

Original: ENGLISH



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on the Assassination of Afghanistan's High Peace Council Head, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani

As delivery by Political Counselor Christopher Robinson
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
September 22, 2011

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The delegation of the United States would like to draw the attention of the Permanent Council to the statement made by United States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton on the tragic occasion of the assassination of the Chairman of the Afghan High Peace Council, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, on September 20, in which Secretary Clinton said:

"The United States condemns in the strongest terms the assassination in Kabul of Professor Rabbani, the former President of Afghanistan and head of the High Peace Council. We extend our condolences to his family, and to all the people of Afghanistan, including those who were injured, and the families of those who lost their lives.

"We will support the Afghan Government as they pursue the ones responsible for this cowardly attack and bring them to justice. And we will continue to increase pressure on al-Qaida and the Taliban. We have always known that there are those who will do all they can to undermine the cause of peace and reconciliation... But the Afghan people will not be deterred from pursuing a more peaceful, democratic future for their country and we will continue to stand with them and support their efforts."

At this time the United States wishes to reaffirm that the international community and Afghan people share a desire for peace and security in Afghanistan, and will continue to work together to rebuild the country after decades of war. Now is a time for all Afghans to join together and forge the national unity that all Afghans yearn for.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.