

Media Update

23 February 2017

UNICEF

Statement

UNICEF statement on Baquer Namazi

NEW YORK, 22 February 2017 – “One year ago today, our respected former UNICEF colleague, Baquer Namazi, was imprisoned in Iran. Our concerns for his health and wellbeing have grown deeper with each passing day.

“Mr. Namazi, 80 years old, is increasingly frail as a result of his imprisonment. He should be returned to the care of his family and friends. After a lifetime of humanitarian service, he has earned a peaceful retirement.

“We join his many colleagues around the world in appealing for his immediate release on humanitarian grounds.

“This is the fourth statement UNICEF has made since our colleague and friend was imprisoned. We hope and pray that our next will celebrate his release.”

###

Notes to Editors:

About UNICEF

UNICEF promotes the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do. Together with our partners, we work in 190 countries and territories to translate that commitment into practical action, focusing special effort on reaching the most vulnerable and excluded children, to the benefit of all children, everywhere.

For more information about UNICEF and its work for children, visit www.unicef.org.

Follow UNICEF on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/UNICEF) and [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/UNICEF)

For more information, please contact:

Najwa Mekki, UNICEF New York, Tel: +1917 209 1804,
nmekki@unicef.org



UNODC

Press Release

UNODC Country Office Pakistan Launches a USD 70 Million Country Programme to address Pakistan's development challenges within its mandated areas of illicit trafficking, drug control and crime prevention

23.02.2017 - Islamabad – Today, in an official ceremony at Serena Hotel Islamabad, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) presented its USD 70 Million Country Programme II (2016-19) under the title “developing solutions for drugs and related challenges in Pakistan”. In December 2016, UNODC in collaboration with the Government of Pakistan organized a signing ceremony at the United Nations Office in Vienna to officially endorse the Country Programme II which was then presented to the Permanent Representatives of the Member States.

Under Country Programme II UNODC will help enhance the skills and knowledge of law enforcement and criminal justice agencies in overcoming the multi-facet threats posed by transnational organized crime and would foster greater cooperation amongst neighboring countries to effectively find common solutions.

Mr. Aldo Lale-Demoz Deputy Executive Director UNODC is presently visiting Islamabad to attend a presentation of the Country Programme II and during his speech at the ceremony which has jointly been organized by the Narcotics Control Division and UNODC Country Office he stated, “the Country Programme II is based on principles of national ownership, upstream policy and human rights based approach. Pakistan has demonstrated notable achievements in many areas of cooperation, owing to the national leadership and political commitment”.

On the occasion, Mr César Guedes, UNODC Representative, Country Office Pakistan presented a comprehensive overview of assistance in the next four years under Country Programme II (2016-19). The CP II also envisions to be “Working together against illicit trafficking, drug use and crime, while promoting the rule of law for a safer society for all in Pakistan.” While giving the presentation, Mr Guedes emphasis “It is an opportunity to further advance Pakistan's strategy on counter-narcotics, strengthen regional cooperation and



streamline our collective efforts to promote the rule of law, good governance and public health.”

The presentation was attended by members of the diplomatic community, heads of UN Agencies, officials from ministries and law enforcement agencies, judiciary, civil society representatives, and media representatives. On the occasion His Excellency Mr Baleegh ur Rehman, Minister of State for Federal Education and Professional Training, Interior and Narcotics Control stated, “Being a common and shared responsibility, it requires more concerted efforts of international community to effectively tackle this menace.” He also reiterated “Let me re-affirm the political will of the Government of Pakistan to stem out the menace of drugs from the region as well as from the world.”

Secretary Narcotics Control Division Mr Ajaz Ali Khan appreciated the assistance provided by UNODC under the previous Country Programme which strengthened the operational capacity of Anti-Narcotics Force as reflected by record seizures of narcotics over the last four years. The Country Programme-II (2016-19), would further enhance the effectiveness of UNODC’s support.”

Mr. Lale Demoz, said in his speech “Today marks another important milestone in combating illicit trafficking, drug use and crime in the country”. He particularly thanked Mr. Baligh ur Rehman – Minister of State for Interior and Narcotics Control, Mr Ajaz Ali Khan – Secretary of Narcotics Control Division (Ministry of Interior and Narcotics Control), for representing Pakistan's continued and new commitment and to Mr César Guedes, Country Representative of our country office, for his comprehensive overview of assistance in Pakistan.”

Talking at the occasion H.E. Mr. Baleegh ur Rehman stated “Being a common and shared responsibility, it requires more concerted efforts of international community to effectively tackle this menace.” He also reiterated “Let me re-affirm the political will of the Government of Pakistan to stem out the menace of drugs from the region as well as from the world.”

The government of Pakistan has shown its firm resolve to curb the menace of illicit trafficking, drug use and crime. The new Country Programme has been developed through a participatory process involving UNODC experts and relevant Pakistani institutions, the international community, and civil society.

At the end of the ceremony UNODC presented mementos to the donors, which are Australia, Canada, Denmark, EU, Germany, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States of America for their financial contributions to the previous and the present Country Programmes. UNODC

also presented mementos to Secretary Narcotics Control Division and H.E. Mr. Baleegh ur Rehman.

The strategic goals of the Country Programme are in line with the Government of Pakistan's Vision 2025 and complement the objectives for meeting various targets of the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

For further information, kindly contact Rizwana Asad, Communications Officer UNODC via 0301-8564255, rizwana.asad@unodc.org.

United Nations

Call for Nominations

Global Call for nominations for the Pool of SRSG and DSRSG positions in UN field missions

Please find attached the document for further details.