



Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development

PRESS RELEASE

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Killed of aid workers

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ACBAR calls upon all parties to the Afghan conflict to stop killing AID workers

Kabul, the 2nd June 2015,

ACBAR - the Agency Coordinating Body of Afghan Relief and Development - has been aggrieved to hear of the attack on a Guest house of a Non-Governmental Organization during which 9 aid workers have been killed, by unknown armed actors in Zaree District of Balkh province (Afghanistan).

Our thoughts and condolences go to the family of the victims, theirs colleagues and friends as well as to the whole community of aid workers.

Once again, ACBAR wants to reiterate its **strong condemnation of any attack, intimidation, violence or threats against NGOs working in Afghanistan**. ACBAR appeals to all parties to the Afghan conflict to **respect the neutrality of NGOs as well as to allow humanitarian access to those in need**.

ACBAR would like to restate that humanitarian organizations are working impartially and independently to deliver much needed aid to the Afghan people who need it the most, irrespective of ethnic identity, religious or political beliefs.

In the current context, where Afghanistan still faces major challenges such as the high vulnerability to natural disasters, one of the worst levels of poverty in the world, an increase in crime and an intensification of a conflict that has been ongoing for more than 30 years, NGOs – both local and international – play, and will continue to play, a critical role in providing relief and development aid to people in need, in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan, often in areas where other service providers have limited or no access.

Any attack, intimidation, violence or threat against NGO staff, interests, beneficiaries or assets will ultimately result in delays in aid implementation, **which negatively impacts the welfare of the people of Afghanistan** – particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

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Notes for Editors

- **ACBAR, the Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief & Development**, is an Afghan independent body bringing together 135 national and international NGOs working in Afghanistan and abiding by the humanitarian principles of independence, neutrality, impartiality and humanity. As the collective voice of NGOs operating in Afghanistan, ACBAR's activities have focused heavily on providing information to its members / the aid community, coordination of activities at the national / regional levels, and 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.

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