

Washington, DC (February 14, 2013) – Rep. Jan Schakowsky released the following statement on sending a letter to the Afghan President Hamid Karzai:□

□ “Yesterday sixteen of my colleagues and I sent a letter to Afghan President Hamid Karzai to express our concern about regarding the conditions in informal displaced persons settlements around Kabul. In December 2012, I read two articles in *The New York Times* that highlighted the atrocious conditions in which some 31,000 Afghans currently live. Men, women, and children are currently in informal settlements in and around Kabul. Those camps lack adequate sanitation or access to clean water and have minimal protection from the weather. Just last year, over 100 children died of the cold in these camps.

“I was deeply saddened and troubled to learn that Afghan men, women and children are suffering in these destitute conditions. We urge President Karzai to take immediate action and make the humanitarian needs of these individuals a government priority. Our letter also urges the Afghan government to find a long-term solution for the residents and to work with international partners to ensure that the immediate humanitarian needs of the Afghan citizens are met, as well as to find a durable solution for the men, women, and children living in the settlements.

“No child should fall victim to the cold, so we urge President Karzai to address this humanitarian crisis and find a solution that allows these men, women, and children to live in physical security and seek economic stability.”

For more information read [Winter’s Deadly Bite Returns to Refugee Camps of Kabul](#) and [Afg han Camps Receive Winter Aid, but Officials Say It Isn’t Enough](#)

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Full text of the letter [here](#) .

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