



## Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile

### Statement of the Afghanistan Independent bar Association in Exile

#### Regarding on the Fourth Anniversary of the Collapse of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

*Brussels, August 13, 2025*

Since 15 August 2021, Afghanistan has been living under the shadow of darkness and oppression. With a regressive worldview, the Taliban have erased all the achievements of two decades of the Republic from Afghan society, transforming the country into a vast prison where citizens are constantly subjected to violations, floggings, and inhumane corporal punishments.

By imposing quasi-laws and misogynistic decrees, they have institutionalized gender apartheid into the very fabric of society. Not only have women been excluded from the public sphere, but they are no longer safe even in their own homes. With the closure of schools for girls and a chilling approach toward higher education, they are now moving toward shutting the doors of universities to men as well. Religious schools (madrasas) are proliferating, facilitating the reproduction of extremism and indoctrinating children with religious beliefs where suicide attacks and killing are prioritized.

The Taliban show no regard for the most basic human rights and, by merging narrow interpretations of religion with tribal customary codes, redefine their own narrative within the framework of decrees and pseudo-laws such as the so called Law of “*promoting virtue and preventing vice*” All fundamental rights of citizens have been suspended, and there are no guarantees for civil, political, economic, social, or cultural rights.

Over these four years, the Taliban have destroyed the legal infrastructure painstakingly built over two decades with great effort and sacrifice. The country’s judicial and legal system has lost its independence entirely and is on the brink of total collapse. Consequently, the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA), which through the leadership and efforts of defense lawyers had reached a stage of self-sufficiency and prosperity, has had all its material and moral assets looted.

The Taliban’s conduct goes beyond violations of human rights it also fulfils all the elements of international crimes, including crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide. Credible documentation by the AIBAIE and other civil and legal institutions indicates that the incidence of such crimes is on the rise. The continuation of this situation gravely disrupts international order, with negative repercussions extending to neighbouring, regional, and even far reaching countries. The Taliban’s lack of legitimacy, absence of the rule of law, and lack of accountability to the people of Afghanistan and the international community are pushing Afghanistan each day closer to the explosion of a catastrophic tragedy from which not only the Afghan people but the world at large will not be spared.

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.

Address: Rue Abbé Cuypers 3 - 1040 Etterbeek Brussels Belgium

Email: [Info@aibaie.org](mailto:Info@aibaie.org)

Website: [www.aibaie.org](http://www.aibaie.org)



## Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile

The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile appreciates the efforts of international judicial bodies such as the International Criminal Court, the International Court of Justice, and some friendly countries toward holding the Taliban accountable and issuing arrest warrants for two of their leaders. However, we do not consider the efforts of the international community sufficient to save the Afghan people from this calamity.

In the past four years, some measures have been taken, but the AIBAIE believes there has been minimal engagement with the Afghan people especially with specialized institutions capable of contributing to political legal proposals.

The proposals that have surfaced are fraught with legal and political flaws, fail to reflect the truths and realities of Afghanistan, and seem aimed solely at granting concessions and legitimacy to the Taliban. Such prescriptions do not guarantee the rights and freedoms of the Afghan people; rather, they mask an extra legal and unaccountable system. Any plan in which the Afghan people, intellectuals, and experts cannot envision a free, pluralistic, and equal Afghanistan will only perpetuate the cycle of crisis. Freedom and equality are unattainable without the rule of law, and the rule of law is impossible without an independent judicial and legal sector.

The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association calls for a comprehensive, human rights centered, and democratic plan to rescue Afghanistan, and urges the United Nations and countries involved in the Afghan issue to respect the values of the Afghan people when drafting any blueprint for Afghanistan. Only then can permanent peace and stability be established in the country.

In addition to the above-mentioned overarching plan without which no other proposal can be meaningful the Association, in line with its mandate to defend the rights of Afghan defense lawyers and address urgent issues affecting the Afghan people, presents the following recommendations to the international community:

1. Lift all discriminatory restrictions against women and girls and guarantee their equal rights in education, employment, and other fundamental freedoms.
2. Immediately halt killings, forced displacements, and ethnic cleansing, and refer perpetrators of such crimes to international courts under the principles of universal justice.
3. Establish an independent international mechanism to protect defense lawyers and human rights defenders in Afghanistan and in host countries.
4. Accelerate the relocation process for at-risk defense lawyers awaiting resettlement in third countries, and prevent their forced return to Afghanistan.

For Media Inquiries, Contact:  
Email: [Info@aibaie.org](mailto:Info@aibaie.org)

## Afghanistan Independent Bar Association in Exile

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.

Address: Rue Abbé Cuypers 3 - 1040 Etterbeek Brussels Belgium

Email: [Info@aibaie.org](mailto:Info@aibaie.org)

Website: [www.aibaie.org](http://www.aibaie.org)