

# Annex

## AFGHANISTAN HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY ORGANIZATION

Website <http://www.ahrdo.org>

### Description of Mandate and Relevant Work

The Afghanistan Democracy and Human Rights Organization (“AHRDO”) was founded in 2009. The Organization aims to improve the human rights of Afghan citizens, contribute to the country’s democratic development, promote understanding and compliance with international humanitarian law in situations of armed conflict, design cultural and artistic initiatives to foster inter-ethnic and inter-community peace and communication, and develop public memory and recollection of millions of war victims as an antidote to the deep-seated culture of impunity and the profoundly ingrained ethos of war and violence in the country.

AHRDO has implemented over 100 projects across the country with more than 100,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries. A handful of the projects are as follows.

AHRDO has focused its work on the protection of human rights of the most vulnerable groups in Afghan society: women, civilians in conflict situations and war victims. As such, AHRDO implemented a project with women in local communities complemented/supported by comprehensive archival research in 2012. The outcome of the project was as a policy report, “Afghan Women After the Taliban: Will History Repeat itself?”, which outlined the major fragility women’s rights could face in post-security transition environment. Building on the outcome of this project, in 2014, AHRDO implemented another project, “Afghan women in the Eyes of Men: Tackling Structural Causes of Women’s Rights Problem in Afghanistan.” In 2016, AHRDO undertook the project of the “Scar of Wars: Images of the Afghan Anatomy”, documenting, photographing and visualizing the wounds and injuries of Afghan civilians in the wake of bombardment by the international and Afghan security forces and the increasing Taliban suicide attacks. The project reveals the unimagined scale of devastation and offers an opportunity to discuss the toll the war has imposed on Afghans. In 2017 AHRDO produced an Action Plan for the Afghan Civil Society attempting to structure its collaboration with the International Criminal Court (“ICC”) to assist the ICC in investigating post-2003 crimes in Afghanistan.

In February 2019, AHRDO unveiled its initiative – the *Afghanistan Centre for Memory and Dialogue (War Victims Museum)*. The project was launched in 2011 to collect, protect, and share memories and oral histories of Afghan war victims, and foster a policy of

remembrance of Afghan war victims. Project participants created Memory Boxes. Through facilitated workshops, the survivors—family members and relatives of the war victims—constructed metal and wooden boxes with the technical assistance of AHRDO, collected personal objects and stories of the war victims and deposited them in the Memory Boxes. This memorialization work, over the course of 8 years has led to the construction of hundreds of Memory Boxes with more than 4,000 personal objects and collection of hundreds of stories and thousands of Afghan war victims’ names and personal details.

In 2011, AHRDO introduced the “Legislative Theatre” methodology to Afghanistan to encourage and foster the participation of local communities in legislative processes. The project involved informing local communities about post-Taliban legislative developments, canvassing local perspectives, understandings, and concerns on the legislative gaps and priorities as well as communicating them to Afghanistan’s National Assembly. Since then, the methodology has been used in several projects to help empower, mobilize and organize local communities to realize, exercise, and engage with their democratic rights.

In 2012, AHRDO established the War Victims Councils in different provinces to help war victims organize themselves into networks, voice their demands and deliver them to state and non-state actors.

In 2015-16, AHRDO undertook the initiative: “From I through We to Community”, to de-escalate tensions between ethnic communities and help build a more sustainable peace among ethnic groups at the grassroots levels. In 2012, AHRDO, initiated the project of Afghan Women Young Leaders, creating a network of Afghan girls and providing them with leadership training as part of its broader civil society development intervention.

In relationship to outreach on the ICC matter, AHRDO conducted a workshop for journalists from Kabul and provinces before the Article 15 process started. The objective was to educate and sensitize journalists to properly report on the ICC. AHRDO received a grant and provided financial support to Civil Society and Human Rights Network, Afghanistan Civil Society Forum, Arman Shahr/Open Asia, and Feminine Solidarity for Justice Organization to travel to provinces to help victims to make representations to the ICC. As part of this effort, AHRDO brought 28 victims from Kandahar, Zabul, Helmand, Logar, Ghor, Bamyan and Maidan Wardak to Kabul and supported them to make representations. AHRDO played the leading role in the Article 15 process. AHRDO produced two documents for transitional justice groups in Afghanistan on guiding them through the Article 15 process.

## AFGHAN HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION

Website                      Not available

### Description of Mandate and Relevant Work

The Afghan Human Rights Organization (“AHRO”) is a non-governmental, non-political, independent humanitarian organization founded in May 1997 to promote and protect the human rights of citizens of Afghanistan, to raise awareness of human rights violations, and to promote an improved human rights situation in Afghanistan in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in accordance with the rule of law, and in accordance with good governance.

