



Thirty First Note

Negotiation with armed groups:

During past two weeks the Afghan government authorities and the High Peace Council members visited foreign countries to campaign for promoting the process of peace. President Karzai went to London and as media reported, apparently had behind closed door talks with the Taliban leaders. Also, some members of the council visited Saudi Arabia. The government of Turkey has accepted to open Taliban's representative office in Turkey and the government of Afghanistan welcomed this move. Also, the Ulema Council of Afghanistan declared its support for the peace and

reconciliation talks with the Taliban.

Elections Transparency:

A delegation of Wolesi Jirga met with the president to discuss about the Special Tribunal but did not come up with an agreement. The members of parliament have warned that if their demand of waiving the Special Court is not met then they will lock down the parliament. The losing candidates say that foreign figures and hands are working to prevent Mr. Manavi, the head of IEC to be taken to the prison.

Corruption:

The culture of bribery flourishes every day. An overview into the challenges, sources of corruption and ineffective combat to end corruption are the title of some

analytical topics which are summarized in this note.

Transitional Justice:

The Transitional Justice Coordination Group has demanded for the trail of the Taliban leaders before they are released from the Guantanamo prison.

Articles and Interviews:

"Reconciliation with the Taliban and International Community" is the title of an article written by Yasin Rahyab. In this article the role of international community and their effectiveness on the process of peace and reconciliation with the Taliban in Afghanistan is analyzed.

Subscription

In order to ensure durability of the publication of TRUTH Magazine, Afghanistan Watch has decided to distribute the magazine to its subscribers. Your subscription to the Haqiqat biweekly guarantees the continuance of the publication of the magazine.

Subscription Fee of the TRUTH Newsletter (Per Year):

- ▶ For individuals and national organizations: 15000 AFs or \$ 300
- ▶ For foreign organizations: 30000 AFs or \$ 600

For subscription, please contact this Email Address: publication@watchafghanistan.org

International Aspects of Peace-Talks and Reconciliation with Taliban

Author: Yaseen Rahyab, Researcher in International Affairs

▶ There is no doubt that the international community and the government of Afghanistan are immensely working to stabilize Afghanistan from political perspective before the international security forces leave the country in 2014. The fact that either this objective will faster realize trough smashing the insurgent groups or reconciling with them, is a question that hasn't found its ultimate response yet.



Page 20



Inside This Issue

Transitional Justice		Human rights organizations: Afghan citizens should not be victims of peace without justice	11
Government peace plan, leading the country into civil war	3	Hamid Karzai: Peace process will not endanger the achievements of last years	11
Negotiation with armed Anti-Government Groups		Afghan Government: Five high ranking Taliban leaders' names to be removed from the blacklist	11
Members of the High Peace Council will visit Saudi Arabia	4	Who watches the opposite: Rabbani or Media?	11
Karzai visit the England	4	Can we negotiate with the killers of people?	12
Inaugural of an exhibition or negotiation with the Taliban	4	Contacts with the anti-government forces is deadly without intervention of government	12
British in collusion with Taliban with neckties	4	The expectation of High Peace Council from international community	12
First group of anti-government forces joined the government in Parwan province	5	Rabbani and the price he pays for being peace council head	12
Taliban and USA: Negotiation and confrontation	5	The Challenges for the process of peace talks with the Taliban	12
Where is the road to destination?	5	Mr. President: Why these much ambiguity?!	13
London visit, joint pressure by British and Pakistan	5	Forty armed anti-government forces joined the government	13
High Peace Council is afraid of Face-book	5	High Peace Council: We will share power with the Taliban	13
Secret dealings with the terrorists is dangerous	6	Karzai's tendency towards Taliban has ethnic basis!	13
High Peace Council criticized the talks between Taliban and foreigners	6	Anti-Taliban movement is formed against peace talks	13
Peace with Taliban and animosity with face-book	6	Rabbani: Regional Countries must put efforts to bring peace	14
Concerns over the return of the Taliban	7	Elections Transparency	
Continuing pressure on Taliban has no result	7	Special Court, resistance or escape?	15
Disagreements become more apparent	7	Measures by Special Tribunal is illegal	15
Peace with the Taliban or the Ghost at night	7	Cancellation of Special Tribunal is a priority for the Wolesi Jirga	15
The Opening of Taliban representative office is meant their official recognition	7	Common people are puzzled with games and dealings of the powerful men	15
Afghanistan welcomes the opening of Taliban representative office in Turkey	8	Special Tribunal; a bump on the way	15
United Nations has the right to remove the names of Taliban leaders	8	The president shows no willingness to waive the Special Tribunal	16
Negotiation with the Taliban; serious but without objectives	8	The MPs warned on the closure of the parliament	16
Political suicide	8	Parliament after the special tribunal	16
Who is victorious in new dealings; Taliban or Government?	8	The President, still supporting Special Tribunal	16
End of war; shoot to nowhere	9	Angry protesters of parliamentary elections: The Western faces in government prevent Ma'navi from imprisonment	16
Organization of Islamic Countries demanded for reconciliation in Afghanistan	9	The fate of Special Tribunal will be determined on Thursday	16
All Ulema Afghanistan Ullema Council renewd their support for peace process	9	Vote recount in Ghazni province	17
The mirage of war in Afghanistan	9	Corruption	
Talks with the Taliban; promising or frightening?	9	Green lands grabbed in Mazar e Sharif	18
Dilemma of war and peace in Afghanistan	10	The culture of bribery fattening	18
America supports the peace process led by Afghans	10	A look into challenges and the sources of corruption	18
What happened in London?	10	Balkh residents complain about land grabbing by Police	18
More armed anti-government forces joined the peace process	10	Unfinished job of fighting corruption	18
Will US support the peace process led by Kabul?	10	Articles & Interviews	
British Ambasadere in Kabul: There have been no talks with the Taliban in London	11	International Aspects of Peace-Talks and Reconciliation with Taliban	20
		New Publications	
			22

Transitional Justice

Government peace plan, leading the country into civil war

Nukhost Weekly, No. 51, Page Three, 2 March 2011

The government peace program leads the country once again towards civil war. It was stated by the Transitional Justice Coordination Group during a news conference.

The Transitional Justice Coordination Group criticized the plan for peace talks by the Afghan government with the insurgents and remarked that the latest talks by the Supreme Council for Peace head has added to their concerns.

The head of Supreme Council for Peace has recently said: "The council does not attempt to weaken the Taliban, but tries to share power with them." The Transitional Justice Coordination Group demands for the trial of Taliban leaders before they are released from Guantanamo prison.

In its latest efforts, the Supreme Council for peace has been able to release some of the Taliban leaders who can be effective in talks between government and the insurgents.

A member of the Transitional Justice Coordination Group, said: opening a Taliban office political representation office in Turkey means that there exist two parallel states in Afghanistan, the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Islamic Imarat of Afghanistan.

Taliban. He deems unlikely any direct talks between Afghan government and the senior Taliban officials and says that the current peace process is controlled by the English and their trustworthy people. Therefore, there is no doubt that some Taliban and Hekmatyar men will negotiate with Mr. Karzai during this visit and the most important point is the mechanism of negotiation- how they will do it.

He says that the new version of Taliban who are part of Karzai's government only think about their personal interest and seek their objectives out of the current crises.

First group of anti-government forces joined the government in Parwan province

Afghanistan Daily, No 1333, Page Two, 1 March 2011

Abdul Basir Salangi the governor of Parwan province says that this anti-government group belongs to the Siah Gird district and joined the government on 28 Feb 2011. Abdul Halim Mojaddadi, the district governor of Siah Gird says that these people belong to Commander Azizullah. He expressed that these people were operating against the government for the past two years in the Saighan and Yakh Darra valleys of Sia Gird district.

Taliban and USA:

Negotiation and confrontation

Irada Daily, No 991, Page Two, 1 March 2011

Negotiation between Taliban and US forces takes place when Taliban carried out the responsibility for attacking Bagram airbase, the biggest military camp of US forces in Afghanistan and the rocket attack on Kabul.

Although peace talks are ongoing between Taliban group and Afghan government with the support of Americans, but The New Yorker wrote that US has started direct talks with Taliban since last year.

Although this peace talk is done by the government of Afghanistan, but the role of NATO and US forces have two importances:

First, all measures taken for peace talks will be determined by America and secondly the security of the negotiators will be ensure by Americans and NATO too.

Where is the road to destination?

Afghanistan daily, No 1334, Editorial, 2 March 2011

Politically, Taliban are created and mobilized by the foreign countries to be used for particular objectives in Afghanistan. Therefore, the Taliban are not independent in decision making but receive their guidance from foreign intelligence services. Thus, how can one make their leaders agree to negotiate with the Afghan government? What will be those most optimistic grounds where both parties could agree on?

For the past three years the government has unilaterally called

for peace in the national and international arenas but has had no tiny achievement in the arena of peace.

The government has lost many economic and political opportunities but in the areas of peace it never lost one. This process is pursued very fast with large expenses that one fake Taliban leader could talk with the highest authority in the presidential and took away millions of dollars with him.

