

A report to the people and statement of the end of Hunger Strike

With unwavering conviction in the inherent freedom and equal rights of all individuals, we established our sit-in tent in Cologne, Germany, on Friday, September 1, 2023, and initiated our 12-day hunger strike.

In the past 12 days, we have witnessed the incredible and historic support from the people of Afghanistan, both within the country and around the world. Freedom advocates from various nations have stood with us, traveling hundreds of kilometers to join our cause and provide us with strength. I am deeply grateful to my companions in Cologne, Kabul, Takhar, Badakhshan, Islamabad, Ankara, Qatar, Oslo, Malmö, and other cities who joined the hunger strike in recent days to support the women of Afghanistan.

We believe it is important to provide a detailed report on the messages we have received, the negotiations with various organizations, and our stance in front of our fellow citizens. Additionally, we must announce the next steps in our legal strategy for recognizing gender apartheid in Afghanistan.

Vice-president (Green party) of the North Rhine-Westphalia state parliament

On the 9th day of the hunger strike, Mrs. Brivan Aymaz, Vice-president (Green party) of the North Rhine-Westphalia state parliament, visited our tent. She expressed her commitment to conveying the protesters' demands to the state parliament and urged Tamana Paryani to end her hunger strike. She also extended an invitation for Tamana to address the state parliament.

Tamana Zaryab Paryani refused to end the hunger strike, stating that she cannot give a speech in the state parliament without the recognition of gender apartheid unless the parliament representatives prioritize this issue and stand in solidarity with the women of Afghanistan.

Richard Bennett, the UN Human Rights Reporter for Afghanistan

Richard Bennett, the UN Human Rights Reporter for Afghanistan, contacted Tamana on the sixth day of the hunger strike. He assured her that he would convey the protesters' message regarding the recognition of gender apartheid in Afghanistan to relevant organizations and authorities. At the Human Rights Council meeting in Geneva on September 11, Mr. Bennett at the beginning of his speech acknowledged the hunger strike of Afghanistan activists and their demand for the recognition of gender apartheid in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan.

Georg Klusemann, head of AFG-PAK department at Germany Federal Foreign office

On the 11th day of the strike, Georg Klusemann, head of AFG-PAK department at Germany Federal Foreign office visited the protesters' tent. Mr. Klusemann discussed the German government's stance on the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

The protesters asked Mr. Klusmann specific and clear questions: Is Germany prepared to recognize gender apartheid in Afghanistan? If recognizing gender apartheid requires legal mechanisms and consultation with lawyers and legislative authorities, is Germany ready to initiate this process? If it is time-consuming, how long might it take? Unfortunately, the representative from the German FFO didn't provide answers to these questions.

Rina Amiri, the US Special Representative for Women, Girls, and Human Rights in Afghanistan

Rina Amiri, the US Special Representative for Women, Girls, and Human Rights in Afghanistan, sent a message to Tamana Zaryab Paryani on the eleventh day of the hunger strike. Amiri stated that the protesters have a long road ahead to achieve their demands and promised to collaborate with them.

Tamana Zaryab expressed her gratitude for Mrs. Amiri's support but pointed out that the United States has remained silent on the request by Afghan women to recognize gender apartheid in Afghanistan. She urged the US State Department to make a clear statement on this matter.

Mrs. Amiri assured that she would convey the protesters' message to the US Secretary of State.

The lack of a specific term for gender apartheid in international laws has led governments to hesitate in recognizing it. However, it is important for governments that advocate for human rights to fulfill their obligations and take stronger action against the Taliban's denial of gender rights in Afghanistan.

We must emphasize that, at one point, the term 'Racial Apartheid' was not officially recognized in international laws. However, thanks to the efforts of activists, progress towards equality was achieved.

While governments may have been slow to respond and their positions may be seen as non-binding and morally privileged but it cannot change the situation of Afghanistan's women and will not force the Taliban to reconsider their policies. We, along with many activists in Afghanistan and abroad, firmly believe that the Taliban have implemented gender apartheid. Describing this situation solely as "Gender Persecution" is not sufficient.

We in protest tents, believe that the Taliban's words and actions align with a systematic separation of men and women, based on their religious ideology that governs their administration. Therefore, our clear requests to the German government, as well as other governments and international institutions, are as follow:

1. We call on the people of Afghanistan and freedom fighters worldwide to prepare for a stronger and more persistent struggle to make governments and international organizations that do not do anything about gender apartheid accountable.
2. The German Ministry of Foreign Affairs should recognize gender apartheid in Afghanistan through its legal and administrative procedures.
3. This ministry, in collaboration with other governments, should advocate for the issue of gender apartheid in Afghanistan to be addressed within the United Nations framework so that the countries arrange and approve needed framework and laws for the recognition of gender apartheid as soon as possible. It is crucial that countries recognize and take action against gender apartheid.
4. The German government has to raise the issue of gender apartheid in the UN Security Council, so that the council recognize gender apartheid in Afghanistan through resolution.
5. The US Department of State, aside from making ceremonial statements in support of Afghan women, can begin real attempts to recognize gender apartheid in Afghanistan. The three above articles aims the foreign secretary state of America and the government of United States as well as a member of the Security Council and has a huge influence on foreign policies of countries.
6. UN reporters and high commissioners can indeed play a stronger role in combating gender apartheid in Afghanistan. We urge Mr. Richard Bennett to work along with all special reporters, commissioners, and experts towards issuing resolutions that clearly recognize the Taliban regime's active practice of

gender apartheid. In the next step, the request to include it as a crime against humanity should be supported by international courts and the UN Security Council.

7. We ask the people of Afghanistan, freedom seekers around the world, international organizations and governments not to leave the political prisoners' hostage taken by Taliban in these tough days alone and try for their unconditional and immediate freedom

8. As well we repeat these two important requests to stop financial aids to Taliban and ban their travels immediately.

Regarding the first announcement we made on September 1, 2020, considering the health situation of some courageous girls in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other countries that are currently on a hunger strike, considering the widespread request from the people and as part of a change in our campaign strategy, we are announcing the end of the 12-day hunger strike. We also urge our fellow campaigners in other cities around the world to end their strike.

At the same time, we want to announce that we are entering the second phase of our struggle to formalize gender apartheid. This phase aims to find legal avenues to recognize gender apartheid in Afghanistan, which governments have so far refused to accept.

We are prepared to set up sit-in tents once again and use all available tools, including our bodies to fight for holding the Taliban accountable for gender apartheid.

Tamana Zaryab Periani and other activists advocating for women's rights

We stand united in our fight.

September 12, 2023 Cologne, Germany.

Tamana Zaryab Paryani