

## Thirty Second Note

**Elections Transparency:** After months, the tension between the Parliament and Supreme Court of Afghanistan has not been resolved. At the latest development, the Special Electoral Tribunal has summoned 53 members of the Lower House for interrogation. The United Nations in its most recent statement has pronounced its concern over the elections challenges. Meanwhile, the President Karzai has not yet taken any final decision on the abolishment of the Special Electoral Tribunal. The House of Representatives is reported to be considering evidence to be used for the trial of the Chief Justice, an act intended to react to the establishment of the Special Electoral Tribunal.

**Reconciliation with the Taliban:** Members of the Upper House have

demanded the abolishment of the High Peace Council because its members believe improper performance of the council encourages destructive acts of the anti-government groups. The Russian government has also declared its readiness to support the peace process of Afghan government. A number of armed anti-government groups in Kandahar, Takhar, Urozgan, and Baghlan provinces have joined the peace process. In addition, Sima Samar, the Head of the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan has said that there is not political commitment for participation of women in the peace process.

**Administrative Corruption:** Enayatullah Qasemi, the former Transport minister and Nurohlah Delavar, the advisor of the president who have been accused of administrative corruption and embezzlement, have been detained by

the order of the Attorney General. In addition, a number of disabled people in Kunduz province, in protest against corruption, closed the doors of Labor and Social Affairs Department of in that province.

**Transitional Justice:** A training workshop on transitional justice was held in Bamiyan province. It seems that civil and human rights entities considering the importance of transitional justice, are trying to raise the public awareness about it.

**Interviews and Articles:** "The Taliban and the Peace processes", is the title of analytical article by Dr. Jawad Salehi. He argues that because of Taliban's ideological nature, nostalgia for power, alliance with extremist groups and dependence on Pakistan the current efforts for making peace with them is not likely to achieve its intended outcomes.

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## Taliban and the Reconciliation Process

**Author: Dr. Mohammad Jawad Salehi, PHD political science/ Political analyst and university professor**

▶ **Another group of political analysts and political activists hold that reconciliation with Taliban in the absence of a clear strategy- particularly when government enters talks with a weaker position and shows unnecessary flexibility, won't any result and instead of bringing peace, will encourage Taliban to launch more terroristic operations.**

Page 16



The Truth is a bi-weekly publication of the Afghanistan Watch supported by the International Centre for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). It is intended to provide a snapshot of how the Afghan media debate and approach these key issues facing the country: transitional justice, corruption, elections transparency and negotiations with the armed insurgents.

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## Inside This Issue

| Transitional Justice  | Elections Transparency  |
|---|---|
| Transitional Justice Training Workshop held in Bamiyan  | The President will abolish the Special Electoral Tribunal   |
| Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan needs application of justice   | The abolishment of the Special Electoral Tribunal is the end of the crisis                            |
| <b>Negotiation with armed Anti-Government Groups</b>  | The President has the authority to abolish the Special Electoral Tribunal                             |
| Abolish the High Council for Peace!   | Unclear prospect of the Special Electoral Tribunal  |
| Ten insurgents joined the peace process in Kandahar province  | The concerns of the United Nations about election challenges  |
| Senators called for abolition of the High Peace Council and resignation of MoD  | The Special Electoral Tribunal will not be abolished  |
| Element's of President Karzai's policy of bringing peace  | Does the dilemma of the Special Electoral Tribunal have an end?                                       |
| Demonstration for peace by volunteers   | Dissatisfied candidates demanded non-interference in the works of the Special Electoral Tribunal      |
| Rabani: we just realized what games are going on!   | The House of Representative considers the trial of the Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court |
| New challenges ahead of reconciliation process with the Taliban   | 53 parliament members have been summoned by the Special Electoral Tribunal                            |
| Where will we go this year?   | What would be the decision of the President?  |
| National Directorate of Security released seventeen prisoners   | Chief Justice on the verge of trial of the Lower House  |
| One way road of peace   | Why you are afraid of the Special Electoral Tribunal  |
| Three armed groups joined the peace process in Baghlan province   | Afghanistan's internal development have become focus point of the international community             |
| The impact of replacement of the head of president's office on reconciliation with the Taliban                                | No clear allegations exist against parliament members   |
| Those Taliban member who join the peace process are threatened  | <b>Corruption</b>   |
| Sima Samar: "The government and United Nations, have no political commitment for participation of women in the peace process" | Corruption has decreased international community's interest to help Afghanistan                       |
| The High Peace Council held a meeting in Urozgan  | Fahim and Zakhival 's difference of opinions on administrative corruption                             |
| The High Peace Council, a project for acquittal of war criminals  | The need for transparency in financial system   |
| 17 armed anti-government elements joined the government in Sar-e Pul  | The disabled in Kunduz closed the Labor Department's door in protest against corruption               |
| Ambiguities in the Peace Process  | Corruption cases of "ten million dollars", and government's plan to fight it                          |
| Peaceful blusters, a sign of traditional authority  | Enayatullah Qasemi, the former Minister of Transport detained   |
| Russia announced its support for talks with the Taliban   | Settlement of corruption charges, an impossible trend!  |
| The Office of the President welcomes the Russian support for talks with the Taliban   | Nurollah Delavari, the President's advisor was detained charged with corruption                       |
| Isn't it the time to cope with the problems by complete cooperation and transparency?   | <b>Articles &amp; Interviews</b>  |
| 45 armed anti-government members joined the government in Urozgan   | Taliban and the Reconciliation Process  |
| Four Taliban members joined the government in Takhar  | <b>New Publications</b>   |

# Transitional Justice

## Transitional Justice Training Workshop held in Bamiyan

*8AM Daily, No 1116, Page Three, 27 March 2011*

A training workshop on transitional justice was held by Civil Society and Human Rights Office in Bamiyan province. Esmaeel Zaki, the coordinator of Civil Society and Human Rights Office in Bamiyan said: " Civil Society and Human Rights Office has prepared training materials on different subject matter by the help of a working group comprising of members of member entities. This time the working group prepared some curriculum materials with regard to transitional justice in which instructors from Daykondi and Bamiyan provinces are involved".

Regarding the subject matters of the training workshop Mr. Zaki said: " the majority of the subjects matters of this course are classified into four chapters: Chapter one includes the Definition of Transitional Justice, Factors of Transitional Justice, Importance and Objectives of Transitional Justice, Crimes Studied under Transitional Justice and their definitions. The trend of transitional justice and other relevant subjects are discussed in the first chapter. In other chapters, the history and experiences of transitional justice practiced in other countries which had undergone social crisis, are examined".

decades, providing evidence regarding injustices and establishment of authoritative entities for application of transitional justice.

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## Sustainable Peace in Afghanistan needs application of justice

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1358, Page Two, 31 March 2011*

The Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan has said that reaching a sustainable peace in the country is deeply dependent on application of justice and prosecution of the war criminals.

Sima Samar, the Head of this commission on 30th of March at a conference on Creation of Coordination among Victims of War in Afghanistan said no one had the authority to exempt war crimes from prosecution. Mrs. Samar said that all Afghans, either directly or indirectly, were the victims of injustices and in order to ensure justice, the unity of all people of Afghanistan was needed. According to her, establishing justice without application of justice is not possible. The head of the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan said: " if we are to take Afghanistan towards sustainable peace, and if we are to save Afghanistan from tribal, ethnical, linguistic and regional wars, we will be in need of accountability and justice". She emphasized: "we should promote the culture of accountability and justice, this is not possible to be accomplished through one entity, rather all tribes of Afghanistan should take a share in doing so". The transitional justice process was announced in 2005 in Afghanistan and its objectives were to investigation of war crimes of the last three

# Negotiation with Armed Anti-Government Groups

## Abolish the High Council for Peace!

*8Am Daily, No 1111, Page Four, 16 March 2001*

It was expected that the establishment of the High Peace Council would improve the current situation of Afghanistan and would decrease the incident rates of organized crimes. However the expectations turned out to be completely different. The Taliban are following several certain objectives by committing suicide attacks: one group of the Taliban who are against the government, are trying to, by any possible means, destroy any reconciliation ground by perpetrating suicide attacks. Another goal of the Taliban which is carried out by killing innocent civilians is to create an intimidating state in the society.

