

AI Index: ASA 11/6275/2022

Date: 05 December 2022

To: Taliban de facto authorities
Ministry of Foreign of Affairs,

To Whom It May Concern,

Subject: Call to Reveal the Whereabouts of Elaha Dilawarzai

Amnesty International is gravely concerned as to the situation of Elaha Dilarwarzai, who, according to her family, was subjected to forced marriage, sexual violence and beatings at the hands of Qari Saeed Khosty, who was previously a spokesperson for the Taliban Ministry of the Interior (T-MOI). Her family has informed Amnesty International that she has been missing since 11 November 2022. The family informed Amnesty International on the 30th of November 2022 that she is currently being held at the Taliban General Directorate of Intelligence (T-GDI). We are concerned as to her safety in these circumstances.

Previously on 30th August 2022, Elaha posted a video on social media claiming that not only was she forced to marry the Taliban official, but she had also been beaten, tortured and raped. Khosty at that time rejected the allegations and told the media that they had divorced. Elaha, a medical student from Kabul according to media reports.

According to the family, after the video was posted on social media, Elaha fled to Pakistan due to fear of persecution and further violence against her. However, she has been returned to Afghanistan against her will, and is now being held at T-GDI.

Amnesty International therefore urgently calls on the de facto authorities to immediately and unconditionally release Elaha if she is in their custody. We also call on the de facto authorities to allow Elaha access to medical assistance which she may urgently need in light of her alleged forced return to Afghanistan, continuing arbitrary detention and previous experience of sexual violence, beatings, torture and other ill-treatment.

In particular, those involved in human rights violations against her, including anyone involved in her alleged forced return to Afghanistan from Pakistan, must be held accountable.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at saroinfo@amnesty.org should you require any further details.

Thank you in advance for addressing the urgent request above,

Sincerely,
Yamini Mishra,
South Asia Director