

H.E. President Ashraf Ghani
President
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan
Kabul, Afghanistan
(by email only)

3 November 2020

Dear President Ghani,

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales (BHRC).

BHRC expresses its deep condolences to the victims and families of those injured or killed in the attack at Kabul University yesterday where reportedly all students attending a law class were killed. ISIS has claimed responsibility for the attack, claiming it had targeted 'graduate judges and investigators.' The attack reminds us graphically, once again, of the personal risks undertaken by lawyers in so many places throughout the world seeking to uphold the rule of law, an essential part of any functioning state seeking to protect all its citizens.

BHRC has itself conducted workshops in Kabul in the past concerning the Rule of Law as well as Women's Rights and the Rights of the Child (supported by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities fund) where we saw first-hand the courage and dedication of lawyers, judges and others involved in the justice system in Afghanistan in the most difficult of circumstances.

Yours sincerely,



Schona Jolly QC
Chair,
Bar Human Rights Committee of England and Wales

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