

# Table of Contents

<u>Too early to pull troops, Karzai says; Canadian Forces needed past 2009 or Afghanistan 'will fall back into anarchy'</u> .....	1
<u>Cdn. troops needed: Karzai; Afghan president says country could 'descend into anarchy' if Cdn. troops pull out before it can defend itself</u> .....	3
<u>Afghanistan president warns of anarchy if troops leave</u> .....	4
<u>'Presence of Canada is needed'; Afghan president urges nation to stay</u> .....	6
<u>Afghan leader fears anarchy if Canadians pull out in 2009; Karzai says his government won't be ready, terrorist threat will be bolstered</u> .....	8
<u>Karzai appeals to Canadians to stick with mission in Afghanistan; He says his country could plunge into chaos if Canadians leave too soon</u> .....	10
<u>Plea to stay; Karzai says Afghanistan could plunge into chaos if Canadians leave too soon</u> .....	12
<u>CTV National News, Tuesday, Sept. 18</u> .....	14
<u>Karzai says Afghanistan could plunge into chaos if Canadians leave too soon</u> .....	15
<u>INDEX:International, Defence, Politics</u> .....	17
<u>Karzai fears the return of chaos; Afghanistan will become 'havens to terrorists' if Canada pulls its troops from country in 2009</u> .....	18
<u>Karzai's dire warning Canada mission must continue if Taliban to be defeated, Afghan prez says</u> .....	21
<u>Karzai's dire warning Canada mission must continue if Taliban to be defeated, Afghan prez says</u> .....	22
<u>Karzai's dire warning Canada mission must continue if Taliban to be defeated, Afghan prez says</u> .....	23
<u>Anarchy predicted if Canadian pullout proceeds in 2009</u> .....	24
<u>Karzai's dire warning Canada mission must continue if Taliban to be defeated, Afghan prez says</u> .....	25
<u>Karzai's dire warning Canada mission must continue if Taliban to be defeated, Afghan prez says</u> .....	26
<u>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</u> .....	27
<u>Karzai pleas for Canadians to stay</u> .....	30
<u>Please don't abandon us, Karzai tells Canadians</u> .....	31

# Table of Contents

<b><u>Stay beyond Feb. 2009, Karzai begs Canada; Leaving prematurely will cast Afghanistan 'back into anarchy,' president warns Canadian media</u></b> .....	32
<b><u>Afghan President urges Canadians to stay</u></b> .....	34
<b><u>Pullout could hurt Canada: Karzai</u></b> .....	35
<b><u>Extend mission: Afghan leader; Don't leave in '09, Hamid Karzai says</u></b> .....	36
<b><u>Enemy 'not yet defeated': Karzai Urges Canadianot to pull troops</u></b> .....	37
<b><u>Karzai wants Canadians to stay in Afghanistan; Says anarchy awaits if troops leave in '09</u></b> .....	39
<b><u>Karzai pleads with Canada to stay; Afghan leader predicts 'anarchy' if troops withdrawn too soon</u></b> ....	41
<b><u>'Canada is needed': Afghan leader</u></b> .....	44
<b><u>We need Canadian troops: Karzai; 'Early pullout means anarchy'. Afghan president has message to Quebec: Be proud of important accomplishment</u></b> .....	46
<b><u>Afghan leader begs Canada to leave troops</u></b> .....	47

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

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**BYLINE:** BRUCE CAMPION-SMITH  
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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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**IDNUMBER** 200709190054  
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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.

# Afghanistan president warns of anarchy if troops leave

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**IDNUMBER** 200709190059  
**PUBLICATION:** The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
**SECTION:** News  
**PAGE:** A9  
**BYLINE:** The Canadian Press  
**COPYRIGHT:** © 2007 The Daily Gleaner (Fredericton)  
**WORD COUNT:** 405

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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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**PUBLICATION:** Kingston Whig–Standard (ON)

**DATE:** 2007.09.19

**SECTION:** National/World

**PAGE:** B1

**SOURCE:** The Canadian Press

**BYLINE:** Dene Moore

**DATELINE:** KABUL

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**PUBLICATION:** The Chronicle-Herald  
**DATE:** 2007.09.19  
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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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**PUBLICATION:** The Guardian (Charlottetown)

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**SECTION:** World

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**BYLINE:** Dene Moore

**DATELINE:** KABUL

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

# 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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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.

