

23-01-2008

From: Mohauddin Taeb
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His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the Secretary General of the United Nations,

I would like to inform His Excellency with regard to a matter taken place in Afghanistan recently, which gravely violates the letter and spirit of the Afghan Constitution and The Universal Declaration on Human Rights pertaining to Freedom of Speech and Freedom of Conscious.

A young Afghan journalist, Sayed Perwiz Kambakhsh, has been arrested by Afghan authorities in Mazar-I-Sharif, Afghanistan. The religious fanatics and extremists called for his death. Unfortunately, the religious fundamentalists still dominate the political scene in the Afghan government. This group prevents a civil society based on tolerance and diversity of ideas that is essential for progress in the country.

The International community as a whole, with full support of the United Nations, has invested enormously to help Afghan people toward a new beginning after decades of wars and destruction. It is impossible to achieve such a goal without protecting individual liberty and human dignity of every citizen of the country.

Therefore, Your Excellency's intervention on behalf of the international community, to protect and defend one of the most important documents of our time, *The Universal Declaration on Human Rights* is needed to save the life of Sayed Perwiz Kambakhsh . His arrest is illegal and an obvious violation of Human Rights.

Please find enclosed a copy of Reporters without Borders press release about Mr. Kambakhsh case.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude for Your Excellency's attention to this matter.

With my best regards,

Moauddin Taeb

Former Afghan diplomat at the UN