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**Statement of New York City Bar Association
Condemning Continuing Assassinations of
Prosecutors, Judges, and Court Staff in Afghanistan**

New York, April 7, 2020 – The New York City Bar Association condemns in the strongest possible terms seven recent attacks on prosecutors, judges, and court staff in Afghanistan.

The latest such attack occurred on February 17, 2020, when insurgents murdered the chief judge of a primary court in the province of Herat¹; and both the November 18, 2019 assassination of a prosecutor in Ghazni City² and the November 16, 2019 fatal assault on a group of four federal prosecutors near Kabul³ came mere days after the November 7, 2019 shooting deaths of three court of appeals judges and a court administrative officer who were ambushed at a Taliban checkpoint in the ad Agha district of Logar province.⁴ Just several weeks before that, on October 21, 2019, the executive prosecutor for the province of Ghazni was gunned down.⁵ That assassination was carried out on the heels of two other, similar assassinations. The prosecutor for the appellate court for the province of Parwan⁶ and the prosecutor for the appellate court for the province of Ghor⁷ were executed in separate incidents, on October 12 and October 13, 2019, respectively.

These continuing, unrelenting attacks on the justice system in Afghanistan are exacting a devastating toll.⁸

Late on the night of February 17, 2020, Taliban militants ambushed and shot dead Abdul Rahim Azimi, the chief judge of the district court in Injil, in the western province of Herat.⁹ According to police reports, the chief judge had been the subject of targeted threats.¹⁰

In the November 18, 2019 attack, Ghazni Province prosecutor Mohammad Hasan Halimi and his brother were shot and killed in Ghazni City, the provincial capital.¹¹ Two days before, on November 16, 2019, unidentified gunmen shot dead two federal prosecutors and wounded two others in the district of Qara Bagh on the outskirts of Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.¹² At the time, the four prosecutors were driving to the Justice Center complex at Bagram Airfield, in Parwan Province, north of Kabul.¹³ Reports indicate that the four were headed for the prison at the Bagram complex, where top-level Taliban detainees have been held.¹⁴ One of those being held there at the time was Anas Haqqani, the younger brother of the Taliban's deputy chief, Sirajuddin Haqqani, who heads the much-feared Haqqani militant network.¹⁵ Anas Haqqani and two other

Taliban prisoners were supposed to have been freed by Afghan authorities several days earlier in exchange for two Western professors, American Kevin King and Australian Timothy Weeks, who were prisoners of the Taliban.¹⁶ Ultimately, that prisoner swap was successfully completed several days later, on November 18-19, 2019.¹⁷

The three judges who were assassinated in the November 7, 2019 attack were identified as Judge Noorullah Qurbani, Judge Zainullah Hafizi, and Judge Mohammad Emal; and the court official who also lost his life has been identified as Syed Kabir.¹⁸ According to news reports, the judges and the court administrator, all employed with the appellate court in eastern Paktia province,¹⁹ were en route to Kabul when their car was stopped at the Taliban checkpoint in question²⁰ mid-day (around Noon-1:00 p.m.)²¹ and “indiscriminate firing” began.²² The checkpoint is located on the main highway leading to the capital, Kabul, in the market area of the small town of Baqi Abad, less than 40 miles from Kabul.²³ Several sources indicated that a national army vehicle ahead of the judges’ car was also struck by gunfire.²⁴ The suspected leader of the November 7, 2019 attack – a key Taliban commander known as Waisuddin – was killed in an Afghan Air Force airstrike on November 9, 2019, near the location of the November 7 attack.²⁵

Mujtaba Hanafi, the executive prosecutor for Ghazni province, was killed in Ghazni City, the provincial capital, by unknown armed assailants, on October 21, 2019. He was attacked by two motorcyclists wielding a silencer-fitted handgun, as he was on his way home.²⁶