Now the question is raised in the core of the society whether this government policy is useful?

Many of the experts and the people of Afghanistan are not optimistic about the peace process of government and when they deem peace and security as important elements required in this country, they do not believe about the positive outcome of the current peace process.

When the Taliban group reject the government, the constitution and civic liberty and there is not a single inclination observed in their behavior then there is no other point left for talks.

Therefore, peace is needed but it is not the right option to insist on talks with the Taliban leaders.

London visit, joint pressure by British and Pakistan

8am daily, No 1399, Page Four, 2 March 2011

Writer: Ehsanullah Dawlatmuradi

If Mr. President is on his way to talk with some Taliban leaders in England then it creates this mentality that he does not trust the peace efforts of High Peace Council and wants to continue this process independently by himself to draw Taliban's attention.

When on one hand the High Peace Council is putting efforts to talk with the Taliban then what is the need for the President to separately pursue this process. High Peace Council is a program that executes Mr. Karzai's demands. When it is observed that Mr. Karzai is putting separate efforts to talk with the Taliban and accelerate the peace process independently then it shows that he is somehow under pressure from some sources or it is his personal motivation to stop the Taliban from bigger offensives by the NATO and ISAF forces against this group in the summer of this year.

What is seen as the efforts of Pakistan and Britain to share power with the Taliban is the approach that was practiced by the British soldiers. The first plan of negotiation with the Taliban was the deal between the English General and Taliban commanders in Musa Qala of Helmand that strengthened the sovereignty of the Taliban in the province.

High Peace Council is afraid of Face-book

Daily 8 am, No 1099, Page Five, 2 March 2011

Authors: Javid Qodratollah

The High Peace Council has called on religious scholars to take leadership responsibility in talking with the Taliban and play

their role in bringing peace and stability in Afghanistan. Burhanuddin Rabbani, the Head of High Peace Council also expressed this position of the council and asked the Taliban fighters to enter into talks with the people of Afghanistan instead of foreigners. While Taliban has been rejecting any kinds of peace talks with the Afghan government and has put the withdrawal of foreign troops as their preconditions for the peace-talks, the head of High Peace Council believes that the continuity of war by the Taliban will pave the way for the presence of foreign troops in the country.

Criticizing the Taliban leaders, Rabbani said that some Taliban leaders are in Europe negotiating with the foreigners which is surprising for us. He added those (Taliban) who claim that they fight the foreigners then they go and sit down with them in London and Germany but they are not ready to sit down with the Islamic state of Afghanistan and solve their problems here. What is this? You don't sit down to resolve your problem with your Muslim brother but go to the person whom you claim fighting with and share your thoughts with them?

Referring to the on-going revolution in the Middle East, Rabbani warned that if the mature leaders of the society do not take control then the young people using face-book will take over.



Secret dealings with the terrorists is dangerous

Kabul Weekly, No 444, Page Six, 2 March 2011

The experience has shown that the circles close to the President has made efforts to make secret negotiations with the terrorists. Although, during the negotiations the policy of the President and his team has been to hide these talks, later on it is revealed that negotiations took place between insurgents and the President's team, however, they didn't want to make it public.

Even when the existence of these talks was revealed, again the President and his team were not ready to talk about the details of their talks with the terrorists.

Now that the President is going to UK to talk with the Taliban leader and there is only name of Mollah Zaef in the headlines of the news, it is possible that the Taliban leaders are present in this meeting to talk with the president.

The British forces, unlike Americans had earlier also supported talks with the terrorists and even once the commander general of NATO in Afghanistan was a British general, he signed an agreement with the terrorists in parts of Helmand province which in the later years turned out to be main bases for the Taliban and a big headache for coalition forces.

High Peace Council criticized the talks between Taliban and foreigners

Paiwand Milli Weekly, No 56, Page Two, 2 March 2011

News published in media during this week about the talks between Taliban leaders and the British officials. Mollah Abdul Salam Zaef, former Taliban leader is currently in Britain. In

response to a question he said that he is there for treatment, however the media reports that he is leading a delegation of Taliban to have secret talks with the British officials. Meanwhile, Mr. Rabbani, head of High Peace Council in a news conference said that it is the time that the people of Afghanistan get together and stop killing each other.

Mr. Rabbani also criticized the talks between foreigners and the Taliban.

These talks come when Mr. Karzai is in Britain these days and had talks with David Cameron, British prime minister on the transition of responsibility to Afghan security forces until 2014 and strengthening peace process in Afghanistan.

Peace with Taliban and animosity with face-book

8am daily, No 1100, Page Four, 3 March 2011

Writer: Shakir Mehryar

Mr. Rabbani has no problem with talibanizing Afghanistan. He showed that he is against any movement which is in contrast to Talibanism. The current position of Rabbani as head of High Peace Council also supports this claim that he wants to join Taliban to the political arena of Afghanistan and call the killers of Afghans as brothers.

Therefore, he is against the social networking site, the face-book, educated youngsters, new society and new political, social and cultural structures of Afghanistan, instead he shows support for the dictators of Middle East to earn the favor of Taliban, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Therefore Rabbani has exhibited an anomalous character so far. In one hand he is in the position to drive Afghanistan towards peace and security while on the other hand ignites war with the young people, new trend of society and the inventions of new technology.

Mr. Rabbani has shown that he is ready to do everything to make the Sultan consented and even defend the Taliban. He is ready to bring back the Taliban to power and make them rule over Afghanistan and also he is ready to fight in several fronts with the new generation and cause bloodshed.

Concerns over the return of the Taliban

8am Daily, No 1100, Page Four, 3 March 2011
Writer: Ehsanullah Dawlat Muradi

The existence of two perspectives on the issue of negotiation with the Taliban reveals that there are two teams or two ideas about this issue inside the governmental institutions making policies. Some members of the team are trying to bring back Taliban as soon as possible by giving big political privileges while the other group that is passive tries to propose the plans of talks with the Taliban through the High Peace Council. It seems that more people are attracted towards peace process with the Taliban in the governmental institutions with the dealings going on in these offices. This dual approach amongst the policy makers in the presidential palace is deadly and will result into a negative competition between these people to return Taliban. It is anticipated that in Jeddah conference the issue of talks with the Taliban will be proposed by the government of Afghanistan seriously or the head of the council for peace would propose that Taliban should open their representative office in Turkey which is a matter concern and also a warning.

Continuing pressure on Taliban has no result

Afghanistan Daily, No 1335, Page One, 3 March 2011

The foreign affairs committee of British House of Commons in a report has challenged the policy of its government regarding Afghanistan. This committee has warned that current military operation against the insurgents will endanger the political solution to end Afghanistan crises. The crises that this committee believes can be solved through political channels.

The report adds that now political activities are needed more than military pressure.

Based on this report the evidences show that the current ongoing operations against the insurgents will bring no result.

Disagreements become more apparent

Afghanistan Daily, No 1335, Editorial, 3 March 2011

The plan of peace process inside Afghanistan has its opposition groups and supporting groups. The government is the top of supportive group that is seriously following this plan to be executed.

In contrast, many of the political gatherings and political figures, various social institutions and civil society institutions look towards it with some particular sensitivity and concerns. They are concerned that Afghanistan will lose all it has achieved during past one decade. Although no political party or organization is against peace talks but these groups are have

disagreements and concerns over the implementation of this program.

Political experts believe that the international community and especially those big players that have troops present in Afghanistan and fighting terrorism here also have different viewpoints about the negotiation and reconciliation talks with the Taliban. America that has the major military spending and troops in the country believes that Taliban should be defeated to the end so that they are compelled to accept peace.

On the other hand, British and other countries give priority to the talks with the Taliban then war. These disagreements have been observed during past years between coalitions forces present in Afghanistan.

Peace with the Taliban or the Ghost at night

Afghanistan Daily, No 1336, Editorial, 5 March 2011

During past years all the energy and resources of the government is spent on attracting and consenting the Taliban leaders to join peace process. During these years the project of making peace with the Taliban has been the top priority and in every national and international summits and conferences it is proposed. Now efforts are on-going to introduce the critics of this process as betrayers and related to foreign intelligence service or finally send them to prison or even hang them. The people are doubtful about those unofficial and official negotiations behind the curtain with the Taliban high ranking officials and any process that is against the fate of Afghan people with the unbreakable threads. If the government wants to take the public opinion with it then they have to declare the framework of it where the democratic values are not endangered.

Peace is like a ghost at night now and anyone can have his/her personal perspective about it, and none of which will never become implementable in national level.

Currently peace in Afghanistan remains like a ghost in dark that everyone can have their personal perspective about it. This perspectives will never come up to the national level.

The Opening of Taliban representative office is meant their official recognition

8am Daily, No 1101, Editorial, 5 March 2011

When efforts are getting momentum to reach an agreement over Afghanistan war, the authorities in the governmental institutions say that they will do all they can to open the Taliban office in Turkey. It means nothing but to officially recognize Taliban and terrorism. Considering this fact that Taliban are supported and financed by the Pakistan and their philosophy of fighting is parallel to the interest and objectives of Pakistan then it means that opening an office for Taliban in Turkey is actually another branch of embassy for Pakistan.

