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 **Open Letter**

Date: 27 August 2025

To:

H.E. Ms. Roza Otunbayeva

Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan and Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Member and Observer States of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

 **Subject: Land Dispossession, Forced Displacement, and Violent Repression against Hazaras in Afghanistan– The Case of Rashak Village, Bamiyan Province**

Dear Excellencies,

We, the undersigned human rights defenders from Afghanistan and civil society organizations, write to you to express our deepest concern and to urgently draw your attention to the ongoing [forced evictions](https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/10/22/afghanistan-taliban-forcibly-evict-minority-shia?utm_source=chatgpt.com), land dispossession and forced displacement of the Hazara people in Afghanistan – in this case, the forced eviction of residents of Rashak village, Panjab district, Bamiyan province, by the Taliban authorities, based on the so-called claims of land ownership by the Kuchis (nomadic tribes who are ethnically Pashtun).

Since the Taliban’s return to power in 2021, the Hazara communities in Afghanistan have been continually dispossessed of their ancestral lands or forced to [buy back](https://storage.googleapis.com/qurium/www.etilaatroz.com/223752-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%9B-%D8%A8%D8%B1%D8%A7%DB%8C-%D8%AD%D9%81%D8%B8-%D8%A2%D8%AE%D8%B1%DB%8C%D9%86-%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%B9%D9%87-%D8%B2%D9%85%DB%8C%D9%86-%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AF%DB%8C.html) their own lands from Kuchi individuals and groups claiming ownership of the Hazara private lands. Under the pretext of land ownership, the Kuchis have raised claims of [loss of property](https://8am.media/eng/hazara-reparations-saga-continues-nawur-district-residents-forced-to-pay-five-million-afghanis-to-kuchi-nomads/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) or other [past disputes](https://kabulnow.com/2023/09/taliban-orders-hazaras-to-pay-penalty-to-kuchis-for-lost-livestock/?utm_source=chatgpt.com) dating decades back when the Taliban and other repressive regimes ruled against the Hazaras, granted [Hazara land-use](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/239594651_Land_Rights_in_Crisis_Restoring_Tenure_Security_in_Afghanistan_Afghanistan_Research_and_Evaluation_Unit?utm_source=chatgpt.com) documents to Kuchis and imposed additional taxes on the Hazaras.

Under these circumstances, on 27th July 2025, the Taliban authorities in Rashak village of Bamiyan accompanied by armed individuals and the Kuchis forcibly evicted 25 Hazara families (around 200 people including women, children and elderly persons) from their houses and sealed their house doors. The forced eviction occurred following claims of land ownership by the Kuchis and after a Taliban court decision ruled in favor of the Kuchis. The evicted families were pushed out to the margins of the village where they have stayed in temporary tents and in the village mosque, under strict security surveillance of Taliban. Since the eviction, four families have fled the village fearing forced compliance to land transfer to Kuchis. While some of the evicted families were allowed, after the eviction, to harvest their crops until autumn this year, however, they were pressured into arrangements to either leave the village after harvest season or to rent the lands and properties from the Kuchi occupants.

The Kuchi claimants, in this case originating from Paktia province, had primarily claimed ownership over half of the village land belonging to four families in the community, but as the Taliban’s court had decided in their favour, together with the local Taliban they raided the village and forcibly evicted the entire village on 27 July 2025. The four families who have been primary defendants against Kuchis have been forced to flee the village, fearing being coerced to accept the decision and transfer of their land to Kuchis.

Legal gaps, lack of fair trial and fraudulent judicial process are evident in the Taliban’s court decisions especially in this case. For example, upon an appeal by the Hazara defendants, in April 2025 the Bamiyan provincial court first overturned the district court’s ruling – which was in favor of Kuchis – citing lack of merit, specifically the absence of witnesses and insufficient evidence to support the Kuchi claim of the land ownership. Yet, in May 2025, the same provincial court endorsed the district court decision without the lower court (district court) addressing the flaws that led to its initial rejection.

The Hazara community in Rashak have resisted leaving their village, including the four defendant families who later had to flee the village when the Taliban raided the village for the second time on 3 August 2025 – ordering the arrest of women and children from the defendant families to coerce them into compliance. Owing to this, the four families, totaling, 41 people – 11 women, 7 men, 21 children, and 5 elderly persons – have fled to the mountains and remote areas, cutting off from each other, fearing detention, torture and forced acceptance of the Taliban’s decision.