The victim in the October 13, 2019 shooting was Abdul Momin Nusrat, the prosecutor for the appellate court for Ghor province.²⁷ He was gunned down, together with his brother, as they were traveling between the town of Firuzkoh and the village of Bahari.²⁸ The October 12, 2019 shooting claimed the life of Mohammad Haq Parast, the prosecutor for the appellate court for the province of Parwan.²⁹ He was fatally shot at about 5:00 p.m., while attending a party in the village of Dolana, in the city of Charikar, in Parwan.³⁰ The Taliban claimed responsibility for the killing.³¹

The Taliban now controls more territory in Afghanistan than at any point since the United States’ invasion of the country in 2001 – nearly half of the country.³² The United States has long been laboring to bring the war in Afghanistan to a close. In late February 2020, the U.S. signed a deal with the Taliban which, *inter alia*, sets a timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country and provides for the release of prisoners by both the Taliban and the Afghan government.³³ To date, the next steps – the release of prisoners and peace negotiations between the Taliban and the Afghan government – have been halting, delayed by disagreements on the timing of prisoner releases, as well as a dispute as to the country’s rightful leader (Ashraf Ghani vs. Abdullah Abdullah) following the September 2019 Presidential election, and the COVID-19 pandemic.³⁴ The ultimate goal of the process is to bring peace to Afghanistan after 40-plus years of conflict.³⁵

Beginning in 2019, with Afghan police casualties mounting, the Afghan government responded by abandoning hundreds of checkpoints in isolated areas where they were easy marks for Taliban attacks.³⁶ The Taliban and other militant groups swiftly capitalized on the situation, establishing their own checkpoints along the main highways to search cars, seeking out government employees.³⁷

Taliban insurgents fighting to overthrow the Afghan government have long targeted the country's justice system – particularly the judiciary – in retribution for harsh sentences imposed on Taliban fighters and to “send a message” to judges in an attempt to chill their conduct in the performance of their duties.³⁸ According to the Afghan Supreme Court, at least 66 of the country's judges have been killed in the last five years alone.³⁹ Laboring under these odds, Afghan judges have given new meaning to the term “judicial courage.”

As the United Nations has previously explained, judges, prosecutors, and court staff are civilians, and attacks that intentionally target civilians are tantamount to war crimes.⁴⁰ Moreover, international law recognizes the unique role that judges, prosecutors, courts, and the justice system as a whole play in any democratic society.

The U.N. Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary reflect that fact and accord judges special attention and protection. Under the U.N. Basic Principles, for example, judges are to be free to “decide matters before them impartially, on the basis of facts and in accordance with the law, without any restrictions, improper influences, inducements, pressures, threats or interferences, direct or indirect, from any quarter for any reason.”⁴¹ Further, the Principles broadly underscore that there is to be no “inappropriate or unwanted interference with the judicial process.”⁴² In addition, the Principles charge governments with ensuring that judges' safety is “adequately secured by law.”⁴³

The U.N. Basic Principles on the Role of Lawyers are to the same general effect, charging governments with ensuring that lawyers “are able to perform all of their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment or improper interference,”⁴⁴ and instructing governments that, “[w]here the security of lawyers is threatened as a result of discharging their functions,” governments are to take all measures necessary to ensure that the lawyers' security is “adequately safeguarded.”⁴⁵ In addition, the Principles establish that attorneys “shall not be identified with their clients or their clients' causes.” In other words, the position that an attorney advocates on behalf of a client is not to be assumed to be the attorney's personal position and is not to be attributed to the attorney.⁴⁶

The U.N. Guidelines on the Role of Prosecutors emphasize these same fundamental precepts, with specific application to prosecutors in particular.⁴⁷ The Guidelines provide that governments “shall ensure that prosecutors are able to perform their professional functions without intimidation, hindrance, harassment, [or] improper interference.”⁴⁸ Further, the Guidelines charge government authorities with the responsibility for physically protecting “[p]rosecutors and their families . . . when their personal safety is threatened as a result of the discharge of prosecutorial functions” – that is, where (as here) the safety and security of prosecutors and their families are targeted based on prosecutors' actions in the line of duty.⁴⁹

The New York City Bar calls upon the Taliban and other insurgent forces operating in Afghanistan to halt their attacks, to foster a climate conducive to successful peace negotiations. Further, we urge the government of Afghanistan to bring to justice all perpetrators of attacks on judges, prosecutors, lawyers, court staff, and others who play key roles in the nation's justice system, and to redouble government efforts to seek to ensure the safety and security of legal professionals.