Meanwhile, the International Contact Group has announced that to reach an agreement on war of Afghanistan, instead of

military action, political efforts should be encouraged. The surprising point is that the Organization of Islamic Countries OIC has not yet raised a single voice against the brutal killings by the Taliban and have been very impartial in this regard. In all these issues Taliban are silent and hear what they want from others mouth.

However, we cannot deny that the international opinion is in the favor of Taliban to encourage Pakistan. Many of those countries that directly or indirectly has been funding the Taliban or have had better relations with Pakistan than Afghanistan are willing to bring Taliban to power or share power with the Taliban. From the Islamic Countries two countries of Iran and Pakistan have common interest for the Taliban return and no one has any doubt about it. In such a situation can the people of Afghanistan be optimistic and hopeful about a peaceful situation. Others put political and economic sanctions on their opponents but we try to open for them a representative office who are against humanity too. Preserving power has no such result.

Afghanistan welcomes the opening of Taliban representative office in Turkey

8am Daily No 1101, Page Two, 5 March 2011

Dr. Rangin Dadfar Spanta, National Security Advisor to the President in an interview said that the opening of representative office for Taliban will make it easy to talk with them. Mr. Spanta says that Turkey is one of the trustworthy countries for the people and government of Afghanistan. In the meanwhile, the Coordination Group for Transitional Justice has warned that the peace process of the government will drag the country once again into civil war.

government wants to talk with but the condition that people fear Afghanistan will transform into pre 2001 situation.

On the other in dealing politically with the Taliban, again the same concern exists. The opening of Taliban office in Turkey shows that government is seriously pursuing this issue to bring Taliban on the negotiation table. Some of the experts believe that Mr. Spanta and other people involved in the diplomatic organs of government are optimistic with the opening of Taliban office in Turkey because they think that it will reduce the influence of Pakistan on the Taliban and they will be more willing to consider the situation of Afghanistan.

Political suicide

8am Daily, No 1101, Page Four, 5 March 2011

Writer: Hakimi

Mahmood Saiqal, the international analyst says that Turkey and Saudi Arabia are not seriously pursuing the reconciliation process of Taliban and the government of Afghanistan. Saiqal says that negotiations will bring results when the main supporter of Taliban, the ISI is consented.

According to Saiqal, working for peace with the product of ISI will lead to nowhere.

Sidiqullah Tawhidi, a political expert says that unless Pakistan does not aim to really remove terrorism from its border area then any effort will not reduce crises but will increase it.

According to Mr. Saiqal the proposition of Taliban representative office in Turkey is a political suicide. With the opening of this office we propose that there is another government existing inside the Afghan government and that it should have offices in different provinces.

United Nations has the right to remove the names of Taliban leaders

8am Daily, No 1101, Page Two, 5 March 2011

Afghanistan's permanent representative to the United Nations says that removal of Taliban and Al-Qaida leaders' names from the UN black-list is only the job of United Nations Security Council. Zahir Tanin says that countries can demand for the removal of Al-Qaida and Taliban leaders' names from this council.

Negotiation with the Taliban; serious but without objectives

8am Daily, No 1101, Page Four, 5 March 2011

Writer: Ehsanullah Muradi

The efforts by the government show that negotiation with the Taliban has become an important issue. Now that these efforts are put without any particular objectives then the important question raises here is that where will these lead to? What have caused worries amongst people are not the faces that

Who is victorious in new dealings; Taliban or Government?

Mandegar Daily, No 523, Page One, 5 March 2011

Head of Organization of Islamic Conference demands for ceasefire and stop military operation in Afghanistan so that the ground is paved for the negotiation and talks with the Taliban. The political experts in the country have always insisted that "one way peace" will lead to nowhere but increase crises in the country. A number of MPs in the parliament say that to end war and fighting in Afghanistan some other ways should be sought, no one can reach a solution with decrease in the military operations. Ahmad Behzad, deputy of Wolesi Jirga says the insurgents have yet rejected all the propositions proposed by the government. According to Behzad, Taliban not only rejected all the proposals of the government but also increased their attacks of innocent people in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, this Member of Parliament believes that the OIC can help the Afghan government to end up war with insurgents.

According to him, the OIC member countries must at first cut off the supply lines of the insurgents and their contacts with the intelligence agencies that support this group.

End of war; shoot to nowhere

Mandegar Daily, No 523, Editorial, 5 March 2011

These days the discussion has warmed up about the talks with the Taliban but not through the channel of High Peace Council which is created with particular authorities by the President but it is the negotiation led by the Americans and British. Now the British House of Commons has expressed their willingness to talk with the Taliban, the Americans also say they have contacts with the Taliban and recently the Organisation of Islamic Conference also talked of ending military operations in Afghanistan and said they are ready to cooperate in bringing peace with the Taliban.

Then the main is that war should end. Now it seems like this end of war is a beginning of another sufferings for Afghans. Now the High Peace Council is sidelined and Taliban have never talked with them.

Recently, Mr. Rabbani of the peace council strongly criticized Taliban for not sitting down with the Afghan scholars and elites but going to European countries and negotiates with them.

This recent statement shows that beside its lack of legitimacy the High Peace Council has not been effective in bringing peace in the country. The government has also put aside the discussion of High Peace Council and has relied on the British politics in this regard. The High Peace Council has understood that they have been marginalized and the real negotiation is taking place between foreigners and the Taliban.

Therefore, all of the authorities and members of High Peace Council should cut off themselves from this issue and quit their activities. They should reveal all the secrets behind the curtain and share everything to the people of Afghanistan.

Organization of Islamic Countries demanded for reconciliation in Afghanistan

Cheragh Daily, No 523, Page One, 5 March 2011

Organization of Islamic Conference has demanded to end military operation in Afghanistan in order to support the peace process. Akmaluddin Ehsan Oghlo, Secretary General of OIC was talking in Jeddah and said: to bring sustainable peace non-military options should be thought of. Mr. Ehsan Oghlo in the gathering of International Contact Group said that in order to bring an end to the Afghanistan crises military means is not the option.

Mr. Oghlo said that to bring a comprehensive solution a peace process must be lead by Afghans themselves. The International Group of Human Rights advocates say that 2010 has been the most deadly year for civilians since the fall of the Taliban.

Based on this, last year almost 2421 civilians were killed and Taliban were responsible for 60% of it.

Afghanistan Ulema Council All Ulema A renewd their support for peace process

Cheragh Daily, No 523, Page One, 5 March 2011

Maulavi Qiyaumodin Kishaf, deputy head of Afghanistan Ulema

Council said that the Afghanistan religious scholars were in the frontline of Jihad against the occupying Soviet forces and now they want to be in the frontline of bringing peace in the country. Because, as long as war prolongs in this country the people will suffer more.

The mirage of war in Afghanistan

Sam Daily, No 1102, Page Four, 6 March 2011

During past weeks there have been efforts and coordination between Secretary General of OIC, High Peace Council, foreign relations committee of Britain and the special envoy of Germany about Afghanistan for talks with the Taliban. These authorities are trying to encourage the public opinion about the talks with the Taliban and leave aside the option of war with the insurgents.

It seems that Pakistan has been able to bring Taliban back from being marginalized by its political lobbying. 10 years before no country dared to say anything about talks with the Taliban but today many of them express their willingness for other options than military and are trying to remove the names of Taliban leaders from black list of Security Council plus open a representative office for this group in one of the countries. Now Pakistan feels to be victorious in this war. Pakistan has been successful to preserve the Taliban group as an opponent group in military and political games and on the other hand it has changed the public opinion in West towards war.

Unfortunately the OIC has shown no reaction about the inhuman acts of the Taliban and even did not condemn their latest suicide attacks. With all these, how can the people of Afghanistan trust this organization when many of its members are supporting extremist groups?

Talks with the Taliban; promising or frightening?

Mandegar Daily, No 524, Page Eight, 6 March 2011

Writer: Ahmed Omran

As the issue of talks with the Taliban gets momentum, the reactions to this issue in the different layers of the society also increases. Before the oppositions only expressed their opinions but now the people who were close to the government and Mr. Karzai himself are having hot discussions in the political discourses about this issue. One of those faces is Hanif Atmar, former interior minister and expressed some strong words on creating permanent US military bases in Afghanistan.

In the same conference, Amrullah Saleh, former head of National Security Directorate also expressed his concerns about the process of talks with the Taliban. Mr. Saleh criticized this talk and said that Taliban still believe in killing and massacring people and they follow the policy of burnt land. He said that Hamid Karzai wants to tell the people that the Taliban whom he knows will not carry out those atrocities. Amrullah Saleh said that we cannot make false identifications for our enemy to do our dealings and legitimize them for our people.

These talks reveal behind curtain games that how a particular team is trying to give identity and legitimacy to an insurgent group that lack both. They invest a lot of money in this area. Taliban's identity is known for all the people and their position about peace is very vivid.