The 2021 Taliban takeover in Afghanistan emboldened Kuchi claims against the Hazaras, who now make repeated incursions into Hazara villages and grazing thousands of livestock on Hazara farmland. Resistance by locals has been met with violence, and media censorship and intimidation have silenced reporting. Local people fear arrest if they share information, and journalists outside Afghanistan face threats against relatives inside the country. In summer 2025 alone, 11 ordinary Hazara villagers in Waras and Panjab districts of Bamiyan have been severely beaten by Kuchis, three of them sustaining life-threatening injuries. These violations remain uninvestigated and under-reported internationally, often dismissed as “sensitive” allowing impunity to persist and abuses to continue.

The forced eviction and land dispossession in Rashak is not an isolated case. In fact, as Afghanistan [Analyst Network](https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/en/reports/political-landscape/the-pastures-of-heaven-an-update-of-kuchi-hazara-disputes-as-spring-approaches/) reported, there were 44 ongoing such land disputes in the Panjab district of Bamiyan alone. These imposed disputes are part of a wider pattern of exclusion and marginalization of the Hazara people, repeating over [more than a century](https://archive.af/cgi-bin/koha/opac-detail.pl?biblionumber=21625#:~:text=Land%20tenure%20%E2%80%93%20Afghanistan%20%E2%80%93%20Wardak,%E2%80%93%20Economic%20conditions%20%E2%80%93%20Afghanistan%20%E2%80%93%20Wardak) of persecution and state oppression, sparked by ethnic cleansing and [genocide](https://minorityrights.org/communities/hazaras/) — including mass murders, pillaging, and enslavement — as under Amir Abdul Rahman Khan (1888–1893), who massacred more than half of the entire Hazara population, confiscated their lands, and distributed them to others, particularly among the Pashtun tribe.

The Hazara people, an ethnically distinct and predominantly Shia Muslim community, form one of Afghanistan’s largest ethnic groups but remain a religious minority in a Sunni-majority country. Since the return of the Taliban, they have been systematically discriminated against and removed from the public service, [education](https://kabulnow.com/2025/05/taliban-dismisses-dozens-of-staff-members-including-lecturers-from-bamyan-university/) and government positions. Local mechanisms such as the Kuchi-Settler Dispute Resolution Commission, the Committee to Prevent Land Grabbing, and the aid distribution units, have all been manipulated by the pro-Taliban figures including the Kuchis.

Concurrently with impunity, the Hazara communities have been facing ongoing attacks in all aspects of their lives by the Islamic State of Khorasan Provinces (ISKP), which, according to [Human Rights Watch, amount](https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/09/06/afghanistan-isis-group-targets-religious-minorities?utm_source=chatgpt.com) to crimes against humanity. These attacks have consistently remained uninvestigated by both the Taliban since 2021 and the previous government of Afghanistan. When considered in the wider pattern of targeted attacks and rights violations against the community, these ongoing violations may amount to a crime against humanity of persecution, and even potentially [genocide.](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/news/2024/am-res/501.pdf)

We, therefore, call on the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, the United Nations Human Rights Council’s Special Procedures and the member States to:

* Press the Taliban to immediately end the security surveillance over Hazara families in Rashak village and to end the arrest order on the four Hazara families. All 41 family members hiding should be guaranteed protection, compensation and safe return to their houses, and Taliban authorities must urgently end the house blockade in Rashak village.
* Press the Taliban to restore the forcefully confiscated land and properties to dispossessed Hazaras. Demand reparation and ensure the investigation and prosecution of land related abuses.
* Press the Taliban to prevent Kuchi incursions on Hazara villages, lands, and homes. Urge the Taliban to provide assurances that these incursions, as a form of systemic violence against Hazaras, are prevented effectively.
* Immediately conduct a thorough investigation, continue and enhance documentation on the forced eviction, land dispossession, and forced displacement of the affected Hazara families as well as those experienced by other marginalized groups.
* Issue **public statement** and provide a **comprehensive report** on the human rights situation of marginalized groups and minorities in Afghanistan, highlighting the Hazara vulnerability under Taliban rule, including the ongoing cases of forced eviction and forced displacement faced by the Hazaras, Uzbeks, and other non-dominant groups.
* Call on the UN Human Rights Council to urgently establish an international accountability mechanism with the mandate and resources to investigate past and present grave human rights violations in Afghanistan, preserve evidence and information related to such violations, support criminal prosecutions of perpetrators and advance justice and accountability.

Without urgent action, the Hazara people under Taliban particularly the affected families from Rashak village face grave risk of collective punishment and further persecution.

