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**NDI CONDEMNS AFGHANISTAN TERRORIST ATTACK AND
MOURNS LOSS OF THOSE KILLED IN KANDAHAR**

WASHINGTON – The National Democratic Institute (NDI) expressed sadness and outrage over the terrorist attack today at the Afghan National Security Directorate compound in Kandahar, which houses Afghan government offices, including the Provincial Council.

Tragically, at least 11 people were killed in the attack, including Mohammad Anwar, head of the Kandahar Education Department, and Abdul Hai Razmal, deputy head of the Kandahar Health Department, who had been attending an NDI program. The Institute extends its deepest condolences to the families of all of those who lost their lives.

At the time of the attack, NDI was one of a number of groups holding events in the compound. The NDI session was part of a series of training programs that the Institute has been conducting to assist the efforts of Afghanistan’s provincial councils to monitor and evaluate local development projects.

“This act of terrorism demonstrates the continued volatility in Afghanistan and the importance of supporting those who are creating institutions that promote the rule of law, peace and stability in the country,” said Kenneth Wollack, president of NDI.

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The National Democratic Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to support and strengthen democratic institutions worldwide through citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. More information is available at www.ndi.org. NDI’s programs in Afghanistan are supported by the U.S. Agency for International Development.