



انجمن مستقل وکلای مدافع افغانستان در تبعید

په تبعید کی دمداغ وکیلانو خپلواکه ټولنه

Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile

Statement of the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile on the Third Anniversary of the Collapse of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Thursday, August 15, 2024:

The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile expresses its profound sorrow and deep concern as August 15 marks the third anniversary of the unlawful takeover by the Taliban and the subsequent complete collapse of Afghanistan's legal and judicial systems, which had been aligned with Islamic principles, human rights, and international legal standards. The Taliban's seizure of power led to the dismantling of the only independent and primary institution that provided impartial legal and human rights services to the citizens of Afghanistan (namely, the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association) as well as the destruction of other institutions that championed human rights and civil liberties. As a result, the people of Afghanistan now face a dire crisis in accessing legal, judicial, and human rights services grounded in the rule of law and the will of the people.

Three years since the fall of the Republic, the resurgence of the Taliban has led to widespread violations of fundamental and civil rights. These violations include the denial of women's right to education and their exclusion from public life, an alarming increase in human rights abuses including the targeted killings of civil and political activists and former military personnel systematic ethnic and linguistic discrimination, arbitrary arrests, summary trials devoid of fair trial principles, the monopolization of power, the absence of an independent judiciary, systematic crimes against minorities, and the extortion of citizens under the guise of taxes and levies.

It is particularly distressing that, despite these severe circumstances, the international community especially the United Nations has confined itself to issuing statements of regret without taking any meaningful action. This silence and inaction starkly contradict international legal norms, the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and numerous international conventions. The disregard for the rights and well-being of the Afghan people, coupled with the exploitation of Afghanistan's plight by certain countries, is a source of deep disillusionment for the Afghan legal community and the broader citizenry. Moreover, as highlighted by credible global organizations, the economic situation of Afghan citizens has dramatically deteriorated, with widespread poverty now afflicting the majority of the population development that will inevitably have adverse consequences for the international community as well. The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile underscores the urgent need for the United Nations, the international community, and influential countries to prioritize the interests of the Afghan people in their en-

Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in exile is a way to preserve the identity of the AIBA and their lawyers and maintain the achievements they have made in the last 20 years, while providing services for lawyers, Defending the rights of citizens, especially women.

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gagements with the Taliban and to take decisive, practical steps toward establishing an inclusive government and ending the Taliban's illegitimate rule. The international community must also exert sustained pressure on the Taliban to respect the will of the Afghan people and the broader global community and to cease their regressive policies.

In light of the ongoing crisis, the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile calls for the continuation of humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan under the full supervision of impartial humanitarian organizations. This institution urgently appeals to the United Nations, the international community, and human rights organizations around the world to:

- 1. Break the Silence of the United Nations:** The United Nations must end its silence in the face of the current violations of human rights norms and take appropriate action against the ongoing instability and human rights abuses in Afghanistan.
- 2. Take Swift and Decisive Action:** The daily arrest, imprisonment, and extrajudicial execution of Afghan citizens—particularly those from specific ethnic groups—under the pretext of political opposition, former military service, or human rights activism demand immediate and serious attention.
- 3. Protect Defense Lawyers:** The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile is gravely concerned about the physical, financial, and professional safety of defense lawyers, who are subject to unbearable restrictions and, in some cases, torture and mistreatment by the Taliban. The Association urgently requests international organizations to take immediate measures to protect these endangered defense lawyers.
- 4. Support Afghan Refugees' Rights:** The deteriorating situation in Afghanistan has forced many citizens to flee their homeland, often resorting to illegal and dangerous migration. Afghan refugees in neighboring countries face dire conditions, lacking basic rights, access to employment, and education for their children. The United Nations must intervene to ensure comprehensive support for Afghan refugees in these countries.
- 5. Condemn Anti-Human Rights Actions:** The systematic exclusion and deprivation of defense lawyers constitute international crimes. The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile calls on relevant international bodies to document and report these violations so that those responsible can be held accountable in the future.

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