The New York City Bar stands in solidarity with the dedicated judges, prosecutors, lawyers, and court staff, and all of those in Afghanistan who – literally – put their lives on the line to champion justice and the rule of law every day.

About the Association

The mission of the New York City Bar Association, which was founded in 1870 and has 24,000 members, is to equip and mobilize a diverse legal profession to practice with excellence, promote reform of the law, and uphold the rule of law and access to justice in support of a fair society and the public interest in our community, our nation, and throughout the world. www.nycbar.org

¹ See Militants kill judge in Afghanistan (Outlook India, Feb. 18, 2020), <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/militants-kill-judge-in-afghanistan/1737217>; Unknown Gunmen Kill Head of a Primary Court in Herat (TOLOnews, Feb. 18, 2020), <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan/unknown-gunmen-kill-head-primary-court-herat>; Taliban insurgents kill primary court chief in targeted attacks W. Afghanistan (MENA Financial Network, Feb. 18, 2020), <https://menafn.com/1099719548/Taliban-insurgents-kill-primary-court-chief-in-targeted-attacks-W-Afghanistan>; Aanchal Nigam, Taliban Commanders Kill Primary Court's Judge In Afghanistan (Republic World, Feb. 18, 2020), <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/taliban-commanders-kill-primary-courts-judge-in-afghanistan.html>. (All links in this statement were last checked on April 6, 2020).

² See Fahim Abed, Afghan War Casualty Report: November 2019 (New York Times, Nov. 21, 2019) (reporting on the November 18, 2019 assassination of a Ghazni Province prosecutor in Ghazni City, the provincial capital), <https://nyti.ms/32khkUE>.

³ See generally, e.g., Afghan Officials: 2 Federal Prosecutors Shot Dead Near Kabul (New York Times/Associated Press, Nov. 16, 2019), <https://nyti.ms/2OhlSWP>; Two Federal Prosecutors Shot And Killed Near Kabul (RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty, Nov. 15, 2019), <https://www.rferl.org/a/two-federal-prosecutors-shot-and-killed-near-kabul/30275348.html>; Shadi Khan Saif, Gunmen kill two prosecutors in Afghanistan (Anadolu Agency, Nov. 16, 2019), <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/gunmen-kill-two-prosecutors-in-afghanistan/1647473>; Afghan Officials: 2 Federal Prosecutors Shot Dead Near Kabul (Military.com/Associated Press, Nov. 16, 2019), <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2019/11/16/afghan-officials-2-federal-prosecutors-shot-dead-near-kabul.html>.

⁴ See generally, e.g., Three judges killed at Taliban checkpoint in Afghanistan, officials say (Reuters, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-judges/three-judges-killed-at-taliban-checkpoint-in-afghanistan-officials-say-idUSKBN1XH1Q5>; Taliban kill three judges, court staffer in southeast Afghanistan (ParsToday, Nov. 8, 2019), <https://parstoday.com/en/news/world-i112336-taliban-kill-three-judges-court-staffer-in-southeast-afghanistan>; Three Afghan Judges Killed In 'Taliban' Ambush (RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberte Radio Azadi, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.rferl.org/a/three-afghan-judges-killed-in-taliban-ambush/30258068.html>; Three Judges Killed at Taliban Checkpoint in Afghanistan, Officials Say (U.S. News & World Report/Reuters, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.usnews.com/news/world/articles/2019-11-07/three-judges-killed-at-taliban-checkpoint-in-afghanistan-officials-say>; Three Afghan judges killed in Logar attack (1TV News (Afghanistan), Nov. 7, 2019), <http://www.1tvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/40164-three-afghan-judges-killed-in-logar-attack>. (Note that, although some news reports indicated that four judges were killed in the November 7, 2019 attack, the death toll in fact was three judges and a court administrative official.)