By this method, the Taliban are trying to weaken the will of Afghan people to fight against anti-government forces, trying to impose their own will on the people. The government and its foreign allies are also affected by the current situation. At the present time, the government and some of countries are trying to indifferently respond to the recent incidents. Many countries have been silent about the recent incidents and they have not even issued any declaration to condemn them; amid this situation, merely some Medias are voicing their concerns. It seems that the Taliban, in order to dominate their presence and impose themselves upon the people and international community, will continue their attacks. Considering the inefficiency of the High Peace Council and presence of some faces with a background of civil wars in it, and increase of the Taliban demands, it is expected that the government put an end to the work of the said council to set itself free of the current situation.

## Ten insurgents joined the peace process in Kandahar province

*Sorush.E. Melat Daily, No 511, Page Three, 16 March 2011*

A group consisting of ten Taliban members, who had been carrying out some anti-government acts in Helmand and Kandahar provinces, have joined the peace process in Kandahar province.

Turyalai Visa, the governor of Kandahar, and General Mohammad Naiem Momen, the head of national security of this province at the ceremony held on joining of this group to the government said to the reports: "this group of ten led by Mavlavi Azizullah in Helmand province was acting against the government, and they joined the peace process by mediation of the governor of Panjvari district. Mr. Visa also said that it will be tried to provide work opportunities for these people and to ensure their security. The commander of this group said that formerly he, and his soldiers had been working for Mullah

Mohammad Omar by the salary of three thousands Kaldar (about 90\$) against the government of Afghanistan.

## Senators called for abolition of the High Peace Council and resignation of MoD

*Sorush.E. Melat Daily, No 511, Page Three, 16 March 2011*

A number of senators complaining about the increasing insecurity, at a meeting held on 15th of March urged the resignation of the Minister of Defense and dissolving of the High Council for Peace. These senators criticize the security officials saying the High Peace Council is supporting the Taliban surreptitiously. These senators added that if the minister of defense did not step down, he should be introduced for the AGO though this council for prosecution. A number of senators seriously criticize the negotiation process with the Taliban, saying that the government is desperately and miserably sobbing in front of the Taliban, and it encourages them sometimes by offering them some gifts. The Upper House following some discussion, decided to summon in the next week, the security officials to the Upper House to provide answers to the questions of the senators.

## Element's of President Karzai's policy of bringing peace

*Nakhost Weekly, No 53, Page Three, 16 March 2011*

About four months ago as the first steps were being taken for the establishment of the High Council for Peace, and the secret contacts were being made with Pakistan's intelligence services by the advisory board of Mr. Karzai, a number of experts firmly believed that Mr. Karzai was no longer willing to continue the war against insurgents groups. Therefore, he demanded the NATO forces to stop their night missions, and now he is humbly requesting these forces to totally stop their missions in Afghanistan and follow the war against terrorism beyond the borders of Afghanistan. As he claims, the terrorism is not housed in the villages of Afghanistan.

By dismissal of the two senior security officials which took place last summer and by the humble and meaningful reaction of the President towards the murder of General Abdul Rahman Sayed Khili as the former Jihadi commanders who had created many challenges for Taliban in Kunduz province, it could be concluded that Hamid Karzai is no longer in support of the war against Taliban. At the funeral ceremony of Mr. Sayed Khili in Parwan province Karzai denounced the existence of terrorism in Afghanistan. These are the reasons that indicate Mr. Karzai

intends to follow up the reconciliation and negotiations trend with the insurgent groups through any possible means, and for doing so he has allegedly received the approval of Pakistan. He is going to implement his plan despite the public animosity towards the crimes of the Taliban and those of Hekmatiyar's party being committed in Afghanistan.

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## Demonstration for peace by volunteers

*Sorush.E. Melat Daily, No 511, Page Three, 18 March 2011*

The Peace Volunteer Association of Afghanistan has launched a new campaign for the purpose of promoting the culture of peace in Afghanistan. A number of the members of this association held a demonstration and at the end of it they distributed their resolution.

Many issues have been referred to in this resolution and if applied, they would lead to establishment of peace in the country. Meanwhile, the government and international donor countries have said that they are trying to create more job opportunities for the people by conducting several projects. As efforts for bringing peace in the country continue, the High Peace Council has stepped up its moves toward peace establishment. In addition, the United Nations has announced its readiness to support any move towards peace in Afghanistan and has promised to provide facilitation to that end.

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**Rabani:**

## we just realized what games are going on!

*Mandegar Daily, No 533, Page Six, 19 March 2011*

With the ongoing concerns of the High Peace Council about the efforts of some "big circles" for disturbing peace process in the country, a number of analysts believe Pakistan and Britain are seriously trying to maintain the precarious situation in Afghanistan.

Formerly Mr. Rabani, the head of the High Peace Council had spoken about the existence of some big circles which are working to undermine the peace process and most of the Taliban members are not aware of the efforts and existence of such circles. Rabani, has also stated that whenever some of the Taliban members show their tendency for negotiation, they are assassinated by the said circles. He added: "now that we have entered the peace process, we have realized things of which we were not aware before, of the games going on, of the murders and explosions that are committed by others and are attributed to the Taliban, while the Taliban themselves being in the dark about them".

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## New challenges ahead of reconciliation process with the Taliban

*Ensaf Weekly, No 170, Page One, 19 March 2011*

These days as the efforts of the High Peace Council are increasing to bring the Taliban behind negotiation desk, reactions have raised regarding the methods and conditions of

the negotiations. As the latest development, the Upper House by taking a resolute and decisive position has demanded the dissolving of the High Council for Peace. With the position adopted by the Upper House, the prospect of the negotiations with the terrorist groups will face new challenges.

Since the position of the Upper House is criticizing both the government and insurgent groups, it will not be undoubtedly receive the approval of neither of the parties (the government and the insurgents). However this does not mean we should expect similar reactions from the two sides. Perhaps, the government of Afghanistan, like some other cases in the past, might be silent about this issue as well. Because as we all know the decisions taken by the Upper House are mostly of ceremonial and symbolic nature and there is no authentic guarantee for their application. The reactions of the Taliban, however, would have obvious difference compared to those of the government. It is believed that the Taliban might show a serious reaction to the position of the High Council for Peace, that is to say, they might step up their attacks, goals and targets and thereby give remarkable rise to the casualty rates.

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## Where will we go this year?

*Mandegar Daily, No 535, Page Two, 26 March 2011*

The negotiation plan with the Taliban and receipt of some green signals from them and the government's steps for showing its good faith in the peace process, were the most significant events in the country which could have been reflected in a greater extent at national and international level during the last year. This issue could well be examined by the existing flaws, shortcomings, poor performance, and concealment of truth and lack of transparency of the government. This way it could be known who and which civil, national international organs deliberately blocked the road of the peace process. The question is: while there are widespread talks about the negotiation with the Taliban and their encouragement to join the peace process, why we can't see even a slightest change in the movements and policy of the Taliban towards Afghan people and government, despite all the privileges considered for them? Those behind suicide and terrorist attacks who have taken the sleep from the eyes of our people, from one side are arrested and from another side are released by the government to as an indication of fits good faith towards the Taliban and anti-government insurgents. By the release of seventeen insurgents from prison in the first days of the new year and their exemption from punishment, it is clearly understood that the Taliban will double up their forces and they will continue blackmailing our people and government to deteriorate the situation and make the life more difficult for the people in the country.

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## National Directorate of Security released seventeen prisoners

*8AM Daily, No 1115, Page One, 26 March 2011*

The officials of NDS have said that seventeen prisoners believed

to have been insurgents were released based on the “peaceful decisions of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan”. This organ did not say anything about the political affiliation of these people. In a written statement of NDS it was noted that they had been under custody at NDS. Normally, criminals suspecting of committing crimes against national security are held at NDS’s prison. At the present time, a number of prisoners who are linked with insurgent groups are being held at NDS’ prison. In the past, Amrullah Saleh, the former head of the NDS of Afghanistan had criticized that there are lack of consideration for bringing imprisoned insurgents to justice in the country.

## One way road of peace

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1353, Page Four, 26 March 2011*

At the present time two projects are being followed up in parallel with each other by the government. One is the peace process with armed anti-government forces and the other is the transfer of security responsibilities from international coalition forces to Afghan forces, excluding foreign organs and entities from this process which have been cooperating with the government.

