



## Twenty fifth Note

Haqiqat 25 includes the following news from afghan print media published during past two weeks:

### Election transparency:

The important discussion of Afghan print media was about the delay in elections result of Ghazni province. There were demonstrations by those candidates who didn't make their way to parliament.

### Transitional Justice:

The important news published in the afghan print media about transitional justice includes commemoration of tenth December- the universal declaration of human rights and the national day of war victims in Afghanistan plus the statements of human rights organizations and civil society about this day.

### Corruption:

In corruption section the Afghan print media focused on the

secret documents released by Wiki-Leaks about the Afghan MPs on Iranian pay-list, Masood's rejection of allegation for carrying millions of dollars out of country and the arrest of four attorneys in Khost province on corruption cases.

### Articles and Interviews:

In this part we have an interview with Ahmad Behzad, an MP in the parliament about the reconciliation and negotiation with the anti-government forces.

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## Negotiation with the terrorists is tantamount to their official recognition

► **Behzad:** Unfortunately, the members of the Council are those people who are accustomed to destructive political dealings. They exist in Afghanistan because of these destructive political deals. A number of these members are those who were critics of negotiation with the Taliban including those who weeks before gave handsome speeches denouncing the policies of negotiation with the Taliban.

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# Transitional Justice

## Don't sacrifice the society for criminals

*8am daily, No 1033, Page Two, 11 Dec 2010*

Tenth of December, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights day and National Day of Victims of human rights violation in Afghanistan is commemorated with the march of a number of victims and human rights organizations when government seem to be silent on this day.

The systematic support of the Afghan government for the war criminals, who were in some ways involved in the thirty years crimes, has been an important barrier for the implementation of the transitional justice action plan. The president didn't officially sign the national day of human rights violation victims in the official calendar, though he cried on the day of tenth December. Still this day is only commemorated by the victims of human rights violations.

Our major problem in Afghanistan is that the discussion of human rights and transitional justice has turned into a political issue. All those people who were-in some ways- involved in the past crimes assume the implementation of action plan and transitional justice in Afghanistan as the trial and death penalties for themselves.

Nowhere in the world, has the human society had a successful future when their past crimes remain unresolved. However, it is a different perspective in Afghanistan. Our statesmen think that silence and negligence against the past will keep stability in this country. They are unaware of the fact that the previous mistakes will be consistently repeated.

Basically, the action plan is assumed as a penalty and execution for those who were involved in the crimes. While the aim of implementing this action plan is to acknowledge and confess to the suffering and the pain of victims of war and violence in Afghanistan. The main point is that if action plan is implemented, in fact we confess to the sufferings of the victims and boost up the level of confidence for the future of the society. The criminals must admit that they have committed crimes and the victims also feel that the criminals are sorry for their criminal acts.

## Defending human rights in action

*Bakhtar Daily, No 373, Editorial, 11 December 2010*

With regrets it is to say that the Afghan government has had no achievements in the area of human rights and shows no intention to defend human rights.

Tens of thousands of people, who are the owner of this country according to the Constitution, are tortured during various regimes, and even sent to the mass graves. Not only in the previous years but human rights violations is going on around us

today.

None of the criminals are neither trialed nor being questioned, instead they are given good positions in the government. Afghanistan confronts many problems today which roots back to the denial of human rights.

Although negligence of human rights is a loss not to be compensated soon, however, the government of Afghanistan must consider it as a basic need of Afghan people not only as a headline for western media.

## Government accused of not supporting human rights

*Mandegar Daily, No 466, Page 8, 11 December 2010*

Dozens of human rights activists and victims of the past three decades of war in Afghanistan in a rally in Kabul called for the implementation of transitional justice program. Some participants during a demonstration accused the government of supporting "war criminals". According to them, "the program of transitional justice has become the victim of political deals."

Carrying the images of the victims of past three decades violence, they stood in-front of UNAMA office and accused the International Community for trying to join the Hezb e Islami and Taliban under the name of "Reconciliation" into government.

**Sima Samar:**

## Sustainable peace requires a fair deal with the perpetrators

*Daily 8 am, No 1034, Page 5, 12 December 2010*

Dr Samar on the occasion of "victim's week" organized by the transitional justice coordination groups and Open Society with the assistance of French Cultural Center in Kabul, said, " a sustainable peace can be reached in the country when previous perpetrators are dealt fairly." The head of human rights commission added: we do not claim that peace can be brought in Afghanistan by killing or violations of human rights. Unless there is fair treatment of three decades human rights violations, we will not have sustainable peace in the country. Therefore, all of us who believe in the dignity and morale of humans, it is a must to consider and pursue human rights violations issues.

The Commission is emphasizing on the trial and prosecution of human rights violators during past three decades in Afghanistan, when the afghan government has blocked almost all the doors by approving the national reconciliation law. The national reconciliation law which was approved by the parliament in the winter of 1385/2006 pardoned serious human

rights cases and violators including the war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Meanwhile, UN officials in Kabul say that all the deficiencies and violence in this country persists due to lack of security and judicial system over the past three decades.

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### **The culture of impunity still exists in the country**

*Daily 8 am, No 1034, Page 3, 12 Dec 2010*

Sima Samar, head of the Afghan Human Rights Commission, says that the culture of impunity still exists in Afghanistan; war crimes and rape cases are not prosecuted in the country.

The head of Independent Human Rights Commission says that the criminals who are accused of war crimes are not given practical punishments, when they are arrested by the police, the other departments release them. What we observe today is the presence of war criminals in the government who are competing for power and slay many innocent victims for their interests. Though there are slogans of human rights and women's right in the country but what practically we observe is total human rights violations in the society.

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### **Commemoration of the victims in Badakhshan**

*Daily 8 am, No: 1034, Page One, 12 December 2010*

The National Day of human rights violations victims was commemorated by the Independent Human Rights Commission's provincial office in Orgo district of Badakhshan province. Wahiduddin Arghon, the district head of this office said: We experienced a bitter history of human rights violations during past three decades of war that brought a bad impact on the Afghan society- practicing equality and brotherhood in the past. Thus, the people of Afghanistan will never gain peace and justice if there is no reasonable treatment with the pain and suffering of the victims of the war and this can be achieved if the program of transitional justice is implemented.

# Negotiation with Armed Anti-Government Groups

## Negotiation Attempt by Saudi Arabia with Anti-Afghan government forces

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1580, Page 3, 01 Dec 2010*

A secret document released by American Embassy in Riyadh in February of this year, prior to Secretary of States Hilary Clinton's visit reveals that Abdullah has not admitted the role of Saudi Arabia as a mediator in talks with the Taliban.

The secret document by Wiki-Leaks reveals that the Saudi security Chief has told the American authorities that his country prefers talks through intelligence agencies with the Taliban unless an agreement is signed. The Saudi Arabia has rejected an obvious mediator role in talks with the Taliban.

Riyadh has consistently emphasized that unless Taliban cut off their relation with the Al-Qaida they will not play the role of mediator between Afghan government and this group.

## The Head of High Peace Council Visits Kandahar

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1584, Page 1, 07 Dec 2010*

Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, the head of High Peace Council with a delegation, went to Kandahar on Monday.

The delegation of High Peace Council led by Mr. Rabbani including Mohammad Ma'soom Stanekzai, the president's security advisor arrived in Kandahar on Monday. The delegations reached Kandahar amid tight security measures in the Kandahar city.

It is expected that the delegation discuss with the tribal elders and the regional officials about the ways to bring peace in the country. It is said that it is the first official visit of the council out of Kabul after it officially started its works.

The High Peace Council started its works for negotiation with the anti-government forces for bringing peace one month before with 70 members.

## The Saudis are the major sponsor of terrorism in the world

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1584, Page 4, 07 Dec 2010*

Based on the documents of Wiki-Leaks, the American foreign secretary believes that the Saudis are the biggest financial supporter of terrorism in the world.

This document signed by Hilary Clinton, the foreign secretary of US in December 2009, reveals that she had asked the diplomats of the country to exert more pressure on Saudi Arabia for their support to terrorists.

These documents also name the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Kuwait as other supporter of terrorists, but the concerns about Saudi Arabia is much higher than all of these countries.