⁵ See generally, e.g., Saifullah Matoon, Prosecutor, tribal elder killed in Ghazni (Pajhwok Afghan News, Oct. 22, 2019), <https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2019/10/22/prosecutor-tribal-elder-killed-ghazni>.

⁶ See generally, e.g., Taliban Killed a Prosecutor in Parwan (Reporterly, Oct. 13, 2019), <http://reporterly.net/live/newsfeed/sunday-october-13/taliban-killed-a-prosecutor-in-parwan/>.

⁷ See generally, e.g., Afghanistan: Unidentified gunmen kill prosecutor in Ghor Province (Sputnik/Asian News International (“ANI”), Oct. 14, 2019), <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/afghanistan-unidentified-gunmen-kill-prosecutor-in-ghor-province20191014120826/>.

⁸ See, e.g., Shadi Khan Saif, Taliban accused of killing 4 judges in Afghanistan Logar province (Anadolu Agency, Nov. 7, 2019) (quoting Jamshed Ramsuli, spokesperson for the Afghan Attorney General, “[e]xpressing concerns over the surge in . . . attacks” on prosecutors), <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/taliban-accused-of-killing-4->

[judges-in-afghanistan/1638400](#); Without Security, Justice Cannot Be Served: Officials (TOLO News, Nov. 25, 2019) (reporting on November 25, 2019 conference of Afghan Ministry of Justice and Afghan court officials, “Reducing the Impact of Poor Security on the Afghan Legal System,” where Supreme Court provided figures indicating that 138 lawyers have been killed and 66 others injured over the past three years), <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan/without-security-justice-cannot-be-served-officials>; Fahim Abed, Afghan War Casualty Report: October 2019 (New York Times, Oct. 31, 2019) (reporting on the fatal attack on a judge near his home in the Ahmad Aba District of Paktia Province on October 18, 2019), <https://nyti.ms/30MCslq>; Appellate court judge killed in Parwan (Alamarah, Oct. 13, 2019) (reporting on the assassination of an appellate court judge, Mohammad, in the capital of Parwan Province on October 11, 2019), <http://alemarahenglish.com/?p=53374>; Fatima Faizi, Afghan War Casualty Report: September 2019 (New York Times, Sept. 26, 2019) (reporting on two fatal attacks in September 2019 – the September 18, 2019 Taliban attack on judges and protective police on Shahzada-ha Street in Herat City, the capital of Herat Province, which left one police officer dead, and the September 7, 2019 murder of an appellate court judge for Paktia Province by several gunmen who broke into his home in the Mohammad Agha District of Logar Province), <https://nyti.ms/2Lwsore>.

⁹ Militants kill judge in Afghanistan (Outlook India, Feb. 18, 2020), <https://www.outlookindia.com/newscroll/militants-kill-judge-in-afghanistan/1737217>; Unknown Gunmen Kill Head of a Primary Court in Herat (TOLONews, Feb. 18, 2020), <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan/unknown-gunmen-kill-head-primary-court-herat>; Taliban insurgents kill primary court chief in targeted attacks W. Afghanistan (MENA Financial Network, Feb. 18, 2020), <https://menafn.com/1099719548/Taliban-insurgents-kill-primary-court-chief-in-targeted-attacks-W-Afghanistan>; Aanchal Nigam, Taliban Commanders Kill Primary Court's Judge In Afghanistan (Republic World, Feb. 18, 2020), <https://www.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/taliban-commanders-kill-primary-courts-judge-in-afghanistan.html>.

¹⁰ Unknown Gunmen Kill Head of a Primary Court in Herat (TOLONews, Feb. 18, 2020), <https://tolonews.com/afghanistan/unknown-gunmen-kill-head-primary-court-herat>; Aanchal Nigam, Taliban commanders kill primary court's judge in Afghanistan (Republic World, Feb. 18, 2020), <https://m.republicworld.com/world-news/rest-of-the-world-news/taliban-commanders-kill-primary-courts-judge-in-afghanistan.html>.