As the most recent development, seventeen prisoners who were accused of cooperating with armed insurgent groups have been released from NDS’s prison. Those who are accused of committing crimes against the national security of the country are held at NDS’s prison. It is said these prisoners have been released by the peace-seeking decisions of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Formerly, several Taliban commanders had been released from prisons; however, instead of laying down their weapons and returning to normal life, they rejoined the armed insurgent groups and created serious obstacles for the programs of the government in insecure provinces and districts. In addition to the aforementioned issues, it is tried to bring new terminologies into the political language of the country which directly or indirectly acquit the Taliban from the crimes and massacres they have committed over the past ten years. Political experts and Afghan people view the one way peace road built by the government as non-profitable. They believe the main body of the Taliban is formed by the policies and intelligence services of some foreign countries, and by giving them some material privileges; they will never join the peace process. They also believe as long as the neighboring countries do not stop supporting, equipping and training the Taliban and do not define their own benefits in negotiation of Afghanistan with the Taliban; the peace process will not be successful.

## Three armed groups joined the peace process in Baghlan province

*8AM daily, No 1116, Page Three, 27 March 2011*

Three armed anti-government groups along with their weapons joined the peace process in Baghlan province. Ahmad Jawid, the spokesperson of the Police Headquarter of Baghlan province said: “on 25th March, 22 anti-government elements in Jalgha district laid down their weapons and returned to normal life, and this action was welcomed by the brigadier general Abdul

Rahman Rahmimi, the chief commander of Baghlan’s Police Headquarter”. He added, two other anti-government groups from Baghlan’s central districts had joined the peace process on 20th March. He also informed of a military operation conducted on September 2010 as a result of which the high way of Baghlan-Kunduz was cleaned from insurgents.

## The impact of replacement of the head of president’s office on reconciliation with the Taliban

*Mandegar Daily, No 537, Page Eight, 28 March 2011*

President Karzai has recently designated new people in some positions at Afghanistan’s consulate in Islam Abad. In addition to that, the head of his own office has been replaced. Analysts believe that such replacement and changes are not merely of administrative nature; rather they are intended to follow some political goals. Omar Davoodzai, the former head of the president’s office has been appointed as Afghanistan’s ambassador to Islam Abad. Ahamd Saidi, analyst of Pakistan’s political affairs says: “Mr. Davoodzai, had formerly served as Afghanistan’s ambassador to Iran and Pakistan; he is a reliable person both for the Islamic Party and the Taliban; I believe without a doubt his designation as the Afghanistan’s ambassador to Pakistan would be effective for the peace process”.

Some analysts believe that the designation of Karim Khoram as the Head of the President’s Office is a green signal to the Islamic Party.

## Those Taliban member who join the peace process are threatened

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1355, Page One, 28 March 2011*

A number of former Taliban members who have joined the peace process in Sar.E. Pol say that armed Taliban forces set their houses on fire and their families have been forced to escape from and abandon their houses.

They add that by the Taliban attack on 15th of February 2011, ten houses of the former Taliban members who had joined the peace process were destroyed and four other houses were set on fire.

These houses belonged to a ten member group of former Taliban members led by Mir Ahmad.

It should be noted that over 200 armed members of the Taliban have joined the peace process in Sayad and Kohestanat districts of Sar.E.Pol province.

**Sima Samar:**

**“The government and United Nations, have no political commitment for participation of women in the peace process”**

*8AM Daily, No 1118, Page Three, 29 March 2011*

Mrs. Sima Samar who was speaking at inauguration ceremony

of the Committee for Monitoring and Supporting the Resolution of 1946 of the United Nations' Security Council, said:" so far, all the peace efforts aimed at bringing peace in the country have been masculine". Resolution of 1946, which was issued by the United Nations' Security Council in 2000, obliges the countries which are the members of this council to raise the participation of women in peace processes, and do concerted efforts to ensure security and eliminate violence against women. According to Dr. Sima Samar, the lack of political obligations by the government and United Nations is one of remarkable challenges. She said: "one of the major problems for implementing these resolutions is the lack of obligation for participation of women, and all the decisions are made by men and while making decisions, they rarely consider the rights of women".

Sima Samar emphasized that women are able to exert pressure on the government to ensure their rights and expand their roles in peace processes. She also said so far the presence of women in peace efforts had been unnoticeable; therefore, such efforts had not led to peace yet.

## The High Peace Council held a meeting in Urozgan

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1356, Page Two, 29 March 2011*

This time, the High Peace Council at a gathering in Urozgan province urged the dissatisfied people of that province to join the government through the peace process. At this gathering held on 28th March, in addition to the members of this council had been participated in by the state officials, the Minister of Interior Affairs, the head of Public Awareness of the High Council for Peace, the head of Secretariat of this council and tens of tribal elders.

The officials of this province and the High Peace Council urged the people of Urozgan to encourage dissatisfied people to partake in the peace process. At the gathering detailed discussions were made regarding the reconciliation with armed anti-government forces.

The Judge Amin Vaqad, the Head of Public Awareness of the High Peace Council said the security of those who join the peace process would be ensured, and work opportunities would be made for them, in addition to that, they would be treated as the high ranking officials of the government.

## The High Peace Council, a project for acquittal of war criminals

*Mandegar Daily, No 538, Page Two, 29 March 2011*

*By: Qulam Mohammad Hossain Mohammad*

Such and similar councils are established by similar goals and for a certain ethnicity, by expending amount of money collected from the pockets of poor Afghans and by the international funds. In return, the independency and national sovereignty of Afghanistan are questioned and they fall under the sovereignty of foreign powers. From another perspective, for years and

decades some useless elements individuals have been indulging themselves in caravanserais and hotels under the pretext of convening Jergas (councils), while the central provinces are deprived of their rights. For ten years now the Taliban have been called "brothers" but in return, they murder and commit massacres, they behead people and then formally claim the responsibility of their crimes. Sadly, a suspicious process has been going on for ten years and has confused Afghan people taking away all their patience. If the High Peace Council is an independent state entity, and has national will and is concerned about peace, then it should, first of all, resolve two major issues: one is the resolving issues with the Taliban, and the other is resolving national disputes through the powerful presence of international community.

## 17 armed anti-government elements joined the government in Sar-e Pul

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1357, Page Two, 30 March 2011*

By joining of 17 armed anti-government forces to the peace process in Sar-e Pul province, the total number of participants of the peace process reached more than 250.

Security officials say this armed group was acting under the commandship of Abdul Haq in Qafelton village of Sayad district against the government.

Samanval Jahangir, the Chief of Police Headquarter of Sar-e Pul said by joining of these people to the peace process, the security had been ensured in the villages of Sayad district.

## Ambiguities in the Peace Process

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1357, Editorial, 30 March 2011*

Although the reconciliation and negotiation process with anti-government forces has been following up since two years now and national and international conferences have been held about it, still the peace process does not have the required transparency in order for the people to be optimistic about its fate.

The matter about which there is general consensus is that all the people of Afghanistan support the efforts for bringing security in the country through negotiation with the Taliban. However, the people of Afghanistan also believe that negotiations with anti-government forces would be effective and conducive to a sustainable peace in the country only if: firstly, the anti-government forces lay down their weapons, secondly, recognize the Constitution and current political administration of the country, and thirdly, detach themselves from foreign countries military circles and terrorist groups. So far the state and the High Council for Peace's officials have not provided any information about the process of this council to the Afghan people. Instead they have talked generally about it, ensuring different strata of the country that reconciliation with anti-government forces does not mean the ignoring women's right and overlooking human rights of the citizens. However, the

people of Afghanistan are not convinced by such general remarks and they keep their eyes worryingly on the performance of the government in this regard. If the intent of this process is reconciliation with non-affiliated insurgent, even a conceivable success of the peace process would not be able to ensure stability and security in the country.

### Peaceful blusters, a sign of traditional authority

*Nakhost Weekly, No 54, Page Three, 30 March 2011*

Burhanudin Rabbani, the Head of the High Peace Council at a commemoration ceremony held on the demise of Mavlana Abdulrahim Sayed Khili, the Chief Police Commander of Kunduz province who was killed by the Taliban, calling those who disturb the peace process being led by him as corrupt and hypocrite and said: “those who do not care about Afghanistan and do not consider the interests of Afghan people, are trying to misinterpret the efforts of the High Peace Council by calling them the efforts for bringing the Taliban back into power, and they seek to conceal the realities”. Rabbani called the efforts for bringing peace a religious obligation and added: “these efforts will never lead to the return of Taliban to power and they will not be the start of bloodshed”.

