



## Statement of Gratitude and Appreciation

### In Recognition of Human Solidarity Amid Forced Deportation and Displacement

July 9, 2025

At a time when Afghanistan is suffocating under multifaceted internal and external pressures, increasing poverty, and a complete political and social blockade, a deeply human and hopeful event has emerged from within the people: the extraordinary solidarity shown in response to the painful wave of forced deportation of Afghan migrants from Iran.

In this bitter moment, the dignified residents of Herat, supported by the active engagement of people from Badghis, Ghor, and Nimroz, have demonstrated a rare spirit of compassion, kindness, and selflessness. With minimal resources but immense hearts, they welcomed the forcibly returned and destitute migrants, offering comfort and care for their physical and emotional wounds without any expectation in return.

Citizens across the country also contributed by voluntarily using their personal vehicles to help transport the returnees. Their actions reflect that the spirit of humanity and collective responsibility remains alive in the people of this land. All the while, the ruling regime remains silent and indifferent to this human catastrophe, having failed to meet even the minimum of its legal and moral obligations. The deported migrants have received neither political support nor meaningful economic or social assistance from the Taliban authorities.

However, this spontaneous popular movement stands as the height of human dignity in a space stifled by authoritarian rule. It clearly proves, once again, that the line between politicians and the people remains distinct. While the ruling elites propagate division and fear, the people have chosen unity, empathy, and mutual care.

The Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Committee extends its heartfelt gratitude to all individuals, communities, institutions, and grassroots structures who have voluntarily stood with and supported the forcibly returned migrants. By choosing solidarity over hostility, the people have taken a bold step toward national unity and identity. It is now up to the politicians, elites, and power holders to follow the people's lead, abandoning division and repression, and listen to the cries of the oppressed. This may be the beginning of a bottom-up nation-building process and a pathway to realize long-awaited collective aspirations.

In a chaotic world, no sanctuary is more sacred than the embrace of a human being by another. Amid all the darkness created by political failure and authoritarianism, our people have kept the flame of hope alive.

**Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Committee**