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H.E. President Muhammad Ashraf Ghani,

I am writing you to express my grave concern over the deteriorating situation of human rights defenders in Afghanistan. They continuously face intimidation, harassment, threats, and violence, from both the authorities and armed groups. Amnesty International, in collaboration with 32 human rights organizations, presented the **"Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Protection Strategy" on January 2020**. It is intended as a roadmap for the government to adopt an independent, effective and implementable protection mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders. The establishment of this mechanism can respond to the immediate protection, investigation, referral, relocation and psychosocial support to human rights defenders in Afghanistan.

I therefore call on you and the Afghan government to:

- Immediately establish the **Human Rights Defenders Protection Joint Commission** as proposed in the Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Protection Strategy;
- Establish special measures to provide protection support to human rights defenders facing threats, intimidation and violence;
- With support of the international community, secure and allocate specific funds for human rights defenders' protection through the establishment of a basket fund.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,