Here is an argument against these remarks of Mr. Rabbani as the leading pioneers of the peace process: if we take a deep look at the venue from which he is making such remarks at a commemoration ceremony of jihadi elements, we will see that, still by passage of nearly ten years after the fall of the Taliban regime, there are still numerous signs of suicide attacks and intimidating crimes against Afghan People by the Taliban. Despite the insincere and desperate requests and even some dealings and blackmailing made under the name of High Peace Council claimed to have regional and international supports, the Taliban has not relinquished any of their high flying demands and preconditions for peace.

### Russia announced its support for talks with the Taliban

*8Am Daily, No 1119, Editorial, 30 March 2011*

Russia by announcing its support for the peace and reconciliation process with the Taliban, has actually declared its readiness. Russia feels that with the inception of the withdrawal process of international forces from Afghanistan, it might be placed at front line of the war against the Taliban. Following the remarks of the U.S minister of state in which she said, “the United States, will initiate its diplomatic efforts to put an end to the war and establish peace in Afghanistan provided that the insurgent groups and the Taliban recognize the Constitution of Afghanistan and end their affiliation with Alqhaeda”, Russia saw no other way but to support the peace and negotiation process in Afghanistan. The presence of international forces in the country gives this certainty to Russia that the war will be limited in Afghanistan and all it needs to do is preventing the entrance of narcotics to its country through

middle eastern countries. Now, however, Russia feels that the danger is more serious than it seems. Therefore, for Russia, the reconciliation and negotiation with the Taliban would be the best way to decrease the threats.

### The Office of the President welcomes the Russian support for talks with the Taliban

*Mandegar Daily, No, 539, Page Eight, 30 March 2011*

The government of Afghanistan views the decision of Russian government for supporting the peace process with anti-government groups as important and welcomes this decision. State officials have said that Russia’s peace process support will be to the benefit of Afghanistan. This position is adopted by the Russian government while the foreign forces decrease plan will be launched in the current year.

Hamid Elmi, the deputy of the President’s spokesperson in respond to the decision of Russian government said to the media: “the peace process launched by Afghanistan enjoys international community’s supports and these supports were pledged in London, Kabul and Munich conferences.

### Isn’t it the time to cope with the problems by complete cooperation and transparency?

*Paywand.E. Meli Daily, No 60, Page One, 30 March 2011*

Elimination of the names of 5 high ranking officials of Taliban from the United Nations Security Council black list, was one of the most important approaches for satisfying the armed anti-government forces in Afghanistan. Although, in parallel with peace seeking effort, the military operations still go on in some major parts of the country. It is said that such operations on anti-government forces are conducted for empowering the peace and negotiations process. Recently, the Taliban have resumed their fights in southern parts of Afghanistan and gradually by their presence in different parts of the country they have increased insecurity rate in other provinces as well.

The people of Afghanistan should know to what extent have the progresses, as claimed by Mr. Petrious, weakened the anti-government forces. They should also know that the new approach will support the peace and negotiation process, or it will only be the use of new military tactics and equipment in Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan should not be uninformed of what will happen in their country. We should know that in the current year we are supposed to see more wars in the country or see more political efforts for peace. In both cases the approaches will be successful provided they are carried out by complete coordination.

### 45 armed anti-government members joined the government in Urozgan

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1358, Page Two, 31 March 2011*

The governor of Urozgan says that recently more than 45 armed

anti-government members have joined the government in this province. Mohammad Omar Shirzad, the governor of Urozgan province made these remarks during a visit to the newly formed district of Sarab. This district is a newly formed district the majority areas of which was under the control of anti-government members.

Shirzad noted that the two months ago, the control of some other areas of this district had been recaptured through a joined operation of Afghan and NATO forces.

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### **Four Taliban members joined the government in Takhar**

*8Am Daily, No 1120, Page Two, 31 March 2011*

The Police General Headquarter of Takhar in issued a declaration in which it is stated that four armed Taliban members coming from Rastaq, Chah Ab and Yangi Qala districts along with their weapons have joined the government. According to this source, one of these people had links with the Taliban, one of them was narcotics smuggler and another person was in possession of a personal weapon by which he caused local insurgency. These insurgent have handed over a great deal of explosives and fire arms to the government.

# Elections Transparency

## The President will abolish the Special Electoral Tribunal

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1346, Page One, 16 March 2011*

A number of Lower House members after having had a meeting with President Karzai say that the President of Afghanistan will abolish the Special Electoral Tribunal in the next week.

For a second time, 34 parliament members representing 34 provinces of Afghanistan met with the President to have the Special Electoral Tribunal which according to them, is established in contrary to other applicable laws of the country, abolished.

Kamal Naser Usoli, is one of those parliament member who met with the president on the abolishment of the said tribunal. According to him, the president of Afghanistan has now realized that the existence of the Special Electoral Tribunal is neither for the benefit of the government nor the Afghan people.



## The abolishment of the Special Electoral Tribunal is the end of the crisis

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1345, Editorial, 16 March 2011*

The Special Electoral Tribunal is functioning as a lever of pressure on the Lower House which is creating conflicts among Legislation, Judiciary and Executive Branches of the government. There is still widespread crisis in the country despite the existence of the Special Electoral Tribunal. The investigation of the irregularities and frauds in the elections could have been carried out by ordinary courts of the country. Dealing with the fraud and irregularities and establishing the rights of individuals could be done in ordinary courts and there was no need for constituting special court for that purpose and creating legal issues and problems thereby. Now that the Lower House has initiated its function, the Special Electoral Tribunal has turned into a conflicting point between the government and the Legislative Branch. In such situation, it seems impossible for the Legislative and Executive Branches to be able to work together. Now that the Lower House has left all the issues behind and initiated its work, it would be for the benefit of the government to, in consideration of the precarious and sensitive situation of the country and based on the statues and codes of the country, abolish the Special Electoral Tribunal, so that the two entities (Legislative and Executive) would be able to jointly work in a peaceful environment.

Special Electoral tribunal. Meanwhile, according to a number of dissatisfied candidates and some experts, abolishment of the said tribunal is not the authority of any organ. Gul Rahman Ghazi, the Head of The Commission for Monitoring the Implementation of the Constitution said on 16 March that the president had the authority to abolish the tribunal.

He noted that: "The source that has the authority for establishing such tribunal has also the authority to abolish it". He also added: "the authority of the Supreme Court for establishing special tribunal has been stipulated in the Law on the Structure and Authorities of Courts, therefore when a source has proposing and approving authorities for establishment of special courts, it will also have the authority to abolish them. Meanwhile, a number of experts and dissatisfied candidates claim that before the end Special Electoral Tribunal's mission, no one, neither the President nor the Chief Justice has the authority to abolish it.

## Unclear prospect of the Special Electoral Tribunal

*Soroshe Melat Daily, No 512, Page Two, 18 March*

The fate of the Special Electoral Tribunal is unclear and there is no general consensus neither among the three government branches nor at the analytical gatherings on its existence or non-existence. The lack of clear fate of the tribunal has generated many concerns. By the existence of the tribunal in the current situation the chaotic political state prevailing in the country will continue to exist, and its later consequences will prove more the inefficiency and incompetency of the government. The existence of this tribunal in the current situation where the three branches of the government, in order to tackle issues and problems, are in need of more coordination and cooperation, may destroy grounds for such coordination

## The President has the authority to abolish the Special Electoral Tribunal

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1347, Page One, 17 March 2011*

The Commission for Monitoring the Implementation of the Constitution says, the President has the authority to abolish the

placing them against each other. In such situation what could be expected is creation of new issues and challenges and harming the inter-relationships among legislative entities and judicial and executive entities. The consequences of this situation will lead to the failure of the government in implementing its major programs and development schemes intended for the next coming years. It seems that in the current situation the abolishment of the tribunal by the President would be the most appropriate decision. By doing so, the charges of breaking the law and supporting an unlawful tribunal attributed to him would be dropped. In addition to that, the gap emerged among the three branches of the government would be filled so that the parliament and the government would be able to get back to their normal functions and deal with their work priorities.

## The concerns of the United Nations about election challenges

*Mandegar Daily, No 533, Page Two, 19 March 2011*

As its latest position on the election, the United Nations has scrutinized the parliamentary elections crisis and the impasse emerged thereof. Mr. Banki Mon has pointed out that the aftershocks of the parliamentary elections in Afghanistan should be avoided otherwise, it would break the stability of the government and it would lead to a political failure; as a result, the government administration would be damaged.

