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## DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN

- *The Chair -*

30-09-2022

## STATEMENT

### **Leading MEP condemns barbaric attack on students in Afghanistan**

#### **Statement of the Chair of the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan on the terrorist attack against Kaaj Higher Educational Center in Kabul**

The Chair of the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan Petas Auštrevi ius (Renew, LT) issued the following statement today:

"I firmly condemn the shocking attack carried out by terrorists on Friday, 30 September 2022, at the Kaaj Higher Educational Center in Kabul. I grieve with the families of at least 19 students who lost their lives in this barbaric act while preparing for university tests and I express my sincerest condolences to the families of the victims.

The loss of innocent young lives is unforgiveable and I call upon the Afghan authorities to bring to justice all perpetrations and hold those responsible for the terrorist attacks accountable.

This follows a series of criminal acts in the Shiite majority neighbourhood of Dasht-e-Barchi, home to the minority Hazara community, subject to some of Afghanistan's most deadly attacks. On behalf of the European Parliament's Afghanistan Delegation, we note with deep concern the increasing level of violence against minorities in Afghanistan. Students, and especially girls, are systematically targeted as they represent the symbol of an open and free society and value the education of young people. Takeover by Taliban of the country did not bring neither stability nor guarantee for women and girls safety and rights. We urge all sides in Afghanistan to abstain from any form of violence and to pursue peace negotiations. Afghanistan needs stability and security to develop in a sound and prosperous way.

The European Parliament backs the EU to continue to be involved in the future Afghanistan, a future based on the principles of democracy, the rule of law and human rights, in particular the rights of children, women and minorities."

**Petas Auštrevi ius**