## Peace, the desire of Afghan people

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1585, Editorial, 8 Dec 2010*

One of the reasons behind the support of people for Mr. Karzai in his second presidential round was his promise to put all the efforts to bring peace. When the National Consultative Meeting was held, the people were anxious about its decisions of this council.

Many days passed and another council is formed by the name of High Council for Peace which increased the hopes of people.

During this time the people only heard discouraging news which made people to be more hopeless.

The request by the Consultative Peace Council from Islamic countries particularly the Saudis for mediation remained unanswered.

The neighboring countries, particularly Pakistan expressed their willingness to play their role in bringing peace on a condition that their interest is preserved.

## Efforts for peace will gain momentum

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1585, Page 2, 08 Dec 2010*

Burhanuddin Rabbani, the head of High Peace Council and Ma'soom Stanekzai the head of Kandahar council's secretariat during their journey to Kandahar met with the governors of Southern zone of Afghanistan.

Burhanuddin Rabbani said in his talks: we started the first consultative peace meeting in Kandahar province with the elders of this ancient province because all successful national movements started their activity from this province.

During the press conference Rabbani said to reporters that peace efforts have newly begun and there have been achievements in this regard too, however they will expand their efforts. He added that there have been contacts with the anti-government forces and he cannot reveal them because of some security reasons.

Rabbani also asked the security officials not to torture the anti-government prisoners.

## Taliban must be disarmed before reconciliation

*Afghanistan daily, No 1266, Page One, 11 Dec 2010*

Amrullah Saleh, Afghanistan's former head of intelligence said

that Amrullah Saleh, Afghanistan's former intelligence chief says that the peace talks with the Taliban will bring devastation unless the group is disarmed.

Mr. Saleh says that before reconciliation with the Taliban their funding sources must be blocked from Pakistan. The insurgents should be disarmed and after that they should be permitted for political activities.

Taliban should be pressurized to act upon the democratic values. Saleh also added that if the funding sources of Taliban are not blocked from Pakistan then they will apparently accept peace but when foreign forces leave Afghanistan they will regain power. The criticism by Saleh reveals another point that there are concerns for afghan experts about the neighboring countries who allow insurgent groups to nourish inside Afghanistan. According to Saleh the increase in the American troops in this year had only temporary effect on the Taliban.

He adds that some of the areas were freed from the Taliban control, but there have been no basic changes. He says that the Taliban leaders are neither killed nor arrested. General Ehsanul Haq the former ISI chief says that the only way towards peace is talks with the Taliban that can separate the group from Al-Qaida and join them to the political and governance process.

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Ashir:

### **Saleh's preconditions for peace talks related to National Peace Council**

*Cheragh Daily, No 229, Page One, 12 Dec 2010*

While Mr. Saleh the former security chief had put preconditions like disarmament of Taliban before any negotiation, the government says that the National Peace Council should study this precondition.

Dr. Hakim Ashir the head of government's media center says that these points are personnel viewpoints of Mr. Amrullah Saleh and if any Afghan has such viewpoints then they should consult the governmental institutions.

Amrullah Saleh said that before any talk with the Taliban they should be disarmed and their funding sources to be blocked.

# Elections Transparency

## Constitutional oversight commission to mediate in resolving electoral problems

Afghanistan daily, No 1258, Page One, 01 Dec 2010

The Constitutional Oversight Constitution says that if the ongoing conflict of attorney general's office and the elections commissions are not resolved, they are ready to handle the problems.

Qazi Gulrahman, the chairman of this Commission said that both (IEC and attorney general's office) are responsible for the ongoing problems.

He said that election law and the constitution has no problem in relation to the ongoing problem. He said that if Independent Elections Commission and the attorney general's office could not resolve the issue, the Constitutional Oversight Commission is ready to cooperate. He rejected the viewpoints of some experts that the elections results should be declared invalid and the current parliament continues its work.

## Commissions Fighting and the President Watching

Mandegar Daily, No 460, Page One, 01 Dec 2010

While the Election Commission has declared it is going to distribute certificates for the winner candidates of parliament, the attorney general's office still call it an early and illegal result.

The president seems silent amid all these confrontations between Attorney General and the IEC. Some analysts believe that the president may not be consented with the result of parliamentary elections.

Recently, President's spokesman, Wahid Omar told the media that the president will not intervene in the affairs of attorney general and the electoral institutions.

The spokesperson for the IEC says that the commission will not obey any person or institution and they have not done so far. He added that we ask every institution to act according to the law and in their circle of authority.

Haroon Amir a political expert believes that the president is not agree with the result of elections and therefore does not intervene in the ongoing conflicts of IEC and attorney general. According to him, the ongoing conflicts of IEC and the attorney general's office will be resolved when the president intervenes, now the position of president is questionable.

## Head of Nuristan's Electoral Complaints Commission Resigns

Rah e Nejat Daily, No 1580, Page II, 01 Dec 2010

The Head of Electoral Complaints Commission Secretariat in



Nuristan province will resign from his post, complaining about the frauds in the elections. Najibullah Nooristani, the head of Electoral Complaints Commission Secretariat in Nuristan province, in a news conference with angry candidates, said that there have been widespread frauds in the parliamentary elections of Nuristan province.

As an example, he referred to the victory of Mawlawi Ahmadullah Mowahid and said: "At first all his votes were declared invalid and later on, he was declared winner in the final elections result." Nooristani claims that the Complaints Commission office in Nuristan carried out their job honestly but the IEC and electoral commission's office in Nuristan were involved in the national betrayal. Nooristani noted that he has proofs of widespread frauds in the elections like written documents, film and CD.

## Response by British Embassy

Daily 8am, No 1025, First Page, 01 Dec 2010

8am Daily in its Nov 27 Issue on Saturday accused the British Ambassador in Kabul of intervening in the delay of Ghzani electoral results. The British Embassy in Kabul rejects all the accusation by 8am daily and calls it completely baseless claims.

The British Ambassador, British Embassy and the government of Britain strongly believe that Afghanistan elections belong to Afghans which lays the foundation of democracy in this country. The important element of this democratic process includes leadership which was demonstrated by the IEC and ECC. These are the institutions that have the management and decision making responsibilities.

It is to note that the Great Britain's ambassador to Afghanistan,

British Embassy and the government of UK continues to support and respect the democratic process in Afghanistan.

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## Final elections result of Ghazni province announced

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1259, Page One, 02 December 2010*

While the Ghazni candidates are still on protest and waiting for the assessment of attorney general's office, the IEC declared the final elections result in Ghazni province yesterday.

Fazl Ahmad Ma'navi, the head of IEC on Wednesday said that the votes of Ghazni province are accurately counted and this is the final and unchangeable result.

The winner candidates of Ghazni province are those who were declared successful in the early list. This list is approved by ECC without any modifications and this is a victory for entire nation.

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## The victorious candidates of Ghazni: We represent the entire tribes living in Ghazni

*Afghanistan daily, No 1259, Page One, 02 Dec 2010*

The winning Candidates from Ghazni province say that they will represent the entire ethnic groups living in Ghazni province and all the people of Afghanistan.

The declaration published by them writes: The winning candidates from Ghazni province thanks all the legislative bodies for their efforts to declare the elections results according to the law of Afghanistan and ensure that they will preserve the trust and the votes of the people to do their best in serving the nation. The Ghazni province has eleven seats in total in the parliament.

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IEC:

## No other institution has the right to approve or reject the Elections

*Daily 8 am, No 1026, Page one, 02 Dec 2010*

The Independent Elections Commission ended speculations about the possibility of deals in the final elections results by announcing the Ghazni results.

Fazl Ahmad Ma'navi, the head of IEC while announcing the final elections result of Ghazni said: the problem concerning IEC is now over with the announcement of Ghazni results and the commission has completed the total number of seats in the parliament with certificates being distributed to the winning candidates. Manavi assured their decision was based on the law and they have handed over everything accordingly. Manavi said: "Fortunately we were successful to overcome every obstacle confronting the IEC and now the number seats in the Wolesi Jirga is completed. He added that the early elections results of Ghazni are approved by the ECC without any modifications which will be announced today.

## US and EU welcome the final elections results

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1260, Page Eight, 04 December 2010*

The United States and the European Union welcomed the final elections results. The final elections results of 18th September were announced from 33 provinces. Ghazni result was delayed for 7 days which was finally announced amid the strong opposition by the failed candidates.

