, Karzai thanked Canada for what its troops have done since first coming to Afghanistan in 2002. He also emphasized the need for Canada to keep its 2,300 soldiers in the volatile south of the country, where Canadians have been involved in combat since March 2006. Seventy Canadian soldiers and a Canadian diplomat have been killed in the fighting

"Leaving Afghanistan alone now will bring back all the evils that were here," Karzai said.

Should countries such as Canada pull out their combat troops or give them a less aggressive mandate, Karzai warned that his country would be as vulnerable as it was when the Soviet army was defeated by the mujahedeen in 1989 and the fundamentalist Taliban movement took advantage of the resulting power vacuum to seize power after a civil war in which tens of thousands of Afghans died.

"Anarchy will bring back safe havens to terrorists, among other things, and terrorists will then hurt you back there in Canada and the United States. Simple as that," Karzai said. "That happened before because of international neglect."

# Karzai pleads with Canada to stay; Afghan leader predicts 'anarchy' if troops withdrawn too soon

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190010  
**PUBLICATION:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3

**ILLUSTRATION:** Colour Photo: Shah Marai, Agence France–Presse, Getty Images/ Two Afghan women walk past a police officer guarding a checkpoint in Kabul yesterday. Afghan President Hamid Karzai yesterday thanked Canada for what its troops have done in the country since 2002. But he warned that 'leaving Afghanistan alone now will bring back all the evils that were here.' ; Colour Photo: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service / Afghan President Hamid Karzai says the presence of Canadian soldiers is needed until the country can defend itself. ;  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher, with files from Mike Blanchfield  
**SOURCE:** The Ottawa Citizen  
**WORD COUNT:** 886

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The president added: "The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself, and that day is not going to be in 2009."

Mr. Karzai made clear he is "aware of the debate in Canada" over the future role of its troops in Afghanistan after the current mandate expires in early 2009. Indeed, he revealed a keen understanding of the nuances of the controversy, including that support for the Afghan mission is shakiest in Quebec.

"My message to Quebec is that their sons and daughters are accomplishing a very important task, not only for Afghanistan, but for Canada, as well," Mr. Karzai said in a wide-ranging conversation that also touched on the prospect of negotiation with Taliban insurgents, corruption in Afghanistan, and the best way to cope with the war-torn nation's bumper crop of opium poppies.

Nobody was saying whether the idea for the session with the Canadian journalists was initiated in Ottawa or Kabul, but the circumstances were unprecedented. Setting up the meeting involved close co-ordination between the Canadian military, the Canadian Embassy and the Afghan government.

The journalists were flown from the Canadian military base at Kandahar to Kabul on a Canadian Forces transport plane, and taken to and from the palace in armoured vehicles from the embassy. A Canadian diplomat even presided over the news conference, introducing reporters to Mr. Karzai when it came their turn

to ask questions.

Again and again during the conversation with his Canadian visitors, Mr. Karzai thanked Canada for what its troops have done since first coming to Afghanistan in 2002. He also emphasized the need for Canada to keep its 2,500 soldiers in the volatile south of the country, where Canadians have been involved in combat since March 2006. Seventy Canadian soldiers and a Canadian diplomat have been killed in the fighting

"Leaving Afghanistan alone now will bring back all the evils that were here," Mr. Karzai said.

Should countries such as Canada pull out their combat troops or give them a less aggressive mandate, Mr. Karzai warned that his country would be as vulnerable as it was when the Soviet army was defeated by the mujahedeen in 1989 and the fundamentalist Taliban movement took advantage of the resulting power vacuum to seize power after a civil war in which tens of thousands of Afghans died.

"Anarchy will bring back safe havens to terrorists, among other things, and terrorists will then hurt you back there in Canada and the United States. Simple as that," Mr. Karzai said. "That happened before because of international neglect."

Meanwhile in Canada, the Liberal opposition remained unmoved by Mr. Karzai's pleas and accused the Conservatives of stage-managing the Kabul event in order to influence debate on the mission in both countries. In fact, Liberal foreign affairs critic Ujjal Dosanjh said the unusual interview preparations smacked of collaboration by Mr. Karzai and Prime Minister Stephen Harper.

"It betrays a sense of desperation," he said.

Liberal defence critic Denis Coderre also raised questions about the use of military and diplomatic assets to transport journalists to a news conference.

"Is that a way for Mr. Harper to push the envelope to stay? I'm not that cynical. But that's a fair question to ask."

Mr. Harper's aides declined to comment yesterday, but Mr. Harper has said that only a consensus in Parliament can result in Canada leaving its troops in Afghanistan beyond the current February 2009 commitment. He has also said he won't call a vote until he is convinced that opposition parties will support an extension of the military mission.

That appears unlikely, with the NDP calling for immediate withdrawal and the Liberals maintaining that February 2009 should mark the end of combat operations.

Mr. Dosanjh insisted that NATO "really needs to come to the plate with more troops. Other members need to do their share of fighting."

Mr. Coderre added that the Liberals are not advocating Afghanistan's abandonment. Even when troops are pulled from the front lines, the Canadian military could still operate provincial reconstruction teams and Canada's diplomatic presence would remain strong.

