



Fifteenth Note

Dear readers SALAAM,

This volume of Truth, Haqiqat, biweekly contains about 68 news articles selected from different print media publications in Afghanistan. There are 27 news articles on negotiations with the insurgent groups, 22 on corruption, 17 articles on elections Transparency and only two news articles on the Transitional Justice.

In past two weeks, the three subjects of reconciliations with Taliban, election transparency and corruption have been similarly covered by the print media. As usual the transitional justice has been far less a topic of debate for the print media of Afghanistan.

The analytical article of this issue, entitled 'Peace and Justice', is written by Mr. Jawad Sultani, a university lecturer on social sciences. In this article, Mr. Sultani has discussed the relations between justice and peace as well as considering the impacts of the two issues on each other and their priority in the country. In the last section, there are analysis and news articles published by other sources.

Reconciliation Talks with the Insurgent Groups:

The so-called UN blacklist containing the high-profile leaders of Taliban has been controversially debated by the media, printing diverse critical analysis on the issue. Different media sources have published dissimilar information and figures on names of the would-be delisted leaders as well as on the numbers of the high-profile leaders of the insurgent groups whom President Karzai intends to exclude their names from the Blacklist. Meanwhile, there are reports the US and United Nations have endorsed the process of excluding names of the insurgent leaders from the Blacklist. In the meantime, the pro-women groups and human rights organizations have widely expressed concerns on trampling the hard-won values in this process.

Corruption: The widespread bribery and embezzlement in Afghanistan's government institutions, transferring billions of dollars to abroad, suspension of a US aid budget for Afghanistan are the most heated topics related to corruption in Afghanistan. The government of Afghanistan is talking about launching a new system of accountability in the government ministries in order to fight corruption. It has also blamed the foreign firms and NGOs for corruption in

Afghanistan, urging for revision of their contracts and applying more control on their activities. In its part, the international community have kept continued calling on the government of Afghanistan to step up fighting corruption.

Elections Transparency: The campaign of parliamentary election is going ahead with its ups and downs. The Independent Election Commission (IEC) is leading the election with removing names of some candidates accused of having ties with illegal armed groups, assuring of new security measures by the security agencies and announcing plans for avoiding frauds in the forthcoming election. The excluded candidates are protesting against the decision of the IEC, saying the exclusions are biased and irresponsible. The media have also debated thoroughly on the security of the election. Illegally pasting posters, getting advantages of government facilities by the candidates and inefficient process of voter registration in the country are the deficiencies of the election process reflected by the press media.

Transitional Justice: The Transitional justice section is only containing two articles on peace talks with the Taliban and the responsibility of the insurgents to the past war crimes they have committed.



Justice and Peace

For instance, the Taliban are obviously responsible for various massacres in the north, central Afghanistan and other parts of the country. They must be accountable for beheading, torturing and killing thousands of citizens of Afghanistan as well as demolishing and plundering the cultural heritages of the country.

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Transitional Justice

No One-way Peace

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 375, July 03, 2010, Page 2

Regarding to the peace negotiations one of the main concerns is justice. Regretfully, in past nine years the war criminals and human rights violators have not been prosecuted. This has furthered the culture of impunity while the public confidence on government's commitment to implementation of transitional justice and prosecution of criminals to justice has been faltering. As the result, the people have lost trust on the Government's commitment to administer justice.

Unfortunately, this situation has widened the split between the Government and the public. On the other hand, it has allowed the perpetrators of past crimes and the violators of human rights to live with impunity and even sometimes continue their past wrongdoings. Meanwhile, the impunity of the war criminals prepared the ground for personal revenge in the country, endangering the physical and mental security of the people.



Karzai's Peace is Continuance of War

Mandegar Daily, Volume No 365, July 07, 2010, Page 6

Positions of the human rights organizations particularly the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on negotiations with the insurgent groups are deserving considerations. These organizations, suggesting their own preconditions for peace talks, are trying to convince the government of Afghanistan and the international community to approach to negotiations considering human rights issues. The AIHRC is strongly opposing the idea of removing the names of war criminals and the human rights violators from the United Nation's Blacklist.

Seemingly, the AIHRC has another definition of the insurgents, considering the only democrat and the moderate ones deserving for joining the peace process, on condition that their hands are not tainted with the innocent's blood.

Negotiation with armed Opposition Groups

Will the Reconciliation Talks Solve Afghan Crisis?

*Daily Afghanistan, Volume No 1131, June 27, 2010, Page 5,
By Rahin Farahmand*

It appears that some political circles and the media related to them are magnifying strength the Taliban, aimed at weakening the position of those who are opposing talks with the insurgent groups.

British Special Envoy to Afghanistan is lobbying for talks with the leadership of the Taliban. Such efforts are appeared to be aimed at bringing the Taliban back to power, not convincing them to accept the new political process and the constitution of Afghanistan.

President Karzai, in his speech at the Peace Jirga, suggested offering unilaterally concessions such as providing cash, amnesty, and safe-havens at abroad as well as employments in the government institutions to the Taliban insurgents, without any considerations to the groups which have suffered much from Taliban insurgents and are the real victims of war in Afghanistan.



destructive activities of the insurgents. Supposedly, if the Taliban leaders come and unite with president Karzai's government, the mentioned countries still would organize some other groups in Afghanistan, by which they can pursue their agendas in the country as well as the region. Therefore, it would be better for the government to focus on finding the main causes of the crises in the country rather than vain attempts to remove the Taliban leaders from the UN terror blacklist or to make a peace deal by sharing power.

A Taliban spokesman have told the media that initially they respected the decisions of the Peace Jirga, but as the Kabul government has not been committed to implementation of the recommendations, the Taliban consider the Jirga as ineffectual.

Miliband Urges for Peace Accord with Taliban

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1462, June 27, 2010, Page 3

David Miliband, Former British foreign minister said the Britain and its NATO allies should end Afghan war by a comprehensive peace agreement which includes the Taliban. Miliband stressed that any likely peace accord must include the defeated side beside the victorious side in the future.

For first time, these comments are signaling shift of position to the Afghan war by the Labor Party in Britain. Such comments by Miliband have raised speculations that the British Labor Party may oppose to Afghan war.

The most notable suggestion of David Miliband is that those who have been left out of the political process must be brought back, meaning that the insurgent Taliban leaders who are responsible of attacks on NATO and Afghan forces would be included to political process of the country.

Queries on Reconciliation Talks with the Taliban

Sorosh-e-Mellat Daily, Volume No 396, June 27, 2010, Page 3

The strength of Taliban group is indicating that the insurgents are being supported by many countries. Obviously, until the interests of these countries are not met in Afghanistan, they would not cease supporting the Taliban and helping the

Peace Talks with Taliban should begin soon

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1464, June 29, 2010, Page 1

British Chief of the Army Staff General David Richards said the negotiations with Taliban should begin as soon as possible. He added the talks could take place by a mediate, adding that he knew nothing when the talks would get underway.

Head of the British Army stated that Britain and the allies cannot defeat Taliban by military means, stressing that the allies should begin talks with the insurgents in a near future.

A Senior Taliban Commander Joins Peace Process

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 372, June 28, 2010, Page 1

A senior Taliban commander and three of his men in Bamyan Province joined the peace process on June 27 declaring their

loyalty to the government of Afghanistan. According to the report, by efforts of Bamyan security officials, Hajji Sarwar, an insurgent commander and a resident of Tala and Barfak of the province declared support to the government.

Hajji Sarwar said due to some problems he and his men could not surrender themselves to the local administration of Baghlan Province, so they preferred to come to Bamyan province. He promised to support the government in reconstruction affairs and providing security. General Mohammad Hashim, a security official in Bamyan Province said he would try to provide security for Hajji Sarwar and his other comrades.