Dilemma of war and peace in Afghanistan

Cheragh Daily, No 30, Editorial, 6 March 2011

There are neither any logical peace efforts in Afghanistan nor a full-scale war against terrorism and its supporters. While the Kabul government has started a unilateral peace efforts with all its power, these efforts lack complete transparency and there are no grounds for bringing peace in the country because if these peace efforts are for the betterment of people than why this secrecy?

For both; peace and war we don't have an effective approach based on logic and we deal with the crises not realistically but with serious doubts. Maybe this is the only common point between both the efforts.

Kabul has relied on traditional ways of making councils for peace and emphasizes on its efficiency, while from the same traditional perspective, if the invitation of peace is only from one side then the other side will continue to accelerate fighting.

This is a historic experience in this country and the Taliban is not an exception from Al-Qaida terrorists because they are still in power due to weak Kabul administration then why should they make peace?

Therefore, neither the talks and efforts of Burhanuddin Rabbani, the head of High Peace Council that has several times knocked the doors of terrorists have any outcome nor the war strategy of Obama to fight terrorist roots. None of both can pave the way for a favorable negotiation.

America supports the peace process led by Afghans

Eslah Daily, No 2158, Page One, 6 March 2011

US special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan has once again emphasized on the process of peace led by Afghans.

Mark Grass Man who was talking during a news conference in Kabul said that US supports the peace process led by Afghans and this process should be worked on in Afghanistan and the region.

He added that this is the American and Afghan stance. Those who join the peace process must quit violence, cut their relations with the Al-Qaida and live their lives in the framework of constitution with their other brothers. He called the Jeddeh Conference as the first step towards reaching a sustainable peace in the country and added that this conference will pave the way for development and the transition of authority to Afghans.

What happened in London?

Mujaheed Weekly, No 39, Page One, 6 March 2011

Writer: Waheed Mozhd

Whenever we surf the Taliban website, they always denounce any news of negotiation and talks. Therefore, it is evident that Taliban deems the negotiations and talks in current situation as a threat to its unity. The publication of this news can be as a propaganda war against the Taliban, however if the news is repeated and it is later on known that there has been no talks or negotiations then Taliban will be the winner in this situation. Because they will feel that the enemy is defeated and their morale will be forged which will create this belief in them that their military operations have been useful and the enemy is weakened. Taliban rejected the meeting of Mollah Mansoor in Kabul from beginning and when media investigated the issue it was proved that the negotiator had no links with the Taliban. Another false report which was not even replied by the Taliban was the propaganda of Mollah Abdul Salam Zaef visit from London. Actually the Royal Congress College of England had sent an invitation letter to some of the political experts about Afghanistan including myself. The main objective behind this invitation was to participate in a roundtable talk between political experts from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and England which was inaugurated in 10 and 11 February 2011 in London. The issue on the table was the crises of Afghanistan but the two rival countries of Pakistan and India had also sent delegations and there was no discussion about the talks with the Taliban. The media reported of the presence of Taliban representatives and even didn't mention the Indian delegation which shows that these media channels try to publish false report for the people. They don't consider the other factors and outcomes from these false reports. With much confidence we can say that there was no hidden talk with the Taliban in London.

More armed anti-government forces joined the peace process

Sorosh Millat Daily, No 504, Page Eight, 7 March 2011

Jawed Bedar, spokesperson for Faryab governor said: 13 people including two Taliban commanders named Mollah Kaldar and Mollah Qasim of Garziwan district have surrendered to government.

Syed Masood Yaqoobi, spokesperson for Farayb police says that if these people are guaranteed by the tribal elders then they will be hired to national police and national army.

He said that more than 90 armed anti-government forces have joined the peace process during current year.

Will US support the peace process led by Kabul?

Cheragh Daily, No 31, Editorial, 7 March 2011

Mr. Mark Grass Man, US special envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan in his first visit to Kabul declare that in order to solve

the crisis of the region, they will focus on the political efforts. He also declared that he supports the current peace process initiated by the Kabul leadership. He said that his country is committed to support war on terror until it reaches victory.

The declaration of this point without any further details will make no help to support peace process initiated by Kabul with terrorists. On the other end of this process Pakistan is regarded as the only accused supporting terrorists.

Islamabad looks for irregular ways to seek its objectives from the Taliban project and the new statement of Washington's new envoy is nothing new but a repeated one in which he said that he will ask Pakistan to accelerate its combat against terrorist hideouts in this country.

Former US envoy to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Richard Holbrooke did not follow a clear strategy and many times came out as the representative of Pakistan than his own country.

It makes the role of Mr. Gross Man vital in coordination between Kabul, Islamabad and Washington.

British Ambassador in Kabul: There have been no talks with the Taliban in London

Mandegar Daily, NO 527, Page Seven, 9 March 2011

British ambassador in Kabul says that the visit of Mollah Abdul Salam Zaef, former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan is never aimed for secret talks of reconciliation.

William Pity, British Ambassador in Kabul on March 8, 2011 during a news conference said to reporters that negotiation with the Taliban belongs to the Afghan government and the visit by Mr. Zaef has no relations with this issue.

Mr. Pity said that the process of reconciliation and reintegration in local level is going on well and the British government supports this process.

Human rights organizations: Afghan citizens should not be victims of peace without justice

Mandegar Daily, No 527, Page Eight, 9 March 2011

Dr. Sima Samar, head of Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission was speaking on the occasion of 8 March, international women's day. She asked the international community and the government of Afghanistan to bring peace with justice in Afghanistan. She said that the people of Afghanistan must not be victims of peace without justice.

She said that in important meetings of High Peace Council, the women have no part: "when the council goes to Pakistan, the women members are not part of delegation and the same with Kandahar and Helmand."

According to Ms. Samar the presence of women in this council is symbolic and only 9 women are part of the council. She says

that these nine women are given seats in order to keep the mouth of other women shut.

Ms. Samar said: they should try to bring peace with justice and responsiveness because any peace without justice is not sustainable and we see that the people of Afghanistan are the victims of peace without justice. She also remarked that reconciliation with the Taliban without the participation of the women is not stable.

Hamid Karzai: Peace process will not endanger the achievements of last years

Afghanistan Daily, No 1340, Page Two, 9 March 2011

President Karzai was talking on the occasion of 8 March, the international women's day and said that we cannot reject the existence of violence against women in Afghanistan but everyone should combat against this phenomenon.

He pointed towards the rights of women in the peace process and assured that Afghan women should be confident that their past years' achievements will not be endangered in talks with the Taliban.

He added that the peace process will neither endanger the achievements of last year's but it will strengthen them.

Afghan Government: Five high ranking Taliban leaders' names to be removed from the blacklist

Nukhost Daily, No 52, Page 12, 9 March 2011

Western media reported that Afghan government has asked for the removal of five high ranking Taliban leader's names from UN black list. Based on this report these five Taliban leaders had earlier made ceasefire and reconciliation with the Afghan government and were freely moving around in Afghanistan.

Quoting Shida Mohammad Abdali, deputy of national security advisor these five people were nominated to become members of High Peace Council but their names were still in the Security Council's black list.

Based on this report the US and other members of Security Council have agreed to remove these people names from black list but the process is passing very slowly.

Maulavi Qalamuddin is one of those people whose name the Afghan government wants to remove.

Who watches the opposite: Rabbani or Media?

8am Daily, No 1106, Page One, 10 March 2011

Burhanuddin Rabbani the head of High Peace Council in a meeting with civil society organizations have said that the

media have published a wrong and opposite image of the Taliban return. Mr. Rabbani has tried to propose a positive image from the Taliban in his talks. He stressed that Taliban have no intention to control the country as they did in the past as Imarat Islami.

Earlier Farooq Wardak had said in London that Taliban will not create any hurdles for the girl's schools. Mr. Wardak knows very well that in 70 districts where Taliban have strong influence there exist no girl's school.

It seems like Mr. Rabbani looks opposite of everything after he got the seat for head of High Peace Council. The interesting point is that the leadership of High Peace Council has not been able to meet with Taliban leaders and has neither been found their address then how Mr. Rabbani knows that Taliban have changed.

Can we negotiate with the killers of people?

8am Daily, No 1106, Page Four, 10 March 2011

United Nations Office in Afghanistan and Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission on March 9 released a report calling 2010 the deadliest year for civilians during 9 years of war between Taliban and international forces. Based on this report almost 2800 people are killed in 2010.

The report shows that 75% of the civilians are killed by the insurgents and the Taliban and it shows that Taliban have the main role in one of the challenging issues the government of Afghanistan proposes, killing of innocent civilians which is not published by the government in its analysis and reports.

These reports are released when the Afghan government tries to negotiate with the Taliban from every possible way, now the question here is that how can the government reconcile with the killers of these people? Does the government have the right to exempt the killers of people and pave the way for their return?

Contacts with the anti-government forces is deadly without intervention of government

Afghanistan daily, No 1341, Page One, 10 March 2011

After the reports were released about the attempts by the American and British elements to directly contact the Taliban, the head of High Peace Council warned about these contacts and called it dangerous for Afghanistan.

