



## Twenty Third Note

This volume of Haqiqat No 23, contains important news from Afghan print media that were released during past two weeks. It includes 27 news about the process of vote counting by IEC and investigation of reports and complaints of fraud by Election Complaints Commission (ECC). There are 29 news, about the process of negotiation with the Taliban and anti-government forces and 8 news about corruption. Unfortunately, the question of transitional justice was not debated in the Afghan media during this period.

**Election Transparency:** The news published in Afghan print media about the election transparency in the country includes: removal of the names of some candidates from the winners list, invalidation of the votes of some polling stations, identification of absentee votes by the IEC, complaints about the

involvement of almost 1 thousand IEC workers in the electoral frauds, the problems raised between the attorney general's office and the authorities in IEC about the process of assessing the electoral complaints, pressure by the President on IEC to bring changes in the list of candidates and finally a recorded audio tape of a government official talking with someone in the IEC which leaked to media.

**Peace and talks with the Taliban:** The Afghan print media have published news about the process of negotiation with the Taliban which include: insistence by Taliban on their preconditions in negotiation with the Afghan government, the anti-government forces join the peace process in different provinces of the country, government's optimism in the development of the peace and negotiation process, the Maldiev peace meeting and rejection of Hezb e Islami's presence in that meeting, rejection of Saudi Arabia to play the role of mediator

between government of Afghanistan and the anti-government forces and the foreign authorities view point on the process of negotiation with the Taliban calling it less effective.

**Corruption:** Afghan government's response to reject the report by Transparency International about corruption in Afghanistan, investigation of alleged corruption and involvement of 8 former ministers, sending the corruption case of Mohammad Amin Farhang to the court and some other analysis about corruption in the Afghanistan are the news published in Afghan print media about corruption and included in this issue.

In the articles and interview section Ms. Sara Sorkhabi's interview is published who is a member of Upper House and a member of High Council of Peace. In this interview Ms. Sorkhabi talks about the activities of the High Council of Peace and the process of negotiation with the Taliban.

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## The Anti-government forces are our beloved ones

▶ **Taliban are our brothers. We are ready to reach an agreement with our Afghan brothers. Why should I have worries? Can one have fear from his brothers? Page 16**



## Inside This Issue

Negotiation with armed Anti-Government Groups	Elections Transparency
To support the High Peace Council UNAMA formed the Salaam Support Group	Election Complaints Commission: Removal of two elections winners and invalidation of 152 polling stations
3	8
Taliban's emphasis on their preconditions, a challenge for peace process	9 major complaints registered against the IEC personnel
3	8
A group of insurgents joined the government	A special committee formed to handle the objections of electoral nominees
3	8
Why Afghanistan still remains as the second most corrupt country in the world?	Rafat: Some invalid votes will be recounted
3	9
20 armed rebels joined the peace process	Almost one thousand IEC's temporary workers are allegedly involved in fraud
4	9
Are Taliban to be trusted?	The Office of Attorney General and IEC are in conflict
4	9
President informed of developments in the negotiation process	IEC has found suspicious votes
4	9
Peace efforts in Paktika carried out in collaboration with a new council	Efforts to remove some of the victorious nominees
4	9
Peace efforts and mounting challenges	The Authorities in IEC rejected the Attorney General's demand
4	9
Hekmatyar's Hezb e Islami rejected their participation in the Maldives meeting	The FEFA Head: Some of the activities of IEC were hidden from observers
4	9
With two preconditions, the USA supports the political process with rebels	ECC is not under the influence of the president
4	10
The Maldives meeting was unsuccessful	National Unity Council: We are concerned about attorney general's intervention
5	10
Wahid Omar: The Government is ready for talks	Some government authorities try to pressurize
5	10
95 Taliban joined the peace process	Qanooni: The intervention of Attorney General is a matter of serious concern
5	10
The myth of reconciliation; and political and military uncertainty	The process of assessing the audio tape showing intervention in the elections has begun
5	10
High Peace Council: The independent anti-government forces are to compromise	Why candidates protest?
5	10
UN supports the peace process in Afghanistan	Losers call for reelection
6	11
Support for High Peace council in Kunduz	A failed candidate blocked the high way
6	11
13 armed insurgents joined peace process in Faryab province	Two more winning candidates are eliminated
6	11
Germany's cash support for reconciliation program	Some MPs: Elections was not transparent
6	11
No true Taliban leader present in the High Peace Council	The invalidation of votes will affect the final result
6	11
The continuation of pressure on the Taliban, the best way to reach peace	Candidates Federation: parliamentarian elections is illegitimate
6	11
The insurgents willing to solve the problems	Parliamentary elections and crisis of legitimacy
6	12
USA holds no secret talks with the Taliban	Electoral Institutions: We take no decisions based on political expediency
7	12
Removal of Taliban names from Blacklist and release of some prisoners	Where are our votes?
7	12
Taliban takes no interest in Talks with government	IEC: Re-election is not possible
7	12
	Re-counting of votes from 105 polling stations begun in Ghor province
	12
	FEFA criticizes ECC
	13
	Corruption
	Report by Transparency International not real
	14
	Officials involved in corruption will soon be brought to the court
	14
	Fight against corruption not real
	14
	Amin Farhang to be prosecuted for alleged corruption claims
	14
	Afghanistan continues to be trapped in the net of corruption
	15
	Afghanistan becomes second most corrupt country
	15
	Is Afghanistan not the second most corrupt country in the world?
	15
	Corruption is in the political and financial favor of government
	15
	Articles & Interviews
	The Anti-government forces are our beloved ones
	16
	Transitional Justice and Documentation Training
	18
	New Publications
	20

# Negotiation with Armed Anti-Government Groups

## To support the High Peace Council UNAMA formed the Salaam Support Group

*Rah e Nejat Daily, No 1560, Page 1, 1 Nov 2010*

UNAMA has formed a special group of experts named Salaam Support Group. This group is formed to provide every kind of support for the High Peace Council. In its meeting with High Peace Council delegation on Sep 30, UNAMA promised to form this group.

“We commended the establishment of the High Peace Council and indicated the United Nations availability, on behalf of the international community, to support the Council technically in their future work and activities.” said the communiqué released by UNAMA

During the meeting UNAMA also expressed its willingness to provide logistical support for the activities of High Peace Council.



## Taliban's emphasis on their preconditions, a challenge for peace process

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1560, Page 2, 1 Nov 2010*

Recently Taliban put forth their conditions for participating in the peace process. In addition to the withdrawal of foreign troops they have also asked the names of their leaders be removed from UN's blacklist and some of their prisoners, also, to be released.

The current pre-conditions set by the Taliban nullify the claims of foreign troops that the Taliban are under pressure and ready to join the peace process. In fact, Taliban feels no pressure and seem more confident and powerful sticking to their demands.

Wahid Mozhdha, the political expert says that those Taliban prisoners who are released recently by the Afghan government, to show their good-will, were not actually Taliban leaders. They were imprisoned by foreign forces and kept to be used for this day.

He believes that Taliban firmly emphasizes on the withdrawal of foreign troops and will not accept their presence.

## A group of insurgents joined the government

*Afghanistan daily, No 1235, Page 8, 1 Nov 2010*

A group of insurgents in Baghlan province handed over their weapons to the government and joined the peace process. The group includes eight people. Abdul Rahman Rahimi, the security chief of the province said that the group was led by Jumauddin known as commander Kandak in the Umar Khail area who

joined the government.

Commander Jumauddin said, “I am tired of fighting and I handed over my weapons to serve my people and the government.”

He demanded the government to provide employment opportunities for him and his men.

Rahimi added that the government will use all its resources to support those who join the peace process. He said that these people can join the Arbaki group (local militia) if they will to.

## Why Afghanistan still remains as the second most corrupt country in the world?

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1235, Page 5, 1 Nov 2010*

The ongoing debate of negotiation with the Taliban has marginalized the issue of corruption these days that has badly affected the current governmental institutions. The President also emphasized many times for the eradication of corruption and said that those who are caught will be dealt seriously.

With no doubt as long as corruption exists in the state institutions the process of peace talks will have serious challenges too. An important reason behind the public support for the Taliban is the state corruption and people in remote areas go the Taliban court for their cases to be solved. If the government institutions are cleaned from corruption then the government will gain the public support and the public confidence which will forge the momentum of peace talks.

## 20 armed rebels joined the peace process

*Afghanistan daily, No 1240, Page 8, 7 Nov 2010*

A group of 20 armed insurgents joined the peace process in Herat province.

Dr. Dawood Sabah the governor of Herat says that this group, led by Mollah Bashir Ahmad known as Mollah Mishr who was fighting against the government, joined the peace process.

They say that the reason behind their fight against the government is said to be the propagandas published by the Taliban.

The Herat governor estimates the number of insurgents in this province to be around 500 people and efforts are underway to bring these people to peace.

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## Are Taliban to be trusted?

*8am daily, No 1008, Page 4, 7 Nov 2010*

*Writer: Ehsanullah Dawlat Moradi*

Some experts believe that the Taliban leader is worried about the influence of government's efforts to bring peace on the low ranking Taliban fighters. Therefore he issues warnings.

These experts believe that the efforts for bringing peace might have caused disagreement in the leadership of Taliban. This has caused Mollah Omar to worry about the depth of the issue. This situation has caused the Taliban leader to issue this warning so that his men never think of peace and negotiation.

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## President informed of developments in the negotiation process

*Cheragh daily, No 1680, Page 1, 8 Nov 2010*

The press office of the President informed of developments in the process of negotiation with the Taliban.

Mr. Karzai made the statements during his meeting with José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, the President of Spain on Nov 7.

In this meeting the Afghan President emphasized on the role of neighboring countries in the peace process and called their role important.

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## Peace efforts in Paktika carried out in collaboration with a new council

*Afghanistan daily, No 1241, Page 8, 8 Nov 2010*

Mohibullah Samim, the Paktika governor in a news conference said that a council is formed to help the process of peace as a result of tribal elders and authorities efforts.

