

**PETITION CALLING ON PRESIDENT BIDEN TO PROTECT AT-RISK RELIGIOUS GROUPS
FROM THE TALIBAN**

November 1, 2021

President Joe Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear President Biden,

We the undersigned are extremely concerned for the welfare of Afghanistan's religious minorities, specifically Christians. We are calling on you and your administration to hold the Taliban regime accountable and to ensure that Afghanistan's Christians are protected from the Taliban regime.

Historically, the Taliban have ruled through oppression. They target individuals and communities who disagree with their ideology, subjecting them to a radical interpretation of Sharia law. Christians and other religious and ethnic minorities faced severe persecution, violence, and torture under the Taliban's rule in the late 1990s and early 2000s. People lived in absolute terror during their rule.

Many of those same fears resurfaced when the Taliban assumed control of the country only a few months ago. Reports immediately began to surface of known Christians receiving threatening phone calls as the Taliban solidified their power in the capital city of Kabul.

The Christian community in Afghanistan is predominantly composed of Muslim converts to Christianity. This puts them at risk of death as the Taliban's interpretation of Sharia law considers converts traitors to Islam. It is very possible that the Taliban will return to the violence and brutality that marked their earlier reign over Afghanistan. Already it seems that this could include punishments such as the cutting off of limbs and severe oppression of women's rights and religious freedom.

We ask your administration to work to ensure that the Christian community and other at-risk religious groups are not persecuted by the Taliban. We ask that your administration work with the United States Congress to create ways for these severely at-risk people be given special consideration in being allowed to emigrate to the United States.

Please do everything in your power to safeguard the Christians of Afghanistan who are facing the gravest of risks for simply choosing to follow Jesus.

Sincerely,

International Christian Concern and the undersigned

Sign online at:

www.persecution.org/idop/petition