##### December [insert date] , 2017

Full Name

Title

Organization

**MOST URGENT**

Re: Urgent Appeal regarding Turkish Teachers abducted in Afghanistan

##### Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

We would like to inform you on abductions and enforced disappearance of Turkish nationals in several countries, particularly in Afghanistan that recently happened on December 12, 2017.

On December 12, 2017, state agents (National Directorate of Security or NDS) acting on behalf of the Government of the the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, arbitrarily abducted and deprived of their liberty Mr. Yılmaz Aytan, Mr. Önder Akkuşçi, Mr. Massod Wardak (Afghan national), Mr. Yunus Demirci and Mr. Sami Yavuz .

The two operations resulting in the abduction of the above individuals, were reportedly carried out by the Intelligence Directorate, on December 12, 2017, at around 07:30 a.m. local Afghan time (3:00 a.m. GMT, December, 12, 2017). Hours after the incident, the Afghan-Turk High School where several of the abductees were employed as teachers, were subject to raids by security forces. According to our sources, the Ministry of Interior of Afghanistan has stated that they neither carried any operation, nor requested any search on premises of Afghan-Turkish girls' high schools.

We are seriously concerned on the possibility that the above individuals, lawful residents of Afghanistan and none with any criminal record, are already placed beyond the protection of the law and become subject to torture and ill-treatment. As the UNHCR is well aware, abductions and arrests of Hizmet/Gülen movement sympathizers have previously taken place in several other countries, including Pakistan recently (9/27/2017) through similar illegal operations (most probably carried out also in cooperation with the Turkish National Intelligence Organization).

According to media reports, Afghan security officials who wished not to be named, have stated that the teachers might be extradited to Turkey, even though the two countries have no extradition agreement. Even in the absence of the stated intention by state officials, there is little doubt that the victims are currently at imminent risk of deportation to Turkey, where their life and health may be in serious danger.

Terrorized by its own government and under distress in Afghanistan, the country they have genuinely contributed for as long as 20 years in different fields - the Turkish teachers, the businessmen and their family members have now placed high hopes on the United Nations, by *inter-alia*, applying for protection from UNHCR (Mr. Yılmaz Aytan, Mr. Önder Akkuşçu and Mr. Sami Yavuz).

We respectfully request your support during this critical time for the above individuals, including Mr. Massod Wardak (Afghan national), with a view of avoiding their deportation to Turkey, torture, ill-treatment and the real risk to his life.

Due to the gravity of the situation, we also request that you raise the issue with President Ashraf Ghani, Foreign Minister Salahuddin Rabbani and Afghan Ambassador to the United States, Hamdullah Mohib, as a matter of priority. We also encourage you, to urge the Government of Afghanistan, in absence of any accusation, to immediately and unconditionally release the individuals at risk*.*

Sincerely yours,