

STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA ON UPR OF THE ISLAMIC  
REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN

Thank you Mr. President,

Albania welcomes the delegation of Afghanistan to this UPR session and its willingness to engage in an open and ongoing dialogue with the international community with respect to Human Rights.

We take note of Afghanistan's efforts to establish security and rule of law, to strengthen national institutions and address major threats of everyday life (such as terrorism, narcotics, trafficking and poverty). Cooperation with international community is key to resolve these challenges in a definite way.

Albania commends the positive steps taken by the government to integrate women into society and provide necessary legal framework to protect women's rights. Anyhow the fact that, among others, honor killings are still considered as a mitigating circumstance for the perpetrators of such cruelty against women is of great concern. In this framework we would like to have more information on how the government intends to address the impunity in these ~~extreme criminal cases~~ and what are its plans to promote and increase women participation into the decision-making and reconciliation processes.

We also regret the dire situation in which media workers; journalists and human rights defenders find themselves. Killings, intimidations, deprivation are violent acts against freedom of expression, but also against rule of law, reconciliation and stability.

To this end we recommend Afghanistan:

1. To thoroughly investigate and bring before justice cases of attacks on media workers, journalists, and human rights defenders.

Thank you.

and we thank you for providing many clarifications & info on concrete measures taken  
referred to Women's Rights  
crimes.