He added that in the Paktika province a council of 20 people is formed. The procedure sent by the Secretariat of High Council for Peace to all provinces will be followed to bring an end to the roots of the problems.

## Peace efforts and mounting challenges

*Afghanistan daily, No 1242, Page 4, 9 Nov 2010*

*Writer: Mohammad Amin Mirzad*

Mr. Karzai believes that Taliban join the peace process because they are paid money. This is one of the reasons he believes. For almost two decades this program continues in Afghanistan. For the first time this plan was proposed at the time of Najibullah under the title of National Reconciliation. At that time thousands of Mujahedin laid down their weapons and received money and then returned back to their previous positions. It was one of the least successful processes that broke down the Najib regime and did not bring any political or military achievements.

The Commission for strengthening peace led by Mr. Mojaddadi also brought thousands of Taliban to join the government of Mr. Karzai but after they received money and logistical support again joined the Taliban which was a kind financial source for the group. Considering this issue, they are repeating the same procedure which caused Najibullah a great price to pay.

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## Hekmatyar's Hezb e Islami rejected their participation in the Maldives meeting

*Afghanistan daily, No 1242, 9 Nov 2010*

Hezb e Islami, led by Hekmatyar rejected its participation in the Maldives meeting and called it a personal amusement party.

Some media reported that a peace conference with the participation of 47 people, chaired by Humayun Jarir Hekmatyar's son-in-law was held in Maldives. In this meeting important figures of the Haqqani group, the Taliban Quetta Council, some members of the Lower House, Government members and representatives of other political parties had participated.

One of the participants of the previous Maldives meetings in the condition of anonymity says that in the last meeting the members of Afghan government, Taliban and Hezb-e Islami were invited. However he said he was not aware of their names.

But Qarib-ur-Rahman Saeed the Hezb e Islami representative in Europe, on Nov 7 said that there was no representative of Hezb e Islami in this meeting and this meeting cannot represent Hezb e Islami at all. He said that Hezb e Islami emphasizes on its 15-point plan for peace proposed in the spring of this year.

The previous participants of the meeting also say that the meetings were not useful to bring peace in Afghanistan and no official representatives of any group were present in those meetings. In the mean-time, Mawlawi Qiyamuddin Kishaf, the spokesperson for the peace council also expressed his ignorance about the Maldives meeting.

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## With two preconditions, the USA supports the political process with rebels

*8am daily, No 1010, Page 2, 9 Nov 2010*

Barrack Obama, the US President says that his country will

accept the political solution with those Taliban who renounce ties with Al-Qaida and accept the Afghan constitution. "They should put aside violence, respect the Afghanistan Constitution (that also includes equal rights for women), and thus we will support the political solution for this differences" says Obama.

It is to mention that Mr. Obama said these lines during his 10 days visit from Asia in India.

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## The Maldives meeting was unsuccessful

*Daily 8 am, No 1010, Page 2, November 9, 2010*

Humayon Jarir, Hikmatyar's son-in-law hold a meeting in Maldives to bring peace in Afghanistan some days before. However, the spokesperson for the President says that the meetings held in the recreational parks of foreign countries will have no result and the government of Afghanistan did not participate in that meeting.

The president's spokesman considers the role of Pakistan of high importance in bringing peace in Afghanistan and in the mean-time emphasizes that Pakistan does nothing to bring stability in the region.

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**Wahid Omar:**

## The Government is ready for talks

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1242, 9 Nov 2010*

President's Spokesperson, Wahid Omar in a news conference said that the Afghan government is ready to talk with armed opposition groups.

He added that renouncing ties with Al Qaida, accepting the Afghanistan constitution and proposing demands through political channels are the conditions the government of Afghanistan has put forth for the opposition groups. According to the presidential spokesperson, the government of Afghanistan can negotiate when the opposition is ready for talks.

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## 95 Taliban joined the peace process

*Afghanistan daily, No 1243, Page8, November 10, 2010*

95 armed insurgents and angry men from Badghis province joined the process of peace on Nov 9, 2010. A source from the National Security told that they were operating against the government in the Qadas district, Shewa village against the government.

The source added that they were a total of 50 people under the command of Mullah Abdulzahir and with the mediation of local elders and the operation by national security personnel, they joined the process of peace.

Earlier another armed group of 15 Taliban members also joined the peace process under the command of Mollah Akhtar in the Andar area of Moqor district in Badghis province.

A survey conducted by Asia Foundation shows that 83 percent of Afghans support the process of peace with the Taliban.

## The myth of reconciliation; and political and military uncertainty

*Daily 8 am, Issue 1011, second page, November 10, 2010*

*Writer: Shaker Mehryar*

No one believes yet the negotiation with the Taliban will have any achievements. Taliban did not cut off their relations with the Al-Qaida and still emphasize on their pre-conditions. The Haqqani network in Pakistan is busy recruiting men against the Afghan government and their allies. Hezb e Islami of Hekmatyar is also present in Pakistan and continues their attacks on Afghanistan. Likewise, the Quetta council also live comfortably in this area and continue their attacks against Afghan government. Obama, during his three days visit from India and Pakistan, criticized Pakistan for not being serious in their fight against terror. Wahid Omar, spokesperson for the president of Afghanistan says that Pakistan is not cooperating in bringing peace in the region and the Saudi Arabia also rejects being a mediator between Afghanistan and the Taliban.

The only thing debated in the political arena is the peace negotiation with the Taliban which has remained with no practical outcome. In the politics of the country it is the most ambiguous and unclear issue.

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**High Peace Council:**

## The independent anti-government forces are to compromise

*Afghanistan daily, No 1245, Page 1, 13 Nov 2010*

The High Council for Peace says that it is easy to negotiate and approach those opposition forces that are less dependent on foreign countries. Currently the Taliban, the Hezb e Islami and the Haqqani network are the evident groups fighting the Afghanistan government and the foreign troops.

Mohammad Amin Mozaffari a member of High Council for Peace and the secretary of this council says that the Islamic Party can be easily brought to negotiation table because their foreign affiliations is lesser than the Taliban and the Haqqani network that needs more efforts.

According to Mr. Mozaffari the opposition groups pursue their particular ideologies and goals specific to the party they belong and amongst which the Hezb e Islami seems more likely to join the peace talks.

Meanwhile, Yusuf Pashtun, the representative from Kandahar in the parliament says that these talks will have no outcome.

According to Mr. Pashtoon, the Afghan government should directly talk with those who are the godfather of this group, in particular, the Pakistan.

Despite the efforts by the government, the Taliban never showed a green signal and the leaders of this group have ordered their subordinates to target the members of peace council too.

## UN supports the peace process in Afghanistan

*Afghanistan daily, No 1230, Page 1, 26 Oct 2010*

The UN Special Envoy to Afghanistan assured of its support for the peace process in Afghanistan. Staffan de Mistura, said that the suicide attack on UNAMA office in Herat province will put no negative impact on the UN's operation in Afghanistan. He has supported the peace process in Afghanistan, and said Afghanistan has the capability to establish peace and security and the United Nations is helping them in this regard.

Mr. Mistura mentioned that the easiest solution to Afghanistan problem is peace talks and stressed that the neighboring countries are also interested in helping to achieve peace in Afghanistan. In the mean-time, Qari Yousef Ahmadi the Taliban spokesman told the media that they attacked UNAMA office in opposition to the extension of NATO forces mission in Afghanistan.

## Support for High Peace council in Kundoz

*8am daily, No 999, Page 2, 27 Oct 2010*

A number of citizens, religious scholars, and tribal elder along with government officials in Kunduz province launched a gathering and declared their support for High Council for Peace.

Although there are concerns about the negotiation with the Taliban, still, this gathering was largely supported. Hamdullah Danishi the governor of Kunduz province in a message called on Taliban to prove if the Afghan government was not acting according to Islamic teachings and assured them that the government asks the Taliban from the address of Afghan people to come to peace talks.

## 13 armed insurgents joined peace process in Faryab province

*8am daily, No 999, Page 2, 27 Oct 2010*

Abdul Haq Shafaq, the governor of Faryab province said that these people are from Ghormach district of Faryab province, fighting in the ranks of insurgents. Now, they have joined the peace process to live a peaceful life.

The governor of Faryab province said that they will be provided with required help and even if they want, they can join the Afghan National Police.

Earlier another group of 12 people had joined the peace process in this province.

## Germany's cash support for reconciliation program

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1557, Page 2, 28 Oct 2010*

*Guido Westerwelle*, German Foreign Minister, on Oct 26 said that his country supports Hamid Karzai's program to bring the militants to normal lives and provide 10 million Euros in this regard.

German foreign minister said that Hazrat Omar Zakhilwal, Afghan Finance Minister and Rodriguez Kovnysh, Germany's ambassador in Kabul, have signed an agreement on Germany's aid to Afghan government.

## No true Taliban leader present in the High Peace Council

*Mandegar daily, No 448, Page 1, 28 Oct 2010*

General Hamidgul, former ISI chief, rejected Holbrook's comment on the agreement with Taliban and called it bogus.

He said that Karzai is hardly trying to show the Americans that he is completely controlling the situation in Afghanistan.

He added that there is no true Taliban leader in the so-called peace council and only those who received money from America in Dubai are part of this council. He stressed that the Taliban leadership will never negotiate with the Americans.

## The continuation of pressure on the Taliban, the best way to reach peace

*8am daily, No 998, Page 4, 26 Oct 2010*

The current atmosphere with lack of trust and wrong policies of current politicians in the power enabled Taliban to use the opportunity, listen to the advice of their godfather-ISI- and maneuver for returning back into Afghanistan. Taliban's marching position gave the privilege to their leaders to say "No" to any peace initiative. Therefore, whenever the Afghan statesmen provide Taliban with the peace proposal they say "No" in return.

Now after the deployment of 30 thousand additional US troops to Afghanistan -to implement Obama's strategy- the direction of war has also changed. The appointment of Gen. Petraeus as the supreme commander of US Forces also exerted military pressures on the Taliban. Now, these pressures have compelled Taliban to change their position and show good feedback to government.

