



Afghanistan Judges Association

انجمن قضاات افغانستان
د افغانستان د قضااتو ټولنه

*To Honorable Jose'Igreja Matos
The president of the
International Association of Judges*

Your Excellency,

I am writing on behalf of Afghanistan Judges Association (AJA) to draw your attention to the plight of judges in Afghanistan, who served under the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (IRoA). Since taking power on 15 August, 2021, the Taliban interim government has formally and arbitrarily dismissed all of the judges (some 2,000 individuals) in addition to other judicial staff that worked for the IRoA. This was done despite the Taliban's repeated promises that civilians who worked for the IRoA would not be dismissed.

AJA is greatly concerned about the risks posed to many of these judges and their families who are still in Afghanistan. Under the Taliban, Afghanistan has become an open air prison for judges who face a range of threats and retaliation due to their previous, and often courageous work, in convicting and sentencing those who broke the Republic laws, including the Taliban as well as ISPK and criminals who were released by the Taliban after the IRoA's collapse.

The Taliban recently arrested 40 people mostly judges in Mazar-e-Sharif, Balkh Province, just before their flight to leave Afghanistan for safety. A few weeks earlier, Judge Mojahid was arrested, interrogated, and tortured for 8 days in Logar Province. Many other such cases have happened in Kabul as well as Bamyan, Panjshir, and other Provinces despite the Taliban's promise of a general amnesty for those who worked for the IRoA.

We would like to remind our international friends that for over two decades, Afghan judges were trained, and they dedicated their lives and careers to developing rule of law and constitutional order that respected human rights and equality between men and women. By dismissing these moderate and professional judges, and replacing them with uneducated, madrassa-trained Taliban "judges", the interim government has in effect dismantled the existing



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judicial system, which was based on recognized Islamic scholarship and Afghanistan's legal tradition. The Taliban's narrow and ideological approach—condones and justifies suicide-bombing and other acts that we, and the global and Islamic community oppose—will create a dangerous legal and rule of law vacuum in the country. The Taliban's approach will have grave consequences, notably for Afghan women and sectarian and other minorities, and poses a risk to the region and the international community.

We request immediate attention and assistance from international community, the European Union and other countries and organizations which were friends and partners of the IROA, and which advocated for respect for moderation and rule of law in Afghanistan. Afghanistan Judges Association address you, in order to emphasize the urgent need to rescue judges (especially male judges) stranded in Afghanistan and those who are in limbo in the other countries.

We will be very pleased to provide details and seek your advice on these matters at your earliest convenience.

We thank you for your attention, and look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Farid Ahmad Noori

President of Afghanistan Judges Association (AJA)



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