



MEDICAL WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

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These are statements from the MWIA in 1998 and April 2001 and were presented to the United Nations in New York (ie prior to the horrific events Sept 2001)

Oct 1998 STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

Issued at the end of the .

24th International Congress of MWIA

24th Congress of the Pan American Medical Women's Alliance

29th Congress of the Brazilian Medical Women's Association

held in Sao Paulo, Brazil from the 8th - 13 October 1998.

MWIA has received reports from Afghanistan about violations of the rights of women doctors especially their right to earn a livelihood.

This is clearly a breach of the fundamental Human Rights of women as articulated in the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights

There are also reports about the lack of access of Afghan women to appropriate health care, as male doctors are not allowed to treat female patients.

MWIA strongly condemns the violence and oppressive practices of the Taliban militia in Afghanistan. They have failed in their duty to protect the fundamental freedoms, social rights, professional lives and benefits of all Afghan women including women physicians and other women professionals. These women are now in virtual captivity, confined to their homes and forbidden to practice their vitally important professions.

MWIA strongly condemns these human rights violations. imposed on women that result in refusal of essential health care to women.

MWIA also strongly condemns all barriers and impediments that obstruct women from unfettered and free health care access.

MWIA demands IMMEDIATE economic sanctions against the Taliban, and the continued refusal of recognition of the Taliban militia by the International family of Nations.



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April 2001 MWIA STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION OF WOMEN IN AFGHANISTAN

Issued at the conclusion of the MWIA international congress in Sydney, 2001

MWIA continues to receive reliable reports from Afghanistan of increased abuses and violations of the human rights of girls and women by the Taleban militia, particularly their freedom and rights to education and employment, and the progressive deterioration of the physical and mental health of girls and women who are specifically denied access to health services and humanitarian aid.

The Taleban militia demonstrate contempt for the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the common moral vision of the International community by continuing to subject girls and women to egregious and progressively severe cruel, inhuman, and degrading treatment with devastating physical and mental health consequences, particularly for women physicians who are prohibited from the practice of their profession.

Credible reports confirm that the Taleban continue to compel women and children, otherwise, in virtual captivity, to witness public beheadings, amputations, floggings and other inhumane and cruel executions of punishments. MWIA states that this Taleban coercion does extreme harm to the mental health of these helpless witnesses, creates a climate of terror and produces a devastating, disabling degree of despair for the future in women and children.

MWIA strongly condemns the pattern, policy, and practices of extreme and escalating violations of the human rights of girls and women by the Taleban, who demonstrate a callous disregard for lives and needs of the majority of the Afghanistan population, girls and women.

MWIA demands that the complete restoration of the human rights of girls and women be a precondition for any and all negotiations with and involvement of the Taleban militia in any legitimate international, multinational financial development matters.

MWIA demands that women shall be proportionally represented by women at any peace plans and negotiations for Afghanistan and that the full and immediate restoration of human rights and fundamental freedoms for girls and women, particularly the right of women physicians to freely practice their profession, and the restoration of free and unfettered access to health care and health services and to education be a precondition to the initiation of any international peace or financial development process.