## The insurgents willing to solve the problems

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1555, Page 2, 26 Oct 2010*

Baryalai Helal, spokesman for the Reconciliation and Reintegration Program said that the Taliban fighters of different ranks desire to join the process of peace talks. In an exclusive interview about the progress of this program he said: "It is still early to talk of progress. The peace and reconciliation program is the top priority in Afghanistan. The High Council for Peace and Reconciliation is formed in Afghanistan and the government wants the Council make direct talks with the insurgents to bring them into reconciliation. But, there have been no formal contacts yet."

Helal added: An interest of joining peace process is seen amongst the different levels of the Taliban and the Hezb e

Islami, even their top ranking leaders, local commanders and the fighters also seem enthusiastic.

He then said: "There is a hope that we reach a permanent peace in one to two years."

According to spokesman for reconciliation and reintegration program, the international community also supports this program and has no problem with it.

Taliban. Mr. Holbrooke says that Taliban are not interested much in the talks with the Afghan government. Although, some individual Taliban fighters have contacted the Afghan government but there is no Taliban leader seen amongst them. Therefore, the latest reports about the talks between government and the Taliban is baseless.

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## USA holds no secret talks with the Taliban

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1555, Page 3, 26 Oct 2010*

Richard Holbrooke, United States Special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan rejected the information released by some media about the US secret talks with the Taliban.

Holbrooke emphasized that establishing contacts and direct talks with the Taliban leaders in the framework of peace process and peace talks is the job of Afghan government. He mentioned that many of insurgents including their high ranking leaders are inclined to negotiate.

Holbrooke remarked that the lack of a clear leadership in Taliban has prevented a direct talk with this group therefore formal talks still waiting to take place.

Holbrooke said that military is not the only option to win the war in Afghanistan. He emphasized that the only group that rejected the negotiation is Al-Qaida.

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## Removal of Taliban names from Blacklist and release of some prisoners

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1559, Page 3, 31 Oct 2010*

Bahir, one of the Hezb e Islami leader and son-in-law of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar- the leader of this group declared Taliban's precondition for participating in peace talks in talks with the Daily Telegraph.

Bahir said: "The important point for Taliban is the blacklist and the release of their prisoner." He added: These are the core issues. Also, the withdrawal of foreign troops is another important issue. After that we can sit down to talk about formation of a joint government.

Bahir added that Hezb e Islami has formal contacts with the authorities in the government of Afghanistan but the works are in the primary stages. He added that unless Taliban leader, Mohammad Omar is present in the negotiation there will be no progress. "We cannot ignore the head of a political party", Bahir continued.

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## Taliban takes no interest in Talks with government

*8 Sobh daily, No 1002, Page 1, 31 October 2010*

Richard Holbrooke, the U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan seems less consented with the process of talks with the

# Elections Transparency

## Election Complaints Commission: Removal of two elections winners and invalidation of 152 polling stations

*Sam Daily, No 1005, Page 3, 3 Nov 2010*

Based on the decision of the ECC, Ghulam Qadir Akbar from Herat province and Mahmood Khan Sulaiman Kheil from Paktika province are eliminated from election list, who were involved in electoral fraud and their votes declared invalid.

Ahmad Zia Rafat, a member and the spokesperson of the ECC on Nov 2, told in a news conference: "in the first phase these two nominees are eliminated from electoral list and secondly their cases are sent to the legal institutions to further prosecute the case for the electoral frauds."

Rafat said that based on the complaints received by ECC and our assessments it is proven that the two were involved in electoral frauds in many polling stations. Therefore the ECC declared all their votes invalid.

Rafat said that more than 6 thousand complaints are received to the ECC and almost 2 thousand and 300 complaints are assessed by this organization.

Based on the new assessments of ECC the votes of 152 polling stations from Wardak, Khost, Paktia, Kandahar, Nooristan, Badghis, Nangarhar, Konar, Laghman and Logar provinces are declared invalid. The commission also declared invalid the 50 % votes of 4 polling stations in Golran district of Herat province.

In the mean-time the election commission has declared invalid the votes of 649 polling stations since the parliamentary election was held based on serious electoral frauds.

The authorities in Electoral Complaints Commission say that there have been complaints against government figures and based on legal procedures their cases will be prosecuted too.



the vote counting centers where the IEC personnel were also involved in.

He said that these complaints are raised by some of the nominees. Noor Muhammad Noor, the spokesperson for the IEC said that no one can interfere in the internal affairs of IEC except if they found any criminal record then the IEC will cooperate with attorney general's office or any other organizations.

## A special committee formed to handle the objections of electoral nominees

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1238, Page 1, 4 Nov 2010*

Following two days of demonstration by the parliamentarian nominees, the Independent Election Commission has formed a special committee to deal their demands.

The candidates who failed to enter the parliament including some of the current members of the parliament demands for re-elections.

The Electoral Complaints Commission also accepts fraud in the elections and declared invalid the votes of many polling stations but rejected the idea of re-elections.

Noor Mohammad Noor the spokesperson for the IEC says: "The invalid votes will not be recounted"

ECC also declared that complaints deadline is over and ECC will no more accept any complaints.

## 9 major complaints registered against the IEC personnel

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1563, Page 2, 4 Nov 2010*

Rahmatullah Nazari, the deputy of attorney general office said that 9 major complaints are received against the IEC personnel which will be prosecuted inside the Independent Election Commission.

He added that we will not interfere in the internal affairs of IEC and only assess the complaints of those candidates that have no criminal record.

According to deputy of attorney general many of these complaints are addressed to the frauds and manipulations in

Rafat:

## Some invalid votes will be recounted

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1238, Page 8, 4 Nov 2010*

Ahmadzia Rafat, spokesperson for ECC and a member of this organization says that some of the invalid votes will be recounted.

Rafat added: "The candidates will have the right of appeal and with providing evidence can restore the void votes."

Also Rafat added that after the process of assessment, ECC will provide IEC a complete report on the recounting of invalid votes and their validity will be declared by IEC.

## Almost one thousand IEC's temporary workers are allegedly involved in fraud

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1241, Page 1, 8 Nov 2010*

Noor Mohammad Noor, the spokesperson for IEC says that the temporary IEC workers were introduced from the beginning of election process. Noor added that the votes of the polling center where these people were appointed are declared invalid by IEC.

However, Shah Sultan Akefi a member of ECC says that they have no list regarding this issue yet.

## The Office of Attorney General and IEC are in conflict

*Sam Daily, No 1009, Page 4, 8 Nov 2010*

*Writer: Qudrattulah Jawed*

The Afghanistan attorney general office has given a deadline of 48 hours to IEC to take decision on giving permission to them to assess the complaints.

The deputy of attorney general told the media that if IEC will not give a positive feedback then their high ranking officials will be suspended.

The authorities at IEC say that no governmental institution has the right to interfere in the affairs of IEC according to the law.

Responding to the official letter of attorney general's office, the IEC says that according to article 61 of election law, ECC is responsible for the election complaints.

IEC says that when ECC mentions any criminal case during the election then the attorney general's office is responsible to handle such cases. ECC says that it has already sent 413 cases to this organization.

## IEC has found suspicious votes

*Sam daily, No 1010, Page 1, 9 Nov 2010*

IEC has recently declared that they have found the votes of 511 polling stations. According to media, the IEC spokesperson says that these votes will not be included in the process of counting.

IEC never reported about the ballot boxes being lost during past weeks.

This can strengthen the rumors that IEC is under political pressure and tries to change the direction of election results.

Now the main question is that in whose favor IEC is going to use these votes and who will go to parliament with these votes.

## Efforts to remove some of the victorious nominees

*Sam Daily, No 1010, Page 1, 9 Nov 2010*

A member of IEC in a telephonic call to the media has said that Fazl Ahmad Manavi, the head of IEC is under extreme pressure from presidential palace to remove the names of three winning nominees from final list.

Dr. Mahyuddin Mahdi the election winner from Baghlan province, Ahmad Bezaad from Heart and Latif Pedram from Badakhshan province are the candidates whom the president wants to prevent from getting into parliament.

The source in the condition of anonymity said that it is the only issue that has stopped the final election result to be declared. If this problem is solved then the final result will be announced. Also, he added that in many cabinet meetings Mr. Dawoodzai who is behind this issue has put pressures on IEC.

The source also revealed that Mr. Manavi in his meeting with UN representative in Afghanistan informed about the pressures put forth by government on him and in response received the support of United Nations.

## The Authorities in IEC rejected the Attorney General's demand

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1567, Page 1, 9 Nov 2010*

The authorities in IEC have rejected the demand of attorney general's office to cooperate with ECC in assessing the cases of fraud. The IEC says that attorney can only assess those cases which are related to crime.

Noor Mohammad Noor, the spokesperson for IEC says that some of temporary workers of IEC are introduced to attorney general's office.

## The FEFA Head: Some of the activities of IEC were hidden from observers

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1567, Page 1, 9 Nov 2010*

The Head of Free & Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) accused IEC of acting against the election law of Afghanistan. Jandad Spinghar says that IEC has covertly carried out some operations hiding from observers and candidates representatives.

Talking about 400 candidates who are introduced to Afghanistan's attorney general office Mr. Spinghar said: "ECC can introduce the candidates to attorney general's office after they are found guilty not before that. They have to assess all the complaints against them."

Mr. Spinghar also spoke about FEFA's observatory role on IEC and said that some of the activities of IEC were carried out behind the curtain.

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## ECC is not under the influence of the president

*Afghanistan daily, No 1243, Page 8, 10 Nov 2010*

Ahmadzia Rafat, the member and spokesperson for IEC on Aqrab 18 in a conference in Kabul rejected the rumors that Mr. Karzai is behind the elimination of some of the victorious candidates from final list.

Besides, Mr. Rafat said that there might be some other governmental authorities who are trying to indirectly intervene in the affairs of ECC.

In the mean-time, Wahid Omar, the spokesperson for the president also rejected every kind of intervention by the president in the affairs of ECC.

