

UNHCR
Refugee
Press
Release



**1 refugee without hope
is too many.**

UNHCR STATEMENT ON TODAY'S ATTACKS IN KANDAHAR, SOUTHERN AFGHANISTAN

At around 6am today, an organized attack in Kandahar involving suicide bombers and gunmen resulted in the deaths of three UNHCR employees at our compound and the wounding of two other staff members.

UNHCR has been working in Afghanistan since the 1980s, and over this period we have facilitated the return of millions of refugees, and assisted other forcibly displaced persons inside Afghanistan. We are seeking a fuller understanding of the circumstances of today's attack, nevertheless the fact remains that people working for us have been wounded and killed and the functioning of our Kandahar office seriously disrupted.

"This is a tragedy for UNHCR and for the families of the dead and wounded. It also underscores the great risks for humanitarian workers in Afghanistan," said High Commissioner for Refugees António Guterres. "I am hugely saddened. All of us at UNHCR stand in solidarity with the families of those who have died or been injured."

Geneva, 31 October 2011

MEDIA CONTACTS

Kabul

- Mohammad Nader Farhad (farhadm@unhcr.org) +93 700 279 231

Geneva

- Adrian Edwards (edwards@unhcr.org) +41 79 557 9120
- Babar Baloch (baloch@unhcr.org) +41 79 557 9106

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UNHCR
Communications and Public
Information Service

HQP100
P.O. Box 2500
CH-1211 Geneva 2

T 41 22 739 85 02
F 41 22 739 73 14
www.unhcr.org

