

August 25, 2025

To the esteemed institutions:

- Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Federal Ministry of the Interior of the Federal Republic of Germany

CC:

- Human Rights Organization of the Federal Republic of Germany
- Pro Asyl – Human Rights and Refugee Support Organization

Urgent Request for Intervention and Immediate Action

Dear Sir/Madam,

We, a group of artists, civil and human rights activists, judges, prosecutors, former Afghan government employees, female heads of households, local staff of the Federal Government of Germany, and journalists – altogether numbering over 200 individuals with our families – address you with the utmost respect and urgency.

Trusting in the commitments of the Federal Republic of Germany and hoping to begin a safe life in Germany, we left Afghanistan despite grave threats and perilous journeys. We were all officially accepted by the German government and, in coordination with GIZ, transferred to Islamabad, Pakistan, with the expectation that within six months the legal visa issuance and relocation process to Germany would be completed. However, many of us have been waiting in difficult and uncertain conditions in Pakistan for more than three years, and the minimum waiting time has been over six months.

After enduring many months and even years of uncertainty in Pakistan, we faced severe mistreatment including psychological pressure, humiliation, harassment, and abuse by the police of Pakistan. On August 15, 2025, against all humanitarian and ethical standards, we were deported from Pakistan to Afghanistan.

This letter is a desperate plea for urgent intervention to save our lives and ensure our safety.

Here in Kabul: We are now in Kabul, living in constant fear inside a so-called “safe shelter” organized by your partners. Among us are families that have been torn apart (young daughters separated from parents but now with us), and a large proportion of our group are children and adolescents, long deprived of education, who are now facing an even darker and more uncertain future. Our lives are threatened every moment. Fear of Taliban attacks has imprisoned us within these walls. Even inside this supposed safe house arranged by GIZ, we are not truly safe. The constant threat of Taliban entry, the fear of revenge, arbitrary detention, abduction, torture, or death has created unbearable psychological trauma. We

cannot sleep, and the stress of uncertainty and possible family disintegration is destroying us.

Leaving us in this state is equivalent to sending us into a dungeon of misery and exposing us to Taliban retaliation, abduction, torture, arbitrary arrest, and even execution. The publicity of our presence in Kabul has only increased these threats and put our lives in greater danger.

As officially accepted applicants of the Federal Government of Germany, whose documents are with the German Embassy in Islamabad, we hold the government responsible and accountable for our safety and survival. We believe Germany, with its international standing, will not allow us to be abandoned to persecution, torture, and death — not only out of humanitarian principles but also for the dignity and credibility of the German state.

Therefore, with the utmost urgency, we respectfully request:

1. Immediate action for our release from this crisis and transfer back to Pakistan.
2. Immediate negotiations with Pakistani authorities to stop further arrests and deportations of other recognized applicants to Afghanistan.
3. Acceleration of asylum procedures for accepted applicants so that they receive timely updates about their cases.
4. Immediate start of interviews, visa issuance, and relocation to Germany without delay.
5. Guarantee of our protection under the 1951 Geneva Refugee Convention and the principle of Non-Refoulement.
6. Urgent facilitation of access to legal aid and representation through human rights organizations.
7. Immediate communication and clear, timely updates from responsible offices (GIZ Afghanistan and Pakistan) regarding next steps and protective measures. For over 10 days now, we have been in Kabul with no official communication or guidance about our fate.

Every hour of delay may cost us our lives.

We believed in your promises. Please do not let this trust cost us — and our children — our lives.

Our lives are now in your hands.

Respectfully,

A collective of artists, civil and human rights activists, judges, prosecutors, former Afghan government employees, female heads of households, local staff of the Federal Republic of Germany, and journalists

Currently in the Safe Shelter – Kabul, Afghanistan