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H.E. President of Afghanistan,
Mohammad Ashraf Ghani

Brussels, 27 March 2019

Dear President,

We, the undersigned Members of European Parliament, are writing to you concerning the latest raids of schools in Mezar-I Sherif, Herat and Shibirgan provinces and general situation about the CAG Educational NGO and its staff in Afghanistan.

We have received information from various sources, including the Parents' Committee of Afghan-Turk Schools, that six schools, including dormitories in Mezar-I Sherif, Shibirgan and Herat have been raided by police forces after midnight just to enable Turkish government supported Maarif Foundation to take over the schools illegally.

We have sadly learnt that the raids have taken place following a political decision to declare Cag Educational NGO as illegal due to political pressure from Turkey. We believe Afghanistan shall not play around handling over schools from a group to another risking loss of two decades long educational success just as a result of pressure from a third country.

Cag Schools in Afghanistan have been giving very successful high-level education for the last 23 years and have heavily contributed to Afghan education by having more than 8 thousand enrolled students. We separately support Cag Educational NGO intensified efforts and success for girls' education in Afghanistan, which is one of the core problems in the country.

Afghan-Turk Schools are known to be among the most successful international education services in the country and the schools have proven their contribution the Afghan society also through intensified creating the links with society in general all over the country. CAG Educational NGO has been awarded with highest State Honorary Medal in 2012 for their contribution to peace through education.

In addition to the hundreds of medals schools won at international competitions in the name of Afghanistan, the positive impact of schools' administrators and teachers on the children and their parents resulting in the support from the Parents' Committee of Afghan-Turk schools is a clear indicator of the schools' success. We also give importance to over 1 million signatures collected by Parents' Committee to support CAG Educational NGO. We are concerned to understand the reasoning behind "raiding successful schools" whereas the schooling of children stays as a primary problem in Afghanistan



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and huge sums of international aid is flowing to the country to help solving schooling problem. We are equally worried that such attempts risk the international community's support to Afghan education.

Therefore, we kindly urge you to assure the return of the illegally raided schools to Cag Educational NGO and ensure the safety of other functioning schools and their staff.

Ana Gomes (S&D)

Patricia Lalonde (ALDE)

Bart Staes (Greens/EFA)

Karoline Granswander-Hainz (S&D)

Margrete Auken (Greens/EFA)

José Inácio Faria (EPP)

Rebecca Harms (Greens/EFA)

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