



## Afghanistan Human Rights Center

### Press Release

Date: January 23, 2025

**The file of applications of the ICC Prosecutor before the pre-trial chamber of the court for the issuance of arrest warrants against the leader and the chief justice of the Taliban is a significant and crucial step in securing justice for the victims in Afghanistan.**

The Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim A.A. Khan has submitted two applications for warrants of arrest for the supreme leader and the chief justice of the Taliban to Pre-Trial Chamber II of the court. The Afghanistan Human Rights Center (AHRC) welcomes these applications and supports this action with optimism, considering it a necessary and initial step towards achieving justice for the victims of violence and human rights violations committed by the Taliban. Since the Taliban's seizure of power in Afghanistan, they have continuously engaged in widespread and systematic violations of the human rights and freedoms of citizens, particularly the rights of women, vulnerable ethnic and religious groups, and civilians. They have shown complete disregard for Afghanistan's international obligations, as well as for the rights and demands of citizens and the global community regarding the adherence to human rights standards.

This comes at a time when the deliberate and widespread deprivation of women, as a group based on gender within society, of their fundamental rights is classified as a crime against humanity under international documents, including Article 7 of the Statute of the International Criminal Court. As previously noted, over the past three years, the Taliban have engaged in a systematic, intentional, and coordinated campaign to target and persecute women, effectively denying them access to their fundamental rights and freedoms on a widespread and organized scale. Such conduct by the Taliban, pursuant to Article 7 of the Rome Statute, may constitute crime against humanity, which falls squarely within the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court.

Furthermore, the group has been accused of committing crimes against humanity, including the mass killings of civilians and the systematic violation of women's rights during their previous period of control over Afghanistan. However, they were never held accountable nor subjected to any investigation or prosecution for these acts. The application of the International Criminal

Court prosecutor, aimed at prosecuting Taliban leaders for these crimes, reflects the determination of the court and the international community to hold perpetrators of these violations accountable and exercise the court's legal mandate. It could serve as an initial and crucial step towards ending the impunity and lack of accountability for criminals in Afghanistan.

This request is not only an effective step in the fight against impunity, but it also sends a strong message to human rights violators that no one, not even the leaders of groups like the Taliban, will be immune from prosecution for serious human rights violations.

On the other hand, the victims of human rights violations and crimes against humanity, especially women and vulnerable ethnic and religious groups, have not yet had access to justice and are eagerly waiting for its realization. This request could bring hope for healing the pain and suffering of the victims and fulfill their rights and demands, which are the provision of justice and the prosecution of those responsible for human rights violations.

Given the aforementioned points, the Afghanistan Human Rights Center (AHRC) presents the following demands and recommendations to the International Criminal Court and the international community:

1. The AHRC respectfully requests that the International Criminal Court promptly issue arrest warrants for the leaders of the Taliban, in light of the grave human rights violations occurring in Afghanistan and initiate the legal proceedings for the prosecution of these individuals at the earliest opportunity.
2. We call on all member states of the International Criminal Court and international organizations to provide their support to this request and collaborate with the International Criminal Court in advancing justice, enhancing the human rights situation in Afghanistan, and ensuring the realization of victims' rights. We further urge them to actively participate in this humane and justice process. Ensuring justice in Afghanistan will assist justice and end impunity in the world.
3. We urge the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to conduct investigations into other Taliban leaders and commanders implicated in human rights violations, specifically the systematic and deliberate violations of women's rights, which constitute clear examples of crimes against humanity, and to seek arrest warrants for these individuals as well.
4. The AHRC, while affirming its willingness to cooperate with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court by providing relevant documents, evidence, and information concerning human rights violations, calls upon all victims of such violations, as well as national and international human rights organizations, to collaborate with the Prosecutor's office in this regard.

In hope of justice as a basic human rights,

The End