Wahid Omar:

President Karzai never Met Haqqani

Sorosh-e-Mellat Daily, Volume No 399, June 28, 2010, Page 3

Wahid Omar, a spokesman of president Karzai, said at a press conference that President Karzai has never met Sirajuddin Haqqani, the leader of the insurgent Haqqani Network. He denied the reports about a secret meeting between Karzai and Haqqani, saying that neither Haqqani nor Pakistani intelligence officials had come to Kabul. Omar stressed that the President has not met Pakistani officials, who as the reports say were accompanying Sirajuddin Haqqani. The spokesman called the report a propaganda against the government of Afghanistan.

The Afghan government has made clear it would only negotiate with the insurgent groups which abandon terror and violence; accept the constitution of Afghanistan and sever ties with Al-Qaeda terrorist Network, Omar said, adding that whoever accepts the pre-conditions of the government is welcomed for peace negotiations.

Prisoners-Exchange between Nuristan Police, Taliban

Sorosh-e-Mellat Daily, Volume No 398, June 29, 2010, Page 8

Nuristan Police Chief General Muhammad Qasim Paiman said a police squad in Chatras region was attacked by Taliban insurgents. He added that in the clash four Taliban insurgents were arrested police and two police soldiers were arrested by the Taliban as well.

Nuristan Police Chief said after negotiations between the Taliban and police, both sides agreed on exchange of the prisoners. Mr Paiman added that later on, both police soldiers and the Taliban insurgents were released.

A Group of Insurgents Join Peace Consolidation Program

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1133, June 29, 2010, Page 8

A 5-member group of Taliban insurgents in Moqor district of Badghis province headed by Mawlawi Akhtar joined the peace

process, handing over their arms to the security officials. Mawlawi Akhtar said he joined the peace process and put down weapons after he found out about the truth of the government peace program.

According to the officials, during last six months 42 insurgents in Badghis province have shifted positions and joined the government-initiated peace program.

Karzai's Preemptive Strategy, a Surprise to Washington

Charagh Daily, Volume No 1588, June 30, 2010, Editorial

President Karzai is being secretly pressurized by the Pakistan's ISI. The Pressures explicitly indicates Karzai's moves towards Taliban as the ISI has clearly told him it wants to see Taliban's presence in power in Afghanistan.

The idea was somehow supported by General Stanley McChrystal but the US Special Envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan Richard Holbrook and US ambassador to Kabul Karl Eikenberry are vehemently opposing the idea.

The White House apparently supports peace efforts but it virtually does not trust the move and has no believe in direct negotiations with Taliban leaders. Despite oppositions by the US, Karzai intends to open direct talks with Taliban leaders by mediation of Pakistan, putting the US at surprise. The reports from Washington is indicating that the US officials are extremely concerned on Karzai's inclination to Pakistan, because Washington is well aware that Islamabad is able to raise the Taliban as a stakeholder of power in Afghanistan.

The meeting between Barack Obama and the director of CIA Leon Panetta over the allegedly meeting between Karzai and Taliban militants and the role of Pakistan is a confirmation to the concerns.

The US-led Coalition should Negotiate with Some Taliban Leaders

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1134, June 30, 2010, Page 8

British Defense Minister Liam Fox said on Tuesday, June 29, 2010, that the military is not a solution to Afghan conflict alone, adding that the Coalition led by the United States should negotiate with some members of the insurgent groups. Fox said talks with the insurgents who accept the legitimacy of Afghan government prevents them to go back to insurgency after foreign forces withdraw from the country.

Mr Liam Fox says he has talked over the idea with General Richards, the head of British Army. The Afghan mission is vital for national security of Britain, but for winning the war, there must be political negotiations to pave the way for withdrawing foreign troops without leaving any security vacuum in the country, the British Defense minister said.

UN Ask Kabul to Cooperate on Removing Taliban Names from the Blacklist

Sorosh-e-Mellat Daily, Volume No 400, June 30, 2010, Page 1

The sanctions committee of UN Security council has asked Afghan government to provide more information on the names of the militants whom Kabul wants them to be excluded from the list.

Head of the UN committee has said that there are four preconditions for the militant leaders to exclude their names from the Blacklist: They should purposefully quit insurgency; put down arms; sever ties with Al-Qaeda and accept the constitution of Afghanistan.

The Mexican ambassador to United Nations informed that Karzai has talked clearly over the issue and will cooperate with the sanctions committee of the UN Security Council.

According to the UN rules, all of the 15 members of the Security Council should approve the proposal to remove names of Taliban leaders from the UN blacklist.

Collusion with Pakistan: Beginning of another Crisis

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 371, 28 June, 2010, Editorial

President Karzai has secretly met Sirajuddin Haqqani, the leader of Haqqani terrorist Network and son to Jalaluddin Haqqani, last week in the Presidential Palace in Kabul. According to the reports, Haqqani had been accompanied by Pakistan's Army Chief General Ashfaq Kayani and the director of ISI, Pakistan's army intelligence agency.

Accompanying Sirajuddin Haqqani to Kabul Presidential Palace for talks with Afghan President is indicating Pakistan's intention to make public its relations with Haqqani Network. At the eve of the likely withdrawal of foreign troops and Karzai's thirst for starting negotiations, Islamabad is keen to gain its strategic interest in the future of Afghanistan.

Past Mistakes Should not be Repeated

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 371, June 28, 2010, Page 5

Noorulhaq Olumi, a member of Afghan parliament, warned that concessions to the Taliban, who are armed and financed in Pakistan to carry out attacks in the neighboring Afghanistan, would threaten the nascent democracy of the country.

Mir Ahmad Juyenda, another Afghan MP believes that despite Pakistan's latest moves in peace efforts between Afghanistan and the Taliban, Islamabad is still continuing its policy of interference in Afghanistan.

Mike Mullen:

Mullah Omar could be a Part of Political deal

Mnadegar Daily, Volume No 360, July 01, 2010, Page 1

Admiral Mike Mullen, a top US military official announced that the Taliban leader Mullah Omar also can be part of political

agreement in Afghanistan. He described the agreement as the only way of bringing peace and security in Afghanistan.

The chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff of the US military said it was difficult to decline that some groups which are considered as hostile terrorist groups might be an inevitable part of any future agreement in Afghanistan.

Regarding to the reports that some representatives from insurgent groups including Haqqani Network had meetings with Afghan officials, the chairman of US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Leon Panetta said there is no evidence to show the interests of the militants to peace negotiations.

Pakistan Denies Organizing Meeting between Karzai, Haqqani

Bakhtar Daily, Volume No 268, July 03, 2010, Page 7

Pakistan Army Chief General Ashfaq Kayani denied the ISI's role on organizing the alleged secret meeting between President Karzai and Sirajuddin Haqqani, the leader of Haqqani Network based in Pakistan.

In a statement released by the army, Gen. Kayani said he had visited President Karzai in his trips to Kabul and discussed on bilateral issues. The statement quoted Kayani that the NATO commander General McChrystal also was present at the meetings.

National Reconciliation Process Begins in the Provinces

Bakhtar Daily, Volume No 268, July 03, 2010, Page 2

International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan announced that the program of National Reconciliation has begun in the provinces of Helmand, Paktia, Urozgan and Baghlan in order to bring the insurgents back to civil life.

Philip Jones, the director of ISAF Reintegration Cell said at a press conference on July 01, 2010 that the process begun after the direction of President Karzai on National Reconciliation and Reintegration, adding that so far many of the insurgents have joined the process. The process is aimed to disarm the insurgents and provide jobs and security for them, he added.

ISAF spokesman Joseph Blatz said that many cases in the past months indicate that the insurgents would join the Afghan-led peace process. Blatz added that many of the militants are willing to join peace process, so that they can come back to civil life and respectfully reunite to the society.

Two Homogeneous Players in a Disordered Game

Sorosh-e-Mellat Daily, Volume No 395, June 25, 2010, Page 5

By Zaki Daryabi

Past experiences show that the Taliban are not so weak to simply accept the demands of the Government or quit

<http://www.watchafghanistan.org>

insurgency only by removal of their names from the so-called UN Blacklist. Actually, the measures by Afghan government and the United Nations to remove names of Taliban leaders from the Blacklist is nothing significant to the Taliban.

