Mr. President,

Amnesty International notes the report by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and additionally the report by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), which recorded widespread human rights violations and crimes under international law.

Amnesty International has investigated several cases of extrajudicial killings by the Taliban in Afghanistan, including in the province of Panjshir where they have been engaged in an armed conflict with the National Resistance Front (NRF) – an armed group.

We reiterate our calls for the urgent establishment of an international accountability mechanism. Victims and survivors in Afghanistan should not be forgotten and effective pathways for accountability are critical in their quest for justice, truth and reparation.

The Taliban’s campaign of gender persecution is widespread and systematic. Their policies include draconian restrictions that effectively ban women from public life, prevent them from accessing education and prohibit them from working. This and the Taliban’s use of imprisonment, enforced disappearance, torture and other ill-treatment, cumulatively form a system of repression which aims to subjugate and marginalize women and girls across the country.

The Taliban continue to arbitrarily arrest, inflict torture, or forcibly disappear critics, activists and journalists. For example, Mortaza Behboudi, a journalist, and Matiullah Wesa, an education activist, remain imprisoned for several months by the Taliban for merely doing their job.

In view of these egregious violations, Amnesty International asks the High Commissioner: What possible accountability options can the UN Human Rights Council employ to support victims’ quest for justice, truth and reparation?

Thank You