

May 30, 2025

The Honourable Lena Metlege Diab  
Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship  
House of Commons  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0A6

**Re: Urgent Request for Intervention – Siraji Family in Pakistan**

Dear Minister Diab,

I am writing to respectfully request your immediate assistance in the case of an Afghan refugee family currently sheltering in Islamabad, Pakistan. The Siraji family has been approved for resettlement in Canada and is being sponsored through a partnership between James Bay United Church in Victoria, British Columbia, and the Inter-Cultural Association of Greater Victoria, a recognized Sponsorship Agreement Holder.

The family includes:

- Emaduddin Siraji (Father, age 56, G000506832)
- Feriba Siraji (Mother, age 44, G000506832)
- Abdul Musawer Siraji (Minor son, age 13, G000506832)
- Sediqa Siraji (Daughter, age 26, G000506834)
- Elhamuddin Siraji (Son, age 25, G000506838)
- Freshta Siraji (Daughter, age 23, G000506840)

This family fled Afghanistan after the return of the Taliban due to the father's courageous work establishing schools for girls—a direct challenge to the Taliban's repressive policies. Because of their values and actions, a forced return to Afghanistan would place them in immediate danger.

They are now living in increasingly perilous conditions. Despite having completed all required steps in the immigration process, including biometrics, and holding both a UNHCR number and Canadian G and ROC-O numbers, the family continues to wait for the issuance of their medical request and final interviews. This delay, at such a late stage in the process, is deeply concerning.

Compounding their vulnerability is the Pakistani government's recent policy directive to remove all Afghan refugees from the country. This edict is being actively enforced through systematic removal programs, without consideration for whether return would put individuals' lives in danger. In the case of the Siraji family, return to Afghanistan could be catastrophic due to their high-risk profile and past support for the education and empowerment of women and girls.

They are currently sheltering in housing that consists of one room with a metal roof. This is also becoming physically unsafe, especially in the extreme heat now gripping Islamabad. The family is enduring severe hardship while simply waiting for the final stages of a process that Canada has already approved in principle.

Minister Diab, I respectfully urge your office to act swiftly to:

1. Clarify the current status of the Siraji family's application
2. Expedite the remaining steps, particularly the medical examinations and travel documents
3. Work with the Canadian High Commission in Islamabad to protect this family from removal and ensure their safe and timely resettlement in Canada

The Siraji family has full housing and financial support arranged in Victoria, British Columbia, and a dedicated sponsorship group ready to receive them. Their values, education and resilience will make them strong contributors to Canadian society.

Canada has a long-standing commitment to human rights and refugee protection. I am confident that your leadership can ensure this family is not forgotten or put at further risk during a time of such urgency.

Thank you for your time and for your attention to this pressing matter.

With respect and gratitude,

(Your name)

(Your role: Member of James Bay United Church/Refugee Committee Member/Concerned Canadian/or other wording of your choice)