Rabbani was talking during a two conference in Kabul and said that if USA and Britain wants to contact the Taliban then it must be done through the leadership of Afghanistan.

Mr. Rabbani added: US and Britain and any other country that tries to start direct negotiation with the Taliban then we had our objections and told them that it means Afghanistan is occupied by us and we are the other party to be negotiated with. At last in Jeddah Conference they decided to include High Peace Council in any of their talks.

The expectation of High Peace Council from international community

Afghanistan Daily, No 1341, Page Eight, 10 March 2011

The High Peace Council has asked the cooperation and support of Organization of Islamic Conference to play their role in bringing peace in Afghanistan. Ataulloh Lodin, spokesperson for High Peace Council in a news conference in Kabul demanded the OIC particularly Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Iran to play their role in eradicating terrorism from the region.

Lodin said: The foreign forces particularly the Americans should know that how much successful they have during past 9 years in establishing peace in the country when they have brought much financial losses with many innocent civilians killed.

He asked the international community to focus on those areas which are the center of terrorism and bring them under their control so that Afghanistan is not regarded as terrorist breeding place anymore.

Rabbani and the price he pays for being peace council head

8am Daily, No 1107, Page One, 12 March 2011

One day after the talks of Mr. Rabbani addressing Taliban to change their behavior, one of the security chief of the country was killed in a terrorist attack. With all optimism of the High Peace Council the Taliban have focused all their power in two areas. With suicide attacks in the residential areas and creating an atmosphere of terror and horror they try to impose their presence on the people.

The next objective of the Taliban is to kill the political, security and management faces. During past years they have targeted many prominent MPs, governors, security chiefs and others. Now based on the report of US intelligence, the main plan of Taliban this year is to target the main faces of current Afghan government.

After the formation of High Peace Council there is observed no change in the operations and behavior of the Taliban, now the important question is that what is the achievement of this council for Rabbani as head of this council?

The Challenges for the process of peace talks with the Taliban

Payam Mujahid, No 37, Page Six, 12 March 2011

The challenges faced by the process of peace talks with the Taliban and other insurgents in current situation include the following:

Challenges and ambivalence behavior: Apparently, the official governmental authority to negotiate on peace is High Peace Council. What is observed so far and told in the media there have been other efforts going on in parallel to the peace council.

Paradox in main contents: Identifying the objectives and core motivations of the Taliban reveals the essential differences between the current trend in the country and this warrior group. This difference shows that how aside we are from the real route of peace and rational definition of it.

Lack of coordination between involved countries:

This is true that US, UK and Germany talk about the return of Taliban to a peaceful life and support this process. Unfortunately, there is no required coordination in one hand and on the other; it brought a kind of haste and pell-mell in the governing team. Besides, there is no complete understanding of war, social structure of war and the ground for war.

Unilateral negotiation with no conditions:

The process of reconciliation and peace talks with the insurgents is completely one sided without any preconditions. Such negotiation is deemed to be unjust and violation of someone's rights. How can one give impunity to a group who has no morale for negotiation and kill innocent civilians in suicide attacks every day.

Mr. President: Why these much ambiguity?!

8am daily, No 1108, Page Four, 13 March 2011

Writer: Pamir Godarzi

The President is trying to call Taliban innocent and bring them into peace process forgetting that as a result of attacks by this group how many of our citizens lost their loved ones. There is no doubt with this fact that the sources of Taliban and terrorism are somewhere else. However, those who take order from across borders and kill their people here are guilty and should be destroyed. If the President has watched the video of attack on Kabul, which he must have then how can he talk of stopping attacks against such people. If the president believes that the attacks should be stopped against these then we must feel pity on those who have been the victims of those attacks by those wild people.

Another question is that why the President always criticizes the civilian casualties by NATO forces and gives small statements on the civilian casualties by Taliban attacks. He pays no attention to the civilian casualties caused by Taliban attacks and even their spokesmen take the responsibility of attacks but he tries to call them innocent. In the meantime the insurgents say that they enjoy killing humans.

Forty armed anti-government forces joined the government

Afghanistan Daily, No 1343, Page Two, 13 March 2011

Forty armed anti-government fighters including two of their commanders joined the peace process in Sar e Pul province.

Asadullah Sherzad, security chief of Sar e Pul province said that these two commanders are Ikramuddin and Gulbuddin and were operating against the government in the areas around the center of Sar e Pul with their 38 armed men.

He also called on other anti-government armed forces to quit war and join the peace process.

High Peace Council: We will share power with the Taliban

Afghanistan Daily, No 1344, Page One, 14 March 2011

Maulavi Arsala Rahmani a member of High Peace Council said: We try to bring Taliban into peace process and share power with them.

However, Ahmadshah Ahmadzai a Jihadi figure says that High Peace Council is not in the favor of Afghanistan and the existence of Commission for Strengthening Peace led by Mojaddadi are extra and not needed. He said: when complete authority is in the hands of foreigners then what the use of these two councils is. We must have direct negotiations with the foreigners.

Karzai's tendency towards Taliban has ethnic basis!

Mandegar Daily, No 530, Page vii, 14 March 2011

Earlier President Karzai proposed the plan of opening a representative office for the Taliban in a third country and Turkey as a friend country agreed with this plan to allow Taliban to open their representative office in this country.

Some say that this interest of Karzai towards Taliban has more ethnic bases than national. If Taliban would be from another ethnicity or tribe then would Mr. Karzai call them brother? Would he talk of peace and negotiation after all these criminal activities that Taliban caused in our country?

It is true that some of the people have joined Taliban ranks based on some excuses but those who claim that they enjoy killing people are they not terrorists? Interesting point is the response by the Taliban who have set their precondition for talks- the withdrawal of foreign forces- while Mr. Karzai has been insisting on peace talks. This precondition is neither acceptable for the people of Afghanistan and nor for the international community. Mr. Karzai is trying to question the credibility of his political image for some faces.

Anti-Taliban movement is formed against peace talks

Mandegar Daily, No 530, Page Eight, 14 March 2011

A number of Afghan citizens in the social networking website, Face-book has formed a group called "Anti-Taliban movement". This group has brought together around 7 thousand members in the imaginary world and it is said that their real aim is to stand against the peace talks process proposed by Afghan government and combat against the Talibani ideas.

The authorities in this group call the peace talks with Taliban a "deal" and publish the public anger on the return of Taliban to

the political scene. They have declared that they will start mobilizing those people too who don't have any access to the internet. They have said that they are working on the first part of this plan and very soon their plans will be put out for public through media.



**Rabbani:
Regional Countries
must put efforts to bring peace**

Afghanistan Daily, No 1345, Page Eight, 15 March 2011

Burhanuddin Rabbani the head of High Peace Council in his meeting with the delegation of Pakistani Senate House said that regional countries should do their best to establish peace in the region. In a declaration released on March 14, Mr. Rabbani said that peace in Afghanistan means peace in all countries. The declaration also adds that Salimullah Khan Head of the Pakistani delegation has emphasized on the friendly relations between the two countries. The 10 member peace delegation of Pakistan visited Afghanistan after an official invitation of the High Peace Council and met with the members of both Houses of Afghanistan and some governmental figures.

Elections Transparency

Special Court, resistance or escape?

Mandegar Daily, No 521, Page Six, 1 March 2011

The new parliament has now come out of repetitive debates and the illegal electoral period. Especially, the one month crisis of parliament prevented some pro-government MPs to enter parliament and this issue has undoubtedly impacted Karzai's perspective towards parliament. This issue is a big challenge for the Special Court and its objectives. If Mr. Karzai gives special directions to the Special Tribunal to retreat and, under pressure the special tribunal acts accordingly then it will cause more resistance by the angry candidates.

Mr. Haqiq and his team are busy in recounting the votes in all the provinces and assessing the complaints of the candidates. Until now there is seen no retreat in the position of Special Tribunal and even they went into the Independent Elections Commission compound with the support of judicial and security institutions and did whatever they wanted.

Now, how can the special tribunal along with some inexperienced officials from Supreme Court attorney general office analyse the complexity of issues related to elections and the votes of people?

The Special Tribunal is not only competent to do this work but it will make blunders in recounting the votes which will be worse than the said frauds in the elections.

Measures by Special Tribunal is illegal

Afghanistan Daily, No 1334, Page Two, 2 March 2011

The Head of parliament called illegal the measures taken by the special tribunal. The members of parliament had passed a resolution almost one half month before calling for the cancellation of this tribunal.

Abdul Rauf Ibrahim, the head of Wolesi Jirga said in the beginning of Wolesi Jirga meeting on March 1 that any measure by the special tribunal is against the law and their activities should be stopped.

Ibrahim asked the MPs that if they agree a commission should be formed to talk with the president and ask the president who is the guardian of the constitution to stop the activities of the Special Tribunal.