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## National Unity Council:

### We are concerned about attorney general's intervention

*8am daily, No 1011, Page 2, 10 Nov 2010*

The government's opposition party, the National Unity Council accused the attorney general's office for interfering in the affairs of IEC under an organized plan, to exert pressure on this commission.

The National Unity Council also expressed their concern on replacing the winner candidates with the losers and says that IEC could not win the will of governing team which caused them to be angry on IEC.

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## Some government authorities try to pressurize

*8am Daily, No 1011, Page 2, 10 Nov 2010*

*Writer: Qudrattullah Jawed*

The authorities in Electoral Complaints Commission say that some of governmental figures try to influence on the commission to make the powerful candidates enter the parliament.

Ahmadzia Rafat, the spokesperson for ECC says that the commission is not ready to give privilege to any governmental or non-governmental organization.

Rafat says: "There are some circles inside the government to put influence on the commission".

## Qanooni:

### The intervention of Attorney General is a matter of serious concern

*8am daily, No 1012, Page 3, 11 Nov 2010*

The parliament expressed its concerns on the intervention of attorney general's office in the affairs of IEC, after tensions rose between Attorney General's Office and the IEC.

Mohammad Younus Qanooni, the head of parliament says: the interventions by different organization has made election complex and if it continues there will be major challenges for the country.

The head of parliament says that the position of government and the electoral institutions are a little unclear but the constitution of the country has clearly stated the role of different organizations. Qanooni said when Parliament has no right to intervene in the affairs of IEC then attorney general's office is part of government and they, too, have no right to intervene with IEC.

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## The process of assessing the audio tape showing intervention in the elections has begun

*Cheragh daily, No 212, Page 1, 13 Nov 2010*

The Independent Election Commission has declared that the audio tape which reveals about one of the officials who tried to modify the elections result is to be assessed.

Lately, the media received an audio tape revealing the conversation between a governmental official and an IEC worker to bring changes in the result of elections. The audio tape reveals that the government official asks the IEC worker to make an arrangement so that his favorite persons make their way to parliament and some other winner candidates are banned to enter parliament.

Though the claims are not approved by the officials, Noor Mohammad Noor says that one of the two persons is a low ranking IEC worker. The conversation is in Persian but Heratil dialect.

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## Why candidates protest?

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1562, Page 2, 2 Nov 2010*

On Nov 1 some of the candidates called the previous elections illegitimate and said that so many frauds and manipulations occurred in the elections. They called it "a plot against Afghanistan law and the country's interest".

The IEC has reminded that everyone including the international community and the representatives of candidates supervised the process of elections. They had all rights to register their complaints and they could also report any kind of fraud to Electoral Complaints Commissions so that they are pursued.

In Afghanistan many of the demonstrations are organized not for the sake of people but some personnel or political interests

are behind these demonstrations that are not relevant to the principles of democracy.

In this demonstration those candidates participated who failed to win required votes to enter parliament. If some of the winner candidates also participated in the demonstration then it could have been called relevant to democratic values. Also, there were those people in the demonstration who were involved in the fraud and manipulations in the elections. This way they could reach their personal desires.

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## Losers call for reelection

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1562, Page 2, 2 Nov 2010*

More than hundreds of candidates demanded for reelections. The candidates who were gathered from different areas of Afghanistan called the 18th Sep elections illegitimate.

These people who were gathered in front of United Nations Office demanded the Afghan government, IEC and UN to pursue their complaints. The IEC in response to these demonstrations has said: "There have been manipulations and frauds in the elections as Noor Mohammad Noor the spokesperson for IEC says but it is not to the extent to question the legitimacy of elections."

Noor continued: "the election on September 18th was legitimate as the national and international observers also approved its legitimacy."

We asked the different institutions, the candidates and their observers to make document of any fraud and mishandlings they observe during the elections and submit it Electoral Complaints Commission to be assessed.

Kabir Ranjbar, a member of parliament in a press conference called the elections illegitimate and unlawful and said: these demonstrations will be held at first in Kabul then in other provinces.

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## A failed candidate blocked the high way

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1558, Page 1, 30 Oct 2010*

Padchakhan Zedran, the candidate from Paktiya province temporarily blocked the Gardiz-Khost highway for five days because he could not make his way to parliament.

Padcha Khan Zadran says that he has opened the high-way because the IEC has begun recounting his votes. He warned that if his votes are not recounted then he will block the road again. He claims that he couldn't enter parliament with 12 thousand votes while his rivals received only 3 to 4 thousand votes and now they are in the parliament.

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## Two more winning candidates are eliminated

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1558, Page 2, 30 Oct 2010*

Ahmad zia Rafat, on Oct 28 in a press conference said that

Muhammad Rahim Ayubi who won most of the votes from Sar e Pul province and Hishamuddain from Baghlan are eliminated from the list because they did not resign on-time from their governmental position.

Rafat added that during assessment and based on the complaints the votes from 36 voting centers from Kabul, Khost, Ghor, Zabul, Urozgan, Kundoz and Heart are declared invalid because of serious electoral complaints.

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## Some MPs: Elections was not transparent

*Sam Daily, No 1001, Page 2, 30 Oct 2010*

Some of the MPs in the parliament, who were candidates for the second round too, say that IEC did not observe transparency in the elections. On Oct 28, almost 30 MPs in the national parliament accused IEC of frauds in counting the votes.

Engineer Abbas Noyan, one of the MPs participated in the demonstration says that IEC did not observe transparency in counting the votes and are indulged in frauds. He added that IEC declared the secure areas insecure and shifted the polling centers to far away areas which stopped many people to cast their votes. Also, he said that two days after the elections the head of IEC declared the total number of voters to be 4 million while in the day they declared the early result he said the total number of voters were 5 million and 6 hundred thousand.

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## The invalidation of votes will affect the final result

*Afghanistan daily, No 1230, Page 1, 26 Oct 2010*

The ECC says that the invalidation of votes from many provinces will affect the final elections result.

Ahmadzia Rafat, the ECC spokesperson says that these are the votes counted by IEC and we call them invalid. He said that these are the votes counted by IEC and we declare them invalid. We have evidence and proof and if the candidates are not agree they can file their claim.

Recently, ECC declared the votes of 36 polling stations invalid from Balkh, Kabul, Khost, Herat and Badghis provinces on Sunday the second of Aqrab.

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## Candidates Federation: parliamentary elections is illegitimate

*Afghanistan daily, No 1230, Page 8, Oct 26, 2010*

The members of Candidates Federation who could not gain sufficient votes to enter the parliament say that they do not accept the result of elections.

The nominees say that if their complaints are not assessed then they will launch demonstrations. These candidates have gathered from around the country in capital and on 25 October issued a communiqué warning that if their demands are not made then the country will undergo major security crises.

Noor Mohammad Noor the spokesperson for IEC in response to these warnings said that the candidates have the right to register their complaints to the ECC to be assessed.

Hamid Karzai, the president also expressed his hope that IEC could overcome these problems.

## Parliamentary elections and crisis of legitimacy

*Mandegar daily, No 446, Page 2, 26 Oct 2010*

Many of the experts believe that the IEC and ECC try to hide their mistakes to show transparency in elections by declaring invalid the votes and eliminating some candidates.

The IEC has invalidated one million and 3 hundred thousand votes and ECC also tries to make invalid the votes. Based on the report by IEC in the parliamentary elections 40% of eligible voters had participated and currently this figure has reduced to 30%.

IEC forgets that calling invalid the votes will also put a label on the legitimacy of the elections.

## Electoral Institutions: We take no decisions based on political expediency

*8am Daily, No 999, Page 1, 27 Oct 2010*

Hamid Karzai, the president said in a press conference with Imam Ali Rahmanof, the president of Tajikistan that in many areas the candidates have not been able to make it to parliament.

Mr. Karzai says that in many provinces the elections were not held accordingly, particularly in Ghazni province where 12 districts were deprived of elections.

Karzai added that the IEC and ECC must take some measures to preserve the national interest of the country as there has been no proper representative of people from this province and solve this issue. However, Mr. Karzai did not describe what he meant by proper representative. The observers believe that Mr. Karzai might mean that the Hazara candidates have been successful and the Pashtoon candidates failed to reach parliament.

Fazl Ahmad Ma'navi said that IEC will consider no political dealings in this regard.

He continued: "it is a natural fact that political issues always rise and the IEC will not take decision on the political bases."

However, Ahmadzia Rafat the spokesperson for ECC says that this organization will act in the framework of law not beyond that. IEC has no right to talk about the elections results except in the legal framework.

Kabir Ranjbar, the current Member of Parliament and law expert says that no one can take any step now to change the result of elections. The president cannot bring changes in the result of elections result beyond the legal framework to lessen (Hazara candidates) and increase the (Pashtoon candidates).

## Where are our votes?

*8am daily, No 999, Page 3, 27 Oct 2010*

The elimination of some of the candidates from electoral list after the process of assessing complaints is over has brought many suspicions and debates in the political sessions. Some believes that there are political dealings behind the elimination of some of these candidates. Because during the election process these candidates passed through several filters and the complaints against them were assessed. Even their names existed in the final list.

The IEC might take this issue simple but the people who voted for these candidates will not keep quiet.

In Herat province the people have demonstrated for third time against the IEC and the lack of transparency in the IEC will cause further demonstrations by the people.

## IEC: Re-election is not possible

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1557, Page 1, 28 Oct 2010*

Pointing towards elections process in Ghazni province, Mr.Karzai says that the elections were not held in these provinces accordingly. He adds that 12 districts in Ghazni were deprived of elections and I hope that IEC will consider some measure for the national interest of the country.

"Many people in Ghazni province couldn't cast their votes due to lack of ballot papers and security", says Qazi Sulaiman Hamid, a member of IEC. He continued that IEC has taken no decision to re-hold elections in these areas because of logistical and financial issues.

In the mean-time, law Professor Mr. Faizullah Jalal says that there are no legal bases for the re-elections and the Afghan constitution did not mention anything about it. Mr. Jalal also rejected president's comments and said that his words have no legal bases.

"In a democratic society, elections cannot be hold after the demand of the president or any other person", continued Mr. Jalal.

