



په اروپا کی د مینښته افغانانو د ټولنو فدراسیون  
فدراسیون سازمانهای پناهندگان افغان در اروپا

## Federation of Afghan Refugee Organizations in Europe

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Date: 24 March 2009

### Announcement **FAROE press conference parallel to the Afghanistan Conference in the Hague**

After seven years of international community involvement and striving by the Afghan people, Afghanistan is still far from stabilization, peace and democracy. The Taliban & Al-Qaeda have developed into a real threat to Afghanistan and the world.

Despite billions of dollars spent in Afghanistan during the past eight years, more than 20 million Afghans are living in abject poverty. Women in rural areas are not emancipated. Instead, the victimization of women and children by warlords and militiamen allied with the corrupt government of president Karzai increases by the day. The result of a costly parliamentary election is a parliament full of warlords and individuals suspected of war-crimes and crimes against humanity in the past thirty years. Lack of a realistic policy for drug eradication and disregard for the necessity for giving peasants an alternative livelihood has brought Afghanistan to the point we are now.

The international community and the Afghan government blame each-other for these failures. The people of Afghanistan blames both. Once very optimistic about international involvement, the Afghan population is losing patience because of a total lack of employment, poverty and increase of civilian casualties as result of the ongoing war in the country.

Countries involved in Afghanistan are gradually lowering their commitments. A new strategy is needed. The Afghanistan Conference on 31<sup>st</sup> of March in the Hague and the NATO summit (3-4 April in France) are scheduled to formulate and introduce the new strategy. This new strategy will be formed by involved governments, but strategies are made for Afghanistan with a lack of real attention to the needs and aspirations of the Afghan people. FAROE, as the platform of 53 Afghan organizations in Europe, needs to raise the voice of the Afghan people and make it heard.

Therefore, a parallel press-conference will be held by FAROE in the Crown Plaza Hotel in the Hague on March 31<sup>st</sup>, from 15:00 to 18:00 hours. FAROE will give an account of the people's version of the situation and priorities for the people of Afghanistan. All local and international journalists are invited to join this press conference.

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