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**STATEMENT BY THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR AFGHANISTAN, KAI EIDE ON THE
ASSASSINATION OF WOLESI JIRGA MEMBER FOR KANDAHAR,
HAJI HABIBULLAH**

It is with shock and sadness that I have today learnt of the assassination of Haji Habibullah, Wolesi Jirga member for Kandahar province. This attack represents an assault on the democratic will of the Afghan people who voted in their millions for peace, stability and progress during historic elections in 1384 (2005).

Haji Habibullah served his country honorably as a mujahid, as a tribal elder and as a parliamentarian.

This attack underlines the risks faced by dedicated parliamentarians as they work tirelessly to forge a new future for the people of Afghanistan. We urge Afghan authorities to bring the perpetrators to justice swiftly and call on them to step up protection for all parliamentarians representing communities across Afghanistan.

Our thoughts remain with the family, friends and constituents of Haji Habibullah at this difficult time.

Kabul, 5 July 2008