Statement on the 3rd Anniversary of the Taliban Invasion of Afghanistan

Toronto, Canada
August 15, 2024

Salaam/Peace be upon you:

Three years ago, Afghanistan was plunged into darkness as the Taliban seized control, stripping away the fundamental rights of its people, especially women and girls. Today, Afghan women face severe restrictions on education, employment, and personal freedoms.

One year ago, AYEDI hosted the first ever Canadian Summit on Afghanistan, which culminated in recommendations to the Government of Canada regarding further steps it needs to take to address this ongoing crisis. We continue to urge the Canadian government to amplify its support for Afghan refugees and to advocate more strongly for human rights within Afghanistan. This includes calls to:

- **Advocate for the rights of Afghan asylum seekers and refugees:** Keep our promise to Afghan nationals who supported the Government of Canada by urgently and actively processing and accepting applicants through the Special Immigration Measures (SIM) program without imposing a cap; Commit to resettling at least 95,000 Afghan refugees; and collaboration with international partners to unequivocally condemn mass deportations of Afghan refugees from third countries, including Pakistan and Iran.
- **Champion the rights of Afghan girls and women:** Recognize the erasure of Afghan women and girls from public life as gender apartheid, calls echoed by parliamentarians across political stripes, including Senators Marilou McPhedran, Ratna Omidvar, and Salma Ataullahjan, and MPs Garnett Genuis, Ali Ehsassi, and Heather McPherson.
- **Do not recognize the Taliban regime as a legitimate government.**

Canada has always been a beacon of hope for those in need. It can do more to champion the rights of the most vulnerable in Afghanistan. The fight for justice and equality in Afghanistan continues.

In solidarity,
AYEDI

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