Yours sincerely,

Signatories,

**Civil Society Organizations:**

1. Bolaq Analyst Network
2. Edmonton Hazara Association
3. Center for Human Rights Advocacy
4. Civil Society and Human Rights Network-CSHRN
5. Women’s Movement Towards Freedom (WMTF)
6. Afghanistan Women’s Justice Movement (AWJM)
7. Associazione di Solidarietà Donne per le Donne
8. Casa della Cultura Asiatica, “Cultura, Advocacy e Ricerca”
9. The Common Good Foundation, Inc (CGF)
10. Sigma Human Rights Defenders Association
11. Hazara International [www.hazarainternational.com](http://www.hazarainternational.com)
12. Suomen Afganistanilaisten Järjestö KANUN ry, Finland [www.afghanstan.fi](http://finland.www.afghanstan.fi)
13. Ghazni Human Rights Defender Association
14. Bamyan Women Social Council (BWSC)
15. [Dehmazang.org](http://dehmazang.org)
16. Gharjistan e.V - Germany
17. AHCSA MUHAMMET GÜL
18. Hazara Kulturhaus e. V. Munich
19. Baba Mazari Foundation Inc.
20. Hazara Society Policy Center
21. Canadian Hazara Advocacy Group(CHAG)
22. Assembly of Hazara Social Organizations(AHSA)
23. Afghanistan Future Group(AFG)
24. Tegin Foundation
25. Terrorism Victims Protection Organization(TVPO)
26. Forward Together for Development Network(FTD-N)
27. Shahmama Advocacy Collective of Canada (SACC)
28. Hazarian - The Hazara Heritage Council