Looking profoundly at the issues, we find that the government is at a very weak position against the insurgents. This weakness has given the confidence and the opportunity to the insurgents to attain their demands as well as to stage a huge campaign for exposing the inability and weaknesses of the government.

The prevalent fear and anxiety in Kabul and Western capitals and the unilateral peace overtures raises the concerns that the Taliban leaders would simply traverse the filters of ties with Al-Qaeda terrorist network. It also raises the risks that the most atrocious leaders of the insurgent groups may be benefited of the munificence of the United Nations, getting out of the Blacklist.

US Agrees with Removal of Taliban Names from the Blacklist

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1467, July 03, 2010, Page 3

US ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice said that the United States has reviewed the list of Taliban leaders, including Mullah Omar, who are sanctioned by the United Nations.

The UN Security Council held an open session on Afghanistan, discussing the situation of war, the efforts for stabilization of the country and the latest comments of the US envoy to UN and some other member officials on Afghanistan.

Rice added that she had consultations with the sanctions committee, reaching agreement on delisting names of the militants who sever ties with Al-Qaeda and hand over their arms.

Lately, a UN delegation met Afghan President Hamid Karzai in Kabul. In the meeting with the 15-member UN mission, Karzai called on the United Nations to remove names of the Taliban leaders from the Blacklist who don't have links with Al-Qaeda.

Afghan Government Endorses Plan to Revert Taliban Fighters

Charagh Daily, Volume No 1590, July 03, 2010, Page 1

According to a report released in a western newspaper, after pressures by Washington, the government of Afghanistan approved a plan to revert the foot soldiers and the junior commanders of Taliban militants back to the civil life. The plan is approved after months of pressures by US, NATO and some Afghan figures in order to follow peace overtures to the Taliban mainstream. According to the report, the plan is aimed to convince the foot soldiers and the low-ranking commanders of the Taliban to abandon violence. The initiative is also approved in a hope to be

instrumental for reaching out to the Taliban leaders and gain supports from Pakistan for talks with the insurgent groups.

The plan calls on Taliban fighters to announce their loyalty to the government of Afghanistan, instead of gaining supports from the government.

Taliban of Seven Provinces Prepared for Reconciliation

Mandegar Daily, Volume No 361, July 03, 2010, Page 1

Mohammad Maasoom Stanikzai, an advisor to the president on national security affairs, declared that the Taliban groups in seven provinces of the country are ready for reconciliation talks with the government. Stanikzai added that the Taliban in Helmand, Herat, Urozgan, Paktia, Baghlan, Balkh and Daikundi provinces have shown their willingness to the reconciliation process.

These comments by the president's advisor on national security, comes at a time that the Taliban have announced they would never negotiate with the Afghan government and its foreign allies.

No One-way Peace

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 375, July 03, 2010, Page 2

As the government has no specific definition of its enemies, beginning the peace process has prepared the ground for misuses by many groups and individuals. The NATO-led program which focuses on reconstructions and creating jobs in order to encourage the Taliban to abandon violence, motivate some people to join the Taliban ranks for gaining concessions. If such program gets underway by NATO, many parts of the country, which due to political and non-political reasons has been deprived of reconstruction, would be stimulated to create chaos in their regions to be benefited of the foreign aids.

On the other hand, disregarding the regional aspect of terrorism and approaching to the negotiations through an ethnic attitude would lead the talks to a debacle which can be anticipated from now. Regretfully, the policy of negligence towards some provinces has been continued for many years and its continuance would be harmful for the future of the country.

Karzai Struggles to Bring the Most Stubborn Militants to Negotiation Table

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1137, July 03, 2010, page 8

Afghan President Hamid Karzai is trying to persuade some of the most vicious and stubborn insurgent leaders to peace talks through his old friends and new allies.

Khaled Pashtoon a member of the parliament said President

Karzai is using his past friendship with Jalaluddin Haqqani and his son Sirajuddin Haqqani to encourage them to peace talks. On the other hand, Pakistan is also putting pressures on Afghan government to include the Haqqanis in power sharing deals in Kabul.

Pakistan's army and its intelligence (ISI) believe that the Haqqani Network is a strategic asset for interests of Pakistan in neighboring Afghanistan. Taalat Masoud, a retired army general, says Pakistan's military officials believe that, after the US troops withdraw from Afghanistan, sharing power with Haqqani Network would be the only way of stability in the country.

Peace Efforts should not Endanger Peace itself

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1139, July 06, 2010, Page 8

Vitaly Chirkin, Russian Envoy to United Nations says the UN Security Council's sanctions imposed on Al-Qaeda and Taliban should be strictly practiced.

He stressed that by his belief links or contacts with these circles are perilous to global security and at same time contrary to sanctions approved by United Nations Security Council. He urged the members to implement rigorously the UN resolution sanctioning some individuals by including their names in the Blacklist.

There should be talks only with those groups which accept Afghanistan's constitution; give up insurgency and sever ties with Al-Qaeda terrorist Network, the Russian envoy said.

Talks with Terrorists Declared Illegal

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 379, July 7, 2010, Editorial

The US Supreme Court declared any kinds of talks with terrorist groups illegal even if it is aimed to end violence. As the verdict is issued at the height of peace efforts with Taliban insurgents, it is appeared to be a huge blow to the efforts, casting serious doubts on its effectiveness and success. It provides another opportunity for the oppositions of the initiative to reject the plan led by Afghan government. In nature, the talks are virtually supporting the insurgent groups, resulting to their recognition as a political movement.

The decision of the US Supreme Court comes at a time that Islamabad is also planning a national conference on fighting terror in the country.

Former Governor of Taliban:

No Hope in Peace Initiative of Afghan Government

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1140, July 07, 2010, Page 8

Mullah Abdul Salaam Zaeef, an ex-governor of the Taliban

regime, who later joined to the Karzai-led government in Kabul, called the peace process ridiculous, stressing that peace cannot be obtained by talks with the lower ranks of Taliban.

Zaeef insists that until there are no contacts with the leaders of the Taliban, there would not be any results. The Afghan-led peace effort, being supported by the international community is a mockery and only waste of time and money.

Amidst Talks with Taliban, Women Concerned over their Rights

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1140, July 07, 2010, Page 8

As the Afghan government is pursuing talks with the Taliban leaders, Afghan women are concerned that they might pay the price for the any future peace deal between the government and the insurgent groups. The women are worried that the talks may take place by mediation of one of the Islamic countries, as it is said it most probably would be held Saudi Arabia which itself has very strict regulations on women.

The main concern for the pro-women organizations and the activists is that holding the talks with Taliban in Saudi Arabia may result to accepting the conditions of the extremist groups including restricting women rights.

A women activist Gulalai Habib says the women should be contributed to the peace talks and their role must be respected by all parties. Since the peace talks are related to all men and women in Afghanistan, the men should not make decisions in absence of women, Habib said. She added that the rights of women should not be trampled, insisting on presence of women in any peace talks in the future.

Removing Names of 15 Taliban Leaders from the UN Blacklist

Mandegar Daily, Volume No 365, July 07, 2010, Page 1

UN officials say they expect Karzai would deliver evidences to the United Nations to prove the 15 former Taliban leaders, whom he asked their names to removed from the UN blacklist, will abandon violence and do not continue insurgency against the government. According to United Nations Security Council (UNSC) name of Taliban leader Mullah Omar and other insurgents who are active in Afghan insurgency are not under consideration of removing from the terror list.

US Foreign Policy Magazine has written that the efforts of the Afghan government to remove names of Taliban leaders from the list have faced with oppositions of the Russia in United Nations. Russia believes that the government of Afghanistan has not presented the required and convincing

evidences for removing names of the militants from the UN terror list.

