PRESS STATEMENT
June 7 2005

The Joint Electoral Management Body condemns the killing of election worker Izat Musa Kalim in Uruzgan province on Friday, June 3.

“We are shocked and saddened by the killing of Mr Kalim, a young Afghan who was working to help bring democracy, peace and stability to our country,” said JEMB Chairman Bissmilah Bissmil.

“While it remains unclear whether Mr Kalim was targeted because of his election work, the JEMB condemns any act of violence against Afghans and their international partners working to improve conditions for the Afghan people.”

“We offer our deepest condolences to Mr Kalim’s family for their tragic loss.”

Mr Kalim, aged 19, was shot dead by a group of unidentified assailants in the village of Shah Zafar near Uruzgan’s provincial capital Tirin Kot, on the evening of June 3. His father Mr Abdul Baqui, a member of the local shura, was beaten by the attackers.

Mr Kalim was employed as a civic educator by the Afghan Development Association under the Afghan Civil Society Forum, one of the JEMB’s partner organizations.

He was working to educate voters in Uruzgan about the legislative electoral process which will culminate on September 18 with the Wolesi Jirga (Lower House of the National Assembly) and Provincial Council elections.

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