## Re-counting of votes from 105 polling stations begun in Ghor province

*8am daily, No 998, Page 2, 26 Oct 2010*

The recounting of votes in 105 voting centers in Ghor province has begun after many complaints and objections.

Syed Mohammad Nadim, the deputy of IEC Ghor provincial office said to media that the recounting of votes has begun in Ghor province after we received notice from central IEC office following many complaints by candidates.

According to Nadim an observer team which includes the ECC Ghor, FEFA and candidates delegation will observe the process of recounting.

## FEFA criticizes ECC

*8am daily, No 998, Page 3, 26 Oct 2010*

Free & Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan criticized ECC for eliminating them from the list of nominees as they did not leave their governmental posts. “They must have done this in an appropriate time”, FEFA suggests.

FEFA adds that with eliminating these candidates the votes of many people have been in-vain. Jandad Spinghar the executive officer of the FEFA says that this issue will weaken the trust of people on the election institutions.

The voters could have voted for someone else if these people were eliminated prior to the day of elections.

# Corruption

## Report by Transparency International not real

*8am daily, No 103, Nov 1, 2010, Page 5*

Muhammad Yasin Usmani, the head of High Office of Oversight and Anti-corruption in Afghanistan (HOOAC) on 9 Aqrab (Persian Calendar) in a joint conference with high ranking officials from Supreme Court of Afghanistan, Attorney General and Afghanistan's Central Statistics Organization called illusive the report by Transparency International about official corruption in Afghanistan and added that this organization has no office inside Afghanistan that could gather information about corruption. Mr. Osmani pointed that the research organizations must provide three sources or references for their report while the TI has used only The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank as its reference.

In the mean time, the head of HOOAC also rejected the reports by Esalat Watch Afghanistan and the United Nations Office on Crimes and Drugs about the increase of corruption in Afghanistan and said that these organizations publish these reports only for money.

He added that the government is yet to collect reports from the international organizations about the aid money; where and how they spend it. We are planning to form a joint committee of the three representatives from these organizations and three from government side. The committee will hold its meetings every three months and report to the president about corruption issues inside the international organizations and the afghan government.

Moreover, Mr. Rahmatullah Nazari, deputy of attorney general also said that during past 1.5 years 752 cases are referred to attorney general's office after the special office of anti-corruption was opened inside the attorney general's office and 312 of those cases have been decided by the Courts.

## Officials involved in corruption will soon be brought to the court

*Afghanistan daily, No 1235, Nov 1, 2010 Page 1*

Afghanistan's attorney general says that the cases of 20 government officials accused of corruption including 8 previous ministers are under investigation and the special court is directed to pursue them.

According to Attorney General, Hamidullah Qadiri the former minister of transportation, Muhammad Amin Farhang former commerce minister, Sidiq Chakari former Hajj and religious affairs minister, Ashraq Hussaini former deputy minister of education, Mohammad Wali Rasooli former deputy of public works ministry and Mohamad Akbar Barakzai former deputy of ministry of water and energy who also served as governor of

Baghlan province, are the previous governmental authorities whose cases are included in this trial.

Afghanistan's Attorney General says that the cases of Hamidullah Qadiri former transportation minister and Muhammad Amin Farhang former commerce and industries minister are being referred to the special court. Hamidullah Qadiri and Amin Farhang are accused of manipulating 11 million dollars and 19.5 million dollars respectively.

The deputy of attorney general says that Qadiri had given more than 10 million dollars to the Global Company for the transportation of Afghan Hajjis to Saudi Arabia but the company failed to do so. Hamidullah Qadiri accuses the allegation and says that the contract he signed two years before was the most transparent one. Also Mr. Nazari said that Sidiq Chakary the former minister of Hajj and Awqaf is also accused of manipulations and he is currently in Britain. The Afghanistan attorney general's office has asked the Interpol Police and the British Embassy in Afghanistan to help return him from Britain.

## Fight against corruption not real

*Mandegar Daily, No 452, Editorial, Nov 3, 2010*

There are two serious obstacles preventing the anti-corruption measures to be successful in achieving its objectives. The first obstacle is the powerful families and the family members of president who are involved in corruption; therefore the anti-corruption campaign must, at first, start from the family of the president.

Secondly, the state and financial corruption is not limited within Afghanistan and we can't prevent corruption only with adjustments within the Afghan government. One of the reasons behind corruption roots back to the foreign NGOs and organizations working inside Afghanistan. In reality a large portion of corruption is directed towards foreign NGOs which are out of the reach of Afghan government and the government of Afghanistan is unable to question them. Another obstacle is the foreign intervention in the affairs of the country because many of the authorities in high positions inside afghan government are backed by particular foreign countries and when the attorney general office tries to prosecute them for their involvement in corruption; then these foreign countries interrupt the process with their interventions. Even they easily fly them out of the country.

## Amin Farhang to be prosecuted for alleged corruption claims

*8 am daily, No 1009, 9 Nov 2010 Page 1*

The attorney general's office has accused Amin Farhang of

financial corruption however Mr. Farhang rejects the allegations and calls it violation of personal ethics.

Lately Rahmatullah Nazari, deputy of attorney general told the Associated Press that Mr. Farhang misused his authority during his term as minister of commerce and misappropriated nearly 20 million dollars. This is the first time that the attorney general's office sends the financial corruption case of a former minister to the special court.

Mr. Farhand is accused of calculating 19.5 million dollars additional amount while signing 19 contracts of fuel with foreign companies of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan. Mr. Farhang accused the attorney general office of doing nothing with the cases of powerful people but making propagandas about him in the media.

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## Afghanistan continues to be trapped in the net of corruption

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1232, Page 4, 28 Oct 2010*

In Afghanistan the two sectors of government and private work in the economic sectors. The bureaucratic members indulge in corruption in their attempt to gain more privileges, misuse of finance and government property and out bureaucratic chamber others are involved in corruption because of their relation with Mafia networks.

Therefore, the powerful figures, financial institutions, companies and other private sectors try to establish their unofficial contacts with the high ranking officials within the afghan government. Thus, they can provide them with some privileges and win their objectives.

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## Afghanistan becomes second most corrupt country

*8am daily, NO 999, Page 1, 27 Oct 2010*

Transparency International in its report reveals that corruption is not reduced in Afghanistan. After assessing corruption reports in 180 countries TI says that Afghanistan greatly suffers from corruption. The index based on different characteristics is scored on a scale from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 10 (perceived to have low levels of corruption).

Afghanistan is second to last place with a score of 1.4 in the list of Transparency International and last year the score was 1.5.

Thus, Afghanistan and Myanmar share the second and first places due to highly unstable governments and major corruption with a score of 1.4, with Somalia coming in last with a score of 1.1 in the index.

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## Is Afghanistan not the second most corrupt country in the world?

*Afghanisan daily, No 1236, Page 4, 2 Nov 2010-12-05*

In response to remove corruption from state institutions the

government of Afghanistan formed many different commissions which proved to be ineffective and in some cases they were found corrupt. The biggest organization formed to combat corruption was the High Office of Oversight and Anti-corruption in Afghanistan (HOOAC) under the leadership of Muhammad Yasin Osmani. This organizations also complains of lack of authorities and financial challenges.

Earlier Mr. Osmani had told that (HOOAC) has a critical and important job but their circle of authority is limited. After the establishment of this institution they have only been able to pursue 80 cases of corruption and 120 complaints.

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## Corruption is in the political and financial favor of government

*8am daily, No 1004, Page 4, 2 Nov 2010*

The issue of taking money from Iran and other foreign embassies is a serious issue. Unfortunately the government calls it a patriotic act by one of its high ranking official. Therefore, we cannot expect any serious anti-corruption measure to be taken by the government. There is no higher institution or organization that could question the government why they received such arbitrary money and worse than that calling it an act of patriotism.

The important point is that how the head of state calls it legitimate and reveals the intervention of a neighboring country inside Afghanistan. Providing packets of money covertly to the government officials is called corruption and when our president plays with words to legitimize this issue then no one can expect the government and its leading team to bring any reform in the areas of combating corruption in the country.

Those who have close relations with the president know that all these money are spent to win the wills of politicians in the favor of president. The states in our country provided money and land to the political and ethnical groups to win their favor that strengthened corruption.

Mr. Karzai also undermines the crimes and corruptions committed by his allies. He freed many dangerous drug dealers from prison and has let the powerful local commanders wander around so that he could use them one day. He keeps the weakest and most corrupt ones in his cabinet so that no one dares to stand against him. Therefore, his cabinet is filled with weak technocrats like Zalmai Rasool, Moqbal and Rahim Wardak and the government cannot solve this critical situation with their presence in the cabinet.

## Articles & Interviews



# The Anti-government forces are our beloved ones

Ms. Sara Sorkhabi a member of the High Peace Council and Mishrano Jirga discusses her uniquely optimistic views regarding possible negotiations with the Taliban in an interview with Jawad Naji of Afghanistan Watch.

**Afghanistan Watch:** Many members of High Council for Peace are anti-Taliban leaders who were involved in fighting against the Taliban directly or indirectly. Do you think the Taliban will accept an offer of peace by these people?

**Sorkhabi:** Everybody must try to bring peace; those who are discontented and fighting and those who were involved in fighting in the past. Those insurgents are fighting in the provinces have their relatives working in the Afghan government. Someone who is fighting in the ranks of Taliban, his brother is minister; his cousin is a senator or an official in the Afghan government. If one is with the Taliban the other 10 is working in the Afghan government. They are the branches of the same tree.

**Afghanistan Watch:** Who are the discontented people in your view?

**Sorkhabi:** Those people are the angry ones who are in some ways dissatisfied with the government and took weapon to fight the government. Maybe they were deceived by the Al-Qaida. They are our brothers and part of this land. They are from our nation, tribe and are our beloved ones. We cannot call them enemy because they are also Afghan like us.

**Afghanistan Watch:** But these anti-government forces are accused to have committed crimes. How do you see this issue?

**Sorkhabi:** They have not committed any crime! (Laughing). What crimes for example? Both sides have attacked on each other and both suffered losses. They are Afghans and from Afghanistan. They carry out suicide bombings because they have their particular objectives.

