RAWA News Release
The Revolutionary Association of the Women of Afghanistan
An independent political organization of Afghan women struggling for peace, freedom, democracy and women's rights.

Help Afghan Refugees: Khewa Camp

The Government of Pakistan has recently ordered the closure of a few Afghan refugee camps in an attempt to force the Afghans to move back to their country. For a majority of these Afghans this was a nightmare moment because they could imagine the difficult situations that would confront them when returning to Afghanistan.

Where to live in Afghanistan when you have no land and money to build a house and the Afghan Government is too weak to help you in this regard? How to find a job there where the unemployment rate is over 60%? How to feed your children with the exorbitant rates where the price of 1 liter of liquid cooking gas is $1.5 and the prices of other commodities are sky-high? How to guarantee the safety of there be a school where your children may study?

The answers to these questions are here:

A newly established refugee camp 60 km away from Kabul city where hundreds of families live in hell like conditions. These are Afghans expelled from Pakistan and Iran 6 months ago and still have no access to clean water and live on only bread. As the winter approaches, fear of a human catastrophe comes in at the door of every one of these poor residents.

According the latest report by Afghan government, over 60% of the population live under poverty line, the daily income of most of the people is $1.00; 50% of the population don't have access to drinking water and there are many such heart-wrenching statistics that make life worse for the refugees coming back to their country.

IRC, September 13, 2007: "Afghanistan is sliding ever further into conflict with more than half of the country affected and several regions out of reach of humanitarian aid." Afghanistan Education Ministry, September 8, 2007: "Taliban unrest shuts nearly 400 schools in Afghanistan; the closures meant that around 200,000 school children would not be able to attend classes in four provinces."

BBC News, November 27, 2006: "More than half of Afghanistan's children are not going to school because of a shortage of places and teachers, the aid agency Oxfam says. Girls in particular are losing out, with just one in five girls in primary education and one in 20 going to secondary school."

As written by Richard Klein, a former State Department official, “in reality, Afghanistan feels more and more like Sept. 10, 2001, than a victory in the US war on terrorism.” (**LA Times**, Sep.13, 2007)

Maria Poya, administrator of RAWA orphanages in Kabul was stormed by the families when she tried to register the children at RAWA orphanages for sponsorship. Hundreds of kids play around all day and have neither a school nor a place to live.

Rafi 2, Farzana 3, Parvana 4, Sharifa 8, Zafar 10, Shakila 13 and Qadir Khan 14 live together with their parents in this worn-out tent. The father is a blind man and the mother is sick but they have to feed these kids at any cost and with no help from the government or others.

This is a family of 11 members who live in one tent. Maria, a RAWA member. listens to their problems

Khalida 4 and her two sisters, one brother and parents were expelled from a refugee camp in Pakistan four months ago. Her father goes daily to Kabul city, which is 90 minutes’ drive from this camp to find a job. He is a waged worker and most of the time comes back without any money at all.

These kids surrounded RAWA member to register their names in RAWA orphanage.

Abas is one of the boys from this un-named camp who lives now in Nahid II Orphanage and waits for someone to sponsor him. CharityHelp International, a US-based organization, teamed with RAWA to launch a project called the Child Sponsorship Program in late 2004 and nearly 200 children have been sponsored through this program by the people from around the world.

For more information: www.charityhelp.org/rawa/home.html

Or to sponsor an orphanage: https://charityhelp.org/rawa/donation/orphanage_sponsor

Khewa Camp was one of the refugee camps in Pakistan where RAWA had a substantial presence for 20 years. This camp later changed to a well-known education and culture centre for Afghan intellectuals. Poets, writers, politicians, artists, doctors, and others settled in this camp to work closely with RAWA. Over 1000 youths were getting an excellent education in this camp. Big sports tournaments at the national level, festivals, functions, theatres and music concerts were held in this camp where thousands of visitors used to come from remote refugee camps.

A karate team of Naseema Shaheed school participated in the festival and performed martial arts in Khewa camp. This is the first event of its type among Afghan refugees where men and women jointly participate and perform games.

And now this camp is on the brink of closure and hundreds of families look to RAWA for help. Most of the families belong to provinces that border with Pakistan, which are believed to be among the most insecure regions in Afghanistan and many of them have no schools at all.

RAWA appeals to its supporters around the world to help the families of the Khewa camp to have a safe return to their country. The most urgent needs for them are to provide them with tent, some basic supplies like blankets, warm clothes, firewood and digging well for water. UNHCR gives $100 per person for the transportation and some others costs but this is too less to meet their very basic urgent needs. The table bellows shows some of the needs which we expect to raise enough fund for them:

Emergency Aids to Afghan Refugee Returning Home

Items	# of families	Unit Costs	Total Costs
Tent for shelter	300	$195	$58,500
Digging water well	20	$2,150	$43,000
Basic needs for settlement	300	$180	$54,000
Firewood for winter	300	$130	$39,000
	Total:		**$194,500**

You can send your donation to RAWA by any one of the following methods of payment:

Online Credit Card Donations: Please click here

http://www.afghanwomensmission.org/help_us/donate.php and make your payment at

EMERGENCY RELIEF section.
Please make check or money order payable to IHC/Afghan Women's Mission and mail it to:
Afghan Women's Mission
2460 North Lake Ave. PMB 207
Altadena, CA 91001
USA

Bank wire transfers: To do a wire transfer to the Afghan Women's Mission, pease call AWM's office at (626) 676-7884 to make arrangements.

Or sponsor the children who have been in RAWA schools at Khewa camp. You can do through this website: www.chairtyhelp.org/rawa

Thank you in advance for your support.
RAWA