

**The decree of
President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

About Appointing a Joint Commission for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders

Purpose of Enactment

Article One:

The decree has been enacted based on article (6) and (7) of the Constitution of Afghanistan and the Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Protection Strategy to strengthen human rights advocacy and address the national and international human rights concerns related to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan; the appointment of the “Joint Commission for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders” is intended to provide the necessary and effective ground for the necessary support of human rights related issues in Afghanistan and partial fulfilment of the commitments of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan within the framework of human rights standards.

The Composition of the Commission

Article Two:

(1) The Commission mentioned in Article One of this decree shall function under the chairmanship of the Second Vice President along with the following honorable entities:

- 1- Attorney General
- 2- Minister of Justice
- 3- Minister of Interior Affairs
- 4- Minister of Women’s Affairs
- 5- Head of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)
- 6- Head of National Directorate of Security (NDS)
- 7- General Director of Independent Directorate of Local Governance (IDLG)
- 8- Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs
- 9- Representative of the Supreme Court of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

10- Representative of Legal, Legislative, Judicial Affairs Directorate of the Administrative Office of the President

11- Representatives of civil society organizations functioning in the human rights field

(2) Inviting the officials from other relevant departments and institutions to the respective meetings or confirming their memberships in the composition of the Commission is in the capacity of the chairman of the Commission.

Responsibilities and Duties of the Commission

Article Three:

The Joint Commission for Protection of Human Rights Defenders of Afghanistan, with regard the goals and objectives of the relevant strategy, has the following duties:

- 1- Draft and approve Commission's action plan;
- 2- Determining Commission's work priorities by taking into account the issues included in the Afghanistan's Human Rights Defenders Protection Strategy;
- 3- Develop a coherent, comprehensive and joint plan with non-governmental human rights organizations to outline a mechanism to protect human rights defenders in Afghanistan;
- 4- Approval of the plan mentioned in para (3) of this article by the High Council of Rule of Law and Governance;
- 5- Obtain the views of domestic and foreign donor and advocacy organizations on human rights related issues in Afghanistan;
- 6- Create coordination between governmental and non-governmental institutions in this field;
- 7- Attend to the plans, suggestions and complaints of the human rights defenders in Afghanistan;
- 8- Report on activities and its progress to the High Council of Rule of Law and Governance;
- 9- Attend to other relevant matters assessed by head of the Commission;

Secretariat

Article Four:

(1) The Secretariat of the Commission mentioned in Article (1) of this decree shall be the responsibility of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

(2) The duties and scope of Secretariat's activities include organizing and conducting Commission meetings, following up decisions, filing complaints and threats against human rights defenders in Afghanistan; also publishing a quarterly report on Commission's activities and progress through press conferences and other possible events, and the details of these activities shall be specified in the action plan of the Commission.

Enforcement

Article Five:

This decree is enforced upon endorsement and all ministries and government bodies are obliged to responsibly and comprehensively cooperate with the Commission.