**Afghanistan Watch:** During their Imarat-Islami, the Taliban showed that they are against democracy, human rights and political pluralism. What do you think that what will happen to these values if Taliban accept negotiation?

**Sorkhabi:** Taliban and human rights (organizations) are working for peace and stability. Their ultimate goal is the same and they have no animosity with the objectives of the people.

**Afghanistan Watch:** we know that Taliban are against the freedom of women in social and political arenas. What is your stance as a woman and a member of High Council for Peace?

**Sorkhabi:** They are no more against woman working outside if

obeying the Islamic Hijab. The Taliban are no more narrow-minded but modernized. Even they say that the schools must be opened. I favor Islamic Hijab. I don't want that any girl or female comes out of her house without observing Hijab. Taliban also favor this issue that women work outside in the framework of Islamic Sharia Law.

**Afghanistan Watch:** in some provinces the Taliban threw acid on the female students and harmed them. In practice when they were in power, they were against women working in the social and political areas.

**Sorkhabi:** There are some fundamentalist in this group. However, the general viewpoint of Taliban is no longer against women. There are some people in this group that carry out these activities to harm the reputation of the Taliban.

**Afghanistan Watch:** Taliban are accused of many crimes and what is the viewpoint of High Peace Council about those whose rights are violated by the Taliban?

**Sorkhabi:** We forgive them and the High Council also believes in forgiveness. The government also favors the same thing. We must forget the past and work for a new future in which we strengthen peace, employment opportunities for women and widows and the family of martyred and orphans.

**Afghanistan Watch:** It means you want the victims of Taliban to forgive them?

**Sorkhabi:** we do not have a particular enemy in the ranks of the Taliban. Amongst thousands of Taliban fighters we cannot find a particular one as our enemy. Many of those who carried these atrocities are killed and are no more alive. Insha-Allah the High Council for Peace will not take revenge but it will work towards ending the conflict. War is enough and we fought for 30-34 years. Our children grew in a war situation.

**Afghanistan Watch:** You said that there are thousands of

Taliban are our brothers. We are ready to reach an agreement with our Afghan brothers. Why should I have worries? Can one have fear from his brothers?

Taliban fighters and we don't know which one is responsible for beheading. Then who are going to negotiate with?

**Sorkhabi:** We will negotiate with the Taliban who are still fighting. We call for forgiveness and ask them to come to the negotiation table and stop fighting so that the remaining people of Afghanistan live in a peaceful condition.

**Afghanistan Watch:** If negotiation takes place and there would be no trials then what guarantees that Taliban may not repeat their atrocities?

**Sorkhabi:** The Taliban and the High Council for Peace will guarantee. I don't say that the Taliban are alone and they have no tribe or relative. Their relatives are working in the ministries, public institutions, schools and parliament. We will propose these issues in the meetings and we will get the commitment of Taliban not to repeat their atrocities.

**Afghanistan Watch:** so you mean that some of the Taliban are in the government and some of them are fighting against government?

**Sorkhabi:** There might be some of them resisting from inside Afghanistan against government. The government of Afghanistan has done much during past nine years to strengthen democracy, human rights and women's rights in the country. Schools, universities, offices and even parliament are open for women and girls. However, our internal enemies on the other side create hurdles in our ways and try to stop the government's initiatives. We must meet together with all and find a solution.

**Afghanistan Watch:** if those who committed crimes are taken to the courts to be prosecuted?

**Sorkhabi:** Court for which people?

**Afghanistan Watch:** For those who committed crimes?

If we try those who committed crimes we will create another anarchy in the country. Which one of them should be prosecuted? It is difficult to find one person in 100 people. Our government believes to strengthen the culture of forgiveness to reach a peaceful solution.

**Afghanistan Watch:** To what extent the people of Afghanistan and the media are aware of the activities of the High Peace Council?

**Sorkhabi:** The people are aware of our activities and they are always in contact. The media also filmed our official meetings and conduct interviews every often. They are in contact with us.

**Afghanistan Watch:** To what extent the High Peace Council reflects the desire and demands of the people?

**Sorkhabi:** You ask a lot of questions (Laughing). I told you before that the experts are members of High Council for Peace. No one came here with less experience. All the members are backed by the people.

**Afghanistan Watch:** the members of Afghan civil society are concerned about the formation of High Council for Peace? In your view how valid are their concerns?

The civil society is our partners and there are 3 women from the Afghan civil society in the Council. Peace belongs to civil society and it comes with them. We cooperate with each other and we work together.

**Afghanistan Watch:** What will be the fate of Afghanistan's constitution, women rights and minorities in the country during this peace dialogue?

**Sorkhabi:** I told you before that the women's right is our top priority. We will try to make them agree on this point. All the problems will be solved and without any direct contact with them in order to reach a solution on these issues we will not proceed.

**Afghanistan Watch:** You are confident that they will accept the constitution, human rights and the participation of minorities?

**Sorkhabi:** They will inshallah. They are part of this society. We will try to find a just solution.

**Afghanistan Watch:** Don't you have any worries about the process of peace with the Taliban?

**Sorkhabi:** I told you that Taliban are our brothers. We are ready to reach an agreement with our Afghan brothers. Why should I have worries? Can one have fear from his brothers?

**Afghanistan Watch:** Then you are confident that the process of negotiation will go smoothly without any problems?

**Sorkhabi:** I believe yes with the support of God almighty. I am hopeful that they will accept.

**Afghanistan Watch:** What are the challenges that the High Council for Peace confronts in the process of negotiation with the Taliban?

**Sorkhabi:** There are many challenges now. These challenges will be solved by keeping patience and understanding.

**Afghanistan Watch:** what are the challenges?

**Sorkhabi:** The security situation in the provinces is not good. When the security situation becomes better then the process of peace talks will be easier.

**Afghanistan Watch:** Has the High Council for Peace been able to establish any contact with the Taliban yet?

**Sorkhabi:** I think there have been some contacts. They are not cut off and have contacts.

# Transitional Justice and Documentation Training

10-14 November 2010, Kabul

Efforts to transition to peace and justice in societies like Afghanistan can only succeed if they manage to come to terms with their violent and painful histories. The legacies of war and violence can be dealt with and transformed if the past is explored and a national understanding and consciousness emerges with the regard to the underlying causes and sources of war and violence and necessary remedies that can heal the societal wounds and prevent the future reoccurrence of the past.

Afghanistan Watch as a civil society organization is striving to play its own role in exploring the past as well as means and strategies for building sustainable and a just peace in the country. As part of its efforts, the organization partnered with the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) to organize an intensive training workshop on Transitional Justice and Documentation. The workshop was held at Afghanistan Watch Office in Kabul from 10 to 14 November 2010. A total of 30 participants from Afghanistan Watch and other organizations working on documentation attended the event.

Two of the five days were jointly organized by the Afghanistan Watch and the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) which in addition to 15 members of Afghanistan Watch documentation teams also included participants from other national organizations involved in documentation works across the country.

These two-days were structured with the objective of covering all important aspects of any successful and documentation works including the importance of documentation in transitional justice processes, documents and documents types, criterion and methodology for collecting documents, analysis, management and storage of documents, documentation ethics and politics and more practical issues such as ethics and techniques of good

interviews and effective skills necessary for communicating with the victims of war and violence. To discuss these diverse but relevant themes to an effective documentation work, international and national experts from ICTJ and Afghanistan Watch and also from the AREU and the BBC Persian Service were invited to cover issues of their expertise.

The presentations stimulated lively discussions between the participants and the speakers in which some very important and practical issues and experiences from both Afghanistan and other national experiences were raised and debated.

At the end of the second day of the joint training, a documentary film of victims of the Iraq Memory Foundation was shown for the participants to present an example of how an effective documentation works.

Afghanistan Watch's documentation teams received three more days of intensive training that also included practical sessions. These sessions were intended to cover, among other things, the audiovisual aspects of the organizations documentation programs. These included filming, sound recording and photography sessions. The organization in its efforts to document the past is emphasizing the need for complete collection of all forms of evidence and as a result photography, filming and recording the voices of victims receive special emphasis in its works.

One of the interesting sessions focused on issues related to building effective and successful teams. This was designed to meet a particular need of Afghanistan Watch's documentation staffs that are formed in small teams operating both in Kabul and other provinces.

At the end of the training, all participants were granted certificates prepared by Afghanistan Watch and the ICTJ acknowledging their successful completion of the Workshop.



Truth Seeking Team Members of the Massacres, Afghanistan Watch



Nematullah Ibrahim, Program Director of Afghanistan Watch explaining the research methodology



The Training Participants



Emily from Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) briefing TJ situation in Afghanistan



The Training Participants



The Training Participants



Dawod Naji, from BBC training interviewing techniques



Patricia Gossman, from International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) granting the certificates



Abdul Jalil Benish, Director of Afghanistan Watch granting the certificates



Truth Seeking Team Members of the Massacres leaving for the fields

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# New publications

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## 2010 Elections: The IEC between pressure and scrutiny

*Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) / by: Martine van Bijlert / October 17, 2010*

The email was sent around today, not long before the planned press conference and not long after an earlier message had announced a delay. "Dear All: The IEC is intent to be more precise in announcement of WJ Elections results, therefore kindly be informed that IEC press conference for announcement of WJ preliminary results [is] cancelled, hopefully IEC will conduct the conference on Wednesday 20 October 2010 10:00 am."

<http://aan-afghanistan.com/index.asp?id=1232>

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## Are Talks with the Taliban Snow-Balling?

*Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) / by: Martine van Bijlert / October 20, 2010*

There has been a lot of excitement lately in the press about the supposedly snow-balling talks with the Taliban leadership and what this could mean for the prospects to end the war. The major news outlets have been trying to outdo each other in terms of talking up details provided by spokespeople and unnamed officials. Most Afghans remain largely underwhelmed. So what to make of all of this?

