

ACBAR



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د افغانستان لپاره د بشري او پرمختيايي مرستو د همغږي اداره

اداره هماهنگی کمکهای بشري و انکشافی برای افغانستان

Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development

ACBAR strongly condemns the attack on NGOs in Jalalabad

25th January 2018

ACBAR is shocked and strongly condemns the recent attack on NGO offices in Jalalabad city in Nangarhar province on Wednesday 24 January. It has been reported that five civilians have been killed and 21 civilians injured, including six children.

On behalf of its members, ACBAR would like to pass sincere condolences to the families of the victims of this attack. ACBAR also fully supports a rapid, independent and transparent investigation into how and why this incident occurred.

"It is of the utmost importance that Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) are able to carry out their work in the country on behalf of their beneficiaries with the assurance that their personnel, their property and their activities will not be attacked", states Fiona Gall, Director of ACBAR.

In 2017 there have been 377 attacks on aid organisations and the death of 17 aid workers due to the current conflict. ACBAR calls on all parties in the Afghanistan to respect the neutrality of NGOs, their staff and their facilities, as well as to respect the principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) which provides protection to aid workers and civilians.

Any attack, intimidation, violence or threat against aid workers will ultimately result in delays in implementation of programmes and will cause a negative impact on the welfare of the people of Afghanistan.

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Notes for Editors

- **ACBAR, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief and Development**, is an Afghan independent body bringing together 138 national and international NGOs working in Afghanistan and abiding by the humanitarian principles of independence, neutrality, impartiality and humanity and the NGO Code of Conduct. As a platform for NGOs operating in Afghanistan, ACBAR's provides information to its members and the aid community on national and provincial levels as well as 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.