

RELEASE IN FULL

From: Mills, Cheryl D <MillsCD@state.gov>
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2010 11:44 AM
To: H
Subject: FW: Public Afghanistan Strategy

See below

From: Smith, Daniel B
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2010 11:15 AM
To: Verma, Richard R; Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J; Rodriguez, Miguel E
Subject: RE: Public Afghanistan Strategy

Here is the text from her website:

January 22, 2010

President Barack Obama
The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write today to urge you to ensure that women play a key role in the international conference on Afghanistan that will be held in London on January 28, 2010. As I understand, a key objective of the conference is to help formulate a strategy to stabilize Afghanistan and ultimately reduce the country's reliance on outside assistance. However, I am deeply concerned that women are not being viewed as an essential element in reaching that goal.

Just yesterday, the Department of State released its "Afghanistan and Pakistan Regional Stabilization Strategy," a detailed, thirty-page document that highlights everything from the importance of rehabilitating watersheds to expanding mobile banking systems. The document only makes one small reference to Afghan women. Most disturbing, it contains an entire section largely dedicated to reintegrating the Taliban, who are infamous for the atrocities they have committed against women. This section does not mention women at all.

This is particularly alarming, because the future of Afghanistan is inextricably linked to the empowerment of Afghan women and girls. As Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recently said, "Investing in the potential of

women to lift and lead their societies is one of the best investments we can make.” It has been proven that women are inclined to use their successes to invest in their communities, to start small businesses, and to send their children to school. Giving women the tools to succeed is critical to Afghanistan’s chance at a brighter and more secure future.

As such, I urge you to ensure that the role of women in the future of Afghanistan is a key focus during the London conference. I also ask that you help make certain that the voices of Afghan women are heard. It is my understanding that the Department of State has expressed support for having an Afghan woman address the foreign ministers at the conference and I urge you to help make this a reality.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

Barbara Boxer

United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton, Secretary of State

The Honorable Richard Holbrooke, Special Representative for Afghanistan and Pakistan

From: Verma, Richard R
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2010 11:12 AM
To: Smith, Daniel B; Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J; Rodriguez, Miguel E
Subject: Re: Public Afghanistan Strategy

Its a letter to potus from boxer. Miguel found on boxer's website. Adding miguel here.

From: Smith, Daniel B
To: Mills, Cheryl D
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J; Verma, Richard R
Sent: Sun Jan 24 11:06:33 2010
Subject: RE: Public Afghanistan Strategy

Cheryl,

We have no record of having received the letter and have not been able to find a copy, but I understand that Miguel Rodriguez in H is trying to run it down through Ann Norris on Senator Boxer's staff. Dan

From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2010 9:00 AM
To: Smith, Daniel B
Cc: Sullivan, Jacob J; Verma, Richard R
Subject: FW: Public Afghanistan Strategy

Dan

Can we get this letter.

Thanks.

cdm

From: Mills, Cheryl D
Sent: Sunday, January 24, 2010 8:59 AM
To: Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: Slaughter, Anne-Marie; Jones, Paul W
Subject: Public Afghanistan Strategy

Barbara Boxer apparently sent a letter to saying there is nothing about women in the Afghan strategy. There is nothing in the table of contents.

Is this accurate? Seems odd given that I know that AMS had flagged this and I b/l Jake you had.

Can you advise.

cdm