This viewpoint of the United Nations indicates that the crisis of elections has turned into a major challenge which could not be even resolved by the President. Therefore, the deadlock reached by the elections and unclear fate of the House of Representatives, have turned into most difficult internal and external dilemma. Amid this situation, the people of Afghanistan are worryingly waiting to see what miseries will eventually befall upon them and their country.

## The Special Electoral Tribunal will not be abolished

*Cheragh Daily, No 1768, Page Two, 19 March 2011*

Sediqullah Haqiq, the head of the Special Electoral Tribunal for investigating election complaints says this tribunal will continue its function in order to establish justice. Mr. Haqiq adds this tribunal will continue its work according to the law based of which it has been established so as to establish justice, and up to the present time no authorized source has ordered its abolishment. He has also said that if a decision is finally taken in light of the applicable laws of the country about this tribunal, he will abide by the provisions of the law and will respect it.

## Does the dilemma of the Special Electoral Tribunal have an end?

*Eradeh Daily, No 1005, Page One, 26 March 2011*

It is not still clear that how and by which method the issues over

the continuation or end of the tribunal's function will reach an end. It is now more than two months since this tribunal started its work, however, as yet, details of its practical performances is not clearly known. Although it is said that this tribunal has recounted the election ballots in some provinces, no decisive decision has been taken about them yet. The members of the leader's board of the Parliament of Afghanistan and the President Karzai, have agreed to continue their discussion over the Special Electoral Tribunal.

## Dissatisfied candidates demanded non-interference in the works of the Special Electoral Tribunal

*8AM Daily, No 1116, Page One, 27 March 2011*

Tens of dissatisfied candidates once again announced their support for the continuation of Special Electoral Tribunal's work and demanded that obstacles ahead of its performance must be removed.

These member who had congregated at Malik Asqar square in Kabul on 26 March, asked the President not to introduce ministers for the remaining ministries to the Parliament to receive vote of confidence until the investigations of the Special Electoral Tribunal's are accomplished. Davood Sultanzoi, one dissatisfied candidates of the parliamentary elections said: "receiving vote of confidence from the this parliament in which a number of members will be disqualified by the investigations of the Special Tribunal, does not seem logical". The dissatisfied candidates of the recent parliamentary elections make such a demand while recently Hamid Karzai met the administrative board of the House of Representative and ensured them that he would soon introduce the remaining ministers to the Parliament in order to receive the vote of confidence.

## The House of Representative considers the trial of the Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court

*8AM Daily, No 1116, Page Four, 27 March 2011*

The members of the Lower House at their session on 26 March, called the meetings of the assigned board of the Lower House with the President and the Chief Justice for abolishing the Special Electoral Tribunal unfruitful, and based on Article 127 of the Constitution, demanded the trial of the Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court. Abdul Rauf Ebrahimi he Head of the House of Representatives explaining how the assigned board of the Parliament met with the President and the Chief Justice Said: "formerly, the President had promised several assigned boards of the parliament that he would put an end to the crisis of the Special Electoral Tribunal". According to him, the concerns raised about the future decisions of the Special Electoral Tribunal as it asked the dissatisfied candidates to provide their national identification cards along two photos of

themselves to the tribunal. The head of the Lower House said that the President believes modifications to the winner list of candidates of the parliamentary elections will be against national interests and it would increase crisis in Afghanistan. However Ebrahimi said the Chief Justice believes that the current deadlock between the Special Electoral Tribunal and the House of representatives would be resolved if only the dissatisfied candidates give up their complaints.

## 53 parliament members have been summoned by the Special Electoral Tribunal

*Mandegar Daily, No 536, Page Eight, 27 March 2011*

Due to summon of a number of Lower House's members by the Special Electoral Tribunal on March 26th, the members of the Parliament refuse to follow ordinary parliamentary sessions and discussions, and demanded the abolishment of the said tribunal. Based on the reports, the Special Electoral Tribunal has summoned 53 members of parliament.

A number of Lower House' members have said that it is intended to dismiss some parliament members from the Lower House and have them replaced with some other individuals.

Nazifa Zaki, a Kabul representative in the House of Representatives says the Special Electoral Tribunal intends to deprive the representatives of people from representing their people and replace them with some other individuals. Mrs. Zaki said: " as far as we know they are going to dismiss 53 of people's representatives and replace them with 53 others". It is worth mentioning that since the beginning of Parliament's work up to present, the members of parliament by absolute majority of votes, have demanded the abolishment of the Special Electoral Tribunal for three times, however, this tribunal is still continuing its works.

## What would be the decision of the President?

*Eradeh Daily, No 1007, Page One, 28 March 2011*

The crisis of the Special Electoral Tribunal, elections' frauds and dissatisfied candidates is still in place. While, the dissatisfied candidates insist on the existence of tribunal and call its abolishment an insult to the tribunals of the countries, members of parliament still emphasize the abolishment of the said tribunal. Abdul Rauf Ebrahimi the head of the House of Representatives says the president Karzai will announce his final decision on this issue in the next couples of days. Meanwhile, the tribunal has already finished recounting the ballots in some provinces.

Now we need to wait and see what will be the decision of the President despite all the overwhelming pressures. From one side the dissatisfied candidates are eagerly waiting for the results of the Special Electoral Tribunal, and from another side, the members of the Lower House are insisting on the abolishment of the tribunal.

## Chief Justice on the verge of trial of the Lower House

*Mandegar Daily, No 538, Page One, 29 March 2011*

More than one third of the members of the House of Representatives by undersigning a request letter, have demanded the trial of Chief Justice of the country. The members of the Lower House have said that the Chief Justice has established the Special Electoral Tribunal without legal basis.

Members of the Lower House say according to the Constitution they have the authority to request for the trial of the Chief Justice. The House of Representatives intends to take a vote for the trial of the Chief Justice. Representatives say the act of the Chief Justice lacks legal basis. This request of the parliament members was made following the recent statement of Abdulsalam Azimi, the Chief Justice made at a joint session with the President and administrative board of the Lower House, in which he said that the tribunal would only be abolished if only the dissatisfied gave up their complaints. Meanwhile Ahmad Behzad, the second deputy of the Lower House says: " administrative boards of the Lower House has several times tried to reach an agreement with the President Karzai on the abolishment of the Special Electoral Tribunal, however these efforts have been unsuccessful". He continued to say that since the efforts of the administrative board of the Lower House have been unsuccessful, they will not partake in any session to be held on the fate of the Special Electoral Tribunal.

## Why you are afraid of the Special Electoral Tribunal

*Eradeh Daily, No 1008, Page One, 29 March 2011*

Once again there are claims of the members of the Parliament about the unlawful nature of the Special Electoral Tribunal and the uproar caused thereof. Some members of the Parliament say they had a meeting with the President in which he promised to abolish the tribunal under the condition that this issue be remained a secret and it should, by no means, be disclosed in public sessions of the parliament and for the media. By passage of time and postponement of the final result of the elections and of the abolishment of the Special Electoral Tribunal, the following perceptions may be assumed by general public:

First Perception: The Special Electoral Tribunal is only acting as a lever of pressure on the members of the Lower House and by no means has the authority to announce the final decisions, rather it should remain in an indefinite state.

Second Perception: Many members of the Lower House are afraid that if Supreme Court succeeds in its mission, their frauds will be revealed and they will lose all the votes they might have either bought or received through other deals by a lot of difficulties; and as a result they might be expelled from the Lower House.

## Afghanistan's internal development have become focus point of the international community

*Abadi Weekly, No 196, Page Three, 29 March 2011*

The challenges raised after the parliamentary elections of Afghanistan which is counted as the most important upheaval in this country, have dominated the headlines of the national and international media. Following the preliminary announcement of the results of the election, Hamid Karzai, the president of Afghanistan called for revision of the election results. Karzai, explicitly referring to the preliminary elections result of Ghanzi province, asked the electoral organs of Afghanistan including the Independent Election Commission and the Commission for Investigation of Election Complaints to seriously investigate the issue. The reason for the objection of the president to the preliminary results of the election of Ghazni has been the non-observance of ethnical balance in this province. Despite constant pressures of some state officials and pro-government groups on electoral entities, the Independent Election Commission without brining any modifications to the results, issued the final results of the elections. Following the announcement of the final results of the elections, the electoral entities said any interference of natural and legal persons to modify the results would go against the Constitution. Despite the inauguration of the second round of the House of Representatives, and following the complaints of losing candidates, and at the request of the Supreme Court, Hamid Karzai agreed on the establishment of the Special Electoral Tribunal. The challenges of Judicial System of Afghanistan and electoral entities of the country on the elections complaints continue while a number of House of Representative members have recently warned that they might suspend the functions of this legislative organ as their negotiations with Karzai about abolishment of the Special Tribunal have been unsuccessful.

of the parliament members is that the Special Electoral Tribunal has started to recount the ballots whose boxes have been sealed off by the Independent Election Commission. They say, if the ballots are recounted those candidates will go to the Parliament who have received the votes through frauds in the elections. However in a declaration issued by the Special Electoral Tribunal it is stated that only limited numbers of the ballot boxes have been sealed off and there are some ballots marked as invalid, so recounting of the ballots does not necessarily mean validating the invalid ballots. This declaration has added that the Special Electoral Tribunal will only investigate the complaints of dissatisfied candidates based on the law and it will submit its final decision to authoritative organs for further legal proceedings.

