April 5, 2018

Full Name

Title

Organization

Address

Re: Request of assistance for Turkish teachers and schools in Afghanistan during Prime minister of Turkey’s visit on April 8.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

Republic of Turkey's Prime Minister Binali Yildirim will visit Afghanistan on Sunday April 8, 2018. It was reported that six educators were arrested and handed over to Turkish National Intelligence Organization (MIT) during the Turkish Prime Minister's trip to Bosnia last week. His upcoming visit to Kabul raise concerns for similar actions.

In a string of actions regarding international standards, a businessman and an educator have been kept under house arrest in Afghanistan since December 12, 2017, without any lawful evidence or proof. Furthermore, the Turkish government has been pressuring the Afghan Government into shutting down or handing over the Turkish-Afghan Schools and their teachers by showing no regards to international politics or law. The parents of the Turkish-Afghan schools protested the unlawful and tragic arrests of their teachers and requested their government to stand strong against the pressures from the Turkish government by collecting more than 1 million signatures.

We would like to draw your attention to the fact that the above mentioned abductions and human rights abuses by the Turkish government seem to have been part of a larger sinister plan to take over the schools abroad, and extradite all the Turkish teachers of these schools to Turkey.

Even though the schools are privately owned and the Afghan government does not own any of their shares, Afghanistan’s Ministry of Education signed a formal agreement today (February 26, 2018) to handed over the management of Afghan-Turk schools to a radical subsidiary of the Turkish government, the *Maarif Foundation*, defying calls by parents and students to keep the schools under Afghan control. According to Turkey’s state-run Anadolu Agency, Maarif Foundation has taken over 12 schools and three learning centers affiliated with the Hizmet (also known as Gülen) Movement in Afghanistan.

According to reports by Afghan media, Afghanistan and Turkey have not yet signed any agreements on the fate or repatriation of Turkey nationals currently employed at the schools. However, following the illegal abduction and the arrest of the five individuals in December 2017, the Afghan government may undertake further actions to undermine the liberty and security of all the Turkish teachers.

We, therefore, respectfully request your support during this critical time for the Turkish teachers in Afghanistan, by providing necessary protection and effort to avoid their deportation to Turkey, where they would most likely face torture, ill-treatment and other risks to their life and health.

We would welcome the opportunity to provide your offices with further information or to clarify any issue in relation to this communication.

Sincerely,

We kindly request you to take action. Express your views or send the statement above to the following addresses:

1. Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan

Twitter: @ashrafghani

Phone: 0202104444, 0202104445

(Can be reached through the Acting Spokesperson for the President’s Office)

Shah Hussain Murtazawi, Acting Spokesperson for the President’s Office

Phone: +93 (0) 728 998 907

Email: murtazawi84@yahoo.com

2. Salahuddin Rabbani. Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Address: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Malek Asghar St. Kabul, Afghanistan

Phone: 0093 (0) 20 2100372, 0093 (0) 20 2100371

Email: info@mfa.af

Twitter: @mfa\_afghanistan

http://mfa.gov.af/en/form/contactus

3. Hamdullah Mohib, Afghanistan’s Ambassador to the United States

Address: Embassy of Afghanistan, 2341 Wyoming Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20008

Phone: 202-483-6410

Fax: 202-483-6488

Twitter: @hmohib

info@afghanembassy.ushttps://www.afghanembassy.us/contact-us/

4. Mahmoud SAIKAL, Ambassador and Permanent Representative

Permanent Mission of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in New York

Address: 633 Third Avenue Floor 27A, New York, NY 10017

Phone: 212-972 1212

Fax: 212-972 1216

@AfghanMissionUN

info@afghanistan-un.org

5. U.S. Embassy Kabul

Phone: (00 93) (0)700-10-8000

Fax: (00 93) (0)700-108-564

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KabulACS@state.gov