AHRO works to support human rights in Afghanistan by focusing on providing legal aid and direct services to victims and potential victims of abuse, increasing public awareness of legal rights, implementing advocacy campaigns on behalf of detainees and prisoners, and increasing access to justice of vulnerable and marginalized Afghans. AHRO serves communities across Afghanistan and provides legal aid and services in several provinces in Afghanistan.

In relationship to outreach on the ICC matter, as a leading human rights organization in Afghanistan, AHRO has been working with other Afghan civil society organizations to conduct public awareness and outreach to potential victims of war crimes in Afghanistan for the purposes of submitting complaints to the ICC for the investigation into war crimes in Afghanistan. AHRO has engaged in social media campaigns to raise awareness about the ICC submission procedures and processes, increase knowledge about the benefits of reporting, and support victims and their families in the submission process.

## AFGHANISTAN FORENSIC SCIENCE ORGANIZATION

Website <http://www.fso.org.af/>

### Description of Mandate and Relevant Work

The Afghanistan Forensic Science Organization (“AFSO”) is an independent, non-governmental and non-profit organization founded in 2011 to promote the use of forensic science in Afghanistan. AFSO is a multidisciplinary team of 23 professionals including police, forensic medical doctors, prosecutors, archaeologists and human rights investigators, trained and mentored since its inception by Nobel Peace Laureate Physicians for Human Rights. AFSO is mainly working on mass graves in Afghanistan. AFSO is working on prevention of torture, evaluated the Forensic department, conducting Forensic Clinic at Gawharshad Institute of Higher Education and on Evaluation of Forensic Evidence in Kabul primary court.

AFSO is the only dedicated forensic science organization in Afghanistan and regularly conducts awareness raising workshops throughout Afghanistan’s provinces with a range of stakeholders including police, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (“AIHRC”), civil society activists and universities with a focus on forensic anthropology (mass grave documentation) including identification, registration, protection and exhumation. It’s also working on documentation of torture and the lack of science behind hymen and anal testing.

Highlights of AFSO’s work include the identification, documentation, registration and protection of twenty mass graves in several provinces of Afghanistan, developing and implementing Afghanistan’s first (and only) forensic science university curriculum, conducting forensic clinic in Gawharshad, one of the private University based in Kabul, implementing Afghanistan’s first Istanbul Protocol trainings on the medical documentation of torture and conducting training for human rights defenders, forensic staff, member of Detention Working Group. Furthermore, AFSO professionally and technically worked on drafting preventing torture law.

AFSO extensively worked on trial monitoring, providing independent expert opinion, training and guidance of victims on filling and submissions of representation forms (VRF), and advocating for an end to hymen testing in so-called moral crimes cases.

AFSO advocates for and supports war victims of Afghanistan in national and international fora. In relationship to outreach on the ICC matter, AFSO conducted capacity building programs on: manual development regarding ICC; conducted

workshop with the cooperation of Bar Association for defense lawyers in Kabul and provinces; conducted workshop for war victims with the cooperation of TJCG in Kabul and provinces, provided guidance and instructions for defense lawyers and victims' families, trained them on how to submit their complains and how to fill out the complaint forms; advocated for war victims along with the TJCG in Kabul and Hague; and AFSO with the cooperation of Feminine Solidarity for Justice Organization and Peace Village organization has taken the responsibility of the TJCG's secretariat since July 2018, developed a six month action plan, organized monthly meetings, and participated in different meetings with national and international organizations.

## FEMININE SOLIDARITY FOR JUSTICE ORGANIZATION

Website: Not available

### Description of Mandate and Relevant Work

Registered with the Ministry of Justice since 2007, Feminine Solidarity for Justice Organization (also known as Foundation of Solidarity for Justice, and the “Foundation”) is the first victims network in Afghanistan which is committed to create a strong network of the victims of the conflict around the country and to raise human rights awareness, advocate, lobby and provide certain services for the victims of the human rights violations in Afghanistan. The Foundation is committed to raise the voices of the victims of human rights violations through media, peaceful gatherings, peaceful demonstrations and meetings.

The Foundation is raising awareness of Afghan people on key human rights instruments and elements as well as transitional justice issues. The awareness raising programs are conducted at different levels and places from official workshops to home-based and community-based awareness raising particularly for those women who barely have the opportunity to go out and participate in a debate.