A UN high-ranking official said that the US special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan is set to go to New York to facilitate the process of talks with Afghan insurgents and removal of Taliban names from the UN Blacklist. According to the report, Richard Holbrook is intended to convince UNSC members particularly the Russia to removing the names of Taliban leaders from the list.

Elections Transparency

Four Major Complaints to Provincial ECC Office in Herat City

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 372, June 29, 2010, Page 3

The chairperson of the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) in Herat Province Saied Haqiqi said in addition to some slight cases, there were four major complaints against some of the candidates. In case if the complaints are approved, the candidates will be fined or banned from running in the election, he said.

A candidate of the parliamentary election in Herat Province Nazir Ahmad Raha said from the beginning of the election process there were some irregularities which is still being continued. Some candidates take advantages of governmental opportunities in their election process, he said. According to Raha, some of the candidates of the Wolesi Jirga election bully other candidates, violating their rights in the election.

Women Candidates in Balkh Province Face Problems

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 373, June 30, 2010, Page 2

About a hundred women candidates for parliamentary election came together in Mazar-e Sahrif to participate in a session of awareness on election campaign. In the gathering, the chief of office for women affairs in Balkh province Mrs Fareeba Majeed said lack of security in many districts of the province and some social traditions barring women presence in the society are the main challenges ahead of women candidates in the north.

On the other hand, some women candidates mentioned that financing their campaign is their main problems. Mrs Baihaqi a Faryab Province candidate said she is facing a lot of financial problems because she is not dependent to any political party.

A Dull Campaign for Parliamentary Election

Bakhtar Daily, Volume No 268, July 03, 2010, Page 1

Noor Muhammad Noor, the spokesman of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) said in an interview that the process of campaigns for the parliamentary election is normally going ahead. He added that during last week only 20 candidates have been warned due to breach of the commission's rules.

Acknowledging the security challenges in some provinces, the IEC spokesman stressed that the security situation in the country is not as bad as portrayed by the media, adding that security agencies are responsible for securing the election.

But a candidate in Helmand province Mohammad Anwar Ishaqzai says due to insecurity and dominance of Taliban in the districts of the province, he cannot go out of Helmand capital city to carry out his campaigns.

He added that 80 percent of the districts in the province are under control of the Taliban and the government holds only the capital city Lashkargah, questioning that how an election in which 80 percent of the people cannot take part, would be legitimate.

Taking Advantage of Government Facilities in Election Campaign

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 376, July 04, 2010, Page 5

The foundation for Free and Fair Election in Afghanistan (FEFA) says the main problem related to exploiting the public assets and government facilities in election is in the electoral law, by which the incumbents in the parliament and provincial councils can nominate themselves for new post while keeping the present post.

"Unfortunately, there is a major problem in the electoral law in Afghanistan. By the law, some people who are running in parliamentary election still hold their posts in the national institutions," Jandad Spinghar, executive director of FEFA said. He added that in the meantime, if the government officials want to stand for a seat in the parliament, they are obliged to resign from their posts. This has raised a main problem to the election. The incumbent officials and parliamentarians who are running in the election have more access to government facilities and more influence in the government agencies.

Noor Muhammad Noor, the spokesman of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) said the election commission and the Electoral Complaints Commission have considered the electoral problems and the exploitation of government facilities by the candidates. Noor added that up to now about 30 candidates have been warned over the issue. The spokesman of the IEC said those candidates who violate the regulations set by the IEC will be introduced to the judicial authorities and their names will be published through the medial.

Kabul Municipality official: The Candidates Pasting their Posters on Walls Introduced to IEC

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1469, July 05, 2010, Page 2

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) has banned pasting

posters and pictures of the candidates in public places and walls, calling it contrary to the regulations of the IEC.

Rahila Kuhistani, chief of cultural services in Kabul municipality said the mayor has directed the personnel of the municipality to photograph walls on which posters are pasted and deliver them to the IEC officials, in order to take actions against the violators. She added that such violations by the candidates could result to banning them from running in the election.

Kuhistani added that some 150 photos along with a letter was sent to the IEC for the next appropriate measures by the election officials against the violators.

Kunduz Candidates Silent amidst Threats by Taliban

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1138, July 05, 2010, Page 8

Fears of Taliban attacks in Kunduz province have silenced the campaigns for the parliamentary election. Presently, 87 candidates have begun their campaigns in the capital city of Kunduz and other six districts of the province, but there the environment in Kunduz city and district bazaars is far from a feverish election competition.

The candidates in Kunduz Province say that they are not able to openly campaign in the districts of the province due to insecurity and threats of the Taliban. Regarding to security, Kunduz Police Chief Muhammad Razaq Yaaqoubi promised to the candidates that they will soon be able to travel to the districts of the province.

Afghan Cabinet Approves Modification of Election Law

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1470, July 06, 2010, Page 1

At a session on July 05, 2010, the Ministers' Council approved a bill for modification of the Election Law.

The legislative decree of the bill was presented to the Council by justice minister to be prepared for presidential sign.

Some Candidates Excluded from the Final List

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1471, July 07, 2010, Page 1

Ahmad Zia Rafaat, the spokesman of the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) announced on July 6 that names of some candidates of the parliamentary election is removed from the final list of the commission.

Mr. Rafaat speaking to the media added that most of the candidates were disqualified of running for parliamentary seats because the commission found them linked to illegal armed groups. It is said that about 30 candidates are banned from standing for parliamentary election.



Nuristan People Complaining over Distribution of Voter Cards

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1471, July 07, 2010, Page 1

A number of people in Nuristan Province at a meeting with the governor of the province Jamaluddin Badr complained that there is no voter registration program in the province, urging him to pursue the issue.

According to a statement of the Governor's media office, the complaining people claim that a major part of the people in Nuristan do not have voting cards and there is not any Voter registration programs yet by the Independent Election Committee. They say that the teams of voter registration program even have not come to the province, expressing concerns that if there is no measures regarding to registration, they would not be able to go to election.

Using Government Facilities for Election Campaign

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1140, July 07, 2010, Page 8

Bareshna Rabi, a parliamentary election candidate in Balkh province, at a gathering for distribution of anti-mosquito sheets at public health directorate of the province, asked the families receiving the handouts to vote for her on the Election Day. A sister to the director of Balkh Public Health Directorate, Bareshnaa called on the people to be vigilant in electing the capable and deserving candidates.

This is while, using government facilities in election campaigns are strictly forbidden under the direction of the constitution and the violators are subjected to legal prosecution. But Dr. Mirwais Rabi, the chief of Balkh Public Health directorate called his sister's campaign legal and legitimate.

Provincial Vote Officials take Oath

Sorosh-e-Mellat Daily, Volume No 407, July 08, 2010, Page 3

The officials who are to lead the election in the 34 provinces of the country took oath of loyalty in presence of Fazl Ahmad Maanawi, head of the Independent Election Commission. Fazl Ahmad Maanawi told the election officials that he would do his best for a fair and transparent election. He added that all of the vote election officials in provinces are reappointed to elsewhere, while four provincial election officials, who were charged corruption, are introduced to the judicial authorities.

According to Maanawi, six thousands of the former personnel of the commission, who are accused of facilitating frauds in last-year presidential election, are blacklisted and never can serve in the Independent Election Commission (IEC). He added that a team of the prosecutors are tasked to monitor over the IEC officials closely within the agency. Regarding to the role of the foreigners, the head of the IEC said they can not interfere in the election affairs and only have the right of oversee the process of the election.

"No one, foreigners or nationals of Afghanistan, would be allowed to interfere in election affairs, Fazl Ahmad Maanawi said. About the government agencies, the IEC chief said whoever who takes advantage of government posts would be introduced to relevant authorities, the president and the people.

Who are Excluded from the Election Race, and Why?

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 380, July 08, 2010, Editorial

The Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) has announced exclusion of names of some election candidates who are accused of having links with illegal armed groups. There are fears that such a process may have resulted to exclusion of those candidates who are not favored by the election officials. The term "armed illegal groups" is not clear to whom it is referred and which groups are considered as armed groups. In fact, there are no clear criteria about the issue that by what evidences they are accused of having links with armed groups.

