

Afghanistan Awaiting Justice

The day is marked at a critical time for Afghanistan, a country that is in the middle of an increasingly bloody conflict 8 years after it ratified the Rome Statute. According to the latest UN report, the first half of 2011 was the bloodiest for Afghan civilians since the war began in 2001. During this period, 1462 civilians were killed, 15% higher than the figure for the same period last year.

These reports and the recent history of armed conflict and instability have clearly shown that Afghanistan is a country where the urgency and relevance of the ICC is felt more than anywhere else. It is a situation where human rights violations have continued unabated, a culture of impunity and lack of accountability has been entrenched and the Afghan state has displayed a chronic lack of commitment and political will to hold accountable those responsible for heinous crimes and massive human rights abuses during the past 30 years. Attempts at improving the rule of law, reforming the Afghan judicial system and implementing justice across the country have met with numerous challenges and drawbacks. Today, the Afghan courts are widely seen as corrupt, dysfunctional and unable to implement the laws.

On this very important day, Afghanistan Watch also urges the Afghan State to reassure it is committed to a universal campaign to end impunity for some of the most atrocious crimes by fulfilling its obligations as a member state to the ICC. The organization urges the international community and the UN to work with the Afghan State to ensure that Afghanistan, as a country under preliminary investigation, is ready to fulfill its commitments and obligations. These include the long awaited task of bringing Afghanistan's national judicial system into conformity with ICC standards and requirements.

July 17, 2011

Kabul, Afghanistan