



August 23, 2021

Via email: justin.trudeau@parl.gc.ca; marc.garneau@parl.gc.ca

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister and Privy Council
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

The Honourable Marc Garneau, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Foreign Affairs
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Garneau:

Re: Situation in Afghanistan

The Canadian Bar Association is deeply concerned about the rapidly deteriorating situation in Afghanistan as the Taliban take control of the country. The fundamental human rights of all Afghans – particularly women, girls and LGBTQI+ populations – are at risk.

The CBA fears that women judges and human rights lawyers face heightened dangers due to their gender and the nature of their work. Judges may be targeted for past rulings they have made especially as offenders they sentenced are released.

The Canadian Bar Association joins with other bar associations in G7 countries – Conseil national des barreaux (France), Law Society of England and Wales, Deutscher Anwaltverein and Bundesrechtsanwaltskammer (Germany), Consiglio Nazionale Forense (Italy) – and observers Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCBE) and the Law Council of Australia in the attached statement. As you meet with the other G7 leaders this week, we urge our respective governments to ensure the safety of all human rights defenders and in particular of Afghan women judges and lawyers.

We urge the Canadian government to take immediate action to evacuate vulnerable Afghans, including women leaders, judges and human rights defenders. While we welcome the government's recent announcement of an expanded resettlement program for up to 20,000 Afghan refugees, swifter action is needed.

The CBA stands with the people of Afghanistan and our Afghan colleagues whose lives are at risk due to their efforts to promote the rule of law and human rights.

Sincerely,

(original letter signed by Bradley D. Regehr)

Bradley D. Regehr

G7 Bars
Statement on the situation in Afghanistan

We, the representatives of the bar associations of the G7 countries;

Deeply concerned about the situation in Afghanistan and about the fate of all Afghans -particularly women, those working in the justice sector, and human rights defenders;

1. **REAFFIRM** our commitment to the right to asylum, as well as the right for Afghans to leave their country, and travel to another, safely;
2. **MANIFEST** our solidarity with the people of Afghanistan, those who are working in the legal community and all those who fight for the rule of law and justice in Afghanistan;
3. **URGE** our respective governments to ensure the safety of all human rights defenders and in particular of Afghan women judges and lawyers.

Jérôme Gavaudan, President,
Conseil national des barreaux



Stephanie Boyce, President,
Law Society of England and Wales



Bradley D. Regehr, President,
Canadian Bar Association



Edith Kindermann, President,
Deutscher Anwaltverein

E. Kindermann

Ulrich Wessels, President,
German Federal Bar - BRAK



Maria Masi, President,
Consiglio Nazionale Forense

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Margarete Von Galen, President,
Council of Bars and Law Societies of
Europe – CCBE (observer)



Jacoba Brasch QC, President,
Law Council of Australia (observer)

