

**Intervention by Mr. Naseer Ahmad Faiq, Charge d’Affaires of the Permanent Mission of
Afghanistan to the United Nations**

26 October 2022

Interaction discussion

Agenda Item 68: Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

**Briefing by Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Afghanistan, Mr. Richard
Bennett**

Thank you Mr. Chair,

I would like to thank you Mr. Bennett for your comprehensive presentation and report on the dire human rights situation in Afghanistan.

On behalf of the people of Afghanistan, let me express our deep appreciation to you and for the critical work you are doing.

As Afghanistan continues to experience serious multifaceted social, economic, security, political and humanitarian crisis due to Taliban’s inaction, failure to meet their obligations and comply with their commitments, Your mandate is indispensable to the promotion and protection of human rights in Afghanistan.

We also welcome with great admiration your report to the Human Rights Council and its recommendations to ensure and strengthen accountability for human rights violations and abuses by addressing impunity and bringing the perpetrators of crimes involving international human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law to justice.

Last week, I made a statement on the precarious human rights situation in Afghanistan before this Committee under this agenda item. In the interest of time, I would just like to highlight the following points and ask some questions from the Special Rapporteur, Mr. Bennett:

Mr. Bennett, we strongly share and endorse your grave concerns regarding:

- 1- the staggering regression in women and girls’ enjoyment of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights or frankly the current gender apartheid imposed by the Taliban in Afghanistan.
- 2- The reprisal killings, torture, cruel and in-humane treatment and detention of former security forces, human rights defenders, journalists and protestors constitute grave violations of International Human Rights law.
- 3- We are also very concerned by the conflict-related egregious human rights violations and abuses in Panjshir, Takhar, Badakhshan, Baghlan and Sari Pul provinces, including

arbitrary arrests against civilians, extrajudicial killings, torture, enforced displacements and collective punishments and summary killings of war prisoners.

4- We strongly condemn restrictions on freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly.

5- We are also concerned that various forms of organized crimes continue to undermine human rights, development, stability, governance and rule of law in Afghanistan.

Terrorism in particular continues to be a major source of concern and grave violation of human rights and a crime against humanity.

I would like to ask the special rapporteur a few questions.

Questions:

- 1) Were you able to meet with the Taliban Supreme leader to talk about Human Rights issues, including women's rights of employment and girls' right to education?
- 2) Are there any updates on when the secondary schools will be open for girls? Have you seen any indications of a commitment by the Taliban to opening the secondary schools for girls.
- 3) The Taliban have persistently rejected all national and international appeals for a political settlement. Have you seen any indications of a commitment by the Taliban to a political process?
- 4) Did you find any cases where the Taliban held perpetrators of Human Rights violations accountable?
- 5) Regarding the systematic and targeted killings of Hazara-Shia communities, do you support or recommend creation of an international inquiry or a fact-finding mission to investigate what is to be considered by many to be genocide?
- 6) During your recent visit to Panjshir province, we heard that you were not allowed to meet with the people. Were you able to go to the sites of alleged war crimes of the Taliban on the 11th and 13th September during which a total of 75 captives of the opponents were extrajudicially executed?
- 7) Were you able to meet independent witnesses of those massacres? Did you meet families of those executed? Have you examined the video and audio recordings of these incidents by the Taliban which surfaced on social media? If yes, what is your assessment and how the perpetrators of these crimes be brought to justice? If not, what can be done to ensure access to the victims' families and witnesses?
- 8) Now that there are documented violations, don't you think that there is need for a commission of inquiry or independent investigative mechanism?

I thank you.