

Universal Multiple-Octet Coded Character Set  
International Organization for Standardization  
Organisation internationale de normalisation  
Международная организация по стандартизации

**Doc Type: Working Group Document****Title: Revised proposal to encode the AFGHANI SIGN in the UCS****Source: Michael Everson and Roozbeh Pournader****Status: Individual Contribution****Action: For consideration by JTC1/SC2/WG2 and UTC****Date: 2003-10-01**

In N2523 it was noted that in January 2000, N. R. Liwal said on the Unicode discussion list that he had been to Kabul and met with Ministry of Finance of Afghanistan as well as to others about the Afghan currency sign and its usage in many spheres of life, from accountancy to government correspondence and general marketing. No formal proposal was ever generated to follow up on that discussion. While preparing the report *Computer Locale Requitelements for Afghanistan* for the UNDP in Kabul, we were able to document the character in use.



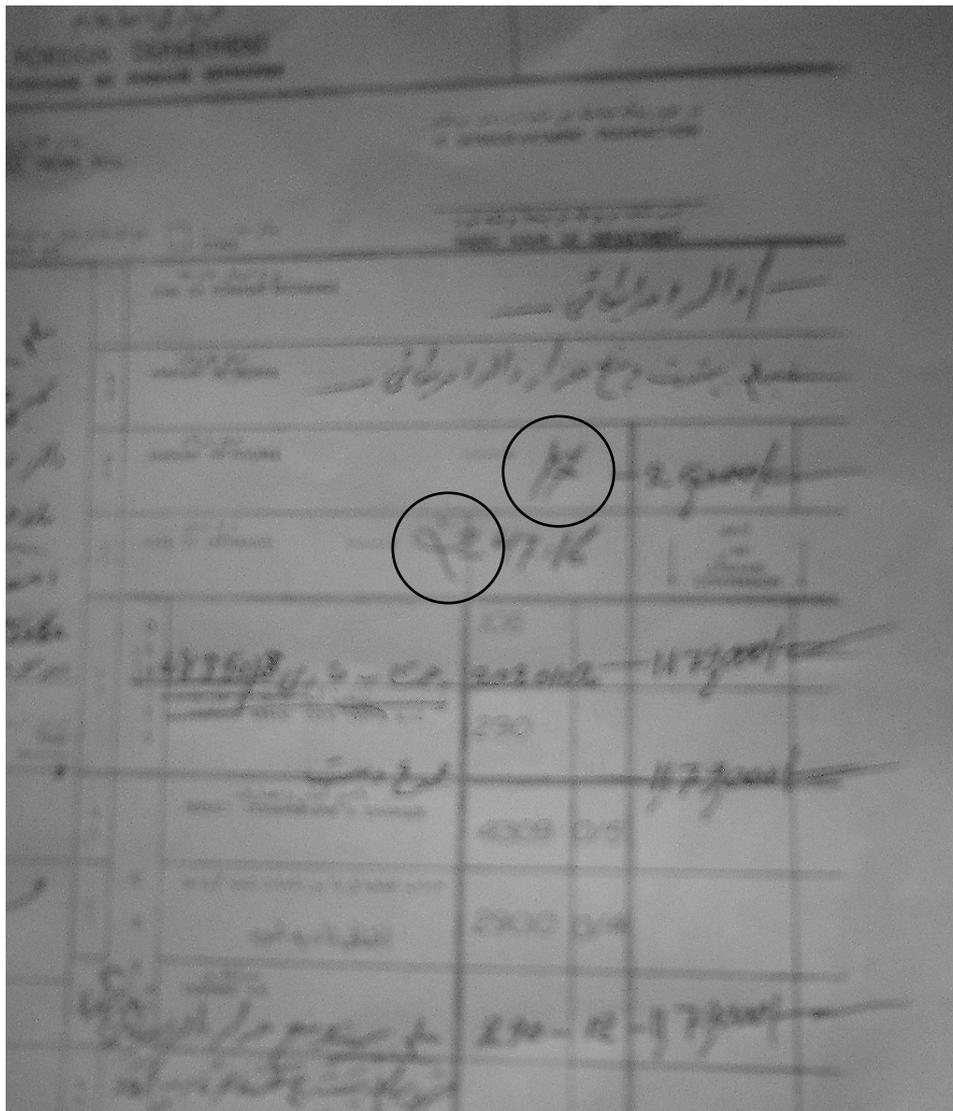
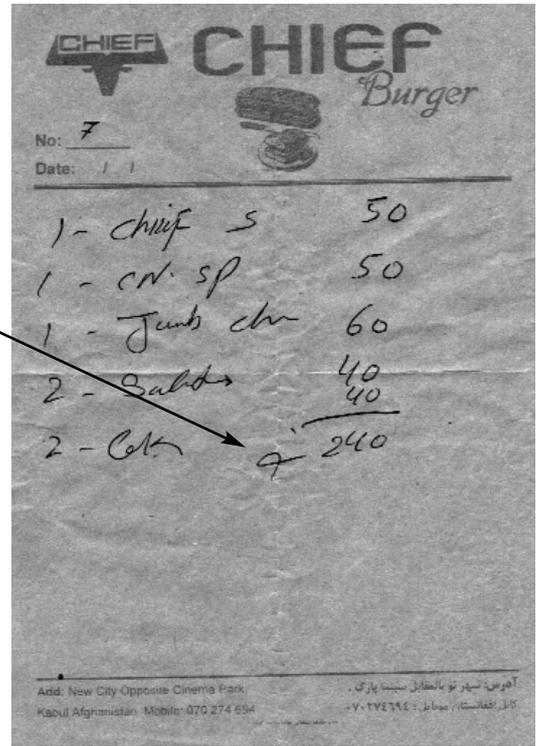
AFGHANI SIGN