Only because of military power and influence, the leaders of some armed groups are given many advantages such as power-sharing dealings. It is of much concern that some candidates only by rumors, not legal and documented evidences, are deprived of their indisputable rights.

Does the Oath Prevent Frauds?

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 381, July 10, 2010, Page 1

The measures aimed to prevent electoral frauds such as oath-taking would never the expected results. Past experiences have proved that the officials in this country commonly are not abiding their commitments. Taking oath by the local vote officials may be a right move for satisfying the public but it

would not be satisfactory for the fairness of the election.

Another important point is the latest expressions by the chief of the Independent Election Commission (IEC) Fazl Ahmad Maanawi. "We would try our best to have a fair election, but we would not be responsible for anything which is over our ability," He said explicitly. Such expressions show that Mr Maanawi is seeking ways of excuses beforehand the likely objections. In case of any irregularities, he would surely tell the people that the IEC was unable to prevent it, thus is not responsible.

Complaints over not Considering Cases of Candidates Accused of Links with Armed Groups

Bakhtar Daily, Volume No 273, July 10, 2010, Page 4, By Jawad Kazimi

A parliamentary candidate Hajji Abdul Qayom Ghaljaayi expressed his grievance on the process of considering the cases of the candidates who are accused of having links with armed groups. He said he had gone many times to the Independent Election Commission (IEC), Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) and the Ministry of Interior Affairs (MoIA), but the problem is not solved yet, as the officials are not responsible.

A member of the IEC Ahmad Zia Rafaat said that the Electoral Complaints Commission first sets a five-day ultimatum for the accused candidates to defend themselves. After the period, if the evidences presented to the commission do not convince the IEC, the candidate's case would again be sent to the ECC. Ultimately, the last measure by the IEC is to exclude the names of the candidates who have not been able to prove not being linked with the illegal armed groups, the officials say.

The ECC in Grasp of the Government

*Mandegar Daily, Volume No 388, July 11, 2010, Page 1
By Jamshid Yama*

A political analyst Wahid Mojhdah believes that not announcing the names of the excluded candidates to the people is very ambiguous, adding that the puzzling measures by the votes officials have stirred suspicions among the people that the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) is under influence of the government.

"The government intends to remove names of the candidates who are not favored by the government but are highly likely to win seats in the parliament. In fact, it is trying to get these candidates failed from going to the parliament," Mojhdah said.

Mr. Mojhdah points that the IEC has excluded the latest names from the final list while the list was finalized before. On the other hand, the ECC officials say that names of the excluded candidates may appear on the ballot papers. "In this case, a lot of votes of the people would go lost, casting doubts on credibility, commonality and fairness of the election," Mojhdah said, adding that "If this happens the IEC cannot claim it is leading a fair and transparent election."

Independent Election Commission: Some Candidates Take Advantages of Government Facilities

Mandegar Daily, Volume No 369, July 12, 2010, Page 1

The Independent Election Commission (IEC) says it has found that some candidates of the parliamentary election use government facilities in their campaigns. The spokesman of the IEC Noor Mohammad Noor said the commission had found out some cases of taking advantages of state or public facilities, adding that the IEC would not be indifferent to the issue and would take serious measures on it.

Regarding to the issue, the IEC have issued warnings for some 35 candidates, Noor said, adding that the commission has received about 75 complaints referring them to the ECC for further measures.

In the meantime, some candidates of the Wolesi Jirga election express concerns over taking advantage of governmental facilities in election, saying that if such irregularities go on, the function and credibility of the IEC, as an independent institution, would face serious questions.



Some Excluded Candidates Complain about the ECC's Decision

Sorosh-e-Mellat Daily, Volume No 410, July 12, 2010, Page 8

Some of the parliamentary election candidates whose names are excluded from the final list are complaining that their rights are violated but the IEC has rejected the claims.

Sakhi Jan Wafadar from Khost province is one of the excluded candidates who is accused of having ties with illegal armed groups. Wafadar says two years ago he joined the government-led peace program and now his men are serving as security guards for a road construction project. He said he had no connections with any armed groups, adding that if his name is not included in the final list of candidates he would not have left any other way but to join the insurgent groups.

Responding to complaints, Noor Muhammad Noor, spokesman of the IEC, said the names have been removed from the list after precise scrutiny and based on documented evidences. According to Mr. Noor, those who are banned from running in election had been given chance to provide an approval letter from the relevant authorities.

Corruption

Karzai: Policy on Foreign Contracts should be Reviewed

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 370, June 27, 2010, Page 2

Afghan president Hamid Karzai, speaking at a ceremony marking the international day of fighting narcotics, said the contracts for big projects in the country should be handled more deliberately.

President Karzai specified that up to now most of the concessions for big projects are given to high-ranking officials of the government or their relatives. He urged the international donors to avoid such mishandling of the projects in order to stop corruption in the county.

US Congressman: No More Aid to Afghanistan

Mandegar Daily, Volume No 358, June 29, 2010, Page 1

A member of US congress Nita Lowey, furious over the corruption in Afghanistan, warned that until the US is not assured its cash will be spent efficiently, it would not assist even one cent to Afghanistan. The US congressman pointed out that, as billions of dollars got out of Afghanistan, he is not satisfied with continuing new aids, funding the warlords, corrupt officials, drug traffickers and the terrorist groups.

The news of transferring billions of dollars outside of the country by some government officials comes while the government of Afghanistan claims only 30 percent of international aid is delivered through the government.

Attorney General: US Ambassador Meddling in our Affairs

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 372, June 29, 2010, Page 3

Afghan General Attorney Mohammad Ishaq Alkoo says US ambassador to Kabul has told him he must resign if he does not prosecute deputy chief of a bank in Kabul, Hajji Rafiullah Azimi. Speaking at a press conference on June 29, 2010, Mr Alkoo quoted Karl Eikenberry US ambassador to Kabul that Mr Azimi was an associate to Sadiq Chakari, former minister of Hajj and Islamic affairs, in the embezzlements in the ministry.

The General Attorney added that Eikenberry claims that Sadiq Chakari has left Afghanistan by an authorization of the Attorney General's office. Ishaq Alkoo denied the claims he permitted Sadiq Chakari to leave the country, adding that the prosecutor's office does not have evidences on associations between Rafiullah Azimi and the former minister of Hajj. Therefore, he is not arrested yet, Ishaq Alkoo said.



US Attorney General Meets Afghan Officials

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 374, July 01, 2010, Page 2

After mounting criticisms over corruption and poor handling of the cases of the criminals, US attorney general came to Kabul to talk with the officials over fighting corruption, building good governance and strengthening the rule of law.

US Attorney General Eric Holder told reporters at US embassy in Kabul he had talked to President Karzai, Afghan justice minister and the Attorney General of Afghanistan on the issues. "We have closely followed the developments in Kabul and the positive measures President Karzai and his cabinet has taken for better governance and the rule of law," Holder said.

The Hungry People and Transit of Money to Abroad

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1135, July 01, 2010, Page 4

Chief of the customs of Kabul Airport General Asif Jabbarkhil said the customs intercepted a package of millions of dollars cash last year which was being transferred to Dubai. Mr Jabbarkhil added that he tried to stop transferring the money, but he paid the price later on.

As the command of US forces in Afghanistan is handed to the new commander, the corruption has drawn more attentions. The main problem is that there are political motives behind corruption as Afghan government and the foreign countries use

it as a tool to pressurize each others. Neither the international community nor the Afghan government has done enough efforts to wipe out corruption in Afghanistan. Recently, a study carried out by the United Nations suggested that the amount which is annually paid in bribes is equal to one forth of the annual net income of Afghanistan.