The Harper government opposes negotiating with terrorist groups such as the Taliban. But Mr. Karzai said "the road to peace is, no doubt, ultimately through negotiations."

If those in the Taliban who have recently called for peace talks were "not al-Qaeda, we welcome them with open arms. Our doors are open for negotiations," he said.

However, Mr. Karzai made clear he would not accept Taliban demands that such talks could only take place after NATO forces leave Afghanistan.

"Those calls for a withdrawal of foreign troops by the Taliban are exactly the calls of al-Qaeda and the terrorists. We will oppose those calls because there is no way we will go back to isolation."

Allegations of corruption against senior government officials and the national police have been blamed for a drop in Mr. Karzai's popularity among Afghans. While acknowledging that corruption is a serious problem, the president said his government is "working hard on a daily basis" to confront it.

# 'Canada is needed': Afghan leader

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**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Canada  
**PAGE:** A4  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service, with files from Mike Blanchfield  
**WORD COUNT:** 354

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"It will be a weak body prone to attack.

"The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself, and that day is not going to be in 2009."

Mr. Karzai made clear he is "aware of the debate in Canada" over the future role of its troops in Afghanistan after the current mandate expires in early 2009. Indeed, he revealed a keen understanding of the nuances of the controversy, including that support for the Afghan mission is shakiest in Quebec.

"My message to Quebec is that their sons and daughters are accomplishing a very important task, not only for Afghanistan but for Canada as well," Mr. Karzai said.

He thanked Canada for what its troops have done since first coming to Afghanistan in 2002. He also emphasized the need for Canada to keep its 2,300 soldiers in the volatile south of the country, where Canadians have been involved in combat since March, 2006. Seventy Canadian soldiers and a Canadian diplomat have been killed in the fighting

"Leaving Afghanistan alone now will bring back all the evils that were here," he said.

Taliban insurgents remain present and active, he said, pointing to suicide bombings in Pakistan and Algeria. "You can see the enemy is not yet defeated. Therefore it is the duty of us all to continue to work to defeat terrorism. And we cannot do that unless we secure Afghanistan. If we do not, it will become a base for them again.

"Anarchy will bring back safe havens to terrorists, among other things, and terrorists will then hurt you back there in Canada and the United States. Simple as that."

In Canada, the Liberal opposition remained unmoved by Mr. Karzai's pleas and accused the Conservatives of stage-managing the Kabul event in order to influence debate on the mission in both countries.

**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; CANADA; AFGHANISTAN; QUEBEC

# Nothing makes the ladies swoon like fighting in Afghanistan

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190026  
**PUBLICATION:** National Post  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** National  
**SECTION:** Arts & Life  
**PAGE:** AL11  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Black & White Photo: / (See hardcopy for Photo Description);  
**SOURCE:** Agence France–Presse  
**WORD COUNT:** 135

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Jake Gyllenhaal and Tobey Maguire are being lined up to star in a Hollywood remake of the acclaimed Danish war film *Brothers*. Gyllenhaal, an Academy Award nominee for his performance in the Oscar–winning cowboy drama *Brokeback Mountain* in 2006, and *Spider–Man* star Maguire were both in talks to feature in the film, *Variety* reported. The original 2004 film, directed by Denmark's Susanne Bier, tells the story of a man who is sent to fight in Afghanistan while his brother is saddled with the task of looking after his wife and child. Maguire is to play the soldier sent off to war, with Gyllenhaal, right, his younger brother. Filming is to begin in November.

**KEYWORDS:** 0



# We need Canadian troops: Karzai; 'Early pullout means anarchy'. Afghan president has message to Quebec: Be proud of important accomplishment

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190043  
**PUBLICATION:** Montreal Gazette  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A14  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; NOBEL PRIZE; INVESTIGATIONS; CANADA; AFGHANISTAN; QUEBEC  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** MATTHEW FISHER  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 301

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The president added: "The presence of Canada is needed until Afghanistan is able to defend itself, and that day is not going to be in 2009."

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Nobody was saying whether the idea for the session with the Canadian journalists was initiated in Ottawa or Kabul, but the circumstances were unprecedented. Setting up the meeting involved close co-ordination between the Canadian military, the Canadian embassy and the Afghan government.

The Liberal opposition remained unmoved by Karzai's pleas and accused the Conservatives of stage-managing the Kabul event to influence debate on the mission in both countries. Even the use of military and diplomatic assets to ferry journalists to Kabul was questioned.

# Afghan leader begs Canada to leave troops

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190009  
**PUBLICATION:** Calgary Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**EDITION:** Final  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A3  
**ILLUSTRATION:** Photo: Matthew Fisher, CanWest News Service / "If you leave prematurely, Afghanistan will fall back into anarchy," said President Hamid Karzai. ;  
**KEYWORDS:** WAR; TERRORISM; FOREIGN AID; NOBEL PRIZE; CANADA; AFGHANISTAN  
**DATELINE:** KABUL  
**BYLINE:** Matthew Fisher  
**SOURCE:** CanWest News Service  
**WORD COUNT:** 749

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