

# Thompson Rivers University Students' Union

805 TRU Way, Kamloops BC, V2C 0C8



H. E. Muhammad Sarwar Danish  
Second Vice President  
Islamic Republic of Afghanistan  
Sadarate-Ozma 1001, Kabul, Afghanistan

March 23, 2021

## Ensure Security Of Human Rights Defenders

Dear H.E. Vice President Muhammad Sarwar Danish,

On behalf of the Thompson Rivers University Students' Union, we call on you to immediately address the numerous unacceptable attacks, killings, and violence faced by Afghani Human Rights Defenders (HRDs).

We are deeply concerned by reports from Amnesty International that no steps have been taken by the government to functionally implement the 2020 Presidential Decree establishing a Joint Commission for the Protection of HRDs. This implementation delay has contributed to a lack of security for HRDs that has resulted in the murders of activists like **Freshta Kohistani** and **Mohammad Yousuf Rasheed** in the last few months.

We believe you have a constitutional obligation to investigate attacks and threats against HRDs, hold perpetrators accountable, establish a referral system for HRD protection, and provide HRDs with psychosocial assistance. Further, we'd also encourage swift implementation and resourcing for the Joint Commission for the Protection of HRDs to facilitate this work.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "N Lane".

Nathan Lane  
Executive Director  
TRU Students' Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mackenzie Francoeur".

Mackenzie Francoeur  
Vice President Equity  
TRU Students' Union

cc: M. Hassan Soroosh Y. – Ambassador