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## No clear allegations exist against parliament members

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1358, Page Two, 31 March 2011*

Following the request of one third of the members of the Lower House of Afghanistan for the trial of the Chief Justice and members of the Supreme Court, the Special Electoral Tribunal said there was no evident allegations against the member of Parliament. The members of the Parliament were supposed to take votes for the dismissal of the Chief Justice and members of the Parliament, however the public session of the Lower House was not held and the members of the administrative board of the Lower House held their session behind closed doors. The parliament members who had signed under the demand paper for the dismissal and trial of the Chief Justice and the members of the Supreme Court, believe that the establishment of the Special Electoral Tribunal by the Supreme Court is illegal. Some parliament members believe that the Special Electoral Tribunal is trying to disqualify some members of the parliament and have them replaced by some others. One of the main concerns

# Corruption

## Corruption has decreased international community's interest to help Afghanistan

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1346, Page One, 16 March 2011*

Qasim Fahim, at a gathering held on 15th of March on The Challenges of Administrative Corruption which was participated in by inspectors of Central Inspection Department in Kabul, emphasized that the international community's funds and contributions must not be misused.

The first deputy of the president added that the lack of transparency in using international donations has disappointed donor countries.

Marshal Fahim said: "the majority of development projects' funds and even ordinary projects are donated by world countries, if you and I misuse the donated funds, then it would be an outrageous betrayal to our country and to the donor countries".

## Fahim and Zakhival 's difference of opinions on administrative corruption

*Soroshe Melat Daily, No 511, Page Eight, 16 March 2011*

Qasim Fahim, the Deputy of the President has said that the corruption in state administrations has decreased the tendency of international community to help Afghanistan.

However, Omar Zakhival, the Minister of Finance at the same gathering indirectly responded to the president's deputy and said: "in the state financial administrations there exists no corruption".

Not directly referring to the remarks of Fahim he said that we should not disturb the international community and donor countries' opinion by making some general remarks.

Although, the government has established some special organs to fight with administrative corruption, their achievements have been inadequate to meet the international concerns regarding the corruption in the country.

## The need for transparency in financial system

*Afghanistan Daily, No 1346, Page Two, 16 March 2011*

Due to the lack of transparency in its financial system, Afghanistan is counted as one the most corrupt country in the world. Currently, the existence of corruption in the government and its administrative system has made the political system of Afghanistan inefficient and non-functional.

Today Afghan citizens bear witness to the evident corruption in administrations and the world could not be cheated by the



claims and exaggerations of the state officials.

It is known to all the countries that how their donation funds are misused. We should not be sure that international community's donation funds will be based on the reports we provide to them, because each country independently keep tracks of the expenditure of its donations funds . basically the donor countries align their future policies with Afghanistan based on the their assessments. During the past years a number of donor countries had focused their strategies to combat corruption in Afghanistan trying to bring necessary reforms in the Afghan system. The phenomenon of corruption at state administrations has become widespread and it has turned into a norm and culture. Therefore, merely denying corruption and attributing it to outside of the state administration do not protect Afghans from adverse consequences of the corruption. So it would be better to admit the bitter realities and mobilize all efforts to cope with this notorious dilemma.

## The disabled in Kunduz closed the Labor Department's door in protest against corruption

*8 AM Daily, No 1114, Page Two, 20 March 2011*

A number of disabled people in Kunduz in protest against existing corruption and bribery closed up the doors of the Department Labor and Social Affairs of the Martyrs and Disabled, forcing the employees of this department to leave their routine works. They demanded the prosecution of Haji Yunis the deputy and Aref, the administrative sub director of Department Labor and Social Affairs of Martyrs and Disabled of Kunduz province. The protesting disabled said they would continue their protest and

demonstrations unless these individuals are sued and the rights of the disabled are restored, and they would keep the doors of the Department Labor and Social Affairs of Martyrs closed up. Mohamad Ama, the Head of the National Union of the Disabled and Victims of War in Kunduz said as the recent case of corruption in the said union, Haji Yunis the deputy and Aref the administrative sub director have misappropriated the funds of an Arabic organization to the disabled. The protesting disabled said that this was not the first time that such corrupt acts occur in this department and it has been repeated many times.

## Corruption cases of “ten million dollars”, and government’s plan to fight it

*Cheragh Daily, No 1770, Page Two, 26 March 2011*

The High Office of Monitoring the Implementation of Anti-Corruption Strategy says serious plans have been adopted to combat corruption. According to this office, there are cases of corruption worth about “ten million US dollars” which have put a negative impact on the name of Afghanistan. The President Hamid Karzai has voiced his concern over the impact of corruption on increasing distrust towards the government. Karzai voiced his concern over what he called “the threats posed by the state entities upon Afghan people”, at a ceremony held on formal announcement of the transfer of security responsibilities to Afghan forces.

Azizullah Ludin, the head of the Office for Monitoring the Implementation of Anti-Corruption Strategy said: “concerted efforts have begun to tackle administrative corruption which has caused the distrust of Afghan people towards the government”. He added: “as long as corruption is not uprooted, people continue to avoid the government, there will be a gap between the people and government making them inclined towards anti-government, anti-progress, anti-modern systems and anti-democracy forces”. Meanwhile, reports indicate that in some provinces people tend to refer to anti-government forces instead of referring to state entities for resolving their disputes.

Ludin has said investigations are going on with regard to corruption allegations of some of the high ranking officials. He did not name the high ranking officials but he added, if enough evidence were found against them to indicate their involvement in corruption, they would be prosecuted.

## Enayatullah Qasemi, the former Minister of Transport detained

*Arman.E.Meli, No 2009, Page One, 29 March 2011*

Enayatullah Qasemi, the former Minister of Transport Ministry was detained in Kabul by Attorney General’s order by the accusation of embezzlement of 9 million US dollars.

Amanullah Eman, the spokesperson of the Attorney General’s Office, told the media on 28 of March that Mr.Qasemi had been detained with accusation of financial corruption. Mr. Eman

added: “Qasemi was detained due to his embezzlement of 9 million US dollars during his tenure which imposed a major loss to the Transport Ministry, and his file case has been submitted to the Tribunal of Anti-Administrative Corruption for adjudication”.

He further added: “there are some other file cases of high ranking officials accused of administrative corruption, however the AG is facing some challenges and difficulties for their detention”.

## Settlement of corruption charges, an impossible trend!

*Eradah Daily, No 1009, Page One, 30 March 2011*

In an unprecedented action, the Attorney General has recently ordered the detention of some people who have somehow been accused in corruption and embezzlement. It should be said that administrative corruption and embezzlement are counted as the major dilemma of our society. According to some viewpoints, this dilemma has been the roots of more dilemmas in the country. The phenomenon of corruption is so prevailing in the governmental and non-governmental organization that it is impossible for Afghan people to imagine that the administrations of Afghanistan would be free of it. It is said that mostly high ranking officials are involved in corruption, a fact to which Mr. Karzai has admitted several times. Many people believe, although the government has established many organs under the title of combating corruption and bribery, practically no significant achievement has been reached so far in this regard.

## Nurollah Delavari, the President’s advisor was detained charged with corruption

*Arman.E.Meli Daily, No 2011, Page One, 30 March 2011*

Nurollah Delavari, the advisor of the president and the Head of Investment Support Department of Afghanistan was detained by the order of the Attorney General charged with administrative corruption on 29th March. Mohammad Nasim Akbar, the administrative deputy of the Investment Support Department, had told the media that they have also heard the news of Delavari’s detention, he also added: “Delavari told us that he would go to participate in a meeting, but never came back to office”. Nurrollah Delavari who was the president of Afghanistan Central Bank, has been the head of the Investment Support Department of Afghanistan since year and a half. But it is said that he was released after spending a couple of hours in custody.

