Human rights violations and war crimes are done with impunity by all sides, from the Taliban to former government officials and the Sunni Baracks in Afghanistan. Accountability remains elusive for all sides. The international community has not taken decisive action to stem the human rights violations and abuses in Afghanistan. The United Nations has been unable to effectively monitor the situation on the ground and has made limited progress in investigating and documenting violations.

In July 2021, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2593, which expressed serious concern at the deteriorating human rights situation in Afghanistan and called for an end to impunity and accountability for human rights violations.

The Afghan government and the Taliban have repeatedly denied any involvement in human rights violations, and there is a lack of independence in the Afghan human rights commission. The Afghan government has also blocked the work of human rights organizations and journalists, and journalists have been targeted for their reporting.

Despite this, there have been some positive developments. In April 2022, the Afghan government and the Taliban signed the “Roadmap Agreement” which includes provisions for the release of prisoners and the restart of the peace process.

However, there is a need for sustained and meaningful engagement by the international community to ensure accountability and justice for the victims of human rights violations in Afghanistan. This includes providing resources and support to independent human rights organizations and journalists working in the country, as well as pressuring the Afghan government and the Taliban to cooperate with international investigations.

To conclude, the situation in Afghanistan remains dire, with human rights violations and war crimes continuing with impunity. The international community must take urgent action to ensure accountability and justice for the victims.

By Hashem Ahmadzai