JEMB CONDEMNS ATTACK ON STAFF MEMBER

August 18 2005

Last night a Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) staff member, Mr Gul Ahmad Nazari, was attacked in his home in Herat. During the attack Mr Nazari received serious injuries and is currently receiving medical attention.

“While the motive behind this deplorable attack does not appear to be related to the vital work Mr Nazari was doing for the forthcoming elections, we condemn all violence against honest people working to rebuild Afghanistan and set it on the path to peace and stability,” said Bissmillah Bissmil, the Chairman of the JEMB.

Mr. Gul Ahmad Nazari, a National Regional Election Co-ordinator for the JEMB, was victim of a burglary in which he was stabbed during the night of 17 August 2005. Mr Nazari is a well respected, leading member of the community and is responsible for overseeing the process leading up to the forthcoming Parliamentary and Provincial Council Elections in the Herat region. There is no evidence that this was a politically motivated act and initial reports suggest criminal elements are at fault. Mr Nazari is currently in the care of the medical team of the Spanish contingent of ISAF’s Forward Support Base and is being transported to Kabul this afternoon for further treatment.

The JEMB expresses its deep gratitude to Spain for their generous help, in particular at a time when they have suffered such a terrible loss with the accident two days ago that claimed the lives of 17 Spanish servicemen.

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