¹¹ Fahim Abed, Afghan War Casualty Report: November 2019 (New York Times, Nov. 21, 2019) (reporting on the November 18, 2019 fatal attack on a Ghazni Province prosecutor and his brother), <https://nyti.ms/32khkUE>. Few details of this attack are available.

¹² Shadi Khan Saif, Gunmen kill two prosecutors in Afghanistan (Anadolu Agency, Nov. 16, 2019), <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/gunmen-kill-two-prosecutors-in-afghanistan/1647473>.

¹³ Afghan Officials: 2 Federal Prosecutors Shot Dead Near Kabul (New York Times/Associated Press, Nov. 16, 2019), <https://nyti.ms/2OhlSWP>; Two Federal Prosecutors Shot And Killed Near Kabul (RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty, Nov. 15, 2019), <https://www.rferl.org/a/two-federal-prosecutors-shot-and-killed-near-kabul/30275348.html>.

¹⁴ Afghan Officials: 2 Federal Prosecutors Shot Dead Near Kabul (New York Times/Associated Press, Nov. 16, 2019), <https://nyti.ms/2OhlSWP>; Two Federal Prosecutors Shot And Killed Near Kabul (RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty, Nov. 15, 2019), <https://www.rferl.org/a/two-federal-prosecutors-shot-and-killed-near-kabul/30275348.html>; Gunmen kill two prosecutors in Afghanistan (usmuslims.com, Nov. 16, 2019), <http://www.usmuslims.com/gunmen-kill-two-prosecutors-in-afghanistan-84774h.htm>; Two prosecutors killed on outskirts of Kabul (Itvnews, Nov. 16, 2019), <http://www.itvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/40260-two-prosecutors-killed-on-outskirts-of-kabul>.

¹⁵ Afghan Officials: 2 Federal Prosecutors Shot Dead Near Kabul (New York Times/Associated Press, Nov. 16, 2019), <https://nyti.ms/2OhlSWP>; Two Federal Prosecutors Shot And Killed Near Kabul (RadioFreeEurope/RadioLiberty, Nov. 15, 2019), <https://www.rferl.org/a/two-federal-prosecutors-shot-and-killed-near-kabul/30275348.html>.

¹⁶ Jibran Ahmed & Hamid Shalizi, Taliban shifted Western hostages as prisoner swap postponed: sources (Reuters, Nov. 15, 2019), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-taliban/taliban-shifted-western-hostages-as-prisoner-swap-postponed-sources-idUSKBN1XP170>; Ayaz Gul, Afghan Taliban Blame US for Failed Prisoner Swap (Voice of America News, Nov. 15, 2019), <https://www.voanews.com/south-central-asia/afghan-taliban-blame-us-failed>.

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¹⁷ Ben Doherty & Michael Safi, Taliban free US and Australian hostages in prisoner swap (The Guardian, Nov. 19, 2019), <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/nov/19/taliban-say-us-and-australian-hostages-freed-in-prisoner-swap>; Jibrán Ahmed & Hamid Shalizi, Taliban frees two Western prisoners, U.S. sees hope for wider Afghan peace (Reuters, Nov. 18, 2019), <https://in.reuters.com/article/afghanistan-taliban/taliban-frees-two-western-prisoners-u-s-sees-hope-for-wider-afghan-peace-idINKBN1XT0GL>.

¹⁸ Three Afghan judges killed in Logar attack (ITV News (Afghanistan), Nov. 7, 2019), <http://www.itvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/40164-three-afghan-judges-killed-in-logar-attack>.

¹⁹ Taliban Kills 3 Judges of Paktia Appeal Court (Ariana News, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://ariananews.af/taliban-kills-3-judges-of-paktia-appeal-court/>.

²⁰ Three judges killed at Taliban checkpoint in Afghanistan, officials say (Reuters, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-judges/three-judges-killed-at-taliban-checkpoint-in-afghanistan-officials-say-idUSKBN1XH1Q5>; Taliban kill three judges, court staffer in southeast Afghanistan (ParsToday, Nov. 8, 2019), <https://parstoday.com/en/news/world-i112336-taliban-kill-three-judges-court-staffer-in-southeast-afghanistan>; Judges killed in attack in Afghanistan (news.com.au/Reuters, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.news.com.au/world/breaking-news/judges-killed-in-attack-in-afghanistan/news-story/2102951a794936059ef5974e4c345d96>.

