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Virginia, United States

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Dear friends,

Art is a grand, vibrant, and essential part of life. Life without art may exist, but it does not truly live. Art not only adds beauty to life but has the power to transform society and the way people think, by raising their voices against injustice and oppression. Therefore, a society in which art is suppressed, and an artist's freedom is taken away, is distant from progress.

Every day, we witness the beating, imprisonment, and even the death of artists and the destruction of artistic creations by one of the most extremist terrorist groups in the world in Afghanistan - the Taliban. So far, only a handful of these artists have been able to escape this peril with the help of human rights organizations and countries advocating human rights, including Germany, to find a peaceful and responsible life to resume their creative work. But we do not know what will happen to the remaining 90% of artists residing in Afghanistan, whose lives are in constant danger.

Today, fortunately, the world can witness some of the works of artists trapped in Afghanistan through the "Hidden Statement" exhibition. This exhibition can connect stranded artists in Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban terrorists with the free world and instill hope in these artists. This initiative has created the possibility for these artists to share their creativity with the wider world and become part of the global artistic community. However, no one can guarantee the safety of these artists in their hideouts in Afghanistan in the coming hours and days, allowing them to continue their artistic work. Coordination and aid are needed to rescue these artists from the Taliban's deadly grip and evacuate them to Germany or other countries.

I am in daily contact with a large number of artists inside Afghanistan, and with regret and pain, I know how they destroy their works and tools of their trade daily due to fear of the Taliban police. In a country where history is not being written accurately, artistic creations are living pages of history and must be preserved at any cost.

These brave artists have something important to say to the world, and they want to join the free world to share their art, thoughts, and messages with a broader audience.

The digital exhibition "NKV Wiesbaden" has transformed a portion of the works of artists in Afghanistan into an archive. This exhibition acts as a bridge between resident

artists in Afghanistan and the free world, and can play a significant role in rescuing art and artists.

Afghanistan's artists belong to the global community of artists, and we have a duty to listen to their voices and support them.

Let us not forget that today, these artworks and these unique artists are living evidence of Afghanistan's suffering in the past forty years, and they should not be left alone or silenced. Art must speak, and the world has the right to hear these voices and support them.

Thanks to all the staff and contributors to this exhibition.

Farhad Darya

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darya', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Singer, composer, human rights activist, multiple-time Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations