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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

April 19, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

For many of the tens of thousands of our Afghan allies who we brought to the United States after Kabul fell to the Taliban, the arrival here was the start of a nearly two-year long bureaucratic purgatory through the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service—one that has left them without permanent legal status or the stability to rebuild their lives.

I write to express my deep concern with the slow processing times for one especially vulnerable group—members of the Afghan National Army's Female Tactical Platoon.

FTPs, as they're called, were combat soldiers who were recruited, rigorously vetted, and trained by elite U.S. Special Operations Forces. These courageous women risked their lives by going where male soldiers couldn't in a majority-Muslim country, searching and questioning women and children in pursuit of Taliban targets. In fact, they were recruited specifically to use their status as Afghan women to build trust and draw out information from local populations. The platoon conducted two thousand missions, including high-risk and highly classified missions alongside Green Berets, Navy SEALs and Army Rangers.

Their dangerous work to support our mission makes them and their families a top target for the Taliban. The risk is amplified manyfold by their gender and their ethnicity (Hazara, a predominantly Shiite minority ethnic population that has been persecuted for years by the Taliban). Yet of the women from this unit who are now here in the United States, only three have thus far been granted asylum.

USCIS has kept 40 other FTPs in legal limbo for well past the agency's usual 180-day deadline—some for nearly a year. This is unacceptable. These women have done their part. They have submitted their applications and gone through intense interviews with USCIS agents. But for months they've been left to wait without any communication from your agency.

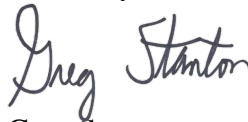
I am concerned that this group of courageous women is receiving disparate treatment from your Department. After all, many male Afghan soldiers, including pilots, have received

their asylum within the 180-day time period. The FTPs also worked alongside U.S. soldiers, were fully vetted throughout their service, and completed their asylum claims in a timely fashion. The only significant distinction is their gender—the very thing that makes their asylum claims all the more vital.

In August, the FTPs will have been here for two years and will lose their humanitarian parole status—and with it, their ability to work and support themselves. As I work with my colleagues in Congress to provide legal refuge to these Afghans and their families, it is well within your power to expedite and resolve these pending cases.

I request your personal attention to and involvement in this important matter, and I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Stanton". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress