



International Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2023

The Afghanistan Independent Bar Association relaunches its activities in exile from Brussels

After the dramatic fall of Kabul and the Taliban's rapid takeover on 15 August 2021, the leadership members and lawyers of the Afghanistan Independent Bar Association (AIBA) have announced their commitment to continue their activities and reopen the AIBA in exile, in Brussels. Reopening the AIBA in exile is a way to preserve the identity of the AIBA and their lawyers and maintain the achievements they have made in the last 20 years, while providing services for lawyers, especially women, with the support and cooperation of international partners.



In this context, on the occasion of the 13th edition of the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer, focusing this year on the situation in Afghanistan, the CCBE is organising a **press conference on 24 January at 10.00 CET**, in collaboration with the AIBA, the International Bar Association (IBA) and the French-speaking Brussels Bar.

[View the invitation](#)



The aim of this press conference is to officially announce the reopening of the AIBA as an organisation in exile in Brussels and give more information about their future activities. It will also be the occasion to get an update on the current judicial situation in Afghanistan.

[See the programme in Annex](#)

Why reopening the AIBA in exile?

Recent events in Afghanistan have resulted in an overnight reversal of all the progress made over the past 20 years by the AIBA and its members. Therefore, by reopening in exile, the AIBA aims to achieve the following missions:

- + to preserve the values of the Bar Association as an independent institution as well as to preserve the independence of the judiciary;
- + to continue promoting the rule of law, the protection of fundamental rights and the prevention of human rights violations;
- + to provide a forum and voice for its members which can serve as a coordinating force for the cohesion of lawyers, including by providing services to its members inside and outside the country;
- + to strive to ensure the safety of its members, including by being a focal point for international efforts to support lawyers whose lives are in danger in Afghanistan;
- + to inform the international community about the situation in Afghanistan, especially concerning the situation of the justice system, the rule of law and human rights.

How to reach the AIBA?

The headquarters of the AIBA in exile will be situated in Brussels, hosted by the French-speaking Brussels Bar. It may open sub-offices later in other countries if needed. The leadership of the AIBA in exile with the cooperation of the IBA is currently building a new website where information about the activities of the AIBA in exile and how to reach them in the future will be available.

You can find more information about the AIBA, the support it received from the international community and the situation in Afghanistan in **the annex here below**, as well as in the **Report** published on the occasion of the International Day of the Endangered Lawyer 2023. [Read the Report](#)



Those wishing to attend the press conference on Tuesday 24 January 2023 at 10.00 CET, are invited to register at event@ccbe.eu and indicate if they wish to participate in person or (passively) online.