## Articles & Interviews

# Taliban and the Reconciliation Process

**Author: Dr. Mohammad Jawad Salehi, PHD political science/ Political analyst and university professor**

After collapse of Taliban in late 2001, the dominant understanding was that the group had been eliminated from Afghanistan political arena and that the group will be able to claim ground in a foreseeable future. Therefore the Bonn Conference laid down the structure of the new Afghan Administration without giving any role to Taliban. Now, after years from the new administration, Taliban has reorganized itself as a serious challenge for Afghan government and the international community.

The government of Afghanistan, the international community and the political analysts has proposed various approaches including military, reconciliatory and a mixture of the two options to overcome the current challenging situation. The government particularly, is emphasizing on reconciliation and Hamid Karzai keeps calling Taliban members as “brothers” and so far has taken many steps towards bringing Taliban on the table including establishment of the High Peace Council to name one; even the government in order to gain trust of Taliban has been ignoring their terroristic activities and tries to make them somehow acceptable to public opinion.

The pro-reconciliation group holds that Taliban is no longer claiming their Islamic Emirate and now they have become more realistic. They argue that the only motive that drives Taliban to insurgency is the current presence of the foreign troops in the country. They say if the foreign forces withdraw from the country, the ground would be ready for Taliban to shift to political participation and lay down their guns.

At the same time, another group of political analysts and political activists hold that reconciliation with Taliban in the absence of a clear strategy- particularly when government enters talks with a weaker position and shows unnecessary flexibility, won't any result and instead of bringing peace, will encourage Taliban to launch more terroristic operations. This group of analysts points out the below facts as impediments to the reconciliation process:

### 1- Ideological nature of Taliban

Taliban espouses a despotic ideology with its roots in “Pashtun Wali” and Deobandi” values; religious leaders of Taliban are mainly Mawlawis with Deobandi background. The group has close links with Pakistani religious groups such as” Sepah –e Sahaba”, Jamiatul Ulema”, and Sepah – e Mohammad. In the tribal and religious mindset of Taliban everything is either black or white; In Taliban eyes you are either with them or against them. There is no third option. Their values can't be

compromised. Taliban insist on withdrawal of the foreign forces, amending the Constitution, and removal of human rights and women rights articles from the Constitution. This is not easy to bring Taliban on the peace table while most of Afghanistan Constitutional values look meaningless to them.

**another group of political analysts and political activists hold that reconciliation with Taliban in the absence of a clear strategy- particularly when government enters talks with a weaker position and shows unnecessary flexibility, won't any result and instead of bringing peace, will encourage Taliban to launch more terroristic operations.**

### 2- Nostalgia of Power

The reality is this that dreams of regaining political power and longing for the past golden time when Taliban was ruling the country, is still something that motivates most of Taliban leaders. Weaknesses and failures of Afghanistan government as well as the whispers that foreign forces will withdraw have further strengthened such feelings amongst the Taliban leaders. As long as Taliban thinks and hopes that they can one day regain the

political regime, reconciliation efforts would result into nothing but wasting of time. In the worst situation, insurgency and conflict is a good trade for Taliban and their leaders get huge amounts of money through the conflicts.

### 3- Alliance with fundamental groups

Taliban since its very foundation has had close links with Pakistani religious groups. The group has also had close links and cooperation with Al- Qaeda. These religious factions have been playing important role in strengthening Taliban regime as well as its current resurgence. Taliban owes the group's resurgence to financial supports attracted from Arab resources through Al- Qaeda, transferring Al- Qaeda insurgency skills and expertise from Iraq to Afghanistan, military training of Taliban members by Al- Qaeda as well as supports from Pakistani religious groups to Taliban to install the group's training camps in Pakistani territory, recruit militants and easily cross Afghanistan borders. Therefore, this is not possible for Taliban to cut its links with these groups and factions. In case of cutting its links, the group in addition to losing financial and training supports would also lose its religious legitimacy. There

might be few individuals amongst Taliban leaders who are interested to cut the group's links to Pakistani religious factions but their number isn't enough to convince others. On the other hand, the Pakistani fundamental groups as well as Al- Qaedah have no interest to talk with Afghan government. They are fighting to install their own type of government in the country.

#### **4- Dependency on Pakistan**

Taliban resurgence was not possible and sustainable without Pakistan support. In the wake of Taliban collapse, soon Pakistan became a safe-haven for the group's trainings, recruitment, equipment and reorganization and Taliban supported by Pakistani religious groups and indirectly sponsored by ISI selected Pakistan's North- West Frontier Province(NWFP) as its operational strongholds. Victory of Islamic groups in NWFP, Pak- Indian tensions, and granting of local governments' generous freedom to Islamic groups to operate inside Pakistan are other factors that have further contributed to Taliban resurgence. Pakistan has provided generous freedom to Taliban and has always resisted against requests of Afghan government to arrest Taliban leaders. Therefore, Pakistan has enough control and influence over Taliban and can always worsen relationships between Afghan government and Taliban. In the current situation Pakistan isn't interested to push or pressure Taliban to enter talks with Afghan government. Thus, the Taliban dependency on Pakistan is another impediment ahead of peace process in Afghanistan.

Therefore, the peace process in Afghanistan is facing multiple challenges and it seems that the process has no clear prospect.

# New publications

## Pressure Mounts on All Parties in Afghan War to Begin Talks

*The New York Times / By ALISSA J. RUBIN / March 16, 2011*

As American troops press the Taliban in their desert and mountain redoubts, Western diplomats, Taliban leaders and the Afghan government have begun to take a hard look at what it would take to start a negotiation to end the fighting.

Efforts to start peace talks have yielded little in the past. Nonetheless, interest in a political track is growing as pressure mounts to find a palatable way to reduce the military commitment here and as public support for the war ebbs in the United States and Europe.

[http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/17/world/asia/17taliban.html?\\_r=1&ref=asia](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/17/world/asia/17taliban.html?_r=1&ref=asia)

## Afghan peace council reportedly seeks talks with Taliban commanders held at Gitmo

*The Long War Journal / By Thomas Joscelyn / March 17, 2011*

In written testimony submitted to the Senate Armed Services Committee on Mar. 15, General David Petraeus briefly outlined Afghanistan's efforts to reconcile some Taliban forces.

The International Security Assistance Force has "provided assistance for new Afghan government-led initiatives in reintegration, supporting the recently established Afghan High Peace Council and Provincial Peace and Reintegration Councils," General Petraeus wrote. ISAF has counted "some 700 former Taliban" who "have now officially reintegrated with Afghan authorities," as well as "some 2,000 more [who] are in various stages of the reintegration process."

[http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/03/afghan\\_peace\\_council\\_1.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2011/03/afghan_peace_council_1.php)

## Pakistan supports Afghan reconciliation

*Central Asia Online / By Yasir Rehman / March 17, 2011-04-24*

Pakistan supports the Afghan government's reconciliation efforts and has urged the international community, especially neighbouring countries, to support an Afghan-led reintegration effort.

Reconciliation and reintegration would create a stable, prosperous and peaceful neighbour, Pakistani Foreign Office spokesperson Tehmina Janjua said. Reconciliation and reintegration would create a stable, prosperous and peaceful neighbour, which is in Pakistan's interest, Pakistani Foreign Office spokesperson Tehmina Janjua told Central Asia Online.

Pakistan supports the Afghan High Peace Council's (HPC) initiatives, she said.

[http://centralasiaonline.com/cocoon/caii/xhtml/en\\_GB/features/caii/features/pakistan/main/2011/03/17/feature-01](http://centralasiaonline.com/cocoon/caii/xhtml/en_GB/features/caii/features/pakistan/main/2011/03/17/feature-01)

## U.N. Reported Only a Fraction of Civilian Deaths from U.S. Raids

*Inter Press Service (IPS) / March 17, 2011*

The number of civilians killed in U.S. Special Operations Forces (SOF) raids last year was probably several times higher than the figure of 80 people cited in the U.N. report on civilian casualties in Afghanistan published last week, an IPS investigation has revealed.

The report also failed to apply the same humanitarian law standard for defining a civilian to its reporting on SOF raids that it applied to its accounting for Taliban assassinations.

