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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 20 JANUARY 1997 FROM THE  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF AFGHANISTAN TO THE  
UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL  
AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward herewith a letter dated 19 January 1997 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Abdul Rahim Ghafoorzai, Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) A. G. Ravân FARHÂDI  
Ambassador  
Permanent Representative

Annex

Identical letters dated 19 January 1997 from the Acting  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan addressed  
to the Secretary-General and the President of the  
Security Council

In an open challenge to every provision of international humanitarian law, in pursuance of an exclusive military option and by acquiring a large quantity of weapons and logistical support from abroad, the Taliban mercenaries attacked and occupied part of Charikar, the capital of the province of Parwan to the north of Kabul on 16 January 1997. With the motive of tearing apart the whole national fabric of Afghan society in general, and of terrorizing the civilian population of the province in particular, the Taliban mercenaries on 17 January forcibly transferred and deported more than 60,000 members of the population of Charikar and other townships of the province to the capital, Kabul.

This forcible exodus of the population, which included mostly the elderly, women and children, took place in the bone-chilling cold of winter, during the Muslim holy month of fasting of Ramadan. The majority of the forcibly deported population left behind all their possessions as they left their dwelling houses. Owing to the lack of means of transport, the distressed civilian population of Charikar was forced by the Taliban mercenaries to walk a long itinerary to reach Kabul, itself a war-ravaged city that had already been deprived of even the basic public services.

The Taliban have adopted this new policy in total disregard of the clearly enunciated principles of Islam and of United Nations resolutions, in particular those relating to the situation in Afghanistan, and are critically harming the peace process in Afghanistan as required by the General Assembly in its resolution 51/195 B of 17 December 1996.

The heinous policy of coercive eviction and mass deportation of the civilian population which is a crime against humanity, is being carried out in Afghanistan while elsewhere in the world the perpetrators of such crimes are subject to special jurisdiction, established to prosecute and punish them.

The intransigent attitude of the Taliban has led to this tragic event, which took place subsequent to a three-day United Nations-sponsored talks held in Islamabad, Pakistan, between the representatives of the concerned Afghan parties. These negotiations had led to an agreement on the need for further negotiations; the acts of the Taliban are therefore a naked betrayal of both the United Nations and Afghanistan itself.

It is the earnest expectation of the people and of the Islamic State of Afghanistan that the United Nations will address appropriately the grave violations of international humanitarian law committed by the Taliban mercenaries and those who are advising, aiding and abetting them as accomplices.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan calls upon the Secretary-General, the Security Council, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for

Refugees, the Department of Humanitarian Affairs and all concerned United Nations agencies and organizations and intergovernmental organizations to pay immediate and urgent attention to the matter.

The United Nations is called upon to immediately intervene to prepare the circumstances allowing all civilians who have been deported and forcibly displaced to return to their homes without being subjected to discrimination on the basis of gender, age or ethnic origin.

(Signed) Abdul Rahim GHAFORZAI  
Acting Foreign Minister

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