

Colleagues,

I know that many of you, like me, have been following the emerging situation in Kabul with great concern.

We are in constant contact with the ICC Afghanistan team — their continued safety is of paramount importance to us.

Zabihulla Zirmal, our Afghan Executive Board member, was able to reach Istanbul safely to join his family yesterday.

Abdul and the rest of the ICC Afghanistan team of almost 20 remain Kabul where the situation on the ground remains completely confused.

We are trying to find means to ensure that any staff members whose safety may be compromised can be included in bilateral and UN sponsored evacuation plans.

Sadly, most capitals and international organizations are solely focused on supporting their nationals or staff at this point in time.

ICC MENA is also exploring a range of options to secure the safe passage of our staff. And Fady Asli, our Special Representative in the Caucasus and Central Asia, has been able to gain the preliminary support of the French government through the French ambassador in Tbilisi. We are seeing if this path may prove productive. Tariq Rangoonwala of ICC Pakistan has reached out on ICC's behalf to the Pakistan Government. We are also attempting some additional bilateral approaches to see if we can elicit additional support.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely with our team in Kabul and commit to doing all we can to protect the safety of our ICC team. Please do let me know if there may be anything you can do with your respective national capitals in this regard.

In the meantime, I'm sure you will join me in our absolute solidarity with our colleagues in Kabul. Abdul and team — our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Yours,
— john

John W.H. Denton AO
Secretary General
International Chamber of Commerce, Paris.