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**Appeal of Afghan Diaspora Groups for Stopping of Forced Expulsion of Afghan
Refugees from
Pakistan**

His Excellency António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York, NY

Your Excellency,

I am sure that you are fully aware of the irresponsible decision of the Pakistani government regarding the deportation of the so-called illegal Afghan immigrants, a decision taken in an extremely cruel way and without consideration for the immigrants' circumstances.

As we express gratitude and appreciation to the people of Pakistan who welcomed Afghan immigrants in times of dire circumstances in the past four decades, the Afghan National Movement Coalition expresses its deep concern over the irresponsible decision of the current government of Pakistan to forcibly deport Afghan immigrants *en masse*, on short notice without any regard for the harsh weather conditions at this time of the year, and even more importantly with a total disregard for their legal immigrant status. We consider this decision as an unfriendly and disastrous act.

We are aware of your excellency's attention in this matter, but once again we would like to draw your attention to the dire situation of the children, women, and the elderly amidst these helpless and homeless refugees, and we ask that you do everything at your disposal to help stop the arbitrary process of deportation that would certainly lead to more stressful and crisis of unfathomable hardships. We also strongly encourage the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights to monitor the process of expulsion of refugees for the purpose of pressuring and prevent Pakistani police and authorities of illegal and mistreatment of refugees and at the same time document their illegal acts so the perpetrators are punished.

The issue of the return of Afghan refugees from Pakistan has been discussed many times between the governments of the two countries and the United

Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, to make sure that the refugees can return to Afghanistan in a voluntary, dignified, and gradual manner. A large number of Afghan immigrants have returned to their homeland between the years 2002 to 2015. However, when the voluntary return of refugees to Afghanistan became improbable, the previous governments of Pakistan understandably extended the stay of all Afghan refugees in 2015, 2016, 2017, and every subsequent year since. Your Excellency is aware that in the last two years after the fall of the republic, not only has there been no sign of improvement in the conditions in Afghanistan, but they have, in fact, deteriorated, particularly in regard to civil and human rights, rampant poverty, and high unemployment. The social and economic conditions have become much worse compared to previous years, and most importantly, the violation of human rights, especially the lack of respect for the rights of Afghan women and girls, and the harmful policies of the Taliban have caused thousands of Afghans to leave their country.

In such a situation, the current Pakistani government has no reasonable and acceptable reason for the forced deportation of Afghan immigrants, and this action is against the norms and standards accepted by the world community regarding immigrants.

It should be added that Pakistan has not joined the Refugee Convention and does not consider itself committed to complying with the 1967 Protocol on Refugees, but in view of the prevailing conditions in Afghanistan, it has agreed on a mechanism with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to grant asylum rights and residence to Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Pakistan has acted accordingly in the last four decades, and those conditions still prevail in Afghanistan. I am sure that the government of Pakistan clearly understands the fact that forced deportation of immigrants is not allowed under any circumstances if it endangers their freedom and life. In spite of all this, the process of forced deportation continues brazenly as the Taliban government does not have the means to provide resettlement or meet the needs of the repatriated migrants as the harsh winter weather is upon us. Considering the situation in Afghanistan, we hope your Excellency advise all organizations that are providing assistance to the returnees to coordinate their activities among themselves and with the UN to ensure the protection of physical and mental wellbeing of the returnees and the provision of essential services such health, shelter and education.

Undoubtedly, this act of the government of Pakistan disregards the neighborly norms and provisions of the Good Neighbor Declaration of December 24, 2002,

which was brought to the attention of the United Nations Security Council, and Pakistan is one of its signatories. This present act of the forced deportation of Afghan refugees is far from a good neighborly act, it has no regard for moral prerogatives as it is a hostile act that the people of Afghanistan strongly condemn.

The Movement of National Discourse on Afghanistan

The National Movement of Peace and Justice

The Unanimity Action of Afghanistan

The National Solidarity Movement

The Afghanistan Coordination Council

CC: Filippo Grandi, High Commissioner UNHCR;

Hissein Brahim Taha, Secretary-General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation;

United States Senate; Jens Stoltenberg,

The NATO Secretary General; Ursula von Der Leyen, President of the European Union; Chairman, SAARC

