Delegation for relations with Afghanistan

The Chair

16-1-2023

STATEMENT

Afghanistan: The killing of the former female lawmaker Mursal Nabizada

The Chair of the EP Delegation for relations with Afghanistan, <u>Petras</u>
<u>Auštrevičius</u> (Renew, LT) issued the following statement today:

"On behalf of the EP Delegation for relations with Afghanistan, I would like to strongly condemn the killing of the young former politician, Mursal Nabizada, a 32-year-old former lawmaker in the Afghan parliament before the Taliban's takeover.

She was shot dead in her home, and this marks the first time that a politician from the previous political establishment has been killed under the Taliban regime. It also mark an unbearable escalation of violence against political dissent.

Nabizada was elected in 2019 to represent the city of Kabul. She had served as Member of the democratic institutions of Afghanistan and worked for NGOs; she gave voice to women's rights against increasing restrictions on their freedoms in Afghanistan. With her death, the Taliban regime has proved once again not to be able to protect its citizens and not to provide them with the necessary public safety and security.

As Chair of the Delegation aforementioned, I call for the regime to stop this unacceptable disregard of any basic democratic value and continuous degradation of human rights, especially women rights. I also call on the Afghan regime to end the use of intimidation, prosecution or violence in dealing with dissent and freedom of speech.

Within our remit, we are ready to do our upmost to support the Afghan population to return to democracy. The European Parliament will continue to follow the situation closely, in particular with regards to activists and defenders of human rights."

Further information

Profile of Petras Austrevičius (Renew, LT)

European Parliament's Delegation for relations with Afghanistan (D-AF)