In the mean-time the attorney general's office say that they have proofs and evidence that can question the legitimacy of the elections. But the elections commissions emphasize that the process was transparent and there is nothing that could undermine the final elections result. The American embassy in Kabul in a communiqué welcomed the final elections result by IEC.

The EU also released a communiqué welcoming the elections result by IEC. The communiqué also praised the IEC activities and approved their work.

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## Welcoming the election results will not affect the activities of attorney general's office

*Afghanistan daily, No 1261, Page One, 05 Dec 2010*

The attorney general's office says that the announcement of final elections result and its verification by the authorities will not impact the assessment of frauds by the attorney general's office. Hafizullah Hafiz, the head of attorney general's investigation office yesterday (Dec 05) said: "according to the article 134 of constitution, the attorney general has the right to assess the complaints. He added that they have received more than 2 hundred complaints and documents about the frauds in the election in the parliamentary elections. He said that every day the number of complaints increases as the angry candidates bring more and more complaints.

So far, the US Embassy in Afghanistan, EU and UN have welcomed the final elections result in Afghanistan. The attorney general's office say that frauds in the process is widespread which has questioned the legitimacy of elections. The attorney general's office claim they have evidence and proofs in this regard.

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## Winning candidates of Zabul are not from this province

*Rah e Nejat Daily, 1583, Page One, 06 Dec 2010*

Different ethnic groups from Zabul province in a complaint to Mishrano Jirga (Upper House) claim that the candidates who are declared successful from this province are not actually natives of Zabul. The Complaints Commission of Upper House assessed their complaints and handed it over to the attorney general for further prosecution.

The total number of valid votes in this province was 4705 votes and the invalid votes were 5159.

## In Budget Transparency: Afghanistan has achieved 8 to 21% progress

Rah e Nejat Daily, No 1583, Page two, 06 Dec 2010

A study by the Transparency International Afghanistan Division that includes 100 war-torn countries from 2008 to 2010 reports that Afghanistan has progressed from 8 to 21 percent.

The head of this division says that there are eight important documents deemed necessary for the budgeting process to be transparent.

He says, if the Afghan government paves the way for the public that how and where the budget is spent then this will also reduce corruption. On the other hand, Dr. Mustafa Mastoor, the deputy of ministry finance says that the budget system of Afghanistan possess all the documents related to transparency. He said that we annually prepare 7 documents out of 8 except one which is prepared in common people's language.



documents question the legitimacy of the elections. Zabuli added that their documents are being assessed in the attorney general's office and they are waiting for the final result and ultimately the decision of the court.

### Noor:

## The arrested staffs have nothing to do with the elections result

Afghanistan daily, No 1263, Page Eight, 07 Dec 2010

IEC spokesman, Noor Mohammad Noor said on Dec 7 that these people were accused of logistic and procurement supply frauds. Noor didn't reveal the identity of these personnel and said that they are permanent workers of IEC who personally consulted the attorney general's office. Noor added that they went to Attorney General's office because they were summoned and they were not forced. He added that it is an ordinary issue and they were accused one year before.

Hafiz Allah Hafiz the deputy of Attorney General's office said yesterday that four people including the head and deputies of IEC were arrested late yesterday by this office. Hafiz didn't reveal the identity of these people but said that they are accused of manipulations. He added that their case was not related to electoral frauds.

### Zaboli:

## A parliament welcomed by embassies has no legitimacy

Afghanistan Daily, No 1263, Page 8, 07 December 2010

The Complaints Commission of Mishrano Jirga says that the Parliament welcomed by the embassies of USA and Russia have no legitimacy. Dr. Zalmai Zabuli, the head of this commission said that hundreds of complaints by the people from around the country about the elections results of this year are sent to this commission. He added that the commission talked about these complaints with the election commissions but their answers were not satisfactory. Zabuli said: their conflicting opinions made us suspicious that there is something wrong.

Zabuli added that some of the documents revealed that some people's rights are violated in the elections result. These

## Who will be the head of parliament?

Bakhtar Daily, No 371, Page One, 7 Dec 2010

The parliament is yet to be inaugurated in days or weeks, but the candidates have started their campaign to assume the seat of head and administration of parliament.

The numbers of candidates that have officially declared their nomination to assume the seat of president of parliament are ten.

Former head of parliament, Muhammad Yunus Qanooni, Abdul Rab Rasool Sayyaf, Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq, Mirwais Yasini former first vice president of parliament, Ramazan Bashardost, Shukria Barakzai, Alemi Balkhi, Haji Zahir son of Haji Abdul Qadir, Abdul Latif Pedram, Hafiz Mansoor and Dr. Mahyuddin Mahdi are the nominees for the post of parliament's presidency.

In the meantime, an agreement between president Karzai and Mr. Qanooni leaked to the media recently revealing president's commitment to support Mr. Qanooni keep his current position. The agreement also shows the signature of Abdul Rab Rasul Sayaf and Mujaddadi as witnesses. In the end of agreement the signatures of Mr. Qanooni and Mr. Karzai are printed. However, the spokesperson for the president and Mr. Qanooni has rejected the existence of any such agreement.

More than 50% of the new parliament is comprised of new faces.

## Dr. Mehdi a nominee for the head of Parliament

Cheragh Daily, No 227, Page One, 08 Dec 2010

Dr. Mahyuddin Mahdi, one of the new members of the

parliament declared his nomination for the presidency of the parliament yesterday in a news conference.

Mr. Mahdi calls the new House of Representatives a big achievement to establish a republic system in the country. Dr. Mahdi is the first person who officially nominated himself for the post of presidency of the parliament.

Although any other candidate has not officially declared his nomination for the post, the media reported that Muhammad Younus Qanooni, Mirwais Yasini, Hafiz Mansoor, Mahyuddin Mahdi, Muhammad Zahir Qadir, Sayaf, Ahmad Behzad and Ramazan Bashar dost are other MPs expected to nominate for this post. Yesterday the media also revealed the secret deal between Hamid Karzai and Mr. Qanooni.

In the meantime, Mr. Qanooni rejected the allegations and called it a plot by his political rivals.

## The Electoral Complaints of category B to be assessed

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1264, Page Eight, 08 Dec 2010*

The Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) says that they have started assessing the Electoral Complaints of second category (b). Ahmad Zia Rafat, a member and spokesman for the Electoral Complaints Commission yesterday (8 Dec 2010) expressed that, in two months they will finish assessing the electoral complaints of second category (B).

According to ECC, "the complaints in this category will not harm the elections results."

The source adds that this category of complaints includes the irregularities in elections and the use of force by powerful figures on the people to vote for a particular person.

He added that 1160 complaints of priority (b) have been recorded.

He noted that hundreds of candidates will be fined for misreporting their financial reports.

## Electoral Complaints Commission: We will complain about the institutions that accused us

8am Daily, No 1032, Page One, 09 December 2010

The authorities in Electoral Complaints Commission say that they will officially complain to a higher court from the attorney general's office and other institutions that tried to vilify and accuse the Commission.

Ahmdzia Rafat, a member and spokesman for the Electoral Complaints Commission also emphasized that the elections have ended according to the law and no other institution has the right to assess any electoral frauds or manipulations.

The statements come at the time when many angry candidates have demanded from the attorney general's office to pursue

their complaints. In the mean-time, the attorney general's office say that they are busy assessing the electoral complaints.

## New parliament must be inaugurated

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1265, Page One, December 9, 2010*

Dozens of new MPs have criticized the delay in the inauguration of new parliament and ask for immediate start of this institution.

The representatives urged the president to inaugurate the new parliament in two weeks and officially finish the previous Parliament.

According to the Afghan constitution the new parliament must begin its work after the announcement of final election results, however, now two weeks have passed from the final results.

The government emphasizes that the new parliament will not begin officially unless the Senate members are appointed. This process will take at least two months.

On the other hand the attorney general's office also has not finished its investigation on the final parliamentary results.

The Attorney general recently called the announced result to be preliminary and said that the wide spread fraud cases are under assessment.

