



Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile

Protest Statement by the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile

In protest against the German government's acceptance of Taliban representatives, the suspension of the resettlement process for at-risk refugees, and the forced deportation of Afghan asylum seekers

Brussels, July 23, 2025

With deep regret and concern, the Afghanistan Independent bar Association in Exile strongly condemns the recent decision of the Federal Germany government to accept political representatives of the Taliban group and to grant Afghanistan's diplomatic representation to this group.

This decision, which appears aimed at facilitating the forced return of Afghan asylum seekers, contradicts fundamental human rights principles, democratic values, and Germany's international obligations, especially under the 1951 Geneva Convention. Granting political legitimacy to a group that systematically violates human rights, promotes misogyny, and engages in terrorism in Afghanistan is not only alarming but also a blatant violation of the values Germany has long claimed to uphold.

Since the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, the group has carried out extrajudicial executions, systematically oppressed women, silenced the media, and persecuted, detained, and assassinated human rights defenders and minorities. These actions clearly demonstrate that the Taliban deserve no political or diplomatic legitimacy.

At a time when thousands of Afghan citizens including defense lawyers, journalists, civil activists, and courageous women have been forced to flee due to direct threats and are now living in insecurity and limbo in neighboring countries such as Iran and Pakistan, the German government has not only failed to honor its previous humanitarian commitments but has also, by announcing the suspension of the resettlement program, put many at risk of forced return and deportation to Taliban controlled Afghanistan.

The forced return of asylum seekers who face documented and serious threats from the Taliban to a country under the group's rule is a clear violation of the principle of non-refoulement under the 1951 Geneva Convention and a breach of core principles of international law.

On behalf of Afghan defense lawyers in exile, we urgently demand the following:

1. The immediate and complete reversal of the German government's decision to accept Taliban representatives and to grant political representation to the group;
2. The resumption and acceleration of the resettlement process for Afghan refugees, especially women, human rights defenders, lawyers, journalists, and at-risk minorities;
3. An absolute guarantee that no Afghan asylum seeker will be forcibly returned until real security and minimum human rights conditions are restored in Afghanistan;

The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA) in exile seeks to preserve the identity of the AIBA and its members, while safeguarding the achievements made over the past 20 years. It is committed to providing legal services to lawyers and defending the rights of citizens, with a particular focus on protecting the rights of women.

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انجمن مستقل وکلای مدافع افغانستان در تبعید



په تبعید کی دمدافع وکیلانو خپلواکه ټولنه

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4. A reaffirmation and strengthening of Germany's humanitarian and legal commitments to the people of Afghanistan, in accordance with the UN Charter and international human rights conventions.

The international community and particularly the countries that claim to uphold democracy cannot justify engaging with clear human rights violators on political or pragmatic grounds. Granting legitimacy to an oppressive regime is not only a profound betrayal of the aspirations of the Afghan people, but also a dangerous threat to democratic principles globally.

The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile, as an independent legal institution, remains committed to defending the rights of Afghan migrants and asylum seekers and will continue its efforts in this cause.

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