²¹ Shadi Khan Saif, Taliban accused of killing 4 judges in Afghanistan Logar province (Anadolu Agency, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/taliban-accused-of-killing-4-judges-in-afghanistan/1638400>; Three Afghan judges killed in Logar attack (ITV News (Afghanistan), Nov. 7, 2019), <http://www.itvnews.af/en/news/afghanistan/40164-three-afghan-judges-killed-in-logar-attack>.

²² Afghan Taliban kills three judges, staffer in a latest attack at checkpoint (Treasure, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://treasure.com.pk/afghan-taliban-kills-three-judges-staffer-in-a-latest-attack-at-checkpoint/>.

²³ Shadi Khan Saif, Taliban accused of killing 4 judges in Afghanistan (Anadolu Agency, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/asia-pacific/taliban-accused-of-killing-4-judges-in-afghanistan/1638400>; Lu Hui, Judges gunned down in E. Afghan province: local media (Xinhua, Nov. 7, 2019), http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-11/07/c_138536581.htm.

²⁴ *See* Gunmen open fire on Army vehicle, kill 4 judges (PM News Nigeria, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.pmnewsnigeria.com/2019/11/07/4-judges-killed-in-vehicle-attack/>; Four judges killed in vehicle attack (The Nation, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://thenationonlineng.net/four-judges-killed-in-vehicle-attack/>.

²⁵ Killer of Paktia judges killed in Logar airstrike (Afghanistan Times, Nov. 10, 2019), <http://www.afghanistantimes.af/killer-of-paktia-judges-killed-in-logar-airstrike/>; Afghan Government Forces Eliminate Taliban Commander Who Killed Local Judges – Reports (Sputnik News, Nov. 10, 2019), <https://sptnkne.ws/Atyj>; Taliban commander, who killed local judges eliminated in Afghanistan (NEWS.am, Nov. 10, 2019), <https://news.am/eng/news/543597.html>; He had several judges assassinated: top commander of the Taliban killed in Afghanistan (MBS News, Nov. 10, 2019), <https://www.mbs.news/2019/11/he-had-several-judges-assassinated-top-commander-of-the-taliban-killed-in-afghanistan.html>; Militant who killed Afghan judges dead in airstrike: gov't (Afghan Voice Agency, Nov. 10, 2019), <https://www.avapress.com/en/news/195299/militant-who-killed-afghan-judges-dead-in-airstrike-gov-t>; Afghan government forces eliminate Taliban commander who killed local judges (Azeri-Press Agency LLC, Nov. 10, 2019), <https://apa.az/en/asia-news/afghan-government-forces-eliminate-taliban-commander-who-killed-local-judges-296946>.

In addition to the Taliban, a number of other insurgent groups are active in Afghanistan, including affiliates of both Al Qaeda and the Islamic State (also known as ISIS, ISIL, or by the Arabic acronym Da'esh). *See* Clayton Thomas, Afghanistan: Background and U.S. Policy in Brief at 1 (Congressional Research Service, Nov. 1, 2019), <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R45122.pdf>. As evidenced by the Afghan Air Force's retaliatory airstrike on November 9, the Afghan government determined that the November 7, 2019 attack was carried out by the Taliban. Although the Taliban did not immediately claim responsibility for the attack, the Taliban acknowledged the attack and notably did not deny responsibility. Moreover, the location of the attack is a known Taliban checkpoint.

²⁶ See Saifullah Matoon, Prosecutor, tribal elder killed in Ghazni (Pajhwok Afghan News, Oct. 22, 2019), <https://www.pajhwok.com/en/2019/10/22/prosecutor-tribal-elder-killed-ghazni>.