## The Complaints Commission fined hundreds of candidates

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1265, Page One, 09 Dec 2010*

Electoral Complaints Commission spokesman have fined almost 878 candidates from 50 to 500 thousand Afghans, because they did not submit their financial report to IEC.

Ahmad Zia Rafat, the spokesperson for ECC said that many candidates have spent more money than their actual property and they did not fill out the form they were required by IEC. According to the procedure of IEC all the candidates had to produce their financial report until 25 Sunbula (Persian Calendar) but many of them didn't do it.

Mr. Rafat also said that they did not receive any complaints and there is no document showing the candidates received money from a foreign source for their campaign.

## Sultanzoi, Ranjbar and Khaibar in the presidential palace

*Rah e Nejat daily, No 1586, Page II, 11 December 2010*

President spokesman's office announced that a number of candidates for the second round of parliamentary elections that couldn't succeed to enter the parliament met Hamid Karzai and demanded that their complaints to be assessed.

In this meeting, Sultanzoi, Movlavi Khaybar and M. Kabir Ranjbar representing others said that the recent parliamentary elections have been full of widespread frauds and manipulations.

The President said that the job of president is to guard and protect the law and according to the constitution of the country, the president has no right to intervene in the affairs of elections or revoke the elections.

But the president assured that the "justice and judicial authorities" of the country are assessing the complaints of the candidates.

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## Concerns over the delay of inaugurating new Parliament

*Afghanistan daily, No 1266, Page 4, 11 Dec 2010*

Based on the constitution of Afghanistan, the parliament should immediately begin its work after the final election results is announced. Yet, there is no clear date for the inaugural of the new parliament. Such delays and acts against the law have become like a habit as the parliament elections also was delayed three months and their results also delayed for two months. In the mean-time the new parliament has many important tasks ahead as; legalizing the presence of foreign troops in the country, the approval of parliamentary elections law which wasn't approved by the previous parliament and more importantly the approval of 7 ministers for the seven ministries which are supervised now by head of ministries. There are other issues also that require the new parliament to be inaugurated soon.

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## Intervention by a senior government official in the affairs of the elections will be assessed

*Afghanistan daily, No 1266, Page 8, 11 December 2010*

Electoral Complaints Commission says that the audio tape belonging to Ismail Khan, the head of ministry of Energy and Water about elections is assessed by this commission. Ahmad Zia Rafat, the member of ECC said that the assessment of this audio tape belongs to the second category (b) of the electoral complaints. The audio tape which was recorded prior to elections reveals Ismael Khan talking to an employee of IEC who is not identified yet.

The voice referred to Mohammad Ismail Khan, Minister of Energy and Water demands the removal of a number of candidates in Herat to be replaced by some of the other candidates in the elections results.

He added the people whom the voice had demanded to be successful have failed and the other people whom the voice said to be removed are successful.

On the other hand, Ahmad Behzad a winner candidate from Herat province believes this issue should be assessed by the attorney general's office and other related judicial bodies.

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## A political impasse or the beginning of a crisis?

*Daily 8 am, No 1034, editorial, December 12, 2010*

the demand by the attorney general's office to call invalid the final elections result was unexpected, but it can start a new

political crises which may end into a political impasse. There is a probability that the attorney general's office might have taken this step under the pressure of government particularly the president.

In the mean-time, according to the constitution, no particular organization has the right to make the elections invalid.

The steps taken by the attorney general's office regarding elections is completely political. This institution declared once that their problem with the IEC is resolved, however, now the elections result is declared and approved by the electoral commission. It seems that this is an indirect political revenge by the president from his opponents.

Many of Karzai's political rivals believe that the step taken by attorney general's office is actually Mr. karzai's attempt to limit the presence of MPs from other ethnicities. The pressure by the Presidential Palace for modifications in the result of Ghazni province, to make some particular candidates successful, is an obvious example.

In such a situation when many areas of Afghanistan are insecure, these crises will expand insecurity and strengthen the armed anti-government forces. It is also a slap to the face of weak democracy established in the country and will sought bad trend for future politician.

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## IEC officials: Two senior government officials try to change elections results

*Mandegar Daily, No 467, Page One, 12 December 2010*

An IEC official says that two senior government officials are trying to convince about 50 winning Pashtun candidates to resign and call the elections void.

Based on a report received to Mandegar Daily, says these authorities have been successful to change the mind some of the winner candidates belonging to Pashtuns.

At the same time it is said that a number of protesting candidates that met Hamid Karzai two nights before demanded for the elections to be declared void.

Based on the reports, Mr. Karzai has told them to continue their protest on invaliding the elections result until an opportunity comes.

Earlier, Mr Karzai at a joint news conference with Gates, in response to the question that whether he is ready to inaugurate the parliament said that he will act according to the constitution which was not a clear answer.

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## Demand by attorney general's office to revoke the parliamentary election results

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1267, Page One, 12 December 2010*

The attorney general's office calls for cancellation of the final results of parliamentary elections while ECC deems it to be a political move.

Rahmatullah Nazari, Deputy Attorney General Office in a news conference said that the attorney general's office demands the afghan government to revoke the elections results and punish the perpetrators for their involvement in the frauds and allegation so that no one in the future could dare to do something.

It seems that these statements by the attorney general's office to declare invalid the elections result is pretty serious.

However, ECC calls these as political pressures to invalidate the elections results.

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## Attorney General playing with fire

*Mandegar Daily, No 468, editorial, 01 Dec 2010*

With no doubt, the government of Afghanistan failed to gain the outcome they wanted out of elections, and thus, using attorney general's office they are trying to supposedly help the nation. However, the attorney general's office is unaware of their job and instead making the situation better they are making it worse and driving the country towards more crises.

In the mean-time, let's not forget that if elections cancelled then the country will enter into another chaotic phase which may remind people of 90s.

The cancellation of the election results gives only one message; the partition of Afghanistan, so is the attorney general's office ready to start the partition? It seems that the attorney general's office is a puppet in the hands of those who are dreaming for the partition of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, why the attorney general's office is trying to prove the statement by the American general that Afghans are raised with corruption?

With no doubt, there is a big plot behind the current stance of attorney general's office and there are foreign hands behind this issue with the support of circles within the government.

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## Attorney general: 14 IEC employees and 12 money dealers to be punished

*Rah e Nejat Daily, No 1588, Page 2, 13 December 2010*

The Attorney general's office declared its final decision to cancel the final elections results and votes to be recounted.

Rahmatullah Nazari, deputy attorney general's office in a news conference on Saturday in Kabul said that this decision is taken to bring transparency, and convince people and the candidates. Their decision is sent to the Supreme Court. Nazari said that after 35 days of assessing the electoral complaints and violation cases, and 232 complaints from people and the candidates they have found 14 IEC personnel and 12 money dealers guilty and demand them to be punished.

In the mean-time, the authorities in IEC say that according to elections law no one has the right to cancel the elections result.

## The government reviews the demand to make a commission for the recount of votes What will the Supreme Court decide?

*Bakhtar Daily, No 375, Page One, 13 December 2010*

Afghan government officials say that the president will make decision on forming a commission for the recount of votes. Hakim Ashir, head of government's media and information center says that it is the job of the government to make decisions on the current problems about the elections.

Regarding the formation of a new commission to recount votes as the attorney general's office has demanded, he said, it will be finalized after the president comes from Turkmenistan.

Mr. Ashir emphasizes on the government's neutral role in the ongoing jangles of the commissions and attorney's office and says that the government supports neither the attorney general nor the elections institutions. Attorney general's office is an independent organization. The president has no involvement and any decision which is based on law is supported by the president.

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## Preparations by Supreme Court to assess election cases

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1268, Page One, 13 December 2010*

The government says that any decision the Supreme Court declares about the elections will be supported by the president.

Dr Hakim Ashir, head of president's media and information center said that the decision should be based on law.

Meanwhile, the attorney general's office of Afghanistan demanded the Supreme Court to declare the elections result invalid.

On the other hand the Supreme Court officials say that the election cases will be assessed by this organization.

On Saturday the attorney general's office declared that they have finished the assessment of elections cases and demanded the Supreme Court to declare the elections result invalid and punish the perpetrators who were involved in electoral frauds and corruption.

