

TALIBAN NEWS CONFERENCE



No other regime in the world has methodically and violently forced half of its population into virtual house arrest, prohibiting them on pain of physical punishment.

—Physicians for Human Rights, 1998

It's Been A Successful Year for the Taliban

During the 1990s, the Taliban swept into power in Afghanistan and imposed their strict interpretation of Islamic law. In this press conference, the Taliban will announce their vision for Afghanistan, and several important figures from around the

world will give their reactions to the Taliban's rise. You will be placed in a news-team (or act as an individual speaker in the press conference) to cover this historic event. Each news-team will produce a storyboard for an unbiased news story about the press conference (90 seconds)

and an editorial commentary delivered by your station's news analyst (45 seconds).

Malala Yousafzai targeted and criticized Islam. She was against Islam and we tried to kill her, and if we get a chance again we will definitely try to kill her, and we will feel proud killing her."

—Shahidullah Shahid (Taliban Spokesman)



FEARS OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES



CIVIL WAR CONTINUES



WORLD RESPONSE

Taliban News Conference Held in MAP 10 5/4/17

The Prep

Prior to the presentation each group will be assigned a character to “become” for the simulation. When you walk in the door the teachers will select the individual in your group who will play that character. Every group member should understand their characters motivations and be ready to dress the part. For the next 15 minutes the character will dress and practice delivering their opening statements and news-teams will prepare specific questions to ask the different characters.

The News Conference

The press conference will last 35 minutes. News stations should be ready to ask questions immediately after the opening statements are complete.

“*It is only a matter of time before the Taliban takes over the nuclear warheads stored inside Pakistan.*”

Post News Conference

Characters will make themselves available for a follow-up interview. News-teams may conduct post-conference interviews and may finish any filming and recording that needs to be completed.

Writing and Editing

News-teams will then design and write the intro and outro for their news story, storyboard the news story itself complete with pictures from the Internet or taken during the conference, and write the script for the editorial commentary and voiceovers.

The news story about the press conference should be storyboarded out as if it were a 90 second story and the editorial commentary filmed by your station’s news analyst should be 45 seconds, edited and submitted to Davey/Herzman by the end of the period (you will only have about 90 minutes to complete these tasks). Remember, each news-team will produce an **unbiased** news story, but the editorial should be from the **perspective** of your news network.

THE NEWS STATIONS

United States I MWKY New York:

This station is disgusted by the actions of the Taliban and sees them as immoral despots. However, they do not want the US to commit military forces to intervene. Instead, this station advocates that the United Nations use economic sanctions to pressure the Taliban into giving up power.

United States 2 CNDQ Tennessee:

While this station is not happy about the rise of the Taliban, they do not think the United States should be interfering in the matters of others nations so they advocate that Afghanistan be left alone to work out their own problems.

Pakistan WGB Islamabad:

Believes the rise of the Taliban to be a positive occurrence for its neighbor Afghanistan. They hope that the Taliban will provide stability and order for the country, and give Afghanistan a strong moral foundation by enforcing their version of Islamic law.

Tajikistan BVL Dushanbe:

Tajikistan is allied and ethnically tied to the Northern Alliance, the group that the Taliban just overthrew to take control of Afghanistan. This station advocates that the UN authorize international military force to overthrow the Taliban.

Israel HQFG Tel Aviv:

Israel fears that the Taliban will conduct horrendous atrocities against the people of Afghanistan (especially minority ethnic groups such as the Hazaras) and support terrorist attacks against Israel. This station advocates that the UN authorize international military force to overthrow the Taliban.



Actor Roles and Motivations

The Taliban has agreed to sponsor a press conference in light of the furor that the takeover of Kabul has created and promised to allow newspapers “complete freedom” in how to develop their stories. Newspapers from around the globe have come to cover the story and form an opinion on the trial.

This press conference provides a great opportunity to make a lasting impression on the public, and to effect the future of the civil war. The public wants to hear about the burning issues, and may be persuaded to take action on the verdict should it be perceived as unfair. Each of the participants should determine their version of the events and press conference, and speak to the press with a motive in mind and try to get the media to endorse his or her viewpoint

To prepare for the press conference:

Review and discuss the information presented in class regarding the issues which confront Afghanistan today (Sept 1996), issues and points brought up regarding the

trial, and most importantly what your character stands for, their history, and their values. Each group will need to research a character and should come to tutorial to discuss their personality and motivations **before** the press conference.

On the day of the press conference characters should come prepared with an opening statement which powerfully argues your position on what has just happened. You should also have one costume which one group member will wear (after being selected by the teacher) and should look as much like your character as possible.

When the press conference begins, each character will give an introductory speech/presentation regarding what has just happened and then will take questions from the press. The staff should stand by the character during the press conference and call on reporters, help field questions, and help with anything the character needs.



“A free press can of course be good or bad, but, most certainly, without freedom it will never be anything but bad. . . . Freedom is nothing else but a chance to be better, whereas enslavement is a certainty of the worse.”

-Albert Camus

Characters

After researching your character and preparing an opening statement you will try and answer questions in a fashion which best represent your beliefs and hopefully provide sympathy for your role in the rest of the world.

Individuals within the news cast will include:

Mullah Omar - (Taliban leader)

Benazir Bhutto - (Pakistani Prime Minister)

Sitara Achakzai - Afghani Woman (educated) - use Malala Yousafzai as modern day sample

Sharbat Gula (Afghan Girl) - Afghani woman (tribal, traditional)

Ahmed Massoud -Northern Alliance leader

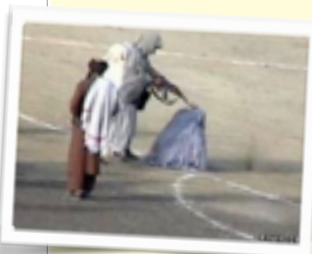
Bill Clinton - American President

Mikhail Gorbachev - Former General Secretary of the Soviet Union

Osama Bin Laden - Member of Muj

Mohammad Najibullah - Former Leader of the PDPA

Burhanuddin Rabbani - Former President of Afghanistan, leader of Jamiat-e Islami party



Clemency is also a revolutionary measure.

-Camille Desmoullins