



Press Statement

Tom Casey, Acting Spokesperson

Washington, DC

August 4, 2005

Detainee Transfers to Afghanistan

The following is a joint Statement by the United States and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan:

During their May 2005 meetings, President Bush and President Karzai expressed a strong desire to return Afghan detainees to Afghanistan as part of the U.S.-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership.

Today, in implementing the Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership, Afghanistan and the United States reached an understanding that will allow for the gradual transfer of many Afghan detainees to the exclusive custody and control of the Afghan Government.

The Government of Afghanistan has agreed to accept responsibility for the returning Afghan citizens and will work to ensure that they do not pose a continuing threat to Afghanistan, the Coalition, or the international community as a whole. The United States is prepared to assist Afghanistan in capacity building, including infrastructure, and to provide training, as appropriate.

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