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## Government is weakening the next parliament

*Irada daily, No 937, editorial, 13 December 2010*

The Kabul government is working to weaken the next parliament. Because the government could not sent the pro-Karzai MPs to the parliament, instead, the opponents are in large number in the new parliament so the government is trying the legal and judicial channels to reach its objectives.

The Kabul government is trying to undermine the elections results, if possible, declare it invalid or at least weaken the next parliament. As some of the government affiliated organizations

including the attorney general's office are talking about the invalidation of elections. If they continue to create crises then it will have no achievements for the people and the government.

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## Elections conflicts continues, Karzai is silent

*Mandegar Daily, No 469, Page One, 14 December 2010*

After the conflicts between the Election commissions and the attorney general's office, the president's spokesperson said that he has no intention to get involved in the conflicts between IEC and the attorney general's office.

President spokesman added: the government is not above the law and the reaction by the president is according to the law. The parliament will be officially inaugurated with the presence of the president and the date is scheduled by the secretariat of the parliament not the government.

He said that if Karzai intervenes in the electoral results affairs then it is against the law, because the president is the interpreter of the law and cannot act above the law.

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## New demands by the winner candidates from the president: No more Delays, the new Parliament must be opened

*Irada daily, No. 938, Page One, 14 Dec 2010*

The Press Office of Volisi Jirga on 13 December announced that one hundred current MPs who are successful in the second round too in a meeting presided by the current head of parliament released a statement demanding Mr. President to officially inaugurate the new parliament on December 19.

In the meantime, 5 days before tens of winner candidates had protested against the delay of the inaugural of parliament.

According to the constitution of Afghanistan, the new parliament must begin its work after the declaration of final elections results. However, now two weeks are passed and the second round of parliament is not yet opened.

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## Karzai is silent over the election crisis

*Irada Daily, No 938, Editorial, 14 Dec 2010*

The ongoing conflict between the Election Commission and the attorney general shows the existence of a gap between the two government institutions and does not seem that they will resolve their dispute easily. In the meanwhile two issues are a matter of concern; the meaningful silence of president and the international partners and the propaganda of ongoing conflict between the legislative forces.

It seems that the country's political situation after the elections has become complex enough that even people have started panic about it. These crises is in the favor of anti-government forces and the question is this that why president Karzai is silent. If the president doesn't have the authority to declare the elections result invalid then he has the authority to inaugurate the new

parliament. The delay of this matter based on different pretends by the president means that he supports the ongoing crises.

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## Attorney General's Office did not demand for execution of members of IEC

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1269, Page Eight, 14 Dec 2010*

The attorney general's office says that they didn't ask the court to execute the members of IEC. Hafizullah Hafiz, head of attorney general's complaints department says that the attorney general's office had asked that 14 members of IEC must be given maximum penalty.

He said that the penalty does not mean execution but imprisonment. Hafiz added that for example the law for imprisonment is from 1 to 5 years. Based on this we asked for maximum penalty for these members. He added that it's the job of the judge to give them the deserved penalty.

Meanwhile, Manavi, the head of IEC in a news conference had claimed the attorney general's office had demanded for execution of 14 members of IEC.

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## Four attorneys arrested in Khost, on suspicion of corruption

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1269, Page Eight, 14 December 2010*

Khost officials say that four attorneys are arrested on the suspicion of corruption by the national security officials.

The communiqué released by the press office of Khost province on Dec 13 says that, these attorneys are accused of manipulations, bribery and misuse of their authority for other illegal acts. The arrested attorneys are under interrogation in the national security department and their cases will be referred to the court soon. The communiqué adds that five more attorneys are also to be arrested and their arrest warrant is issued. The people of Khost, religious figures and tribal elders are cooperating with them in this work.

There were similar arrests in the past too but they were released later on.

# Corruption

## Wiki Leaks:

### Afghan MPs receive money from Iran

*Daily 8 am, No 1027, Page One, 04 December 2010*

The secret documents released by the Wiki-leaks reveals that the American embassy in Kabul in notes to Washington has written that Iran pays money to a number of religious scholars, political leaders, Mullahs and even members of parliament. The notes about Iran-Afghanistan relations further disclose that the Iranians continue to bribe the Afghan MPs and send weapons and equipments to the Taliban group.

The Iranian authorities continue to "encourage the MPs in the parliament to highlight the anti-coalition and anti-American policies" during the parliamentary assemblies and sessions.

Mirwais Yasini, the vice-president of Afghan parliament has told an-American authority that an Iranian intelligence officer had pressured to change the agenda of parliamentary debate to the civilian casualties during NATO operations. When Mr. Yasini rejects the demands of Iranian intelligence officer the two other MPs raise the same issue in the parliamentary debates.

Based on these notes, Syed Hussain Alemi Balkhi, Ahmad Ali Jibraeli and Mr. Akbary are the people receive much money from Iran.

The secret documents further say that the Afghan government is still silent in the wake of obvious Iranian intervention in the affairs of Afghanistan.

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### Ahmad Zia Massoud rejected the Wiki-leaks charges

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1263, First Page, 07 Dec 2010*

Ahmad Zia Massoud, the former vice president of Afghanistan rejected all the allegations by the documents released by the Wiki-Leaks. The Wiki-Leaks documents accused Mr. Masood to transfer more than 50 million dollars out of country when he was vice-president of the country.

Mr. Masood called these charges untrue and asked the Attorney General office and the Afghan Foreign Ministry to investigate every doubt they find about him.

Mr. Massoud accused Wiki-Leaks of trying to harm his political figure and president Karzai also rejected the allegations by Wiki-leaks about his former vice president calling it baseless.

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### US Army cuts off its relations with Watan Security Company

*Irada Daily, No 935, Page One, 11 December 2010*

The US military cuts off its ties with the afghan private security company that belongs to Hamid Karzai.

This security company is accused of paying bribe to the Afghan authorities and the Taliban commanders.

This decision is part of America's efforts to clean up those contracts in Afghanistan that are involved with corruption and the USAID money are transferred to insurgents through their activities.

## Articles & Interviews

# Negotiation with the terrorists is tantamount to their official recognition



Interviewer: Jawad Naji

As part of our efforts to explore and highlight different views and concerns with regard to negotiations and talks with the anti-government armed forces, this time we interviewed Ahmad Behzad, a member of the House of Representatives from Herat province. Behzad is a vocal critic of the Afghan government and believes the Taliban do not constitute a defined political force with whom one can sit behind a negotiating table.

**How do you see talks with the Taliban or the anti-government forces?**

**Behzad:** I don't believe that Taliban is a political group considering their past and current activities and I am not convinced that talks with this group can achieve any objective. Basically, terrorism is not a phenomenon that could be negotiated with. Furthering the plan of negotiation with the Taliban will take us to another direction in other words officially accepting the phenomenon of terrorism. Therefore, I cannot give you a proper definition of negotiation with the Taliban.

**To what extent do you think the government has succeeded in talks with the Taliban?**

**Behzad:** I believe the government of Hamid Karzai has not been able to achieve the objectives it planned in the talks with the Taliban. One of the objectives of the government was to reduce the insecurity, instability and reduce violence resulting from Taliban activities. As we observe there has been no achievements in this regard.

Those forces inside Afghanistan that have some commonalities with the Taliban or wish to return the Taliban to power were hopeless in the early days of international interventions Afghanistan. As a result, they distanced themselves from Taliban styles of behaviors in the country. Now, as the issue of negotiation with the Taliban is proposed and they are officially recognized; these forces are gaining momentum and trying to get closer with the Taliban.

**Does the failure of government to achieve results means there is something regards with the mechanisms of negotiations with the insurgents?**

**Behzad:** Basically the government's claims regarding talks with

the Taliban are in contradictions with other claims it has made in the past and present.

**Unfortunately, the members of the Council are those people who are accustomed to destructive political dealings. They exist in Afghanistan because of these destructive political deals. A number of these members are those who were critics of negotiation with the Taliban including those who weeks before gave handsome speeches denouncing the policies of negotiation with the Taliban.**

For example, the government of Hamid Karzai claimed that Taliban is the product of foreign intelligence organizations sent to Afghanistan to serve the objectives of foreigners. When we look at this analysis, Taliban are not the cause but the effect. However, now in the talks they are introduced as the cause.

