EU Ambassador commemorates landslide victims

Yesterday, the European Union Ambassador visited the devastated Ab Barek village in Badakhshan, paying respect to the victims and their families and attending a commemoration ceremony in the village.

Kabul, 5 May 2014

On a day of national mourning the European Union Special Representative and Head of the European Union Delegation to Afghanistan, Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin accompanied First Vice President Mohammad Younus Qanoni on his visit to the devastated Ab Barek village in Badakhshan.

During the ceremony at the mass grave Ambassador Mellbin addressed the survivors and rescue workers gathered around the obliterated village quoting American historian Henry Adams: "Chaos is the law of nature; order is the dream of man". "When natural disasters strikes, people stand together and act as one to help and care for each other".

Upon his return to Kabul Ambassador Mellbin issued the following statement:

"Our thoughts, sympathy and condolences go out to the families and friends of the victims of the tragedy in Ab Barek. The people of Europe and all Europeans in Afghanistan share your grief and sadness at the loss of so many lives.

The welfare, health and living conditions of survivors who have lost their homes and all personal belongings must be ensured. This is a crucial priority and all possible measures must be taken to limit the effects of the disaster. We pay tribute to the many relief and rescue workers who are tirelessly engaged in alleviating the suffering.

The European Union is following the emergency relief efforts in close coordination with humanitarian actors on the ground. Partners of the EU Humanitarian Aid Agency (ECHO) have started providing relief items such as emergency shelters to the affected population and we stand ready to provide further assistance".

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