

Ethnic-religious Minorities' Resolution

Meaningful Participation of Non-Dominant Minorities in the Afghan Peace Process

The presence of religious and ethnic minorities is an undeniable fact in Afghanistan, but unfortunately, their presence has not been effective, meaningful and influential in the political and social structures in the country so far. Before the ingress of the international troops, the Taliban were governing the country but their administration had neither national nor international legitimacy. The strict laws enacted by the Taliban in Afghanistan were threatening the individual, civil, and social liberties, especially for the minorities.

However, the current government (Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) which is a legitimate government with support of international communities and has democratic constitution that somewhat recognizes the rights of some minorities, and committed to building a prosperous country that is based on social justice, preserving human dignity, protection of human rights, realization of democracy, the provision of national unity, equality between all ethnicities and tribes, and a balanced and equal development in all parts of the country, are some of the noteworthy gains in recent years. Nevertheless, despite the two decades' worth of efforts to sustain and reinforce democracy and provide a basis for individual and social freedoms, the scourge of tribalism and discriminatory behaviors along with a clear lack of social and personal security has practically slowed down the progress.

Afghanistan is currently going through its most sensitive historical period. A country that has been ravaged by social and financial challenges for decades now is patiently waiting for the results of the ongoing peace talks. However, the potential return and inclusion of the Taliban that slaughtered countless victims to the political rule is a dreadful and despairing sight to behold. Yet, despite that peace is an urgent need of the people that much be supported in any way.

We, the representatives of the ethnic and religious minorities, as vulnerable citizens of Afghanistan have become tired of the countless and targeted massacre of our brothers and sisters. Therefore, we call for an immediate and permanent ceasefire between all parties involved in the ongoing war in the country. Furthermore, our demands regarding the peace talks mentioned below serve as our red line.

1. Meaningful and physical presence of the ethnic and religious minorities in the peace process, good governance, and significant political decision-makings to ensure mutual acceptance and true pluralism in the country;
2. The remainder of the peace talks must be held in Afghanistan so that the people especially the vulnerable ethnic and religious minorities and victims of war are guaranteed that their rights shall be safeguarded and respected;
3. The inclusion and membership of ethnic and religious minorities at the leadership level of the State Ministry for Peace and High Council for National Reconciliation;
4. The inclusion a specific article regarding the rights of minorities in the peace agreement between the Taliban and the Afghan government;
5. Considering the minorities' all-inclusive rights in the peace agreements to ensure the promotion and development of their cultures, languages, customs and traditions, social values of ethnic and religious minorities among themselves which helps in perpetuity and permanence;
6. If the legitimate and fundamental rights of ethnic and religious minorities are not respected, we shall engage in civil disobedience throughout the country.

With respect,

Vulnerable Ethnic and Religious Minorities of Afghanistan

December, 2020