**Human Rights Defenders:**

1. Hafizuallh Saeedi, Human Rights Defender and Independent Researcher
2. Dr Homira M. Rezai, Member of Bolaq Analyst Network and Hazara Rights Defender
3. Dr. Melissa Kerr Chiovenda, anthropologist, professor, and researcher, human rights activist
4. Azadah Raz Mohammad, Jurist and PhD candidate at Melbourne Law School
5. Bismellah Alizada, Human Rights Defender, Researcher on Hazara and minority issues, and PhD Candidate
6. Timor Sharan, HAMRAH Program Director
7. Habib Paiman - Managing Director of Bolaq Analysts Network
8. Masooma Khawari, Former Minister of MCIT, Afghanistan
9. Emily Prey, New Lines Institute
10. Nabi Qanezadeh, head of Suomen Afganistanilaisten Järjestö KANUN ry, Finland
11. Nigara Mirdad, Deputy Head of Mission Afghanistan Embassy Poland
12. James Joseph, Director The Duty Legacy and The Alliance for the Prevention of Atrocity Crimes
13. Parwana Ibrahim Khail Nijrabi,Founder of Women’s Movement for Peace and Freedom
14. Artemis Akbary, Afghanistan LGBTIQ+ Organisation (ALO)
15. Ofran Badakhshani, chairman of Gilgamesh Foundation, CEO of de filosoof
16. Fatimah Karimi Women’s Rights Defenders member of Women’s Movement Towards Freedom and Bolaq Network analysis
17. Kiamahr Haidari, PhD Candidate in Higher Education Management and Author
18. Hazrat Khan Hoshmand, CSHRN, HRD+
19. Ismail Zaki, CSHRN, HRD+
20. Sayed Hussain Anosh, CSHRN, HRD+
21. Natiq Malikzada, Journalist and Human Rights Advocate
22. Yalda Bari, Business and Human Rights Researcher
23. Nazeela Elmi, Research Fellow at RWI
24. Ali Karimi, University of Calgary, Canada
25. Mohebullah Naji, Founder of Afghan Primus Consulting
26. Hoda Khamosh, Founder of Afghanistan Women’s Justice Movement
27. Asif Yousufi, Social Activist
28. Sima Noori, Deputy of Generation Outside Afghanistan and Human Rights Activist
29. Rahmatullah Mohsini, Human rights defenders, director of Sigma Human Rights Defenders Association and member of Bolaq Network analysis
30. Ghafur Sedaghat, Head of Hazara Kulturhaus e. V. Munich and Human Rights Defender
31. Mastora Shafahi, Human Rights Defender
32. Nilofar Moradi, Journalist and Human Rights Advocate
33. Abdullah Mirzad, Videographer and Reporter at Hazarestan Media
34. Atayee Hakkak, Human Rights Defenders
35. Mohammad Rooish, Social Activist
36. Sediqa Mushtaq, Women's Rights Activist
37. Ali Folladwand, Medical Doctor, Civil and Social Activist
38. Razia Bromand, Human Rights Activist
39. Besmellah Rezaee, Lawyer & CEO Baba Mazari Foundation
40. Alireza Ahmadi, Civil & Social activist
41. Mohammad Sharif Saiidi, poet and author.
42. Keyhan Farahmand, Social Activist
43. Rustam Ali Seerat, independent researcher
44. Selsela Imamzada, Journalist
45. Rahmatullah Nekqadami, Head of the Gharjistan Association - Germany
46. Nilofar Ayoubi - Co-Founder and Head of Afghanistan Mission - Humanosh U.S.A
47. Besmillah Taban, PhD Student in Security Studies.
48. Ahmad Mohammadi, Social activist and politically active in DK
49. Abdul Ahmad Malikyar Civil & Social Activist
50. Ali Rizai, Chairman in Salsal federation Sweden
51. Nasim Fekrat - University of California, Irvine
52. Hamida Amiri - Co-founder of Afghan American Student Association - Chicago, Illinois
53. Abdullah shafaee Civil & Social Activist
54. Tahera Nasiri, Women and human rights defender and director of Women’s Movement Towards Freedom
55. Mujtaba Ahmadi, social rights activist
56. Mursel Sabir, Project Coordinator, Afghans For A Better Tomorrow
57. Hussain Rezai, Co-Founder at Najiba Foundation
58. Zahra Sepehr, Founder and Director of AWA Legal and Social Advisory Hub
59. Nasir Kaihan, Founder & President of the Alekain Foundation, PhD Candidate at Arizona State University
60. Asad Buda, Writer and Artist
61. Eng Shafiq Ghazna, founder of hazara Global economic development network
62. Sara Nabil,Artist and Human Rights Defender
63. Hamida lesani, Women and Human Right
64. Noor Mohammad Atapoor, former head of computer science department at Kabul University.
65. Mohammad Mohsen Usyan, former civil society activist and co-founder of Uqi Foundation.
66. Batool Haidari, PhD in Psychology
67. Hassan Reza Mirzaie, Human Rights Defender
68. Zara SELSAL, PhD Candidate in Civil Engineering & Human Rights Defender.
69. Bazil Nicobin, Freelance Journalist and Media Activist.
70. Dr Shakardokht Jafari, Education activist
71. Dr Taqi Amini, The University of Auckland, New Zealand, social activist
72. Mohammad Ali Akbari Sardar Dahi, Freelance Journalist and Media Activist.
73. Ziagul Azizi, Women activist and School Teacher.
74. Eda Tegin, Human Rights Defender
75. Liam Nasrullah Jamshedi, civil rights activist
76. Abdul Rashid Fasihi, civil & human rights activist
77. Hussain Saramd, Human Rights Defender
78. Mohamamd Yasin Samim, Human Rights Defender and member of CHAG
79. Moharam Ali Delijam, Edmonton Hazara Association
80. Sakina Amiri, Journalist
81. Ayoub Shahryar, Human Rights Defender
82. Hussein Ali Mohammadi
83. Arif Yasa, Edmonton Hazara Association
84. Mustafa Gholami, civil & AB Organization
85. Shakor Nazari, human Rights defender, journalist and poet
86. Mohammad Hussain Hazara Canadian Hazara Advocacy Group
87. Hadi Tawhidi, Hazara Community of Scotland, Scotland, UK
88. Mohammad Mustafa Raheal; Human Rights Researcher
89. Rohullah Amin Human rights activist , Berlin
90. Hussaini Bashir, membre de l'association Alternative
91. Sadeq Naseri- University of York, Canada
92. Ali Rahiq, Hazara National Association
93. Reza Haidari, Human Rights Defender
94. Mohammad Ibrahim Hazara, Member in BC Hazara Community Society
95. Mohammed Shafiq Ghazna, founder of hazara Global Economic Development Network
96. Shahrbanu Haidari, Vice chair of Hazara Council of Great Britain
97. Mehrdad Mehrdad, Teacher & Education Activist
98. Hafiz Abram, Educationlist
99. Hassan Haidari, Human rights activist
100. Najeeb Farzad; Author, Human Rights Activist and Cultural Practitioner.
101. Sadiqa Sultan, Researcher, Activist, and Development Practitioner.
102. Abdul Rahman Bigzad, Human rights activist
103. Abdullah Ahmadi, Human Rights Defender
104. Najeeb Maqsoodi, member Canadian Hazara Advocacy
105. Sakina sakhi Human Rights Defender
106. Hussain Hussaini, Developer
107. Altaf Zaki, Civil Society Activist
108. Shir Ali Salehi, Human rights Defender And Hazaravoice.
109. Mohammad Taghi Gholami, Member of the Canadian Hazara Humanitarian Services
110. Dr Abbas Ali Husseini, Professor, Researcher and Education Rights Activist
111. Zabihullah Danesh, Directory Board Member of Optimist Club of Monaco South, Professor, Writer, Poet, Education Activist

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Ezatullah Mutamed