Essentially this is an abbreviation of the Pashto word **افغانی** *afġānəy*, and the Persian word **افغانی** *afġānī*, where the initial ALEF is placed beneath an unfinished isolate FEH. In handwriting the end of the FEH is usually looped around into the ALIF thus: **فه**. It is our belief that this second glyph resulted in N. R. Liwal's reanalysis of the glyph thus **فہ** as an abbreviation of ALEF FEH GHAIN (Liwal's glyph for this is **فہ**). We think that this analysis is a mistake (Liwal also has given the more neutral glyph **فہ** as another variant of the symbol). In handwritten samples in ledgers at the Bank-e Milli-e Afghan (the Afghan National Bank), only one dot is used, and no separate ALEF alongside the loop. We are confident that the final loop is the ALEF and not, in fact, an original GHAIN.

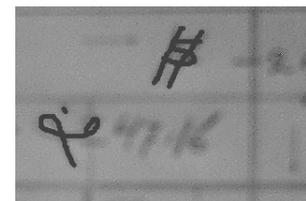
The character has been assigned to the shift-4 position on Pashto, Dari, and Southern Uzbek keyboard layouts specified in the *Computer Locale Requitelements for Afghanistan* report. This report has been endorsed by the Minister for Communications of Afghanistan.

We propose that this character be encoded either in the Currency Symbols block, at U+20B2, or in the Arabic block, at U+060B.

Sample of the Afghani sign in handwriting on a restaurant receipt from Kabul.



Sample of the AFGHANI SIGN (lower left) and the DOLLAR SIGN (upper right) in handwriting from a ledger in Bank-e Milli-e Afghanistan. (Apologies for the quality of the digital photograph.)



## A. Administrative

### 1. Title

Revised proposal to encode the AFGHANI SIGN in the UCS.

### 2. Requester's name

Michael Everson and Roozbeh Pournader

### 3. Requester type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution)

Individual contribution.

### 4. Submission date

2003-10-01

### 5. Requester's reference (if applicable)

### 6. Choose one of the following:

#### 6a. This is a complete proposal

Yes.

#### 6b. More information will be provided later

No.

## B. Technical -- General

### 1. Choose one of the following:

#### 1a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters)

No.

#### Proposed name of script

#### 1b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block

Yes.

#### 1b. Name of the existing block

Currency Symbols or Basic Arabic.

### 2. Number of characters in proposal

1

### 3. Proposed category (see section II, Character Categories)

Category A.

#### 4a. Proposed Level of Implementation (1, 2 or 3) (see clause 14, ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)

Level 1.

#### 4b. Is a rationale provided for the choice?

No.

#### 4c. If YES, reference

#### 5a. Is a repertoire including character names provided?

Yes.

#### 5b. If YES, are the names in accordance with the character naming guidelines in Annex L of ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000?

Yes.

#### 5c. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review?

Yes.

#### 6a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font (ordered preference: True Type, or PostScript format) for publishing the standard?

Michael Everson.

#### 6b. If available now, identify source(s) for the font (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.) and indicate the tools used:

Michael Everson, Fontographer.

#### 7a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided?

No.

#### 7b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached?

Yes.

#### 8. Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please enclose information)?

No.

9. Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at <http://www.unicode.org> for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database <http://www.unicode.org/Public/UNIDATA/UnicodeCharacterDatabase.html> and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

The character should have the same properties as other Arabic currency signs.

## C. Technical -- Justification

**1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? If YES, explain.**

No.

**2a. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)?**

Yes.

**2b. If YES, with whom?**

N. R. Liwal and the United Nations Development Program (Afghanistan)

**2c. If YES, available relevant documents**

N/A.

**3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included?**

Speakers of Pashto and Dari.

**4a. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare)**

To represent the afghani currency in monetary amounts.

**4b. Reference**

**5a. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community?**

Yes.

**5b. If YES, where?**

General use.

**6a. After giving due considerations to the principles in Principles and Procedures document (a WG 2 standing document) must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP?**

Yes.

**6b. If YES, is a rationale provided?**

Yes.

**6c. If YES, reference**

Keep with other currency signs or with the RIAL SIGN.

**7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)?**

**8a. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence?**

The abbreviation is based on the letter sequence ALIF FEH GHAIN, but it is a symbol in its own right and shows different shaping behaviour from the ordinary sequence in other contexts.

**8b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?**

**8c. If YES, reference**

**9a. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters?**

No.

**9b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?**

**9c. If YES, reference**

**10a. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to an existing character?**

No.

**10b. If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided?**

**10c. If YES, reference**

**11a. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences (see clauses 4.12 and 4.14 in ISO/IEC 10646-1: 2000)?**

No.

**11b. If YES, is a rationale for such use provided?**

**11c. If YES, reference**

**12a. Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided?**

No.

**12b. If YES, reference**

**13a. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics?**

No.

**13b. If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary)**

**14a. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility character(s)?**

No.

**14b. If YES, is the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic character(s) identified?**