

## PRESS RELEASE

"Bring me water, I'm burning!"

A few days ago a group of Afghan asylum seekers driving to the town of Yazd inside Iran were fired upon by police forces. They shot the car which caught on fire resulting in the death and injury of the passengers. One of the passengers that were pulled from the burning car screamed to bring him water because he was on fire. His desperate cries have caused great pain to Afghans of the diaspora. Those saved from the flames were transferred to the hospital for treatment but are under arrest in handcuffs. This is not the first time such an incident occurs and it seems it won't be the last because the violent incidents are increasing. Like a similar incident about three weeks ago in Afghanistan when Taliban burnt five passengers in a car when first having shot them, as well as the assault in an MSF maternity ward shooting and killing women who had just given birth and their newborn babies. It seems the blood of Afghans has no value. The Taliban, ISIS, the authorities of Afghanistan and now the Iranian authorities murder us every day. Today nothing has changed, just like in the past the Afghans will be forced to flee from war.

We don't forget also that each day the lives of Afghans are lost at the borders of Turkey, Greece and other European countries. The reason for their migration is the lack of safety of Afghans inside their country. We, as Europeans' Global Civil Society Organization are totally opposed to terrorist groups, racism, fascism and violence and support human rights, equality and dignity for all equally. We have a long road ahead in pressuring to find a meaningful solution to save human lives and in prohibiting the funding of terrorist groups. Otherwise this is a mockery as long as man keeps killing his fellow man. On the last incident that took place inside Iran, there are many condemnations from all over the world and while the Iranian authorities are aware of the conditions of war in Afghanistan, we didn't expect such a criminal attack.

We request from the Iranian authorities, as a democratic country, to release the injured and offer them opportunities to live in dignity as everyone else. To have legal documents issued to them as with refugees worldwide.

We express our deepest sorrow for all those who lost their lives. Condolences to their families. 09/06/2020





