

Bush praises efforts in Afghanistan

by UPI

NEW YORK -- U.S. President George Bush praised Afghanistan's move from a country of "brutal tyranny" to one of hope Wednesday during a meeting with the Afghan president. "I appreciate your full understanding that a government that responds to its people is a government that is -- provides hope and opportunities," Bush told Afghan President Hamid Karzai during their side meeting capping the opening of the U.N. General Assembly in New York. Noting the strides Afghanistan made regarding women's rights, democracy and child mortality rates, Bush said, "This country has gone from a brutal tyranny, where women and girls were repressed, to a country where women and girls have hope. Karzai thanked Bush for the assistance the United States has provided Afghanistan. "There is an endless list for which we have to be grateful to you" going back to being liberated from the Taliban regime. "We feel it so immensely in Afghanistan, that we are a free country."

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