



December 1, 2025

We are deeply saddened by the shooting of the two young national guard members. We send our deepest condolences to the family and loved ones of Specialist Sarah Beckstrom and our sincere hope for the full recovery of Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe.

It is critical that this senseless violence not be exploited to destroy other innocent lives, nor that it be used as justification to erode the rule of law. As the Supreme Court has explained, "guilt by association" is "alien to the traditions of free society."

Ms. Lakanwal and her young children had no role in this violence and they should not be targeted because of the actions of another. Northwest Immigrant Rights Project will continue to stand with them as they struggle to move forward with their lives.

Further, other Afghan community members, both here in Washington State and across the country should not be targeted because of the acts of one individual.

Our Afghan community members have already had their lives uprooted because of horrible violence, and in fact most faced persecution or death because they or a family member had worked with the U.S. military or other U.S. government agencies. It was for this reason that they were granted status here. The United States must stand by the promises it made, and must uphold the rights of those who are eligible to remain in the U.S. These community members do not deserve to be stripped of their legal rights, instead, they deserve our gratitude and support.

Our government must reject the temptation to scapegoat immigrant community members and instead must uphold the rule of law, upon which our democracy is built. The rule of law requires that we uphold the law with all of its protections for everyone, especially vulnerable community members in times of inflamed prejudice.

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