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Minister Ali A. Jalali, Distinguished Professor

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Ali A. Jalali, former Interior Minister of Afghanistan (Jan. 2003-Sept. 2005), is currently serving as both a Distinguished Professor at the Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies (NESAS) and as a researcher at the Institute for National Strategic Studies (INSS). His areas of interest include reconstruction/stabilization and peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan and regional issues affecting Afghanistan, Central and South Asia.

As Interior Minister, he created a trained force of 50,000 Afghan National Police (ANP) and 12,000 Border Police to work effectively in counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, and criminal investigation to fight against organized crime and illegal border crossings. He successfully led the country-wide operations to protect the constitutional grand assembly (Loya Jirga) in 2003, the nationwide voters' registration drive and landmark 2004 Presidential election, and the parliamentary elections in 2005. His leadership won the freedom of all ten kidnapped foreign nationals in Afghanistan (2003-2005) without giving in to the demands of the hostage takers. Minister Jalali implemented a nationwide program under the Afghanistan Stabilization Program (ASP) to extend the central government's authority to all 34 provinces and 365 districts throughout the country. His efforts removed warlord-governors, incompetent provincial administrators, corrupt officials and ineffective police chiefs to ensure basic security and good governance for all of Afghanistan. He was Chairman of the Executive Steering Committee of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT) whose members include high-ranking Afghan government officials, the commanders of the U.S.-led Coalition Forces and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), the head of the U.N. Assistance Mission, ambassadors from the donor countries and representatives of international organizations.

Prior to assuming his post as Minister, Mr. Jalali was the Director of Afghanistan National Radio Network Initiative and Chief of the Pashto Service at the Voice of America in Washington, D.C. A reputed multi-lingual and political analyst he has native fluency in English, Pashto, Dari, Persian (Farsi) and Tajik, is fluent in Russian, fluently translates from French and has functional knowledge of Arabic, Turkish and Urdu. He has directed broadcasts in Pashto, Dari and Farsi to Afghanistan, Iran and Tajikistan. As a journalist, he traveled extensively while covering the war in Afghanistan (1982- 1993) and the former Soviet Central Asia (1993-2000). His work includes hundreds of analytical reports for VOA on political, economic and social developments in the region. He is a frequent commentator on Afghan issues at major U.S. and European TV and radio networks. He is a published writer in three languages (English, Pashto, Dari/Farsi) and the author of numerous books and articles on political, military and security issues as well as the Islamic movements in Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asia.

A former Colonel in the Afghan Army and graduate of high command and staff colleges in Afghanistan, the United Kingdom and the United States, Mr. Jalali served as a top military planner with Afghan Resistance following the Soviet invasion in 1979.

"CONCORDIA PER COMMENTATIONEM"