Foreigners Responsible for Money Exiting from Afghanistan

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1466, July 01, 2010, Page 1

Afghan finance minister Dr. Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal told a press conference that it was first the government of Afghanistan that raised the issue of transferring foreign aids back to abroad. Zakhilwal added that during past three years, USD \$2.4 billion has been transferred outside only through Kabul airport and if the land borders are considered the figure would go much higher.

According to Zakhilwal, in past three years, the international community has assisted 19.6 billion dollars to development projects in Afghanistan, of which only 1 billion dollars are spent through the budget of the government of Afghanistan. The finance minister of Afghanistan added that the budget is transparently spent by the government of Afghanistan.

The prevalent concept is that the main channel of taking out the aids is the foreign contractors. The international donors manage their aids through contracts with international firms and some of the Afghan firms particularly security firms, bypassing the government of Afghanistan.

Zakhilwal confirmed that obviously there is widespread corruption in the country, adding that it must be clarified whether the government of Afghanistan is responsible for the corruption or foreign countries. The government of Afghanistan has asked the international donors to cooperate in conducting transparent joint investigations on the corruption.

Unending Corruption

Mandegar Daily, Volume No 360, July 01, 2010, Page 8

By Jamshid Yama

The international community and the government of Afghanistan both are responsible to answer the questions over plundering the international aid for Afghanistan. Though the government of Afghanistan has not done enough to fight the corruption and to prosecute those responsible for grafts, and embezzlements, the long-time negligence of the international community towards corruption in Afghanistan also cannot be spared.

Regretfully, here, whoever who is going to assume a government post, should inevitably pay thousands of dollars to gain the job. Even those who nominate themselves for the parliament or any other post, spend an enormous amount of money to obtain a seat in the House. As a result of this, the

victor as an incumbent expects to gain profits from his post, which obviously cannot be fulfilled except through bribery, embezzlement and graft.

Build Confidence by Overseeing the Aid-Spending

Sorosh-e-Mellat Daily, Volume No 401, July 01, 2010

The government of Afghanistan says most of the foreign aids coming to the country are squandered by the foreign NGOs. Though late, these claims are a fact that can never be condoned. But, since the foreign NGOs work under some surveillance of the government and carry out their development projects by approval of the relevant ministries, it is possible to increase controls over the organizations in order to curtail the corruption in foreign NGOs. By intense supervision on foreign NGOs, the government can block the ways of squandering the aids by through means and strengthen transparency of the projects by persistent attentiveness and deliberations on the spending of the aids.

The government of Afghanistan has always urged the donor countries to deliver their donations through institutions of the Afghan government, but the international community has spent most of the aids by their own NGOs and private firms. Although it is difficult to specify a clear reason for this, but possibly one can say that the foreigners are not honest in this regard. They inject their assistances to the foreign firms and NGOs aiming to draw back the aid cash back to their own countries.

US Aid for Afghanistan Suspended

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 375, July 03, 2010, Editorial

The US Congress representatives, discussing on the annual budget bill for next financial year, have decided to suspend delivery of US \$4 billions to Afghanistan until to be assured of Afghan government efficient measures on fighting corruption.

Nita Lowey, head of the subcommittee for US unimilitary aid programs, said the decision was made after reports that some high-ranking officials in Kabul are impeding the efforts on fighting the big cases of corruption within government of Afghanistan.

No Explanations whether who are Embezzlers of Foreign Aids

Bakhtar Daily, Volume No 269, July 04, 2010, Page 3

The spokesman of Da Afghanistan Bank Emal Hashoor said transferring money to abroad in nature is not an illegal activity, pointing that there is system of free market in Afghanistan and billions of dollars are invested in the country.

Mr Hashoor added that the cash which is to be transferred to abroad should have clear legal and financial backgrounds such as where it has come from; where is it going; who is transferring it and for what purpose is it being transferred. If the source of the money and its background is clear, transferring it to abroad

would be considered a legal activity, Hashoor said.

According to the two draft laws on fighting terrorism and cleansing the capitals by the Da Afghanistan Bank, whoever who transfers more than US \$1 million is required to fill a form at the airport, explaining the resource and destination of the money, the spokesman of Da Afghanistan Bank said.

Regarding to the US 4\$ billion reportedly transferred to abroad through Kabul Airport, Hashoor said there are different statements in the forms filed at the airport, adding that some of the transferred cash packages remains suspicious while some others are transferred legally by proving clear backgrounds.

He added that those whose money transference remains still suspicious are delivered to the prosecutor's office of Afghanistan to find out about destination, reason of the transference and source of the cash packages heading out of the country.

Foreign Aids Getting out by Foreigners

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1138, July 05, 2010, Page 4

Foreign military and non-military personnel in the country are paid many times more than an Afghan skilled individual. Huge amount of foreign donations are getting out of the country by name of salaries or other terms, which regretfully, have been considered as a sort of corruption yet. In this regard, only the government of Afghanistan has shown disapproval to such expenses, calling it proof of involving foreigners in corruption. But neither the government of Afghanistan nor the foreign countries involved in the country has done enough for eliminating all sorts of corruption.

Karzai Ask Petraeus to Report the Contracts with Private Firms

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1469, July 05, 2010, Page 1

At a meeting with General David Petraeus, President Karzai stressed on fighting corruption, asking the new NATO commander to report to the government of Afghanistan the circumstances of foreign contracts with the private firms and the cases of billions of dollars cash transferred to abroad through Kabul airport.

In the meeting at presidential palace in Kabul, Karzai rejected the allegations made by a US congressman on involvement of Afghan Government in corruption, calling it as baseless.

General David Petraeus, the new commander of US-led coalition forces in Afghanistan, reaffirmed his commitment on transparency of big contracts, assuring the President that he would fully oversee the contracts.

British Soldier Acquitted of Bribery Charge

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1469, July 05, 2010, Page 1

An appeal court in Kabul abolished the two-year prison

sentence for the former British serviceman William Shaw, who were was convicted on April for paying bribe to an Afghan officer. According to the judiciary panel of the appeal court, there were not sufficient evidences against William Shaw.

The former British serviceman William Shaw worked for a private security firm providing guards for the foreign embassies in Kabul.

Mahwand Limar the judge of the appeal court issued an 8-months prison sentence for the co-associate of William Shaw, charged for receiving 25 thousand dollars.

Supplies Contracts with Foreign firms to be Reviewed

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1470, July 06, 2010, Page 1

At a cabinet meeting yesterday the government discussed on the allegations of corruptions against the government by some international publications. The meeting reached agreement that the contracts given to international and domestic firms or NGOs by the foreign militaries are the biggest cases of corruption in Afghanistan.

Expressing concerns on such contracts, the council of ministers decided to review the contracts including the Military Technical Agreements (MTA) based on the transparency and the needs and specific conditions of the country.

The meeting also agreed that all of the logistic contracts between foreign agencies particularly the militaries and the private firms or individuals must met all norms of transparency and legitimacy.

The council of ministers directed ministry of finance to study and review the mentioned contracts particularly the contracts regarding to foreign forces and prepare a modification proposal in coordination with the relevant parties.

MoE to Launch a System of Accountability and Transparency

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1470, July 06, 2010, Page 2

Ministry of Education (MoE) is to sign an agreement with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) on establishing a new system of transparency and accountability, stepping up efforts on fighting corruption in the ministry and the educational system of the country.

The officials of the MoE say the contract is worth 25 millions Afghanis for next three years.

According to the officials, the system will focus on bringing about a specific administration to record the complaints regarding to the ministry and the educational system and to investigate, detect and prosecute the departments which are more subjected to corruption. The system also aims to seek practical solutions for fighting corruption in the ministry and the entire educational system in the country.

A Glimpse on Expenses of a Prominent Ex-minister

Bakhtar Daily, Volume No 271, July 06, 2010, Page 3

Mohammad Hanif Atmar, the former minister of interior affairs had reputation of having a team of high-paid advisors accompanying him at every event. The reputable former interior minister had 130 personal guards, 42 cooking personnel, 18 advisors, and two extravagant guest houses, all funded by public budget belonging to the government.

