



UNIVERSAL  
POSTAL UNION

Berne, 4 June 2007

International Bureau Circular

**177**

Afghanistan – Illegal stamps

Dear Sir/Madam

The postal administration of **AFGHANISTAN** asks me to inform the postal administrations of Union member countries of the following:

"We have discovered, by visiting certain websites, that illegal postage stamps have been issued by unauthorized parties, and introduced into the world market. These illegal issues severely damage the international renown, image and credibility of our postage stamps, and are also incompatible with our national culture. Our administration has reserved the sole right to issue stamps in the name of Afghanistan, in accordance with article 8 of the 2004 UPU Convention.

"The stamps actually issued by Afghanistan since 2000 can be viewed either through the WNS website ([www.wnsstamps.ch](http://www.wnsstamps.ch)) or on the Afghan Post site ([www.afghanpost.gov.af](http://www.afghanpost.gov.af)).

"Any other stamps purportedly issued by Afghanistan during that period are therefore illegal and contrary to the provisions of the aforementioned article."

Yours faithfully,

K.J.S. McKEOWN  
Director of Markets Development