

ACBAR



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اداره همافنگی کمکهای بشری و انکشافی برای افغانها دافغانانو لپاره د بشری او پرمختیایی مرستو د همغږی اداره
Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development

ACBAR Condemns Recent Attacks on Civilians and Aid workers

1st August 2018

On behalf of the members of ACBAR – 146 national and international non-government organisations (NGOs) – we strongly condemn the recent atrocious attacks on civilians and aid workers:

- On Tuesday 31 July a complex attack carried out by an armed opposition group on a government office in Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province in which 19 people were killed with more than 20 individuals injured according to initial reports. Among them four NGO staff members and the staff member of an International Organization have lost their lives while three NGO staff members have been wounded.
- On Sunday 29 July an NGO staff member was killed in Faryab province while working on a humanitarian mission.
- On Saturday 28 July there was another complex attack on an NGO-run midwifery training centre, also in Jalalabad city. In this attack three NGO staff members lost their lives while two NGO staff members and three civilians were wounded.

Firstly, on behalf of its members, ACBAR's Steering Committee, would like to pass sincere condolences to the families and colleagues of all the victims for their loss and our sympathy and wishes for a speedy recovery to those who have been wounded.

"All these staff members were simply doing their duty, selflessly trying to support poor and needy Afghan people. All armed groups must respect the International Humanitarian Law by not targeting civilians and aid workers. Giving aid is a neutral act", states Ms. Palwasha Hassan (Chairperson of ACBAR).

Secondly, any attack, intimidation, violence or threat against aid workers will result in delays in implementation of development and humanitarian programmes, or programmes may even be stopped, thus causing a negative impact on the welfare of the Afghan people.

ACBAR demands that the Government takes immediate action to provide better protection for all civilians in Afghanistan and to ensure that aid workers can carry out their humanitarian role in Government held areas without risking their lives.

ACBAR also requests a rapid, independent and transparent investigation into the security failings in Jalalabad city.

ACBAR Steering Committee

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Notes for Editors

- **ACBAR, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development**, is an Afghan independent body bringing together 146 national and international NGOs working in Afghanistan and abiding by the NGO Code of Conduct and humanitarian principles. As the collective voice of NGOs operating in Afghanistan, ACBAR's activities focus on providing information to its members / the aid community, coordination of activities at the national / regional levels and advocacy on issues affecting the work of its members. <http://www.acbar.org>

- **Humanitarian Principles**

Humanity: Human suffering must be addressed wherever it is found. The purpose of Humanitarian action is to protect life and health and ensure respect for human beings.

Neutrality: Humanitarian actors must not take sides in hostilities or engage at any time in controversies of a political, racial, religious or ideological nature.

Impartiality: Humanitarian action must be carried out on the basis of need alone, giving priority to the most urgent cases of distress and making no distinctions on the basis of nationality, race, gender, religious belief, class or political opinions.

Independence: Humanitarian action must be autonomous from the political, economic, military or other objectives that any actor may hold with regard to areas where humanitarian action is being implemented.