²⁷ See Afghanistan: Unidentified gunmen kill prosecutor in Ghor Province (Sputnik/Asian News International (“ANI”), Oct. 14, 2019), <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/afghanistan-unidentified-gunmen-kill-prosecutor-in-ghor-province20191014120826/>.

²⁸ See Afghanistan: Unidentified gunmen kill prosecutor in Ghor Province (Sputnik/Asian News International (“ANI”), Oct. 14, 2019), <https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/afghanistan-unidentified-gunmen-kill-prosecutor-in-ghor-province20191014120826/>.

Two employees of a local education department were also injured in the attack. *See id.*

²⁹ See Taliban Killed a Prosecutor in Parwan (Reporterly, Oct. 13, 2019), <http://reporterly.net/live/newsfeed/sunday-october-13/taliban-killed-a-prosecutor-in-parwan/>.

³⁰ See Taliban Killed a Prosecutor in Parwan (Reporterly, Oct. 13, 2019), <http://reporterly.net/live/newsfeed/sunday-october-13/taliban-killed-a-prosecutor-in-parwan/>.

³¹ See Taliban Killed a Prosecutor in Parwan (Reporterly, Oct. 13, 2019), <http://reporterly.net/live/newsfeed/sunday-october-13/taliban-killed-a-prosecutor-in-parwan/>.

³² See Three judges killed at Taliban checkpoint in Afghanistan, officials say (Reuters, Nov. 7, 2019), <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-afghanistan-judges/three-judges-killed-at-taliban-checkpoint-in-afghanistan-officials-say-idUSKBN1XH1Q5>; Clayton Thomas, Afghanistan: Background and U.S. Policy in Brief at Overview (Congressional Research Service, Nov. 1, 2019), <https://fas.org/sgp/crs/row/R45122.pdf>; Afghanistan government announces team for Taliban talks (Al Jazeera, March 27, 2020), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/03/afghanistan-government-announces-team-taliban-talks-200327172504636.html>; Tom O’Connor, Afghanistan and Taliban Agree to Free Prisoners Amid Coronavirus Concerns, ISIS Attacks (Newsweek, March 25, 2020) (including a map of Afghanistan indicating the territory controlled by Taliban, the territory controlled by the government of Afghanistan, and the territory that is contested), <https://www.newsweek.com/afghanistan-taliban-agree-free-prisoners-amid-coronavirus-concerns-isis-attacks-1494298>.

³³ What does the Taliban-US agreement say? (Al Jazeera, Feb. 29, 2020) (setting forth complete text of U.S.-Taliban agreement), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/02/taliban-peace-agreement-200229134403285.html>; Dion Nissenbaum & Ehsanullah Amiri, U.S., Taliban Sign Deal Meant to End America’s Longest War (Wall Street Journal, Feb. 29, 2020), <https://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-taliban-set-to-sign-deal-meant-to-end-america-s-longest-war-11582977729>; Mujib Mashal, Taliban and U.S. Strike Deal to Withdraw American Troops From Afghanistan (New York Times, Feb. 29, 2020), <https://nyti.ms/2VtE6JX>; Saphora Smith, Mushtaq Yusufzai, Dan De Luce, & Ahmed Mengli, U.S.-Taliban sign landmark agreement in bid to end America’s longest war (NBC News, Feb. 29, 2020), <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/taliban-sign-landmark-agreement-bid-end-america-s-longest-war-n1145166>; David Welna & Colin Dwyer, U.S. Signs Peace Deal With Taliban After Nearly 2 Decades Of War In Afghanistan (National Public Radio (“NPR”), Feb. 29, 2020), <https://www.npr.org/2020/02/29/810537586/u-s-signs-peace-deal-with-taliban-after-nearly-2-decades-of-war-in-afghanistan>; Sarah Dadouch, Susannah George, & Dan Lamothe, U.S. signs peace deal with Taliban agreeing to full withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan (Los Angeles Times, Feb. 29, 2020) (including a link to a copy of the U.S.-Taliban agreement), https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/afghanistan-us-taliban-peace-deal-signing/2020/02/29/b952fb04-5a67-11ea-8efd-0f904bdd8057_story.html.

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