

PANEL DISCUSSION



CAS Presents **Afghanistan** **Under the Taliban**

Understanding the Changing Dynamics
of the Region

VENUE: T2- T40 (GLOBAL CONFERENCE ROOM)



Date: 05 May, 2022

Start 18:30 - 20:30 hrs

OUR PANELISTS



HORIA MOSADIQ

Human Rights
Activist, Journalist
and Political Analyst



DR. SYED IRFAN ASHRAF

Journalist, Reporter on the
War on Terror,
Documentary Producer,
Assistant Professor at
University of Peshawar



RUCHI KUMAR

Independent
Journalist, Special
Focus on
Afghanistan

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<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85737358312>

Event Details

In the eight months that followed since the fall of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan on the 15th of August 2021 the Taliban have emerged as the most dominant force but clearly not the most legitimate force in Afghanistan. This is seen in mounting evidence of active and passive resistance to Taliban rule.

The country has been pushed to the brink with the past threatening to overshadow the country's future. As the Taliban 1.0 masquerade as the Taliban 2.0, seeking to turn the clock back in time, the everyday lived experiences of Afghans are characterized by economic collapse; one of the worst humanitarian catastrophes of modern times; a dismantling of hard-won rights and freedoms; mutilation of Afghan cultural and national heritage and a straining of the social fabric. Ironically as Afghanistan's neighbours sought to re-package Taliban 2.0 as 'grassroots liberators' and as symbolising 'breaking the shackles of slavery', more than half a million Afghans responded by seeking to flee the country. Most of Afghanistan's neighbours have closed their borders to Afghans escaping economic collapse and spectre of persecution as they seek to curry favour with the Taliban in a bid to secure their perceived interests.

To understand the unfolding developments which will impact Afghans foremost but will most certainly leave an impress on the region at large we are joined by eminent voices to share views from the inside and outside.



PROGRAMME

18:30-18:40 hrs.-

Opening Remarks: Dr. Raghav Sharma,
Associate Professor and Director, Centre for
Afghanistan Studies

18:40-19:00 hrs.-

Taliban 2.0 vs. Afghanistan 2.0:
Ms. Horia Mosadiq, Afghan Human Rights Activist

19:00-19:20 hrs.-

A Pyrrhic Victory for Pakistan? Implications of the Taliban's
Return for Pakistan
Dr. Syed Irfan Ashraf, Assistant Professor, Department of
Journalism & Mass Communication, University of Peshawar,
Pakistan

19:20-19:40 hrs.-

'Wait and Watch': Time for a Reset in India's Afghan
Policy?
Ms. Ruchi Kumar, Award Winning Journalist

19:40-20:25 hrs.-

Discussion

20:25-20:30 hrs.-

Vote of Thanks:
Mrinalini Srivastava, Research Intern,
CAS



Horia Mosadiq is an Afghan human rights activist and journalist with 26 years of work experience in the fields of human rights, peace, reconciliation, transitional justice, gender, security and violent extremism. She has worked with organizations including Geneva Call, Safer World, PEN International, International Alert, Amnesty International, UNICEF, Action Aid, CIVICUS, UNICEF and UNDP, and researches, monitors and evaluates projects and trainings on advocacy, human rights, International Humanitarian Law, and Transitional Justice. She has authored dozens of research reports for organizations including Amnesty International, UNICEF, Action Aid, and HRRAC and more than 100 articles on human rights, women rights, peace and reconciliation.



Dr Syed Irfan Ashraf worked for over a decade and a half as a journalist with local and national newspapers, including the NYT & Dawn. He also has taught as Assistant Professor at the Department of Journalism, University of Peshawar, Pakistan. His journalistic work has been mainly related to writing commentaries and making TV packages on militancy and media in Pakistan's Pashtun tribal belt (FATA). He holds a Ph.D. in Mass Communication from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale which also awarded him the Mirror Award for best commentary on legacy media. He served as co-producer for the award-winning documentary on Malala titled "Class Dismissed."



Ruchi Kumar is an independent journalist reporting in South Asia conflict, politics, development and gender issues, with a special focus on Afghanistan. She was based in Kabul for over six years." She has been published in Foreign Policy, Guardian, NPR, The National, Al Jazeera, Washington Post among others.