

**UNAMA****United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan**

Strategic Communication and Spokespersons Unit, Kabul, Afghanistan

Press Statement<http://unama.unmissions.org>**THE UNITED NATIONS CONDEMNS THE ATTACK ON ITS PREMISES IN KUNDUZ, IN THE
NORTHEAST OF AFGHANISTAN**

KABUL, 25 February 2012 – The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) deplores the attack on its compound in Kunduz, northeast Afghanistan. It thanks the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and notably the police for its timely response and regrets their casualties. Although caused by legitimate defense, the United Nations also regrets the casualties among the demonstrators and expresses condolences to the families of those who lost their lives.

UNAMA would like to reiterate the United Nations deep respect for Islam and understanding for the feelings of Muslims at the desecration of the Holy Qur'an. At the same time, we call upon those who would wish to express their legitimate religious sentiments to reject calls to violence, to exercise self-restraint and to avoid resorting to protests and demonstrations in order not to allow the enemies of peace to take advantage of the situation.

It is the people and authorities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan that have invited the United Nations to work for peace, stability, security and prosperity in Afghanistan. The United Nations is determined to continue helping the Afghan people to achieve these objectives. In this, the United Nations staff should enjoy the full protection of the people and authorities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

All United Nations staff in Kunduz and in the country is unhurt and accounted for.

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All media contact details are online at: <http://unama.unmissions.org>