



The Right Honourable Dominic Raab MP
United Kingdom Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs
and First Secretary of State
King Charles St
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2AH

By email to: dominic.raab.mp@parliament.uk
fcdo.correspondence@fcdo.gov.uk

Our Ref: KH/KD/LB
Date: 24 August 2021

Dear Foreign Secretary

Afghanistan: Request of the President of the Independent Afghanistan Bar Association, Mr Rohullah Quarizada, for Urgent Assistance

I am writing to you in my capacity as President of the Law Society of Scotland and member of the International Bar Association (IBA), to extend support for the request of Mr Rohullah Qarizada, President of the Independent Afghanistan Bar Association and his family for urgent assistance.

Mr Qarizada is fearful that he and his family members are in great danger following the United States' and allies' military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Mr Qarizada has represented many in need of legal support and is an outspoken critic of the Taliban and similar groups. Mr Qarizada is concerned that hundreds of drug smugglers that were sent to jail as a result of his efforts have since been released by the Taliban.

In his capacity as President of the Independent Afghanistan Bar Association, Mr Qarizada has been engaged in many cases advocating for human rights and justice. He has a high media profile as the public face of the Independent Afghanistan Bar Association and his face is well-known across the country.

Reports have been received that two employees of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) have already been murdered by the Taliban.

Understandably, Mr Quarizada is extremely worried. It is unknown whether the Afghanistan Bar Association will survive as an organisation.



Therefore, in respect of his admirable contribution to advancing the rule of law, universal human rights and an independent judiciary and legal profession in Afghanistan and his justifiable fears for the safety and lives of his family and himself arising from these good works, I would like to add my voice to those of my colleagues at the IBA and reiterate our support for Mr Qarizada's application for urgent assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ken Dalling'.

Ken Dalling
President

cc: britishembassy.kabul@fcdo.gov.uk
CabSecJustice@gov.scot

Background to the Independent Afghanistan Bar Association (AIBA)

The IBA worked with the Ministry of Justice of Afghanistan from 2004 to first establish the Independent Afghanistan Bar Association in 2008, and assisted in the developments of its bylaws, its first independent and secret ballot, and continued working closely with the AIBA for several years beyond this.