Cancellation of Special Tribunal is a priority for the Wolesi Jirga

Iqtidar e Milli Weekly, No 402, Page Two, 5 March 2011

The members of the Wolesi Jirga have several times reminded about the priority of works in the parliament. Mahyuddin Mahdi, an MP from Baghlan says that cancellation of Special

Tribunal should be the top priority of the MPs in the parliament. According to him it was also written on the internal procedures of the Wolesi Jirga to be the top priority.

Mr. Mahdi emphasizes that the most important job of the MPs in the parliament is to make decision about the special tribunal and declare its cancellation; for instance, this legislative organ has questioned the legitimacy of Wolesi Jirga and will undermine the activities of the government in the future.

Common people are puzzled with games and dealings of the powerful men

Irada Daily, No 521, Page Six, 1 March 2011

A number of angry candidates condemned the intervention by local authorities in recounting the votes and informed of widespread fraud cases. Two of these angry candidates said during a news conference in Kabul that the recount of votes shows that two of the MPs must be replaced.

Dawood Sultanzoi an angry candidate from Ghazni and representative of other angry candidates said that based on their information and evidences of frauds and manipulations a number of MPs should be replaced.

The result of assessment in Badakhshan will result into 4 to 5 replacement of MPs.

He added that during recount of votes in Nangarhar, Khost, Heart, Takhar and Parwan provinces there was seen a great difference in the results.

Sultanzoi claimed that some of the governors and other provincial authorities are intervening in the province of recount to keep it under their influence.

Special Tribunal; a bump on the way

Mandegar Daily, No 526, Page Two, 8 March 2011

Writer: Halima Hussaini

The fate of special tribunal seems vague when it is absolutely clear for both sides of the parties and it is only the citizens who are concerned and unaware of the results. For those who are out of the parliament the special tribunal is very precious and dear to them as it is decision is destiny making and they will never stop writing about to show it legitimate, however those who are inside the parliament, the special tribunal has no legitimacy and has no authority to make any decision about the parliament.

Now let's wait and see that what the presidential palace will do to draw a good result out of this crisis as it was the mediator and the one that formed the special tribunal. The important question is that if national interest was the only behind the

formation of this tribunal then how much the result that is concluded by this tribunal will be impartial and just.

The issue of special tribunal has created a big political chaos not only in the parliament but all over the country and remains as a big obstacle for the opponents and those who favor it.

It is more likely that the government is using this legal institution as a tool to exert pressure on those MPs who are not parallel with the policies of government and thus the government wants to weaken the strong observer body not to monitor its activities.

The president shows no willingness to waive the Special Tribunal

8am Daily, No 1106, Page Two, 10 March 2011

The delegation of Wolesi Jirga that went to talk with the president about the cancellation of Special Tribunal returned back without any achievement.

Mohammad Mohaqiq a member of this delegation said that the president is not ready to waive the special tribunal based on the demand of Supreme Court.

He said: "the president told the delegation that the Supreme Court head has asked him not to interfere in the legal affairs as law is independent."

Mohaqiq said that during their informal meeting with the head of Supreme Court and other members of the delegation he also emphasizes on the decision of the special tribunal for parliamentary elections.

The MPs warned on the closure of the parliament

Afghanistan Daily, No 1342, Page One, 12 March 2011

A number of MPs have warned that if the president does not cancel the special tribunal for the elections, they will close the parliament door.

The members of parliament declared their decision after the 35 member delegation of Wolesi Jirga couldn't consent Hamid Karzai to waive the special tribunal. The members of parliament call this tribunal against the law and say that prosecution of criminal cases in the elections is the authority of general court not the special tribunal.

Parliament after the special tribunal

Sorosh Millat Daily, No 507, Page One, 12 March 2011

Dr. Humayun Azizi, government minister for parliamentary affairs on March 10 said that the issue of Special Tribunal for elections between the president and the MPs will be solved on Sunday 13 March.

Meanwhile, Mr. Karzai and his deputies have agreed to end the story of special tribunal as it is against the constitution.

these MPs have also said quoting the president that the recounting of parliamentary elections votes can only undermine the rule of law and the constitution. However, the president didn't officially endorse this issue and let's wait what will be the decision of the government.

The President, still supporting Special Tribunal

Mandegar Daily, No 529, Page Seven, 13 March 2011

The president does not seem to be happy with the parliament make-up and puts efforts to bring those MPs into parliament who are loyal to him. Mr. Karzai is politicking to make an ineffective parliament that would pave the way for the demands of some foreign countries to play their role in the future of Afghanistan's politics. However, the jangles of elections can cost deadly for Afghans and will be a great tragedy for this people as it will also make people to be less enthusiastic in future elections.

Therefore, the cancellation of this tribunal by the MPs is not effective and no one can consent the president in this regard. On the other hand, the MPs who are supposedly to be removed from the list by the Special Tribunal are not those who are popular amongst and could gather some people to raise their voices and plights; however they know how and by what means take the support of people.

Now, the election case is one of the most complex one in the politics of our society and it will end up to new crisis and ethnical jangles.

Angry protesters of parliamentary elections: The Western faces in government prevent Ma'navi from imprisonment

Arman Milli, No 1199, Page One, 14 March 2011

Some protestors of parliamentary elections of 2010 say that a number of Western Officials have asked the high ranking Afghan authorities to prevent Fazl Ahmad Manavi, head of Independent Elections Commissions from being sent to prison.

Mr. Manavi is accused of organized fraud in the parliamentary elections of 2010 and he has rejected all allegations against him.

In a conference on 13 March the angry protestors also said that the Special Tribunal should be cancelled before it declares its findings and verdict on the Sep 18, 2010 parliamentary elections.

The fate of Special Tribunal will be determined on Thursday

Daily 8am, No 1110, Page One, 15 March 2011

A delegation of MPs after continuous meetings with the president has revealed the president's readiness to end up the problem of special tribunal.

Mohammad Saleh Saljuqi, a member of the delegation that met the president said that the president assured them of ending up the crisis of Special Tribunal in complete understanding with the Supreme Court.

Saljuqi expressed his hope that the president will act upon his commitment and will end up the crisis of Special Tribunal with the MPs regarding the parliamentary elections.

Vote recount in Ghazni province

8am Daily, No 1110, Page Six, 15 Mar 2011

The process of vote recount for the last parliamentary elections has begun in Ghazni province since last week. The head of 16 member committee for vote recount is the head of provincial appeal court of Ghazni province. In this regards, the people of Ghazni have expressed different reactions.

The provincial council of Ghazni in an official letter declared that no one member of this council will participate in the process of vote recount as an observer. The other institutions like UNAMA and FEFA also did not send anyone to participate in the vote recount process. ON the other hand the representatives of governmental institutions were not much visible either.

Corruption

Green lands grabbed in Mazar e Sharif

Afghanistan Daily, No 1335, Page Seven, March 3, 2011

The powerful men in Mazar e Sharif have grabbed 40% of green lots and transformed them into residential areas.

The Mayor of Mazar e Sharif says that efforts are underway to retake these lands from the powerful figures. Mohammad Younus Moqim, the Mayor of Mazar e Sharif told reporters that 10% of the total 50% of the green parts grabbed by the powerful men during past years are taken back from them. He added that 40% other parts are transformed into residential areas and efforts are underway to take them back too. He remarked that in some parts of these areas some high tower buildings are constructed which has made our efforts to retake them difficult.

Besides, the provincial council head of Balkh province also confirmed the land grabbing issue and hoped that these parts will be taken back.

The culture of bribery fattening

Saboot Daily, No 13, Page Two, 6 March 2011

Writer: Shahpoor Azimi

The Afghan government created several commissions and agencies to prevent corruptions, but they didn't have any achievements rather became another heavy burden on the poor Afghan economy.

Despite heavy government spending to tackle corruption, still the Afghanistan government is the third most corrupt in the world and the government institutions seem quite feeble to decrease corruption.

The culture of bribery in the Afghan governmental institutions roots back to several years before and during last years, the combat to eradicate this menace is limited only to paper-work and some talks but not practical. That's why its roots have now become deeper than the past. The existence of corrupt officials, encouragement of bribery, patronage is vividly visible in the government institutions of Afghanistan.

Weak judiciary, lack of punishment and punishment culture, encouragement of impunity culture for high ranking officials and the poor government employees are the factors that have promoted the culture of bribery in the country.

Some groups that is involved in taking bribery, manipulations have links with the high ranking government officials and give them incentives to free themselves from the paws of law.

What has the government of Afghanistan done so far has been the trial and arrest of some low ranking officers. However, the

heads and deputies of the government institutions who are introduced to judicial branches escape mysteriously.

A look into challenges and the sources of corruption

Irada Daily, No 998, Page Two, 12 March 2011

There have been many efforts going on so far to combat with bribery and corruption in the form of various strategies. Since the extent of problem is so wide in the Afghanistan institutions, there has been no success achieved in this regard and it is expanding every day.

