



PRESS RELEASE

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The Inauguration of New Female Prison/Detention Center **“A step Toward Rebuilding Correction System in Afghanistan”**

Today, the new Female Prison/Detention Center (FDC) in Kabul was handed over by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to the Ministry of Justice of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The new Female Prison/Detention Center that is located in the Tahia-e-Maskan area of the capital will host 96 female prisoners. This center has been constructed by UNODC as a part of Project AFG/R41: “The Reform of Penitentiary System in Afghanistan”. The project has been carried out with the generous financial assistance of the government of Italy.

The construction of a new Female Prison/Detention Center in Kabul was launched in December 2005. This center is also equipped and furnished with furniture, sewing machines, kitchen/catering equipment.

“The Female Prison/Detention Center will respond in a new dynamic way to the needs of women offenders sentenced to imprisonment by Courts and will provide a more individual treatment, such as rehabilitation and re-education programmes as required by International Standards and laid out in the Afghan national legislation”, says Matteo Pasquali, UNODC International project coordinator. In addition the Female Prison/Detention Center constitutes the facility where female detainees and prisoners are kept separated from male inmates, in accordance with provision of applicable laws.

Since the project began in 2003, UNODC has provided technical and financial support to the Central Prison Department (CPD) of the Ministry of Justice in order to reform and improve the penitentiary system in Afghanistan. The project also falls within the framework of the larger UNODC Criminal Justice Reform Programme in Afghanistan.

The project also supports law reform to harmonize national provisions and measures within the minimum international standards and norms for the treatment of prisoners. This includes the drafting of penitentiary law and prison regulations together with the legislative department of the Ministry of Justice. The law has already been reviewed by Afghan National Assembly and approved the Afghan President and published in the official Gazette.

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