Another [government] proposition in contradiction with the talks with the Taliban is the claim of internal dissatisfactions. On several occasions, the government has claimed that one of the main reasons behind the Taliban recruitment is corruption and

inefficiency of local official and governments in certain parts of the country and this is claimed to have widened the gulf between the people and the state and offered potential recruits for the Taliban. Now, if we accept this claim as a fact then I think, whatever privileges we give to the Taliban, provide them with money and make deals with them, have no effect when there is a clear distance between people and the government. This means when an environment of dissatisfaction prevails and people distance themselves from the government we will not be able to achieve our goals. In other words, we will leave a Taliban production factory in place and create energies for it and only fight or deal with its products.

The conclusion I draw is that the policy of negotiation with the Taliban is contradiction with government claims of the sources

of the Taliban in both domestic and foreign arenas.

**Does this mean the government should, at first, sit down and negotiate with those countries that are supposedly sponsoring the Taliban project?**

**Behzad:** Yes, but considering some other facts beside it. There have been many factors behind the formation, re-organization, and re-strengthening of the Taliban. First, foreign intervention in formation and reorganization of the Taliban to regain power. Second, those particular areas in Afghanistan and Pakistan must be identified and dealt with that provide the ground for organized crimes and violent movements. Therefore, in our foreign policy we must persuade the Taliban supporters to give up their support for the terrorist groups and the Taliban. In security areas we must strengthen our borders. In the administrative area we must focus on policies to avoid a centralized system and adopt a decentralized system in which the different parts of Afghan society can select their own social and cultural system. In this way we can remove the guardians of the Taliban, deprive them from their social bases and restrict their military maneuvers in the country.

**Have the plan of negotiation and talks with the Taliban not strengthened the spirit and activities of this group and the anti-government forces?**

**Behzad:** The consequences of talks and negotiations with the terrorist groups including the Taliban, has been devastating and damaging. First, it has encouraged the Taliban. With the proposition of this motto Taliban revived and planned to exert more pressure on the government of Afghanistan and the foreign forces to gain better and bigger privileges. That part of the society who no more had any hope for the Taliban gained hopes that this group will again emerge in the political scene. Third, the government of Afghanistan is trying to give Taliban privileges by releasing the Taliban captives who were caught in fights against the political system of Afghanistan. It has given Taliban more supremacy as they have again joined their ranks.

Another element is the economic issue and the extravagant expenditure of money. A part of this money goes into the pockets of government officials and mafia bonds that work on the policies of negotiation with the Taliban. I believe the effect of these talks of negotiation is most devastating on the determination and motivation of the ranks of Afghan armed forces. In a face to face fighting one must give high level of incentive and motivation to their forces so that they stand and fight their opponents. However, when the government and the leadership of the country call the Taliban officially in respected titles and even try to name it a national resistance force and not a terrorist group then it is natural that there will be flaws in the ranks of armed forces. After all, a soldier is confused whether he fights a terrorist group or a national resistance force. These are results of those destructive policies that have expanded insecurity in the country and the widespread corruption inside Afghan government.

**How do you see the High Council for Peace?**

**Behzad:** The High Council for Peace has nothing to

do. Unfortunately, the members of the Council are those people who are accustomed to destructive political dealings. They exist in Afghanistan because of these destructive political deals. A number of these members are those who were critics of negotiation with the Taliban including those who weeks before gave handsome speeches denouncing the policies of negotiation with the Taliban. But, for obtaining money from those dirty foreign channels they have joined this council. They have no program for negotiation but to play some tricks and games to receive more money. A part of them wants political privileges and another part is economic mafia. I believe that the continuity of their work will bring more crises in Afghanistan.

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# New publications

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## How to Solve Afghanistan

*The Diplomat/By Robert Dreyfuss/December 09, 2010*

If President Barack Obama is serious about finding out whether a political settlement of the war in Afghanistan is possible in 2011, he'd use the scheduled review of US Afghanistan policy to order a ceasefire, halt the faltering offensive in the southern provinces of Kandahar and Helmand, put an end to the lethal night raids by US Special Forces that have killed hundreds of low-level insurgents, and stop the drone-fired missile attacks in both Afghanistan and Pakistan's Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA) on the other side of the border.

<http://the-diplomat.com/2010/12/09/how-to-solve-afghanistan/>

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## Afghan Panel Certifies Final, Controversial Poll Count

*The Wall Street Journal /By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV/December 2, 2010*

Afghanistan's election commission, defying President Hamid Karzai, certified the final tally from Sept. 18 elections with a controversial decision to give all 11 seats in Ghazni province, where Taliban kept the Pashtun majority from the polls, to members of the ethnic Hazara minority.

The move Wednesday opens the way for the new legislature to meet, following days of wrangling between the Independent Election Commission, the United Nations-backed Electoral Complaints Commission watchdog and Attorney General Mohammed Ishaq Aloko.

Mr. Aloko, who is seen as close to Mr. Karzai, has declared the publication of election results illegitimate and opened a criminal probe against officials at both election commissions, accusing them of accepting bribes and falsifying vote tallies.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703865004575648531573532398.html>

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## No Shortcut to Stability: Justice, Politics and Insurgency in Afghanistan

*CHATHAM House/By Stephen Carter and Kate Clark / December 2010*

The Afghan government and its international partners have generally treated justice as a secondary concern, marginal to 'real' politics. Yet it is fundamental to stability in Afghanistan. Indeed, lack of justice (broadly defined) is the key common element which underlies much of the weakness of the Afghan state, as well as the most important political drivers of the conflict – bad and weak governance, political exclusion, abuses by the powerful, and corruption

<http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/publications/papers/view/-/id/985/>

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## Election Commission Defies Karzai, Certifies Final Poll Tally

*The Wall Street Journal / By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV/December 1, 2010*

Afghanistan's election commission, defying President Hamid Karzai, certified the final tally from Sept. 18 elections with a controversial decision to give all 11 seats in Ghazni province, where Taliban kept the Pashtun majority from the polls, to members of the ethnic Hazara minority.

A candidate who won a seat in parliament in the Sept. 18 election, the final results of which were certified Wednesday, holds a certificate at the Independent Election Commission in Kabul.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703865004575648531573532398.html>

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## Afghan Supreme Court Asked to Void Election

*The Wall Street Journal / by YAROSLAV TROFIMOV/December 12, 2010*

The controversy over Afghanistan's parliamentary elections intensified this weekend as the country's attorney general said he will ask the Supreme Court to nullify the vote's results because of allegations of fraud.

The newest twist in the crisis over the Sept. 18 elections came as the Taliban launched a fresh spate of attacks in southern

Afghanistan, including a suicide bombing Sunday that killed six U.S service members in Kandahar province

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703380104576014981538748112.html?mod=WSJ\\_article\\_related](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703380104576014981538748112.html?mod=WSJ_article_related)

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### Former Afghan spy chief slams Taliban talks

*The Washington Post/ By KIMBERLY DOZIER/ December 9, 2010*

WASHINGTON -- Peace talks with the Taliban will lead to disaster unless the insurgent group is disarmed first, Afghanistan's former intelligence chief said Thursday.

Amrullah Saleh, who headed Afghanistan's spy agency from 2004 until earlier this year, said the key to peace with the Taliban is cutting off their support from Pakistan and disarming and dismantling the group before allowing them to operate as a normal political party.

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/09/AR2010120903901.html>

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### WikiLeaks cables: ex-Taliban admit mistakes over 'old strict rules'

*The Guardian / December 2, 2010*

The remarkably moderate private views of a group of former Taliban regime officials are revealed in detail by the US embassy cables released by WikiLeaks.

Two of the most prominent members of the "ex-Taliban" who have presented themselves as potential peace envoys argued that the movement did not oppose women going to school or working, and that the Taliban had learned the lessons of their "mistakes" while in power.

"Old strict rules" such as bans on television and music would not be reintroduced, the Americans were told.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/dec/02/wikileaks-ex-taliban-admit-mistakes>

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### The Americans Are in Our House. What Will the Taliban Think?

*The New York Times/By ALISSA J. RUBIN/December 15, 2010*

A young man told me that it was best for him not to go too early in the morning to his home district of Char Dara because the Taliban had not yet cleared roadside bombs from the roads. "The Taliban are putting the mines and fuses across the roads for the government and the foreign forces at night, and they are clearing them up in the morning so local people can travel," he said.