Unfortunately, lack of commitment to serve the people and the nation has caused the expansion of corruption. Many of the government appointments are based not on merit but patronage which is another factor in increasing corruption in government offices. The other factors that have played their role in the expansion of corruption can be the absence of the following; classification of job based on merit and capability, responsive and transparent system, commitment to job, the ability to perform a particular job and the weaknesses and insufficiencies of employees.

Balkh residents complain about land grabbing by Police

Sorosh Millat, No 508, Page Seven, 13 March 2011

Some of the Balkh residents say that the police in this province cooperate with the land grabbers to take their land using armed force. Haji Lashkari, a tribal elder said the people of this province are angry with this move by the police and have disarmed four policemen in the north of Mazar e Sharif.

He says that these people used police uniform to enter the area and wanted to grab the land of people. The people attacked on them and some of them were able to run away.

Unfinished job of fighting corruption

Afghanistan Daily, No 1344, Page Two, 14 March 2011

The programs initiated by the Afghan government are never based on strong evidence and statistics and its program to combat corruption is likewise. Despite all the reports and solutions to combat corruption provided by the Afghan government, most of its agencies and institutions are overwhelmed with corruption then how its programs and solutions will be effective and practical.

Formation of commissions and institutions to combat corruption during past nine years has not been an effective

strategy to wipe out corruption but they have added to government bureaucracy and large financial expenses.

These commissions, instead of initiating practical works, have made planning with strong preconditions. For example they plan a program for which they require fifty million dollars. Such programs are not intended to fight corruption actually, but waste much time to finish corruption from state offices.

Articles & Interviews

International Aspects of Peace-Talks and Reconciliation with Taliban



Author: Yaseen Rahyab, Researcher in International Affairs

Peace and security is one of the natural needs of humankind and it serves as a precondition for a sound and civilized living environment in any society. The country's leadership should have the capacity and talent to reconcile with all players involved in Afghanistan insurgency. However, if the price of reconciliation with armed insurgents is paid by discontent of Afghan citizens and international community such peace-talks won't be favorable anymore.

The Taliban peace-talk agenda was, for the first time, officially discussed at London Conference in early 2011. Participants of the Conference in their final statement officially announced their desire to support the Afghan government peace-talks with Taliban.

In June 2010, the Consultative Peace Jirga was convened to decide on the framework of peace-talks and reconciliation with insurgent groups including the Taliban. The Consultative Peace Jirga concluded with some specific recommendations to Afghan government including release of Taliban insurgents from prisons, removing names of Taliban leaders from the Black List and ending the UN-imposed sanctions on Taliban leaders. After the consultative peace-Jirga these recommendations were seriously followed up and so far, several prisoners of Taliban have been released and names of several Taliban top leaders have been removed from the UN black list.

Later on, in Kabul Conference convened on July 2010, the Taliban peace-talk agenda got some clearer aspects.

Afghanistan during the last 10 years has undergone many changes. The Taliban regime was toppled; the new government was established under the new Afghan Constitution; and for the first time in history of the country political power was transferred peacefully and free of violence.

But these days, new changes seem to be in the pipeline. President Karzia's efforts during the last five years to bring Taliban on the talk table failed; the newly mandated High Council of Peace that has just started its practical work to reconcile, doesn't look to open any new door for putting an end to the dilemma. Our understating from Taliban suggests that the group don't favor political partnership and they give no value to democracy, freedom of speech and human rights. They fight to establish their own Islamic Emirate whose decrees are holy like Quranic verses. Taliban support a regime ruled by a dictator called Amir. Those who believe that reconciliation with Taliban through political partnership is possible seem to be acting too optimistically.

Afghan conflict for the time being isn't only an Afghan agenda; it rather is and should be considered as a regional-universal agenda. Presence of the International Community in the country seeks certain objectives, at the top of which lies elimination of terrorist camps/centers and assuring security at international level. In addition to security, supporting democratic processes and human rights values are amongst the most important part of this mission. Thus, ignoring this part of the international mission to Afghanistan or in other words, ignoring the values such as democracy and human rights shall mean a decline for all the post-Taliban achievements in the country.

There is no doubt that the international community and the government of Afghanistan are immensely working to stabilize Afghanistan from political perspective before the international security forces leave the country in 2014. The fact that either this objective will faster realize through smashing the insurgent groups or reconciling with them, is a question that hasn't found its ultimate response yet.

There is no doubt that the international community and the government of Afghanistan are immensely working to stabilize Afghanistan from political perspective before the international security forces leave the country in 2014. The fact that either this objective will faster realize through smashing the insurgent groups or reconciling with them, is a question that hasn't found its ultimate response yet.

General David Petraeus, Commander of NATO and ISAF forces in Afghanistan has continued to press

Taliban through conducting frequent military operations. But, he has also announced his support from the process of peace-talks with Taliban. Earlier he had announced that Taliban leaders can come to Kabul for negotiations.

This is clear that the peace talks can happen anytime anywhere; but what is challenging this process is lack of a serious plan agreed by international community, Afghan government and other political parties operating in the country that can send a clear message to Taliban.

As we all know, for the time being everyone is talking about peace and reconciliation; Afghan government, the Parliament, some of Afghan politicians, NATO, US and British governments are all taking on peace and reconciliation; but unfortunately,

there doesn't exist a consistent agenda for such peace talks; talks with whom and for what costs? US government has its own agenda for peace talks; while the Taliban and Afghan government as well Afghan Parliament are emphasizing on their own paradoxical agendas for reconciliation. This would kill much time to make some sort of consistency amongst these agendas.

Whereas, the current conflict in Afghanistan has some external links, it would be reasonable to say that role to foreigners-particularly of those powerful countries has been important to the present and future of Afghanistan; because, the issue of Afghanistan and the fight against terrorism has taken a universal shape and the rise and fall of this phenomenon won't be limited to Afghanistan boundaries. Some of political analysts think that the High Council of Peace would have been effective if there had been only Afghan insurgents involved in the crisis. The problem is that the insurgents' strategy is linked to different external elements whose interests seem to have been interconnected with instability inside Afghanistan.

Peace in Afghanistan is a need; but having a democratic, pluralistic, inclusive and active government as well respecting values of a civilized country and international norms of human rights is also a serious need that can't be compromised. We call on Afghan government and Afghanistan citizens as well as the insurgents groups and emphasize that strangers never bother to resolve Afghan conflict. Realization of a sustainable peace in the country is only possible through unity and sincerity amongst different sections of Afghanistan citizenry as well as a strong consistency and contribution made by groups and parties working inside Afghanistan. Adopting a proactive and creative diplomacy supported by Afghan citizens which is consistent with international community can be a step towards securing peace and state building in Afghanistan. Any effort towards peace-building and reconciliation with Taliban in the absence of a mechanized consistency with international community and the failure to win supports of Afghans would result into nothing but wastage of time and creating new crisis.

New publications

Afghanistan: Jeddah meeting should protect rights, not sacrifice them

Amnesty International / March 2, 2011

The international meeting of Afghanistan's supporters in Jeddah on 3 March must ensure that human rights, including women's rights, are integral to the reconciliation process in Afghanistan to secure a sustainable and just peace, said Amnesty International today.

The Organization of the Islamic Conference has invited members of the International Contact Group, which brings together the Afghan government with key international states and organizations that provide the Afghan government with financial, military, and political support.

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/library/asset/ASA11/002/2011/en/60ab4422-0241-4bcb-ba99-d5eac8f6bcd/asa110022011en.html>

Afghanistan: Stop Women Being Given as Compensation

Human Rights Watch / March 8, 2011

The Afghan government should hold accountable those who seek to impose brutal customary punishments such as *baad*, where women and girls are given as compensation for crimes, Human Rights Watch said today. In order to eradicate such abusive practices, the government should strengthen implementation of the Elimination of Violence Against Women law, sending clear signals that such practices will no longer be tolerated by the state.

"There's a law against giving Afghan women away to pay for the crimes of their families but it still happens," said Aruna Kashyap, women's rights researcher at Human Rights Watch. "The government should punish those who treat women like family property."

<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2011/03/08/afghanistan-stop-women-being-given-compensation>

The Comprehensive Approach in Afghanistan

NDU Press / March 2011

Counterinsurgency has always required a holistic or comprehensive approach of one form or another. At the global level, the comprehensive approach articulates the connections of the full spectrum of complexity of operations, from security through rule of law and governance to humanitarianism, and describes the most appropriate roles for soldiers and civilians. At the national level, it is an approach that conceptualizes the interaction among security forces, the rest of government, and civil society. Yet, the realization of the comprehensive approach internationally and in the host country remains problematic. In Afghanistan, the comprehensive approach has matured over the years; more actors are involved, bringing more capabilities to the effort. The comprehensive approach has resulted in improvements in Afghanistan's security, government legitimacy, combating corruption, and strengthening the economy and licit agricultural production.

<http://www.ndu.edu/press/comprehensive-approach-afghanistan.html>

Report on UK's foreign policy approach to Afghanistan and Pakistan

Parliament.uk / March 2, 2011

The British Government must use its influence to persuade the US to engage more fully, and swiftly, with the process of political reconciliation in Afghanistan if the US wishes to disengage its forces there, says the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee in today's (Wednesday 2 March) report, "The UK's foreign policy approach to Afghanistan and Pakistan".

