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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention of
Discrimination and Protection
of Minorities
Fiftieth session
Agenda item 5

THE IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS WITH REGARD TO WOMEN

Mr. Khalil and Ms. Warzazi: draft resolution

1998/... The situation of women in Afghanistan

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of
Minorities,

Guided by the spirit of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenants on Human Rights and bearing particularly in mind article 13, paragraphs 1 and 2, of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and article 12, paragraphs 1, 2 and 3, of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights which guarantee that everyone shall have the right to complete freedom of movement within the territory in which he/she is a lawful resident, and that everyone shall be free to leave any country, including his/her own,

Mindful of the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Political Rights of Women,

Noting the recommendation contained in article 3, paragraph 3, of the World Declaration on Education for All, which states that the most urgent priority is to ensure access to, and improve the quality of, education for girls, and of article 28, paragraph 1, of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which stipulates that States shall recognize the right of all children to education and to have, on the basis of equal opportunity, universal access to primary education,

Deeply concerned at the situation of the female population of Kabul and the other parts of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban,

Dismayed by the Taliban's claim that Islam supports their policies concerning women,

Fully aware that the Cairo Declaration on Human Rights in Islam, adopted by the Organization of the Islamic Conference in 1990, guarantees the rights of women in all fields, in accordance with the Holy Koran,

Mindful of the stated principles of Islam which promote equality between the sexes, and that throughout the history of Islam women have played important roles in public life, particularly in the fields of education, commerce and medicine,

1. Takes note of the numerous reports dealing with the unprecedented and extremely difficult situation of women in Kabul and the other parts of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban, in particular widows who cannot support themselves because they are not permitted to work or to benefit from humanitarian assistance, which is given only to men;

2. Expresses its deep concern at the continuous suffering of Afghan women under the prohibitions placed upon them by the Taliban, which include confinement to the home and other restrictions on their freedom of movement, as well as denial of the right to work, denial of education and limitations on their access to medical care;

3. Considers that the current policies of the Taliban as regards the female population of the territories under their control constitute a flagrant violation of the principles of Islam and international law;

4. Calls upon religious leaders and scholars to give special attention to the plight of women in Afghanistan with a view to bringing the policies and practices of the Taliban into line with the true spirit of Islam and human rights law;

5. Appeals to all States not to encourage the Taliban by extending diplomatic recognition to them, and appeals to commercial enterprises to refrain from entering into financial agreements with the regime until the Taliban ends its discriminatory treatment of women;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to provide the Sub-Commission with all relevant information on this question that is available within the United Nations system;

7. Decides to continue consideration of this question at its fifty-first session under the same agenda item.
