



Re: Afghan security forces raided Afghan-Turk Boys High School in Shibirghan.

I am writing this letter to bring our concern about the fate of the Afghan-Turk Schools to your attention. On July 28, 2018 Afghan-Turk Boys' High School in Shibirghan was raided by the Afghan police and it was reported by the staff that the school is surrounded so that no-one could enter or leave the school premises.

According to the local media in the province, the raids are approved and supported by the Office of First Vice President, who recently returned from Turkey. The Turkish government has been pressuring the Afghan government into shutting down or handing over the Turkish-Afghan Schools and their teachers by showing no regards to international politics or law. The parents of the Turkish-Afghan schools have protested the unlawful and tragic arrests of their teachers before and requested their government to stand strong against the pressures from the Turkish government by collecting more than 1 million signatures.

We would like to emphasize that this is not an isolated incident. It is apparent that the prior abductions and human rights violations by the Turkish government would conclude with taking over the schools abroad and asking extraditions of all the Turkish teachers in these schools to Turkey.

Given the Afghan government's collaboration with Turkish authorities, an international call on the Afghan Government to provide essential protection for the Turkish teachers and Afghan-Turk Schools and also to apply the rule of international law in Afghanistan is essential.

At the manner in which Turkish government acts, we are deeply concerned about well-beings of the teachers in case of a deportation as well as the fate of the schools in Afghanistan. The following issues unfortunately prove our discontent regarding to to the extent of the human rights violations that Turkish authorities can implement.

1- Many foreign nationals are being kept in Turkish jails as political hostage to be used as leverage in negotiations. The most recent case in this regard is of Pastor Brunson who was just released after US government's and President Trump's sharp approach to the issue.

2- According to FOX NEWS, Turkey-funded Diyanet mosque in Maryland is being utilized for the political purposes. Furthermore, officials in Turkish institutions abroad work as agents of Turkish regime and collect information about people who are affiliated with the Gulen movement.

Based on the fact that Turkish authorities have the means for siding against the west, especially USA in this level, a negotiation to the detriment of Afghan-Turk schools and teachers is not a big deal for them. If the schools are taken over by the Turkish government it is no doubt that more radicalization will occur by getting away from the idea of western democracy.

We, therefore, urge you to take immediate and necessary action in order to prevent such a crucial case being proceeded.

Sincerely,

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