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/foreign-affairs-committee/news/publication-of-report-on-the-uks-foreign-policy-approach-to-afghanistan-and-pakistan/>

The Comprehensive Approach in Afghanistan

Prism, Center for Complex Operations (National Defense University) / March 1, 2011

Counterinsurgency has always required a holistic or comprehensive approach of one form or another. At the global level, the comprehensive approach articulates the connections of the full spectrum of complexity of operations, from security through rule of law and governance to humanitarianism, and describes the most appropriate roles for soldiers and civilians. At the national level, it is an approach that conceptualizes the interaction among security forces, the rest of government, and civil society. Yet, the realization of the comprehensive approach internationally and in the host country remains problematic. In Afghanistan, the

comprehensive approach has matured over the years; more actors are involved, bringing more capabilities to the effort. The comprehensive approach has resulted in improvements in Afghanistan's security, government legitimacy, combating corruption, and strengthening the economy and licit agricultural production.

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

Counting the Dead in Afghanistan

Science Magazine / March 11, 2011

By day, you don't see the war. The wind throws up a red haze that obscures everything. Bearded Afghan men in colorful vests whip their donkeys, lugging vegetables and firewood. Unless you spot an armored convoy picking its way across the rugged landscape or hear a fighter jet scream overhead, you couldn't even guess the century. But once night falls, a brilliant cluster of lights appears, as if a new city has sprouted in the valley several kilometers south of the provincial capital. This is Kandahar Airfield. What used to be a derelict airport littered with debris from the Soviet era has grown into a massive base for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF).

<http://www.sciencemag.org/content/331/6022/1256.full?ref=topst>

Dari Publications

ناکامی در تداوم گفتگو با شورشیان؛ شکایت از جوانان اترنتی

هفته‌نامه نخست / ۱۰ حوت ۱۳۸۹

"شکی نیست که اگر علما جای خود را بگذارند، مرجعیت و رهبریت خود را به دیگران بگذارند، گاهی اتفاق می افتد که به اصطلاح جوانان فیس بوک و اینترنت رهبری جامعه و تحولات را بدوش می گیرند."

جمله ی بالا از برهان الدین ربانی رییس شورای صلح افغانستان نقل شده است. در این جمله کوتاه دو طرز تفکر و دو دنیای متفاوت به معارضه بر می خیزند. تفکر مرجعیت طلبانه و پیامبر مآبانه ی قرون وسطایی و پیرسالارانه، که انسان های عادی یک جامعه را رمه ی گوسفندی به تصور می آورد که فاقد عقلانیت اند و باید از سوی آدم های قدیس گونه وبا تجربه رهبری شوند؛ و تفکر عقلانیت محور، تکنولوژی مدار و جوان سالارانه که مبنای فرمانروایی و فرماندهی را بر پایه های عقلانی استوار می کند و به این باور است که حاکمیت متعلق به انسان ها است و به کمک تکنولوژی پیشرفته می توان چیره گی بیشتری بر چالش های موجود انسان امروزی یافت و امور را بهتر مدیریت کرد.

<http://www.nukhustdaily.com/index.php/2009-07-28-05-21-03/3319-2011-03-01-18-32-28.html>

افغانستان در دو راهی جنگ و صلح

روزنامه چراغ / ۵ مارچ ۲۰۱۱

در افغانستان نه تلاشهای صلح منطقی و جامع وجود دارد و نه جنگ تمام عیار علیه تروریسم و حامیان آن. در حالیکه دولت کابل برای صلح تلاشهای یک جانبه را با تمام قدرت آغاز کرده است، این کوششها از شفافیت کامل برخوردار نیست و زمینه های اصلی برای آوردن صلح نیز وجود ندارد زیرا اگر این صلح بخاطر آرامش مردم است؛ پس این پنهان کاری ها چرا؟

از سوی دیگر جنگ افغانستان در حالی یازدهمین سال خود را سپری میکند که امریکا و متحدانش با وجود تاکید های مداوم بر جلوگیری از کشتار غیر نظامیان همچنان دست به بمباران کور میزنند و شهروندان ملکی را هدف قرار میدهند.

<http://cheraghdaily.af/spip.php?article2526>

نگران کننده یا امیدبخش؟

روزنامه ماندگار / هوشمند فرارودی

احمد عمران به میزانی که موضوع گفتگو با طالبان و ایجاد پایگاههای دایمی امریکا در کشور جدی می شود، به همان میزان واکنشها نسبت به این موضوعها در میان طیفهای گستردهیی از جامعه افزایش می یابد. اگر دیروز تنها جناحها و افرادی که عمدتاً به اپوزیسیون بودن در برابر دولت شهره بودند، در این خصوص به بیشترین ابراز نظر و تأمل می پرداختند؛ ولی حالا حتا افراد و جناحهایی که در کنار حکومت و به ویژه به نزدیکی زیاد با آقای کرزی و تیم او متهم هستند نیز وارد بحثهای جدی در این خصوص شده اند و تلاش می کنند که مواضع و دیدگاههای خود را وارد گفتمان سیاسی جامعه کنند.

<http://www.mandegardaily.af/spip.php?article6023>

دادگاه ویژه؛ مقاومت یا گریز؟

روزنامه ماندگار / هوشمند فرارودی

دادگاه ویژه مولد تضارب و تقابل منافع طرفهای درگیر پس از اعلام نتایج نهایی انتخابات است. از روزی که این دادگاه به وجود آمد با پیشامدهای خوبی مواجه نشد، ولی پیوسته نگران چگونگی انجام مأموریتش بوده است. نمایندگان مجلس تا اکنون به حیث یگانه دشمن سرسخت و تسلیم ناپذیر این محکمه ی انتخاباتی بوده اند. به گونهیی که دیده می شود، هیچ گاه رابطه ی مجلس و دادگاه ویژه خوب نبوده و هیچ گاهی هم خوب نخواهد شد؛ هر دو طرف برای تضعیف و خوار کردن یکدیگر از هر وسیلهیی سود می جویند.

مجلس نمایندگان پیش از اینکه خلأ کرسی ریاست مجلس را مورد نظر جدی داشته باشد، به اکثریت آراء، دادگاه ویژه را غیرمشروع و غیرقانونی خواندند. بحران یک‌ماهه‌ی مجلس خوب‌ترین دستاویز و فرصت برای دادگاه ویژه به شمار می‌رفت تا در سکوت و ناکامی تلخ در مجلس، بیشتر شمشیربازی کرده و به پیکر قانونی حریف خود خوب‌تر ضربه وارد کند.
<http://www.mandegardaily.af/spip.php?article5965>

دادگاه ویژه؛ استخوانی در گلو؟!

روزنامه ماندگار / حلیمه حسینی

دادگاه ویژه و سرنوشت آن، همان چیزی است که تعیین‌کننده‌ی عمق بحران و گستردگی آن در افغانستان خواهد بود. این‌که در نهایت جدال میان پارلمان، دولت و قوه قضاییه‌ی کشور به کجا خواهد رسید، تعیین‌کننده‌ی سرنوشت واقعی افغانستان در سال‌های آینده خواهد بود؛ چرا که بدون شک مدیریت کردن یک‌چنین بحران و وضعیت بغرنجی، کاری بس دشوار است که باید دید ریاست‌جمهوری کشور چطور از پس حل این معضل بر خواهد آمد.

سرنوشت دادگاه ویژه در حالی در ابهام قرار دارد که برای طرفین این دعوا، کاملاً جداگانه وضعیت مشخص و روشن است و فقط برای شهروندان ما است که نتیجه مبهم و نگران‌کننده به نظر می‌رسد. برای آنانی که در بیرون پارلمان هستند، بدون شک رأی دادگاه ویژه تعیین‌کننده است و در دفاع از صلاحیت و مشروعیت آن هم سخنرانی و هم قلم‌فرسایی کرده و خواهند کرد و اما برای آنان‌که در درون پارلمان قرار دارند، دادگاه ویژه از اصل و اساس دارای مشروعیت نبوده و صلاحیت هیچ حکمی را برای عزل و نصب نمایندگان پارلمان ندارند.

<http://www.mandegardaily.af/spip.php?article6067>

Media Analyst: Jawad Naji
Translated by: Murtaza Sharifi
English Editor: Temorbig
Designed by: Ahmad Zia Mohammadi
Typist: Maryam Rezaee

TRUTH is only responsible for what it writes like notes, analysis and comments. Haqiqat is not responsible for news, reports and articles selected from media sources, the responsibility is returned to the publisher.

ABOUT AFGHANISTAN WATCH

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

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

*For more information and to order publications, contact Afghanistan Watch at:
Afghanistan Watch Office, Near Borje-Barq, Dehberi, Kabul, Afghanistan.*

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

Post Box: Kabul, Dehberi Post Office, Box No 10083

Website: www.watchafghanistan.org

E-mail: publication@watchafghanistan.org