# PRESS RELEASE

THE EUROPEAN UNION SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE IN AFGHANISTAN
THE EUROPEAN UNION DELEGATION TO AFGHANISTAN

## EU celebrates Afghan Heroes by launching 2016 calendar

*Kabul, 14 December 2015*

In July 2015 the EU Delegation to Afghanistan launched the 'Afghan Hero Campaign' on Facebook and Twitter. The campaign encouraged the Afghan audience on social media to point out and share their Afghan Heroes. Since then many nominations of Afghan Heroes have been put forward by people living and working in Afghanistan.

After a careful selection, the EU today announced the 12 winners that made it into the 2016 Afghan Hero Calendar that EU Special Representative to Afghanistan, Ambassador Franz-Michael Mellbin, presented today.

"In a country like Afghanistan where life is very demanding to many people, it is important to also focus on the good things happening. And the good stories are here – just like the good people. I see so many people in Afghanistan making a big difference every single day. This calendar is a tribute to all of them – not just to the 12 people have selected, but to all brave Afghans," says Ambassador Mellbin.

"Looking at the 12 Afghan Heroes people choose, they are all advocates of key issues that EU is passionate about. I'm therefore especially happy that people selected so many women as their Afghan Heroes for our calendar. It underlines how much Women bring to Afghanistan every day, and why their rights are important for all Afghans to have a better life. There are also several Hero's representing children and education, something very close to our heart."

The EU will continue to follow up on the Afghan Heroes campaign throughout the year, putting focus to the heroes on the social media accounts of EU in Afghanistan.

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