



**Headquarters  
International Security Assistance Force**



**KABUL AFGHANISTAN**

COM ISAF

27 December 2008

Mr. A. Frank Donaghue  
Chief Executive Officer  
Physicians for Human Rights  
2 Arrow Street, Suite 301  
Cambridge, MA  
02138 USA

Dear Mr. Donaghue:

Thank you for your letter of December 22, 2008, in which you requested that the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) offer its assistance to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in the matter of certain reported mass grave sites in the vicinity of Dasht-e-Leili, near Sherberghan.

I am sure that you appreciate that under its mandate from the United Nations, ISAF's role in the sovereign Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is to assist Afghan authorities in improving the security situation in the country. Afghan authorities have the responsibility to provide for security and law and order throughout the country. Any securing or investigation of the sites you described is first and foremost a domestic Afghan law enforcement function.

As always, ISAF stands ready to provide assistance to its partners in the Afghan government, within the scope of the United Nations mandate, its authorities as given by the North Atlantic Council to implement the mandate, and its actual means and capabilities. I have personally spoken with the MOD, MOI and NDS to that effect.

Sincerely,

DAVID D. MCKIERNAN  
General, U.S. Army  
Commander,  
United States Forces – Afghanistan/  
International Security Assistance  
Force, Afghanistan