In Imam Sahib district in the north of the province, less than a mile from the district center, are Taliban checkpoints, said Samimi, a local citizen, who asked that only one name be used because he feared retribution. The fighting has slackened, but people are feeling pressure both from local militias, known as arbekais, who are former mujahedeen linked to the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance and from the Taliban

<http://atwar.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/12/15/the-americans-are-in-our-house-what-will-the-taliban-think/?ref=asia>

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### Taliban Extend Reach to North, Where Armed Groups Reign

*The New York Times / By ALISSA J. RUBIN/December 15, 2010*

Although the numbers of American and German troops in the north have more than doubled since last year, insecurity has spread, the Taliban are expanding their reach, and armed groups that purportedly support the government are terrorizing local people and hampering aid organizations, according to international aid workers, Afghan government officials, local residents and diplomats.

The growing fragility of the north highlights the limitations of the American effort here, hampered by waning political support at home and a fixed number of troops

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/16/world/asia/16kunduz.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/16/world/asia/16kunduz.html?_r=1)

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### Afghan official calls for election to be tossed out

*The MCCLATCHY/By Dion Nissenbaum/December 11, 2010*

Afghanistan's deputy attorney general on Saturday urged the country's highest court to throw out the contested results of recent legislative elections, a move that could hobble the new parliament and increase tensions between President Hamid Karzai and his international allies.

Karzai supporters lost seats in the election, and in recent days, the attorney general, a Karzai ally had challenged the results and arrested several elections officials. But international leaders privately have warned Karzai not to tamper with the results, which

Afghan elections officials announced last week, despite widespread evidence of fraud.

<http://www.mcclatchydc.com/2010/12/11/105134/afghan-official-calls-for-election.html#ixzz181cnGD6Y>

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## Government reveals Afghan detainee regime

*The ABC news/By MARK COLVIN/December 14, 2010*

The Federal Government has revealed that it has made formal arrangements to handle Afghans detained by Australian forces in the country. Since August, when Dutch forces left, Australian soldiers have detained more than 300 Afghans. They have handed some on to Afghan or US authorities but most have been released.

Australia has received assurance that detainees won't be executed. The Defence Minister says he's considering whether to extend the four-day limit on holding prisoners and whether Australian troops should be able to interrogate them.

<http://www.abc.net.au/pm/content/2010/s3093144.htm>

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## Afghanistan: Taliban Body Count a Poor Measure of Success

*The Human Rights Watch / By Rachel Reid / December 15, 2010*

The Obama administration should not backtrack on its commitment to make the protection of Afghan civilians a priority as it releases its assessment of the military situation in Afghanistan, Human Rights Watch said today. Strengthening civilian protection requires continued efforts to reduce civilian harm in military operations, improve due process for detainees, and sever US ties with abusive armed groups, Human Rights Watch said.

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/12/15/afghanistan>

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## Money alone won't bring Afghanistan security

*The Foreign Policy / By Sarah Holewinski / December 8, 2010*

From Herat to Kabul, U.S. officials are announcing that billions of dollars will be pumped into training the Afghan military. The Pentagon is betting that with enough resources Afghanistan will be able to handle security and stability on its own by 2014, though International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) commander Gen. David Petraeus said in an interview this weekend that that deadline may not be met. These funds are important, but money alone won't prove the effectiveness of the Afghan National Security Forces to its toughest audience: the Afghan people.

The Afghan National Army in particular still gets high approval rates in Afghan opinion polls; but in order to maintain credibility with the local population, Afghan forces will need to prove first and foremost that they know how to avoid killing the people they've pledged to protect. Working with them to get there is the job of U.S. and allied trainers, who would be well-served to remember their own lessons learned over the last nine years.

[http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/12/08/money\\_alone\\_wont\\_bring\\_afghanistan\\_security\\_by\\_sarah\\_holewinski](http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2010/12/08/money_alone_wont_bring_afghanistan_security_by_sarah_holewinski)

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## NATO Push Deals Taliban a Setback in Kandahar

*The New York Times/By CARLOTTA GALL and RUHULLAH KHAPALWAK / December 15, 2010*

The stepped-up operations in Kandahar Province have left many in the Taliban demoralized, reluctant to fight and struggling to recruit, a Taliban commander said in an interview this week. Afghans with contacts in the Taliban confirmed his description. They pointed out that this was the first time in four years that the Taliban had given up their hold of all the districts around the city of Kandahar, an important staging ground for the insurgency and the focus of the 30,000 American troops whom President Obama ordered to be sent to Afghanistan last December.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/16/world/asia/16south.html?\\_r=2&hp](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/16/world/asia/16south.html?_r=2&hp)

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## Afghanistan sees new breed of dangerous young Taliban leader

*The Telegraph / By Ben Farmer, / December 2, 2010*

The special forces onslaught hailed by Nato as helping turn the momentum against the Taliban was in fact making peace more remote he claimed. Mullah Abdul Hakim Mujahid, a deputy leader of Hamid Karzai's peace council tasked with finding a political settlement, said the attempt to wipe out the Taliban hierarchy was "in vain".

The comments by the former Taliban ambassador to the United Nations contradict buoyant Nato commanders who have boasted the raids by troops including the SAS have rattled the insurgency.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/8176768/Afghanistan-sees-new-breed-of-dangerous-young-Taliban-leader.html>

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## Afghanistan corruption investigations frozen

*The Telegraph / By Ben Farmer / December 8, 2010*

**Afghan** investigators have collected corruption evidence reaching to ministerial level only to find the attorney general is refusing to grant warrants, officials said.

Mohammed Ishaq Aloko, a Karzai-appointee close to the president, has also banned British and American legal mentors from working alongside Afghan prosecution lawyers.

The five-month-long bottleneck of prosecutions dates from the president's anger at the July arrest of Mohammed Zia Salehi, head of administration at the national security council, for allegedly soliciting a bribe.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/asia/afghanistan/8189139/Afghanistan-corruption-investigations-frozen.html>

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## U.S. Cuts Off Afghan Firm

*The Wall Street Journal / By MATTHEW ROSENBERG/ DECEMBER 8, 2010*

The proposed ban on U.S. government work by the Watan Group—which is owned by two of Mr. Karzai's cousins and, officials believe, the president's half brother—stems from the activities of its security arm, which guards almost every coalition supply convoy on the highway between Kabul and the southern city of Kandahar.

A U.S. Congressional report released in June said Watan Risk Management gained control of the lucrative security business along the 318-mile highway by bribing Afghan officials and Taliban commanders. Companies that want to move goods on the road have to either pay Watan or fight its heavily armed guards, according to the report.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704447604576007653943186130.html?mod=googlenews\\_wsj](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704447604576007653943186130.html?mod=googlenews_wsj)

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## Analysis: Flawed polls weaken Afghan leader's grip

*Reuters/By Paul Tait/ December 1, 2010*

Karzai's government faces a crisis of legitimacy after a presidential vote in August 2009, in which a third of his votes were thrown out as fake, and a parliamentary election in September again hit by "considerable fraud."

Final results were declared last week in 33 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces but a new parliament is unlikely this year and prosecutors are investigating dozens of fraud cases. Analysts paint a grim picture of a floundering government, at once reliant on the West and eager for foreign troops to leave, and of allies increasingly frustrated by corruption and shoddy work building *democratic* institutions.

<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE6B01ME20101201>

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## How Afghanistan ends: A political military path to peace

*SMALL WARS JOURNAL / By linda robinson/ December 2, 2010*

This paper presents a scenario for resolution of the Afghan conflict in a manner that achieves U.S. objectives in Afghanistan.<sup>1</sup> This scenario takes the current U.S. approach as the starting point and adds 1) a more detailed theory of the conflict that highlights the political effects that must be achieved; 2) emphasis on bottom-up measures that can produce momentum in the short term, and 3) a political diplomatic strategy embraced and pursued in concert by the Afghan government, the United States and key international partners. Finally, the paper identifies requirements for a smaller follow-on military force to pave the way for a long-term advisory and assistance effort.