The Foundation is providing psychotherapy services for victims of human rights violations particularly women and children. Since 2007 when the psychotherapy services were provided more than 250 people, with those services going 75 percent to women and 25 percent to men.

The Foundation established the first ever Victims Shuras in Afghanistan. Victims Shuras are bringing together members of the communities who are victims of human rights violations during the near four decades of Afghan conflict. Thus far, three Shuras were established in Kabul and it will expand soon in other provinces of Afghanistan. The total number of people participating in the shuras are around 240 individuals so far, with the majority of those participants being women and girls.

The Foundation seeks to raise the voices of the voiceless in Afghanistan, and is doing so by publishing a series of stories about Afghan war victims in well-known publications and two times a week through radio.

Afghan people are experiencing conflict and atrocities for the past near four decades. Different governments, armed groups and political groups were engaged in committing crimes against Afghan people at different stages. The national and international human

rights actors are fully aware of the importance of the documenting war crimes and crimes against humanity which have been committed in Afghanistan. The Foundation is actively engaged in documenting war crimes and crimes against humanity in line with the AIHRC since 2007.

The Foundation has undertaken different initiatives for advocating on behalf of the victims of the past human rights violations by holding peaceful and historic victims demonstration in Kabul, including on December 10, 2007.

The Foundation established a Human Rights Club where people from different aspects of life especially high school and university students, university professors as well as the interested individuals were coming together once a week to discuss issues related to human rights and transitional justice in Afghanistan.

The Foundation works in coordination with various human rights groups on issues related to Afghan war victims.

The Foundation supported Afghan war victims to submit complaints to the ICC relating to the investigation of war crimes in Afghanistan.

## AFGHAN VICTIMS' FAMILIES ASSOCIATION

Website <https://www.facebook.com/Afghanistan-Victims-Families-Association-365301696962072/>

### Description of Mandate and Relevant Work

The Afghan Victims' Families Association ("AVFA") is a civil-legal, independent, non-political, non-affiliated, non-governmental, and a non-profit organization with its main offices in Kabul City. Every citizen of Afghanistan is entitled to join the Afghanistan Victims' Families Association without discrimination of any kind as to gender, ethnicity, language, religion, political opinion or ideology provided that the applicant is not implicated in committing the most serious international crimes. Observing the principles of the sacred religion of Islam and abiding by the established laws of the country, AVFA is committed to implementing the provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international covenants ratified by Afghanistan.

The main objectives of AVFA are to:

- Raise awareness and mobilize public opinion to bring to justice those who have committed the most serious international crimes, namely crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide, torture, and rape in Afghanistan;
- Attempt to identify and reveal the identities of the persons who committed the most serious international crimes in Afghanistan after the 1357 Sawr Coup d'état;
- Collect and provide evidences and criminal records of those individuals implicated in gross violation of human rights in Afghanistan and present them to the justice and the judiciary system of Afghanistan to urge and assist them to file legal complaint against the accused;
- Implement transitional justice roadmap plan, prepared by AIHRC in Afghanistan;
- File legal complaints, on behalf of the victims, in national and international courts against person/s implicated in committing the most serious international crimes and gain support of the national and international organizations on this issue;
- Identify victims of the most serious international crimes;
- Compile a list of victims' names; and present them to public;
- Establish contacts and promote a common understanding among the families of the victims of the most serious international crimes in Afghanistan and develop a plan for the families to voice their shared call for justice;

- Coordinate and foster contacts among national and international human rights organizations to organize joint campaigns to call for justice in Afghanistan;
- Hold joint seminars and conferences with coordinating organizations to explore how to identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice;
- Try to establish a hybrid court, a judicial body composed of national and international judges and prosecutors, to prosecute individuals accused of committing the most serious international crimes in Afghanistan with support of the international community;
- Hold special ceremonies to commemorate the victims and individuals killed and executed in Afghanistan;
- Conduct a comprehensive tireless fight to revoke the “Amnesty Law” passed in Afghanistan;
- Obligate the government to identify mass graves throughout the country and preserve them as historic sites;
- Encourage the government to name streets, roads, schools, stadiums, and other public areas after the victims in various cities in the country and to build monuments to preserve their memories;
- Obligate the government to restore the dignity of the victims and pay reparation to their families;
- Urge the government to compile and release a complete list of disappeared prisoners during the pro-soviet Khalq and Parcham regime as soon as possible, with detailed information such as when they were arrested, what charges were brought against them, and where they were tried, executed and buried; and
- Work closely with civil society and victims to submit complaints to the ICC as part of the investigation into war crimes in Afghanistan.