Based on evidences Bakhtar has found, in one month a sum of 200 millions Afghanis is signed by the minister as the operative budget. Allegedly, allocated for the urgent security needs, the procedure of operative budgets is not conducted by the regular financial regulations.

According to an official in the ministry, who wanted not to be named, the suspicious cashes which are taken out in big packs by extraordinary orders are much questionable to all. The operative budget is not confined to Mr. Atmar, but it is a regular trend in the ministry, highlighting the need of more investigations.

National Revenues being Squandered Due to Corruption

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1472, July 08, 2010, Page 1

The spokesman of finance ministry Aziz Shams said the revenue collection in the country is increasing but still a major part of the national income are being wasted because of the widespread corruption.

He said the process of collecting revenues in this year was better than the past, adding that reforms are applied on up to 98 percent of the customs and other national sources of income. According to Shams the official reforms has had crucial role in increasing the national incomes.

As the rate of national incomes are increasing each year, some experts claim that the annual income must be much more than what is announced by the government, believing that a major portion of the revenues are squandered due to insecurity and the prevalent corruption in the country.

Afghanistan Needs \$50 million to Fight Corruption

Afghanistan Daily, Volume No 1141, July 08, 2010, Page 1

The High Office for Oversight and Anti-Corruption (HOOAC) said the office would be able to curtail corruption in the country if its proposal gains support of the world donors in Kabul Conference, to be held on July 20 in Kabul. According to the officials, the HOOAC has developed a mechanism by which all ministries are required to present their programs for fighting corruption to the international community in the Kabul Conference.

Qasim Loodin the deputy chief of the HOOAC said the office intends to begin intensive fight against corruption in the Capital Kabul and the provinces. The High Office for Oversight and Anti-corruption needs some 40 up to 50 million dollars in first three years in order to intensify fighting corruption in Kabul and other provinces, he said.

Mr. Loodin added that in addition to reforms on domestic agencies the international organizations also should have a transparent mechanism for using the international aids more efficiently.

He urged the international donors to draw up a supervisory mechanism, overseeing comprehensively the contracts of foreign firms and spending the aid budgets wisely. "We call on the international community to avoid the embezzlements," Loodin said.

Afghans Pay \$1bn in Bribes

Rah-e-Najat Daily, Volume No 1473, July 10, 2010, Page 2

Integrity Watch Afghanistan (IWA), releasing a report on corruption in Afghanistan, said that about one billion dollars are paid in bribes by Afghans during last year. According to the report, from every seven Afghan adults, one has experienced paying bribe for attaining public services. The report said that the people see the judicial system and police as the most corrupt institutions.

The IWA, a non-governmental organization, suggests increasing focus on fighting corruption in judicial system by closer government surveillance, contribution of the civil society and the people in judicial affairs and severe punishments for perpetrators.

The report highlights need of more transparency in financial transactions and building up supervisory institutions, stressing that awareness among the people and access to information is key to success in fighting corruption.

Another recommendation of the IWA report is that assets of the high-ranking officials and other government employees, particularly the incumbents in the departments which are more subjected to corruption, should be monitored routinely.

Local Councils, Unofficial Institutions Parallel to the Government

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 381, July 10, 2010, Page 5

According to the members of the so-called local Shuras, or councils, due to widespread corruption in the government agencies and the exhausting process of considering disputes among the locals, the people take such disputes to the local Shuras. Some members of the councils say many often the local courts refers local disputes to the local councils. They say that in most cases the councils deals with the local conflicts faster and more efficiently than the government institutions.

Hajji Mohammad Musa Khan, a member of local council in

<http://www.watchafghanistan.org>

Paghman of Kabul Province says in the government offices there are only bureaucracy not law and regulations.

“Corruption, bribery, and anarchy is prevalent everywhere which the people can’t stand them, finally turning to the local elders,” he added.

Despite the presence of government institutions in all districts of the country, more often the local Shuras deal with the legal disputes. According to a member of Paghman’s local council, they consider within one week a case which the government is not able to deal with in a year.

The Pervasive Corruption and Inefficiency of the Government

8 Subh Daily, Volume No 382, July 11, 2010, Page 4
By Akbar Kooshan

The wrong policies of the government particularly President Karzai’s has helped that corruption infiltrate to the structures of the government agencies, consequently resulting to growing corruption in the cultural and social aspects of the Afghan society. For instance, silence of the government and the president against the financial mafia and the circles which devours public wealth has increased corruption in the government and among different layers of the society. Due to such incapability, Afghanistan lost many opportunities during past nine years, now facing wide accusations from the research organizations and the world donors. Apparently, the claims against Afghan government do not seem to be all baseless.

A Magistrate of Ghor Province Detained for Receiving Bribes

Bakhtar Daily, Volume No 274, July 11, 2010, Page 1

The executive chief and head of the security directorate of Ghor province fazlulhaq Najat said that Abdulrahman walizai, a member of the tribunal court in the province, was arrested red hand while receiving AFs 100,000 as bribe.

He added that the magistrate had asked the bribe from Muhammad karim, an employee of the telecommunication directorate in the province, promising him to settle a dispute in his favor.

Articles & Interviews

Justice and Peace

Mr. Jawad Sultani, a university lecturer on social sciences

1- What can one say about the relation between justice and peace? Or from the existing ones, what sort of relation between the two ideas can logically be preferred? And ultimately in what circumstances justice and peace might be contradictory to each other?

Exploring the answers for queries on peace particularly for the above questions, the ambiguities of meaning and interpretation of peace and justice appear to be of utmost complexity. Although peace and justice are universally the ideal shared values of humanity, but in terms of meaning and interpretation, they are tangled in many ambiguities. In other word, the ideas of justice and peace are the most central moral virtues and of the highest qualities in all attitudes, but the interpretations they have, sometimes are presenting different and even contradictory meanings. For instance, in philosophical theories particularly in political philosophy justice is a sacred virtue. But efforts for developing the precise meaning of the concept have given rise to different philosophical theories.

The same status is applicable to peace. What does peace mean? And how is it possible to define and interpret peace and justice which could be conjoined to each other at the most. Despite the diversities in understandings and the interpretations of justice and peace both concepts are central to human moral virtues. In fact, there is no moral system in the universe in which peace and justices are not considered as virtues and human ideals. Furthermore, the theology also considers justice and peace as the unwavering pillars of religious moral system.

The next issue on the relations of justice and peace is that in case of any contradictions between the two ideas, is justice prior to peace? Or peace should be preferred prior to justice? It appears that the answer is quite clear. Because disregarding the disputes on meaning and explanation of justice in history of mankind, there has been a consensus that justice is the first and utmost value for the human beings. Therefore, ignoring justice,

in pretext of establishing peace, cannot be justified. Even if establishing peace requires abandoning justice, according to the various religious, philosophical and functional viewpoints, justice as the prior virtue cannot be sacrificed.

Beyond the above arguments, here is another question: Is peace principally feasible without justice? In other words, the main issue on relations between peace and justice is not the preference of one on the other and neither is the contradictions between them; but it is the possibility of peace without justice. This question can be answered in two following ways.

First, supposedly justice is the first value for mankind and no peace is feasible without justice. This can be explained through the arrangement and framework of peace-making in a society. According to this perspective, criterion such as public opinion or public will, the codified laws, the accepted norms and credible values should be considered as the basis for peace and reconciliation. Public opinions and codified laws of a society determine that peace without justice is equivalent to sacrificing all moral virtues including peace.

Second, historical experiences: Looking into history, we rarely find that a society that have overcome political and social conflicts without justice. By contrast, the best ways of reducing political conflicts and ending wars is referring to justice. In many cases, injustice, war, political and social conflicts are somehow related to each other. Injustice, discrimination and oppression are the main origin of wars. Therefore, ending war and political conflicts in the societies and attaining sustainable peace is only feasible through administering justice.

