To the National Commission for UNESCO

Based on letter dated 15/3/1395 of cultural affairs of the commission we write as follow:

The Ministry of Information and Culture for supporting journalists and correspondents and pursuing the cases of violations from press freedom and violence against correspondents has performed the following tasks and duties.

1. In a visit with His Excellency Sarwar Danish, the vice president presented some cases of violence against journalist and correspondents and requested for pursuing the cases. In the meeting it was agreed a capable committee to be established with participation of the representatives of Ministry of Information and Culture, Journalists’ Federation, Attorney General and Ministry of Interior and investigate all cases of violence against journalist within 15 days and punish all wrongdoers according to the enforced laws.

According to the decision of the meeting, His Excellency Dr. Ashraf Ghani the president of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan issued No. 2123 decree dated 10/11/1394 for pursuing cases of violence against journalist and violators of freedom of press and establishment of a special committee. The committee in several sessions evaluated the cases of violence against journalists and violators of freedom of press and delivered the following decisions to security justice and judicial organs to be investigate.

a- Four hundred one cases of violence against journalists and violators of freedom of press have been sending to Ministry of Interior, National Security Directorate to investigate the persons who have committed violence against journalists.

b- The committee for assessing cases of violence against journalists has sent seven cases of violence against journalist and breaching freedom of press for investigation to general attorney office.

c- The committee has sent 18 cases of violence against journalists and media to the ministry of foreign affairs. It should be noticed that among the 18 cases one was occurred in Pakistan territory, 17 others had carried out by
international forces under NATO command, and the ministry of foreign affairs requested to pursue the case via diplomatic channels.

d- One of the cases of violence against journalists has completed by attorney general office and has sent to the court.

2. With cooperation of Ministry of Information and culture and journalists’ Federation for preventing violence against journalists and ensuring their safety a decree has issued by the president of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan has annexed to this letter.

3. The ministry of information and culture for preventing violence against journalists and pursuing the cases of violence against journalists has established a commission with the membership of the representatives of ministries of defense, interior, national security directorate, attorney general office and journalists’ Federation of Afghanistan. The commission monthly assesses the cases of violence against journalists and send to security, justice, and judicial organs to pursue.

4. The Ministry of Information and Culture for registering the cases of violence against journalists has established a database and register the relent cases.

5. The Ministry of Information and Culture on occasion of May 3 the international day of freedom of speech, has published the biography of martyred journalists along with their foreign colleagues who have lost their lives within the last three decades in a printed book and distributed. It should mention that the file and cases have sent to relevant organs and the results will be share with you via media. The list of martyred journalists is included in files and cases that have sent to justice, judicial and security organs.

Sincerely Yours

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