<http://smallwarsjournal.com/blog/journal/docs-temp/614-robinson.pdf>

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## U.S. General Sets Afghan War Goal

*The Wall Street Journal / By YAROSLAV TROFIMOV and MATTHEW ROSENBERG/DECEMBER 6, 2010*

The measure of success in the Afghan war, the U.S.-led coalition's day-to-day commander said, will be whether Afghan civilians decide to join public service despite Taliban intimidation.

Coalition forces have been able to seize several Taliban strongholds in south Afghanistan over the recent months, but an insurgent campaign to kill off government workers has hampered efforts to solidify these battlefield gains.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703471904576003200670926540.html>

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## US strategy is paying off in Afghanistan: Gates

*The AFP/ By Daniel de Luce / December 8, 2010*

Defence Secretary Robert Gates on Wednesday said he was "convinced" the US strategy in Afghanistan was paying off, a year after

President Barack Obama ordered in reinforcements.

Signalling the outcome of a White House review of the war due out this month, Gates said his visit to key battlefronts over two days confirmed that the Taliban was losing ground and under mounting pressure.

"I will go back convinced that our strategy is working and that we will be able to achieve key goals set out by President Barack Obama last year" and endorsed by NATO allies at a November summit, Gates told a joint press conference with Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

<http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5iu8s8c2ZeKVkmDFiumTlwbWX8biw?docid=CNG.6a0a014a69f4ce1afd31a8eefff9f2b8.851>

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## Defense Secretary Gates: Progress in Afghan war has 'exceeded my expectations'

*Washington Post / By Craig Whitlock / December 8, 2010*

Gates gave his assessment on the second day of a visit to Afghanistan that included stops at several U.S. military bases and a meeting with President Hamid Karzai.

"I will go back convinced that our strategy is working," he said at a news conference with Karzai. "The bottom line is that over the last 12 months we've come a long way. . . . There is no denying that the security climate is improving and that the sacrifices of Afghan and coalition troops are achieving greater safety and security

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2010/12/08/AR2010120802773.html>

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## Opportunities and Challenges for Peacebuilding

*united states institute of peace / December 2010 | Peaceworks by Eran Fraenkel, Emrys Shoemaker and Sheldon Himelfarb*

The primary obstacle to state building in Afghanistan is the historical and ongoing inability of Afghans to establish a mutually acceptable balance of power between any central government and periphery communities and institutions. By serving as an interlocutor for centerperiphery relations, the media could help transform state building from a zero-sum conflict to a positive-sum process in which disagreements are resolved peacefully.

<http://www.usip.org/publications/afghanistan-media-assessment>

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## Dari Publications

### فساد سیاسی و امنیت در افغانستان

روزنامه افغانستان/محمد نوری/۱ دسامبر ۲۰۱۰

طرح مشروعیت و مقبولیت در یک کشور مهم ترین مؤلفه در امنیت بویژه امنیت ملی است. امنیت واقعی با وجود مشارکت و مقبولیت عمومی تحقق پیدا می کند و اگر هم نظام سیاسی بخواهد امنیت پلیسی را به بهای بی اعتنائی به ذهنیت مردم و عدم مقبولیت خودش تامین کند، این مدل امنیت چون یک امنیت شیشه ای است و هیچگونه سوپاپ اطمینانی ندارد، دیر یا زود خواهد شکست. از این رو می توان گفت که فساد سیاسی باعث زوال امنیت می گردد و جامعه را در معرض تهدید قرار می دهد و برعکس جامعه ای فاقد فساد از ناانجاری ها و بی نظمی های ناشی از آن در امان است. بایک نگاه هر چند کلی به افغانستان مشاهده می کنیم که این کشور از لحاظ فساد سیاسی و اداری جزء کشورهای مادر محسوب می شود.

<http://www.dailyafghanistan.com/archive/1258-01-12-2010/newspages/opinion.html#03>

### طالبان نکتایی دار از طالبان مسلح خطرناک ترند!

روزنامه راه نجات/احمدارشد خطیبی/۱۰ دسامبر ۲۰۱۰

طالبان به حیث یک گروه تروریستی و بدوی؛ نمادی از سنگدلی، بی رحمی، قوم گرایی، انسان کشی و مزدورمنشی است که هیچ گاه جنایت آن ها را مردم افغانستان و جهان فراموش نخواهند کرد.

این گروه، انسانیت را به تیغ کشیدند و با ایدئولوژی منحن و قرون وسطای شان، مرتکب جنایاتی گردیدند که در طول تاریخ کمتر مثل آن را می توان دید. طالبان در دوره زمامداری شان، افغانستان را به یک زندان بزرگ مبدل ساخته بودند و برای شکنجه بیش تر مردم افغانستان، همه ارزش انسانی و اخلاقی را لگدمال کردند. در باره جنایات این گروه مزدور در دوره زمامداری آنان هر چه گفته شود کم است و در این مجال فرصت نیست، آنانی که در دوره زمامداری طالبان در کشور بودند و یا از بیرون تحولات افغانستان را دنبال می کردند، به خوبی می دانند که انسانیت توسط طالبان قربانی شد و با استفاده از نام پاک اسلام عزیز، اعمالی را انجام دادند که دشمنان راستین اسلام هم در قبال این دین حنیف، مرتکب نشده بودند.

[http://www.news.rahenejatdaily.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=5133:1389-09-19-10-59-50&catid=67:maqalat-va-tahlilha](http://www.news.rahenejatdaily.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=5133:1389-09-19-10-59-50&catid=67:maqalat-va-tahlilha)

### تمایل پنهان حکومت به اعمال فشار بر انتخابات

روزنامه ۸ صبح/محمد هاشم قیام/۱۴ دسامبر ۲۰۱۰

سازمانها به نقل از مقامات حکومتی اعلام کرده اند که رهبری حکومت، هر فیصله ای را که استرته محکمه در مورد نتایج انتخابات ولسی جرگه کشور صادر کند، مورد حمایت قرار خواهد داد. به گزارش رسانه ها، داکتر حکیم عاشر، رییس مرکز اطلاعات و رسانه های حکومت، روز یکشنبه در یک مصاحبه اختصاصی با رادیو آزادی گفته است، این فیصله باید بر مبنای قانون صورت گیرد. مطرح شدن این موضوع باعث می گردد تا این تصور در جامعه ایجاد گردد که تمایل پنهان در نزد رهبری حکومت برای اعمال فشار بر انتخابات وجود دارد. آنچه باعث می گردد تا چنین تصویری به وجود بیاید این است که قابل شدن نقش خاص برای رییس جمهور در تایید یا عدم تایید انتخابات در قانون پیش بینی نشده و بر سر زبان آوردن آن یک پدیده ای جدید و تصریح نشده در قانون می باشد که اشاره به آن می تواند تعجب بر انگیز باشد.

[http://www.8am.af/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=16244:1389-09-23-04-46-14&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488](http://www.8am.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16244:1389-09-23-04-46-14&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488)

### مردم چه می گویند؟ کزری طالبان را از بند رها می کند

روزنامه ۸ صبح/قدرت الله جاوید/۱۳ قوس ۱۳۸۹

ویکی لیکس که پیش از این هم به نشر سندهای محرمانه ای امریکا اقدام کرده بود، در تازه ترین مورد افشای سندهای محرمانه امریکا گفته است که رییس جمهور کزری برخلاف نظر امریکا قاچاقبرانی که گفته می شود به دو فرد بانفوذی که در جریان جنگ های داخلی کشته شده اند، نزدیک بوده اند، را رها کرده است. نشر این گزارش واکنش هایی را برانگیخت اما دولت افغانستان و امریکا گفتند که چنین گزارش هایی بر روابط دو کشور تاثیر منفی نخواهد گذاشت. سمیع الله سیحون - بدخشان قاری شمس الدین ادیب، استاد در تربیت معلم فیض آباد: «در حالی که طالبان عملاً در مخالفت با دولت قرار دارند و بیشترین آسیب را از طرف آن ها مردم افغانستان متحمل می شوند، رهایی آن ها از طرف رییس جمهور جفایی بزرگ در حق مردم افغانستان به شمار رفته و در مغایرت با قانون و خواست ها و نیازهای مردم افغانستان است.

[http://www.8am.af/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=16064:1389-09-13-04-21-04&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488](http://www.8am.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=16064:1389-09-13-04-21-04&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=488)

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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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