2- With these brief overview, we can now present a general prospect of peace in Afghanistan. , First, the reconciliation process cannot ignore public opinions, laws and the principles of the society. In fact it cannot be imposed on the people without their consent. Here, the question is what is the potential and ability of Afghan society to pay for peace? And what is the cost of peace?

There are some speculations that compromises on the constitution of the country may be one of the costs needed for peace. What highlights these speculations, are the political ideology of Taliban insurgents and their views on politics and power.

The post-Taliban Afghanistan, have not witnessed fundamental changes particularly regarding economic programs and

For instance, the Taliban are obviously responsible for various massacres in the north, central Afghanistan and other parts of the country. They must be accountable for beheading, torturing and killing thousands of citizens of Afghanistan as well as demolishing and plundering the cultural heritages of the country.

institution-building there is not much progress. But despite all these, some achievements of Afghans in past nine years such as civil freedoms, the growth of mass media, and reactivation of schools and universities etc. cannot be ignored. Is it imaginable for a society to condone compromises with an inhuman ideological faction on civil rights of the people, rights to education and social and political activities of women? Moreover, the reconciliations would have its cultural consequences. As the government is determined for reconciliations with Taliban, are the cultural and civil impacts of the reconciliations evaluated on the future of the society?

Past experiences of Afghanistan have shown that disregard of justice is tantamount to collapse of humanity and moral virtues in the society. Therefore, implementation of the so-called national reconciliation needs its arrangements and pre-conditions, without which speaking of reconciliation would not possess any reasonable and convincing meanings.

For instance, the Taliban are obviously responsible for various massacres in the north, central Afghanistan and other parts of the country. They must be accountable for beheading, torturing and killing thousands of citizens of Afghanistan as well as demolishing and plundering the cultural heritages of the country. How is it possible for the people of Afghanistan to accept the unconditional peace negotiations with the insurgents without dealing the horrible atrocities committed by the group? The answer for such a peace would be obviously negative, because peace without justice is not attainable. It is only dealing with the surface of the issue. Such a fragile peace for today would be an arrangement for the conflicts of tomorrow.

New publications

The Afghan Peace Jirga: Is An End in Sight?

Institute of South Asian Studies / July 5, 2010

The recently held peace jirga in Kabul have once again raised hopes among the Afghans and international community of finding peace through 'other means'. The continuing military stalemate and talks of exit have emboldened the Taliban who perceive the tide to be in their favour. In such a scenario, are the peace gestures by the Afghan government a way forward? Will such peace initiatives lead to durable peace in Afghanistan? Will the recently concluded peace jirga provide a consensual framework of negotiations for the Afghans and international community?

http://www.humansecuritygateway.com/documents/ISAS_AfghanPeaceJirga_EndInSight.pdf

United Nations Could Hasten Removal of Taliban Leaders From Terror Blacklist

New York Times / By ROD NORDLAND / June 12, 2010

The United Nations is speeding up efforts that could lead to the removal of Taliban leaders from an international terrorist blacklist, the top United Nations official here said Saturday.

At a news conference, the official, Staffan de Mistura, the secretary general's special representative to Afghanistan, said the United Nations was responding to the call of Afghanistan's recent consultative peace gathering, called a jirga, to de-list Taliban figures.

http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/13/world/asia/13afghan.html?_r=1

Karzai to push for removing up to 50 ex-Taliban officials from U.N. blacklist

Washington Post / by Colum Lynch and Joshua Partlow / July 12, 2010

Afghan President Hamid Karzai plans to seek the removal of up to 50 former Taliban officials from a U.N. terrorism blacklist -- more than a quarter of those on the list -- in a gesture intended to advance political reconciliation talks with insurgents, according to a senior Afghan official.

http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/07/11/AR2010071103505.html?wprss=rss_world/asia

Afghanistan: Talks Shouldn't Ignore Taliban Abuse of Women

Human Rights Watch (HRW) / July 13, 2010

Ongoing Taliban attacks on women in Afghanistan show why women's rights should be a priority in any political agreement with insurgent forces, Human Rights Watch said in a report released today. The Afghan government and its international supporters have ignored the need to protect women in programs to reintegrate insurgent fighters and have not guaranteed that women's rights will be included in potential talks with the Taliban, Human Rights Watch said.

<http://www.hrw.org/node/91554>

The "Ten-Dollar Talib" and Women's Rights

Human Rights Watch / July 13, 2010

This 65-page report addresses the potential challenges to women's rights posed by future government agreements with insurgent forces. The report describes how in areas under Taliban control, women are often subjected to threats, intimidation and violence, girls' education is targeted, and women political leaders and activists are attacked and killed with impunity.

<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/afghanistan0710webwcover.pdf>

Afghans Paid \$1 Billion in Bribes Last Year, Survey Says

CNSNEWS / by Edwin Mora / July 13, 2010

Afghans paid \$1 billion in bribes last year, the highest amounts of which were paid for social services such as health and education, according to the National Corruption Survey 2010 compiled by the non-profit watchdog group Integrity Watch Afghanistan [IWA]. The \$1 billion figure paid in bribes during 2009 more than doubled the \$466 million paid in 2006. IWA revealed, "The Afghan population as a whole paid twice as much [in bribes] in 2009 as it had paid in 2006."

<http://www.cnsnews.com/news/article/69298>

Opinion: Justice is missing from Afghanistan

Global Post / By Norah Niland / July 13, 2010

President Barack Obama describes the departure of Gen. Stanley McChrystal from the command of U.S. and coalition troops in Afghanistan as a change in personnel, not policy. But Gen. David Petraeus is unlikely to succeed if Afghan policy stays the same and persists in ignoring the ramifications of a long list of injustices that continue to pile up in Afghanistan.

Afghans have little confidence that they will ever obtain justice under the current regime in Kabul. The absence of justice is a key driver of instability that is largely ignored by the major players. However, the justice deficit is well understood and exploited by the Taliban. A growing surge of disillusionment with the Karzai regime, and its international backers, can be traced to a long list of injustices that are systemic as well as systematic.

Link: <http://www.globalpost.com/dispatch/worldview/100708/un-afghanistan-kandahar-nato-war-mcchrystal-petraeus>

People suspected of al Qaeda, Taliban links can appeal U.N. blacklist

CNN / By Mick B. Krever / July, 15 2010

The avenue of appeal is now open for people who believe they are unfairly on a U.N. Security Council blacklist of individuals with suspected connections to al Qaeda or the Taliban.

A United Nations official, who will review requests to get off the list, appeared before reporters in New York Thursday, for the first time since being appointed last month. Kimberly Prost has the title of "ombudsperson" for the highly sensitive position with the controversial list, which was established in 1999.

Link: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/meast/07/15/un.security.council.blacklist/?fbid=aTQZkqoO2GF#fbid=v4h79dvTITm>

Media Analyst: Ahmad Zia Mohammadi
Translated by: Abdul Ahad Bahrami
English Editor: Mechthild Exo
Designed by: Ahmad Zia Mohammadi
Reporter: Razia Azimi

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ABOUT AFGHANISTAN WATCH

The Afghanistan Watch is an independent, non-governmental and non-political organization registered with the Ministry of National Economy of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. It envisions a democratic, peaceful, tolerant and just society in which all citizens have equal opportunities to realize their human potentials.

Its mission is to undertake activities that will promote peace, justice, and a culture of mutual tolerance and respect for human rights in Afghanistan. As its core values the organization is strongly committed to democracy, justice, human rights, sustainable and balanced social and economic development of the country and impartiality, independence and professionalism as guiding principles of its activities.

*For more information and to order publications, contact Afghanistan Watch at:
First house on the left hand, Omer Jan Kandahri Masque Street, Char Rahi Poli Sorkh, Kabul, Afghanistan.*

Tel: +93 (0)799 21 55 77, 799 30 14 34

Website: www.watchafghanistan.org

E-mail: publication@watchafghanistan.org