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**Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan
Office of the Supreme Leader**

Circular No: 288

Date: November 9, 2022 (1444/4/15)

In the name of God, the most gracious, the most merciful

To: The Respected Supreme Court

Peace, mercy, and blessings of God be upon you!

May Allah bless you with health and well-being!

All relevant courts must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Primary courts must review cases within a period of one and a half months. If a judge has a valid reason for being unable to complete the proceedings within this timeframe, they must present their excuse to the Supreme Court.
2. Appeal courts must review cases within 20 days to one month. If a judge has a valid and Sharia-based reason for being unable to complete the proceedings within this timeframe, they must present their excuse to the Supreme Court.
3. Cassation Directorates must review cases within 20 days to one month. If a directorate has a valid and Sharia-based reason for being unable to complete the proceedings within this timeframe, they must present their excuse to the Supreme Court.
4. All judges must prioritize the review of Hudud and Qesas case files, treating them with urgency.
5. All judges must urgently review criminal cases involving prisoners.
6. Fifteen individuals must be added to the Inspection and Scrutiny Directorates' structure: ten to the Supreme Court's structure, and five to the General Directorate of the Cassation Court in the southwest zone.
7. If a Dewan experiences a reduced workload, the Supreme Court may transfer judges, muftis, and clerks from that Divan to one with a higher workload. This reassignment must follow the replacement method and can last from the date of the letter's issuance up to one year in order to reduce the workload.

Regards,

**Amir al-Mu'minin, Sheikh al Qur'an and Hadith, Maulvi Hebatullah
Akhundzadeh**

Entry No: 120

November 22, 2022 (4/27/1444 AH)

Office of the Supreme Court

This document was translated by the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) for the Afghanistan Rule of Law Observatory (ARLO) initiative. To find out more about ARLO, please visit our website at www.arlo.online.