<http://aan-afghanistan.com/index.asp?id=1241>

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## The Ex-Taliban on the High Peace Council: A renewed role for the Khuddam ul-Furqan?

*Afghanistan Analysts Network (AAN) / By Thomas Ruttig / October 2010*

AAN's latest discussion paper by Thomas Ruttig provides a first analysis of the former Taliban members on the newly-established Afghan High Peace Council (HPC), of what their possible role may be in this body, their political and historical background as well as the development of their positions vis-à-vis a possible process of negotiations.

An analysis of the 70 HPC members reveals that 53 of them formerly belonged or currently are linked to political groups that were armed factions involved in the civil wars of the 1980-90s. Twelve members of the HPC held positions in the Taliban Emirate's government between 1996 and 2001.

<http://aan-afghanistan.com/index.asp?id=1248>

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## Afghanistan: Hidden Justice

*Human Rights Watch (HRW) / by Rachel Reid / October 19, 2010*

The first question was the obvious one. Why are you known as Mullah Tractor? "I read one or two Islamic books, so people call me Mullah. And then I bought a tractor. So I am Mullah Tractor."

Mullah Tractor wore an orange jumpsuit, signaling maximum security. He looked to be about 60 years old, with thin downturned lips, a contoured nose that might once have been broken and a short black-and-white beard.

His real name is Gul Shah Wazir, and he is in U.S. detention in Afghanistan, accused of being a member of the Taliban. But at the U.S. military hearing that I observed in late September, whether he is connected to the insurgency was hard to determine.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/10/19/hidden-justice>

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## Bogus elections good enough for Afghans

*Asia Times / By Ann Jones / October 30, 2010*

Afghanistan still awaits final results from the nationwide election held last month to fill the 249 seats of the lower house of parliament. Deciding which of the more than 2,500 candidates won takes time because the Electoral Complaints Commission that investigates voting irregularities, made up of five men handpicked by Afghan President Hamid Karzai, was swamped by more than 4,200 complaints.

Last year, when Karzai ran for re-election, he busied himself with backroom deals, while his supporters were caught red-handed stuffing ballot boxes and having a good laugh. Every Afghan knew that the president who had been foisted on them by foreigners in 2001 was stealing the election. Yet the international community, led by the United States, proclaimed the process if not exactly "free and fair", at least "credible" - which is to say: Hey, what's a little fraud among friends?

[http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South\\_Asia/LJ30Df01.html](http://www.atimes.com/atimes/South_Asia/LJ30Df01.html)

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## Losing legitimacy after Afghanistan's elections

*Foreign Policy / By Matthieu Aikins and Gran Hewad / October 25, 2010*

There has been some very positive news coming out of Kandahar province lately, as the New York Times' Carlotta Gall has reported. According to ISAF and Afghan government officials, the Taliban have been "routed" from the province by a massive military offensive, partly with the help of a miraculous rocket launcher, the HIMARS system, which, though not exactly "new" as claimed in the Times piece, certainly sounds impressive. The news is all the more remarkable in that it closely follows the timetable that was laid down by military officials throughout the summer.

[http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/10/25/losing\\_legitimacy\\_after\\_afghanistans\\_elections](http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/10/25/losing_legitimacy_after_afghanistans_elections)

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## The Afghan Black Hole: Governance and Corruption

*The Atlantic / October 24, 2010*

In the year since President Obama announced his troop build-up in Afghanistan, reported events show that the mirror-image issues of governance and corruption have worsened, and that their improvement continues to pose "a riddle, wrapped in a mystery, inside an enigma" for the United States.

A very recent example: the lead story in Saturday's New York Times reports that the Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan, to drive a wedge between the Afghan government and the U.S., has been giving millions of dollars to President Karzai's chief of staff. Karzai and his allies have used this money to bribe officials, tribal leaders, and even some Taliban commanders in exchange for fealty.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2010/10/the-afghan-black-hole-governance-and-corruption/65057/>

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## As anti-corruption measures lag in Afghanistan, U.S. looks to grass-roots effort

*Washington Post / By Ernesto Londono / October 17, 2010*

Khalis Shinwari doesn't have arrest powers, lacks an official mandate and works unarmed.

But the volunteer inspector, assigned by local elders to identify cases of graft and shoddy craftsmanship on development projects, might represent the best hope of stamping out corruption in a country where it has become all but institutionalized.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/10/17/AR2010101702813.html>

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## Taliban peace talks with Hamid Karzai are 'mostly hype'

*Guardian / October 24, 2010*

Recent widely-reported contacts between senior Taliban and the Kabul government have little to do with a peace settlement and involve scarcely more than exchanges of cash and prisoners, diplomats and observers have told the Guardian.

They say contacts with the Taliban have been under way for several years and reflect how war is waged in Afghanistan, where talking and fighting at the same time are common. But the encounters have been hyped as signs of a move towards peace as part of a misinformation campaign aimed at the Taliban leadership, or to reinforce the impression that Nato and Afghan forces are making strategic gains.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/oct/24/taliban-peace-talks-hamid-karzai-afghanistan>

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## Transparency is the Key to Legitimate Afghan Parliamentary Elections

*United States Institute of Peace (USIP) / By Scott Worden / October 2010*

On September 18, Afghanistan held its second parliamentary elections since the fall of the Taliban. Like last year's vote, these elections were marked by high levels of violence, low turnout and widespread reports of fraud.

Despite the challenges, however, Afghans across the country defied Taliban threats and overcame problems with the electoral administration to signal their support for the democratic process. Participation appeared higher among the youth demographic, which is a promising sign for the future of democratic processes in Afghanistan.

<http://www.usip.org/files/resources/PB%2061%20Transparency%20is%20the%20Key%20to%20Legitimate%20Afghan%20Parliamentary%20Elections.pdf>

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## Dangerous Liaisons with the Afghan Taliban

*United States Institute of Peace (USIP) / By Matt Waldman / October 2010*

Motivations of Taliban insurgents are variable, multiple, and often involve—with the first three commonly emphasized by insurgents—retaliation against perceived military aggression; resistance to perceived foreign invasion; opposition to abuse of power and impunity; exclusion from power or resources; the effect of social and economic deprivation; and other factors, including

expediency or opportunism.

Taliban objectives vary correspondingly, and often include—with all but the last two commonly asserted by commanders—withdrawal of foreign forces; law and order, especially as enforced by ulema (Islamic scholars) against criminals; application of sharia, involving harsher punishments and changes to the Afghan constitution; legitimate exercise of power or Islamic government; conformity with perceived Islamic social rules, involving further constraints on women; political, but possibly not administrative, power; and peace and security.

<http://www.usip.org/files/resources/SR%20256%20-%20Dangerous%20Liaisons%20with%20the%20Afghan%20Taliban.pdf>

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### Victims demand full say on pardons

*Cape Argus / By Murray Williams / October 19, 2010*

THE SURVIVING victims of 149 criminals seeking presidential pardons have demanded permission to scrutinize their applications – to decide for themselves whether the crimes perpetrated against them were “political”, as claimed.

Yesterday the Department of Justice published the names of 149 convicted people recommended for a pardon in terms of a special dispensation created by former president Thabo Mbeki in 2007.

Representing the victims is an NGO, the SA Coalition for Transitional Justice, comprising the Khulumani Support Group, the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, the Legal Resources Centre, the International Centre for Transitional Justice, the Human Rights Media Centre, the Freedom of Expression Institute and the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation.

[http://www.ictj.org/static/News/101019\\_ZA\\_CapeArgus\\_KhulumaniSupportGroup.pdf](http://www.ictj.org/static/News/101019_ZA_CapeArgus_KhulumaniSupportGroup.pdf)

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### Reconciliation in Afghanistan: Can the UN right some wrongs?

*Afghanistan Analysts Network(AAN) / By Horia Mosadiq / 31 October 2010*

Our guest author Horia Mosadiq(\*) looks at the United Nations’ role now and then in Afghanistan, with special attention to its numerous attempts to ‘peace deals relying largely on power-sharing’. She sees the latest initiatives for ‘reconciliation’ as a continuation of this approach and discusses its possible implications for justice, with its inherent differentiation of human rights abusers in ‘good’ and ‘bad’ ones.

<http://aan-afghanistan.com/index.asp?id=1279>

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### 2010 Elections: Losing legitimacy - Kandahar's preliminary winners

*Afghanistan Analysts Network(AAN) / By Matthieu Aikins and Gran Hewad / 25 October 2010*

There has been some very positive news coming out of Kandahar province lately, as the New York Times’ Carlotta Gall has reported. According to ISAF and Afghan government officials, the Taliban have been “routed” from the province by a massive military offensive, partly with the help of a miraculous rocket launcher, the HIMARS system, which, though not exactly “new” as claimed in the Times piece, certainly sounds impressive. The news is all the more remarkable in that it closely follows the timetable that was laid down by military officials throughout the summer.

<http://aan-afghanistan.com/index.asp?id=1265>

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### 2010 Elections: Sacrificing the vote for a semblance of control

*Afghanistan Analysts Network(AAN) / By Martine van Bijlert / 25 October 2010*

Most international supporters had reached an early conclusion that whatever happened in the field, the IEC in Kabul did their job well – guarding the process and maintaining a level of independence and transparency. Candidates and voters strongly disagree and are venting suspicions of manipulation and foul play up to the highest level. The results data gives important clues on how the IEC functioned and where this election is heading.

<http://aan-afghanistan.com/index.asp?id=1261>

## Dari Publications

### سیاست‌های «یک بام و دو هوا»؛ انتخاباتی با مصلحت‌های قومی

روزنامه ماندگار / نویسنده جمشید یم

شماری از نمایندگان مجلس و آگاهان سیاسی کشور، با ابراز نگرانی شدید از سخنان اخیر آقای کرزی راجع به در نظر گرفتن مصلحت‌های قومی و سیاسی در انتخابات مجلس، این‌گونه اعمال فشارها و مداخلات را «خلاف قوانین انتخابات و سایر قوانین کشور» می‌دانند. به باور آنها سخنان اخیر کرزی، مداخله‌ی آشکار و صریح در امور انتخابات بوده و به شدت مستقل بودن کمیسیون‌های انتخابات را زیر سوال می‌برد.