The Mar. 9 report, produced by the Human Rights unit of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) jointly with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), said a total of 80 civilians were killed in "search and seizure operations" by "Pro-Government Forces" in 2010.

<http://www.ipsnews.net/news.asp?idnews=54883>

## Talking about peace talks; a morass of misunderstandings and abstractions

*Afghanistan analysts Network (AAN) / Martine van Bijlert / March 22, 2011*

For a while now I have been feeling uneasy over the direction the debate on 'talking to the Taleban' is taking. The more I listen to conversation about reaching some kind of settlement, the more I feel as if I am wading into a morass of misunderstandings and abstractions, with a potentially dangerous level of superficiality and easy assumptions.

<http://aan-afghanistan.com/index.asp?id=1568>

## Afghanistan: Negotiating Peace

*The Century Foundation / March 23, 2011*

For nearly ten years, the U.S. and the international community have been engaged in the struggle to secure a stable peace in Afghanistan. The international task force organized by The Century Foundation, under the leadership of Ambassadors Lakhdar Brahimi and Thomas Pickering, just released their report, Afghanistan: Negotiating Peace. Their findings and recommendations seek to determine what kind of political path might lead to ending the war.

<http://tcf.org/publications/pdfs/afghanistan-negotiating-peace/AfghanTCFTaskForce%20BookComplete.pdf>

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## An Evaluation of Counterinsurgency as a Strategy for Fighting the Long War

*Strategic Studies Institute, United States Army War College / March 21, 2011*

The single greatest national security question currently facing the U.S. National Command Authority is choosing the best, sustainable strategy to combat al Qaeda and its affiliates. The U.S. national strategy against al Qaeda is far broader than the Department of Defense (DoD) mission. Nonetheless, DoD's contribution to the fight is substantial, both in terms of resource allocation and the net effect in reducing the al Qaeda threat. The National Command Authority has at least four broad means of employing military resources in the overall strategy to combat al Qaeda. These choices include conducting counterinsurgency, waging counterterrorism, supporting insurgency, and strengthening antiterrorism. This Carlisle Paper focuses on counterinsurgency because that is the strategy through which the United States has expended the greatest level of military resources since September 11, 2001 (9/11). The paper also briefly highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the other three strategies. Counterinsurgency does not appear to be a wise, long term strategy for the United States to employ in combating al Qaeda. As discussed in detail below, focusing U.S. military resources on counterinsurgency ignores historical lessons in successfully combating terrorism and fails to utilize military resources in the most efficient, sustainable manner possible.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/download.cfm?q=1052>

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## Task Force Calls for Immediate Afghan Talks

*Voice of America (VOA) / March 23, 2011*

on-governmental task force concludes there is a growing sense of stalemate in Afghanistan that opens the way for a political settlement in the country.

The task force, created by the Washington-based Century Foundation, says neither side in the Afghan conflict can win militarily and moves toward a political settlement should start now.

<http://www.voanews.com/english/news/asia/south/Task-Force--118515214.html>

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## How to end the war in Afghanistan?

*Foreign Policy / March 23, 2011*

Today, the New York-based Century Foundation International Task Force has released its final report on political negotiations in Afghanistan. While on the surface much of it seems relatively anodyne, it goes further than other prominent reports in describing the outlines of a potential settlement, and proposes a high-level peace process led by a neutral party. More importantly, it represents the final result of a yearlong process of extensive consultations in Afghanistan, India, and Pakistan. As a result, the report has already generated discussion in diplomatic circles, not least of all because of the speculation as to whether Lakhdar Brahimi, the former UN representative in Afghanistan and one of the task force's co-chairs, might be appointed as the international peace envoy whose creation the report advocates.

[http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/03/23/how\\_to\\_end\\_the\\_war\\_in\\_afghanistan](http://afpak.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/03/23/how_to_end_the_war_in_afghanistan)

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## Dari Publications

### شورای عالی صلح؛ پروژه‌یی برای برائت مجرمان و جنایتکاران جنگی!

روزنامه ماندگار / نویسنده: غلام محمد محمدی

به تاریخ ۱۲ جوزای ۱۳۸۹ به اشتراک حدود ۱۶۰۰ تن که ۹۸ درصد آنها، مطلق حکومتی بودند، برگزار گردید. چنانچه از همان روز های نخست، فریاد بلند بود که با وجود اراکین حکومتی پایتخت، از ولایات نیز دوستان و اقارب والی صاحبها و کمپاینرهای جناب رییس‌جمهور به جرگه اعزام شده‌اند و پاکت‌های دالر آماده شده، انتظارشان را می‌کشد. این جرگه مانند جرگه‌های سلف خویش، طوری مهندسی-طراحی-قالب‌بندی و حصارکشی شده بود که به گفته‌ی شاهدان عینی، به جز شخصیت‌های محترم کرسی‌های ردیف اول که اراکین بلندپایه‌ی حکومتی و یاران همیشگی ارگ هستند، از صفوف وسطی و آخری کسی حق برآمدن و سخن گفتن روی سٹیج اعتراض و پیشنهاد را نداشت.

<http://www.mandegardaily.af/spip.php?article6305>

### ریش سفیدی قوم به جای ریاست‌جمهوری تا کی؟

روزنامه ماندگار / لیمه حسینی

جناب آقای کرزی سال پرچالش و نفس‌گیری را پیش رو دارد، چرا که باید برای هر اشتهای سال گذشته‌اش، امسال راه حلی عقلایی و منطقی‌تر از بحرانی که به وجود آورده بود، پیدا کند تا بتواند خود و کشور را از وضعیت کنونی رهایی بخشد. تشکیل دادگاه ویژه از همان کارهای شتاب‌زده و نافرجامی بود که سال گذشته جناب آقای کرزی در نتیجه‌ی تنش‌های حاصل از فیصله‌ی کمیسیون مستقل انتخاباتی در ختم انتخابات پارلمانی، به تشکیل و ایجاد آن رضایت داد.

<http://www.mandegardaily.af/spip.php?article6285>

### سیماسمر: دولت و سازمان ملل تعهد سیاسی برای مشارکت زنان در روند صلح ندارند

روزنامه صبح / ۹ حمل ۱۳۹۰

اکثر سیماسمر رییس کمیسیون مستقل حقوق بشر افغانستان، مشارکت زنان در تلاش‌های صلح در کشور را کم‌رنگ توصیف کرده می‌گوید دولت افغانستان و سازمان ملل متحد در کشور، تعهد سیاسی لازم را برای مشارکت زنان در تلاش‌های صلح ندارند.

خانم سیماسمر که روز گذشته در مراسم افتتاح «کمیته نظارت و حمایت از قطعنامه ۱۳۲۵ شورای امنیت سازمان ملل متحد» سخن می‌گفت، افزود تاکنون تلاش‌هایی که برای تامین صلح در کشور صورت گرفته، «مردانه» بوده است. او همچنین با انتقاد از دولت که تاکنون قطعنامه ۱۳۲۵ شورای امنیت سازمان ملل متحد را اجرایی نساخته است، تاکید کرد که دولت افغانستان مکلفیت و مسوولیت دارد تا از این قطعنامه پیروی و آن را تطبیق کند.

[http://8am.af/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=18321:1390-01-09-04-43-26&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=554](http://8am.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=18321:1390-01-09-04-43-26&catid=3:2008-10-31-09-37-07&Itemid=554)

### محور های سیاست صلح جویانه رییس جمهور کرزی، باج دهی به طالبان، انکار وجود هراس افگنان

هفته‌نامه نخست / نویسنده: رادفر / ۲۵ جوت ۱۳۸۹

روز شنبه این هفته در حالی که شمار زیادی از اراکین بلند پایه دولتی در مراسم فاتحه خوانی مولانا عبدالرحمان سیدخیلی فرمانده پیشین پولیس ولایت کندز که به تازه گی در نتیجه ی یک حمله انتحاری طالبان کشته شده، در ولایت پروان شرکت کرده بودند، حامد کرزی رییس جمهوری افغانستان به ولایت کونر سفر کرد تا ظاهراً همدردی خود را با خانواده های قربانیان حمله های هوایی نیرو های ناتو که در کمتر از دو هفته پیش جان حدود ۷۰ تن از شهروندان ملکی به شمول شماری از کودکان را گرفت، ابراز نماید.

<http://www.nukhustdaily.com/index.php/2009-07-28-05-21-03/3346-2011-03-16-11-36-34.html>

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## ABOUT AFGHANISTAN WATCH

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

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

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