



د افغانستان لوی سفارت  
کناډا

Ambassade d'Afghanistan  
Canada



Saturday January 26, 2008

شنبه 6 دلو 1386

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### EMBASSY HOME

EMBASSY	>>
AFGHANISTAN	>>
CONSULAR	>>
NEWS	>>
PRESS RELEASE	>>
PHOTO GALLERY	
SPEECHES	
LINKS	
SITE MAP	
MAP & DIRECTION	
CONTACT US	
FAQ	

### QUICK LINKS

- >> Embassy Events and Activities
- >> Employment Opportunities in Afghanistan
- >> Reconstruction and Investment
- >> Afghanistan Development Gateway
- >> IMF and Afghanistan
- >> Afghan Economic Outlook 2006

The Embassy of the I.R. of Afgha

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EMBASSY PRESS RELEASE, JANUARY 25, 2008

## Statement by Omar Samad, Ambassador of Afghanistan to Canada

Released on 25 January, 2008:

"The Government of Afghanistan considers the bilateral arrangement between the Afghan and Canadian Governments on the transfer of detainees as being in effect, despite the operational decision by military commanders on the ground to halt the transfer of detainees to the Afghan side in November 2007.

The Afghan Government was told this week by Canadian officials that the decision was of an operational nature, made with security concerns in mind, and following monitoring of detention centers.

Afghanistan remains committed to uphold its legal human rights obligations as the country continues to reform its justice and law enforcement sectors, with the aim of preventing any risk of detainee abuse. Any allegation presented so far is under investigation. We also remain mindful of the possibility of deceitful claims by detainees.

In addition, a Presidential decree was issued this month reinforcing the prohibition on human rights violations in Afghan detention centers. Given Afghanistan's three decades of instability, the institutional rebuilding process will require further time, resources, training, education and accountability measures.

Afghan National Army forces are increasingly taking part in military operations with strong support and mentoring by NATO forces in the volatile southern regions to create a stable environment conducive to social and economic development. In particular, Canadians are held in high regard in Kandahar for their valuable support and professional conduct.

Meanwhile, the Afghan people continue to face the threat of violence unleashed by criminal terror groups that do not hesitate to behead innocent civilians, hang children and women, destroy schools and target NATO forces with IEDs or suicide bombers."

Ottawa

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**\* The embassy will be closed on all Canadian and Afghan national holidays**

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