# CTV National News, Tuesday, Sept. 18

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**DATE:** 2007.09.18  
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WASHINGTON \_ U.S. Federal Reserve cuts a key interest rate for the first time in four years, starting with an aggressive half–point move to prevent a steep housing slump and turbulent financial markets from triggering a recession; the Canadian dollar sets a 30–year–high, closing at US98.64 cents after investors got word of a drastic interest rate cut south of the border; economists say it could only be a matter of days before the loonie reaches parity with the American dollar. CVD.

TORONTO \_ Michael Hainsworth from the Business News Network discusses what the higher Canadian dollar means. NOT MATCHING.

KABUL \_ Afghan President Hamid Karzai calls on Canada to maintain its military presence in Afghanistan after 2009, saying his country will fall into the hands of terrorists without Canada's help; he tells Canadian reporters he is aware of the controversy over Canada's military role, but says 2009 is fast approaching and Afghanistan won't be ready to take over security by the deadline. CVD.

OTTAWA \_ Liberal Leader Stephane Dion says he takes full responsibility for a key byelection loss to the NDP in Quebec on Monday, and vows the party will perform better next time. CVD.

TORONTO \_ Halton Catholic District School Board narrowly votes to allow public health nurses to give its Grade 8 students a vaccine against HPV, a common sexually transmitted disease linked to cervical cancer; other Ontario schools debate whether to allow the vaccine. MAIN ELEMENTS CVD.

LONDON \_ Parents of Madeleine McCann calls for an end to the rampant speculation surrounding the case and says the focus should return to the search for her. CVD.

UNDATED \_ Prosecutors file formal charges against O.J. Simpson, alleging the football star committed seven felonies, including kidnapping, in the armed robbery of sports memorabilia collectors in a casino–hotel room. CVD.

UNDATED \_ The foreman of the jury in Phil Spector's murder trial says that the panel is at an impasse, and the judge told lawyers he is considering allowing the panel to consider a lesser charge. CVD.

UNDATED \_ A 21–year–old University of Florida student is tasered by university police, after he refused to stop questioning Sen. John Kerry about the 2004 presidential election. CVD.

CALGARY \_ Albertans deserve an extra \$2 billion a year in royalties from oil companies operating in the province, a government–appointed panel says; the province currently receives more than \$10 billion a year in royalties, much of it from oilsands development, but critics say the government fails to collect its entitled 25 per cent of energy revenues. CVD.

VANCOUVER \_ A Statistics Canada study shows that young adults are living with parents longer and are going to school later, often because of cost. CVD.

CP Toronto



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

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**DATE:** 2007.09.18

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**PUBLICATION:** cpw

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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."

# INDEX:International, Defence, Politics

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**DATE:** 2007.09.18

**KEYWORDS:** INTERNATIONAL DEFENCE POLITICS

**PUBLICATION:** bnw

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KABUL – Afghan President Hamid Karzai is appealing to Canadians to continue to fight terrorism in his country.

Karzai says he is aware of the controversy in Canada about the country's role in the war being waged in Afghanistan.

But the president says Afghanistan won't be able to stand on its own by February 2009, when Canada's current combat mandate ends.

He says Afghanistan cannot afford to have Canada withdraw its roughly 2,500 troops in the country.

If left alone, Karzai says, Afghanistan will fall back into the anarchy that led the Taliban to power in the first place and made his country a haven for terrorism.

He says the presence of Canadian troops and resources are key to making not only Afghanistan, but the whole world including Canada, a safer place.

# 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.

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

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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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.

## '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

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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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**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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"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 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."

Afghanistan cannot afford for Canada to withdraw its about 2,500 troops, he said. NATO officials already have 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 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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KEYWORDS=WORLD

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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 stay 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

# Karzai pleas for Canadians to stay

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**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.



# 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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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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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."

# 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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## 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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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."

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"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.

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to ask questions.

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"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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**IDNUMBER** 200709190039  
**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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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.

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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

# 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 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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