

Combined Joint Task Force 82

Operation Enduring Freedom



Gulbuddin Hekmatyar Continued



Gulbuddin Hekmatyar Adds His Harmony to Bin Laden's "Same Old Song"

Another of Afghanistan's "old friends" crawled out from beneath his rock yesterday to add a little harmony to the latest meaningless threats from Osama Bin Laden. Hekmatyar, the leader of his own, outlawed branch of Hizb-i-Islami (HiG), didn't come up with anything new, merely repeated his old hit "Foreign Troops Out, Elect an Islamic Government". He praised the Japanese Government's decision to withdraw their troops, failing to mention the millions of dollars in aid the decision withholds from the people of Afghanistan. In addition to demanding the withdrawal of "Foreign Troops" he wants the formation of a "Neutral Caretaker" Government to hold elections.

Afghans are used to hearing "The Same Old Song" from Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. The same old song he sang in 1992 when his fellow Mujahidin failed to give him a large enough piece of power in their Islamic government and he was forced to launch thousands of rockets into Kabul, killing hundreds and driving an estimated 500,000 of his Islamic Countrymen out of their country. He sang his "Form an

Islamic Government” hit again when he allied himself with his former enemy Dostum to oust then President Rabbani and his Defense Minister, Masood. An estimated 25,000 of his Islamic Countrymen lost their lives in Kabul alone during the Afghan Civil War and thousands more fled the country. Afghans had a taste of Hekmatyar’s “Islamic Government” during his two short terms as Prime Minister. Afghanistan.com describes this period in Afghanistan’s history, *“By 1994 the rest of the country was carved up among the various factions, with many mujahidin commanders establishing themselves as virtual warlords. The city of Kabul was divided in to neighborhoods controlled by a different faction. Residents could not cross the street to their local market because the opposite side belonged to a different faction and thus you needed documents to cross the street. Women were reduced to slaves and sex toys of the warlords and renegade soldiers. Afghan girls were kidnapped and sold to Arabs and Pakistanis. The economy was shattered; the people were reduced to collect bones in order to trade them for food. Women were not safe in their own homes, thieves ran the streets, the Kabul museum was ransacked and sold to western archeologists and museums, the man with the gun ruled while unarmed civilians were their slaves. The situation around the southern city of Qandahar was particularly precarious: the city was divided among different forces, and civilians had little security from murder, rape, looting, or extortion. Humanitarian agencies frequently found their offices stripped of all equipment, their vehicles hijacked, and their staff threatened.”* In late 1996 Prime Minister Hekmatyar fled the country as the Taliban took over.

Since the defeat of the Taliban by the Northern Alliance in 2001, Hekmatyar has changed alliances, again, aligning himself with the very people who drove him out of office in ‘96 as they fight to overthrow the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan led by President Karzai. The same old song seems to be dropping off the charts. Afghans are enjoying the infrastructure and advancements that President Karzai and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan are bringing to them with the help of the Coalition and organizations from around the world. The IROA’s PTS program helps former insurgents, provides money and training so they can rejoin their fellow citizens and it is enjoying an influx of Hekmatyar’s followers and their former enemies/new allies, the Taliban. More and more insurgents see the progress and changes coming to Afghanistan and realize there is a “New Song” to listen to and the Islamic Government Gulbuddin Hekmatyar has been calling for has already been formed and is already helping the citizens of Afghanistan. This Islamic Government “helps” it citizens by launching road projects, building schools and bringing electricity to cold homes in the deep winter snows of the high mountains. Not by launching rockets into cities or sending suicide bombers into crowded markets Mr. Hekmatyar, the people of Afghanistan already survived “your” Islamic Government.

[Read more about Gulbuddin Hekmatyar](#)