<http://www.mandegardaily.af/spip.php?article4376>

### حتا با طالبان هم می‌شود صلح کرد!

روزنامه ماندگار / حلیمه حسینی

سکوت را باید شکست و بیداد را از زایش و باز احیا شدن بازباید داشت. سکوت را باید شکست و بر این‌همه نابرابری پایان باید داد و زنجیرهایی که تا گلوگاه ما درهم تنیده و نفس کشیدن را برای ما مشکل ساخته است، باید از هم گسست. چه کسی باور می‌کند که ما آزادی را مزه مزه کرده‌ایم، چه کسی می‌داند آزادی به چه طعمی است و آزاد بودن چه معنایی دارد؟ مگر نگفته‌اند که آزاد بودن حق طبیعی هر انسان است و انسانی که در بند باشد، از کمالی که جوهره‌ی آن را بدان سرشته‌اند، دور خواهد ماند. اما دست‌هایی که برای در خاک کردن و در گور کردن آزادی‌های ما از آستین بیرون آمده است را کجا می‌توان یافت و از ریشه قطع شان نمود که امروز برای نهادینه کردن آزادی، صحبت از گفتگو و مصالحه با دشمنان آزادی است؟

<http://www.mandegardaily.af/spip.php?article4356>

### انتخابات پارلمانی و بحران مشروعیت

روزنامه ماندگار / احمد عمران

نتایج اولیه‌ی انتخابات پارلمانی، ۲۷ سنبله اعلام شد؛ ولی جنجال‌ها بر سر تقلب و جعلکاری در روند انتخابات هم‌چنان ادامه دارد. به تازگی کمیسیون شکایات انتخاباتی، شماری از نامزدهای برنده در نتایج اولیه را از حق نامزدی محروم کرده و همچنین از فهرست ۱۲۰ نفری افرادی خبر داده که متهم به تقلب و تخطی در جریان انتخابات هستند. دلیل این‌همه حرکت‌های جنجال برانگیز و گاه انقلاب‌گونه چیست و چرا تلاش می‌شود که سیمای اصلی انتخابات در اذهان عمومی تغییر کند؟

<http://www.mandegardaily.af/spip.php?article4355>

### ادامه فشارها بر طالبان بهترین راه برای رسیدن به صلح

روزنامه ۸ صبح / نویسنده: احسان‌الله دولت‌مرادی / ۳ عقرب ۱۳۸۹

نماینده خاص ایالات متحده برای افغانستان و پاکستان گفته است، رهبران ارشد طالبان به مذاکره صلح با حکومت افغانستان تمایل پیدا کرده‌اند. طبق این خبر ریچارد هالبروک در عین حال گفته است که تا حال فقط تماس‌ها و صحبت‌های مقدماتی میان حکومت افغانستان و طالبان صورت گرفته و مذاکرات صلح آغاز نشده است. این خبر به نقل از ریچارد هالبروک در حالی به نشر می‌رسد که پیش از این طالبان به صورت رسمی هرگونه جواب مثبت به تحرکات صلح را انکار کرده و بر خروج نیروهای خارجی از افغانستان تاکید داشتند. انتشار خبرها مبنی بر علاقمند شدن رهبران طالبان به مذاکره، نشان می‌دهد که موضع رهبران طالبان تغییر کرده است. اما آنچه اهمیت دارد این است که دیده شود این تغییر علاقه در افغانستان ناشی از چه می‌باشد؟ البته در کنار آن آنچه باید بدان پرداخت این است که علاقمندی طالبان متمرکز بر چه خواسته یا خواسته‌هایی می‌باشد؟

[http://8am.af/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=15333:1389-08-03-15-06-47&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488](http://8am.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15333:1389-08-03-15-06-47&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488)

### شورای عالی صلح با چه صلاحیتی امتیاز می‌دهد؟

روزنامه ۸ صبح / نویسنده: شاکر مهریار / ۰۱ عقرب ۱۳۸۹

شورای عالی صلح گفته است که برای موفقیت مذاکره با طالبان حاضر است به طالبان «امتیاز» بدهد. قیام الدین کشف، سخنگوی این شورا به رسانه‌ها گفته است که شورای عالی صلح حاضر است به طالبان امتیازات سیاسی و اقتصادی بدهد و نیز از دولت خواسته است تا مصونیت برای طالبان فراهم کند. این در حالی است که طالبان همواره مذاکره و یا مصالحه با دولت را رد کرده‌اند. از جانب دیگر، طالبان دیروز به صورت گروهی به دفتر یوناما در هرات هجوم بردند.

شورای عالی صلح، خود نهادی است که از مجموعه‌ی جنگ‌سالاران و رهبران دوران جنگ‌های داخلی تشکیل شده و بیشتر از همه حیثیت مشروعیت‌بخشی سیاسی و قومی به مذاکرات با طالبان را دارد. منتها گمان نمی‌رود که این شورا طرف اصلی مذاکرات با طالبان باشد. اما نقش سمبولیک این شورا، می‌تواند فرایند مذاکرات را به صورت غیردموکراتیک بدون در نظر داشت خواست‌های مردم، جامعه‌ی مدنی، رسانه‌ها و زنان افغانستان به پیش برد. طرح امتیازات به طالبان، خود یک مساله نگران‌کننده بوده، این سوال را مطرح می‌کند که آیا سخن از امتیازات به نفع طالبان به معنای انعطاف نظام فدای ارزش‌هایی که طی این نه سال به دست آمده‌اند به سود طالبان، نیست؟

[http://8am.af/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=15285:1389-08-01-15-47-19&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488](http://8am.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15285:1389-08-01-15-47-19&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488)

### با امتیازدهی صلح تامین نمی‌شود

روزنامه ۸ صبح / نویسنده: ظفر شاه رویی / ۰۱ عقرب ۱۳۸۹

در حالی که افراد طالبان هرگونه مذاکره و گفتگو با دولت را رد می‌کنند، اما شورای عالی صلح گفته است که به منظور کشاندن طالبان به صلح، حاضر است هر گونه امتیازهای سیاسی و اقتصادی به افراد این گروه بدهد.

هفته گذشته، سخنگوی شورای عالی صلح در یک کنفرانس خبری اعلام کرد که طالبان امتیاز می‌خواهند و این شورا نیز آماده است که این امتیاز را بدهد. قیام الدین کشف در این باره گفت: «بازگشت بسیار آبرومندانه آن‌ها برای ما مهم است. این بازگشت آبرومندانه، دادن چوکی، خانه، معاش و همه چیز را در برمی‌گیرد».

[http://8am.af/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=15272:1389-08-01-15-06-08&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488](http://8am.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=15272:1389-08-01-15-06-08&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488)

## موقف ملا برادر در مذاکره، موقف شورای رهبری طالبان خواهد بود

روزنامه راه نجات / ۲۰ عقرب ۱۳۸۹

روزنامه دلی تلگراف چاپ انگلیس، با انتشار گزارشی از انتقال ملا عبدالغنی برادر، فرد شماره دو رهبری طالبان، همراه با سه مقام بلندپایه‌ی گروه طالبان به کابل توسط نیروهای ناتو خبر داده است.

بر طبق این گزارش، این مقامات گروه طالبان به حمایت قوای نظامی ناتو از پاکستان به کابل آمده‌اند تا در مذاکرات صلح و گفت‌وگو با دولت افغانستان اشتراک نمایند. عبدالغنی برادر، معاون محمد عمر در ماه فیبروری سال گذشته میلادی، توسط سازمان استخبارات نظامی پاکستان دستگیر گردیده بود. هم‌زمان با دستگیری وی دولت افغانستان تلاش‌های زیادی را جهت تحویل‌گیری وی از پاکستان انجام داد اما تمام این تلاش‌ها به نتیجه‌ای نرسید.

[http://www.news.rahenejatdaily.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=4167:1389-08-02-07-44-37&catid=68:mosahiba-va-gozaresh](http://www.news.rahenejatdaily.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=4167:1389-08-02-07-44-37&catid=68:mosahiba-va-gozaresh)

## متن کامل نخستین پیام شورای عالی صلح

روزنامه راه نجات / ۲۹ میزان ۱۳۸۹

صلح مبرم‌ترین و اساسی‌ترین ضرورت و عالی‌ترین مرام یک جامعه است، بخصوص در جامعه‌ای مانند افغانستان که چندین دهه متمادی متحمل کشمکش‌ها و جنگ‌های ویرانگر و تباهن‌کننده است. در شرایط کنونی نیاز به صلح بعنوان یک خواست انسانی و دینی برای ثبات و استحکام دایمی کشور امر غیر قابل انکار بوده بلکه تحقق و دستیابی به آن حیاتی و واجبی می‌باشد. دین مبین اسلام مسلمانان را به اخوت و برادری امر نموده است. دین مقدس اسلام که پیام آور صلح به تمامی بشریت است، همواره از پیروان خود می‌خواهد تا خواسته‌های سیاسی و اجتماعی‌شان را در چوکات و حدود تعیین شده طوری مطرح نمایند، که نظام اجتماعی جامعه را مختل نسازد.

به تاسی از ارشادات دین مبین اسلام و خواست‌های انسانی مردم افغانستان، شورای عالی صلح متعهد است تا در راستای آوردن صلح پایدار به کشور عزیز مان افغانستان تلاش‌های خود را سرعت بخشد. این شورا تمام پلان‌های کاری خود را در پرتو تصامیم جرگه ملی مشورتی صلح ترتیب و در مطابقت به آن تلاش خواهد نمود تا راه گفتگو با برادران ناراض را باز نماید. همچنان شورای عالی صلح از تمام کشورها و سازمان‌های بین‌المللی نیدخل در قضیه افغانستان بصورت جدی می‌خواهد تا در راستای عملی نمودن سفارشات جرگه ملی مشورتی صلح با ما همکاری عملی نموده و مسولیت خویش را درین زمینه بطور احسن ادا نمایند.

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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.

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