

# Afghan Links

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Afghan Links is a free e-newsletter for readers who have a keen interest in Afghanistan and its history, people and culture. It invites news and articles from anyone who wishes to create and maintain constructive links between Afghanistan and other countries by sharing their expertise, information and ideas in any field.

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**BUSINESS AND TRADE**

❖ **Economic Cooperation between Companies in Europe and in Afghanistan**

**The purpose of afghanistan21.com**

Are you running a company and interested in connecting your business with the economy in Afghanistan? If this is the case, we are happy to welcome you here.

[www.afghanistan21.com](http://www.afghanistan21.com) is the platform for economic cooperation between companies in Europe and in Afghanistan.

Whether you are an entrepreneur, a service provider or just interested in becoming economically active in this area, you are welcome to use the information found on this site. Feel free to use our [database](#) for contact information or subscribe to the [newsletter](#). All these services are free of charge.

Once you are ready to get started and implement your business ideas, we are happy to support you in reaching your goals.

This platform is operated by ILTIS GmbH, a consulting company specializing in strategy realization. Since the summer 2002, our experts have been continuously working in Afghanistan, contributing to the economic reconstruction of the country. [home](#)

❖ **Afghanistan Int'l Bank Begins ATM Service For Int'l Credit Cards Pak Tribune**

KABUL: Afghanistan International Bank has begun ATM services for holders of a variety of international credit cards. The ATMs accept cards including MasterCard, Visa, American Express, JCB and affiliated cards.

AIB has placed one ATM at its head office in Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul, and two in the US Airbase in Bagram serving some 15,000 army personnel.

The bank said another 22 ATMs are on order and will be installed in strategic places in Kabul and in AIB's branches.

The move is in line with AIB's strategy to become a modern 21st century commercial bank, reflecting international standards and practices.

**Source:** PakTribune – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2006 circulated on Moby Capital Updates. [home](#)

**DEVELOPMENT, RECONSTRUCTION AND NATION-BUILDING**

**Asia Can Eradicate Poverty in a Generation - Asia 2015: Promoting Growth, Ending Poverty Conference announced**

**Asia 2015: Promoting Growth, Ending Poverty Conference announced**

Lancaster House, London, 6-7 March 2006

[www.asia2015conference.org](http://www.asia2015conference.org)

The UK Department for International Development (DFID), in collaboration with the World Bank and ADB, today announces details of a conference to be held on 6-7 March 2006 in London to focus attention on building new forms of partnership to eradicate [poverty](#) in Asia.

Asia has raised more people out of poverty than any other region at any time in history. Growth has been strong, and though currently two out of three of the world's poorest people live in Asia,

by 2015 this could fall to one in three if current trends continue. With continued efforts, it is possible to eradicate poverty in Asia in the next generation. Yet Asia still faces huge challenges in nutrition, health, education, social exclusion, [water](#) and sanitation and almost 1.1 billion people still live on less than \$1 a day.

**Asia 2015: Promoting Growth, Ending Poverty** will bring together high-level international figures, including ministers of finance and planning and senior officials from across Asia, as well as influential figures from civil society and the private sector, to discuss the changing face of development in Asia over the next decade. The aim of the two-day event is to agree how Asian countries, together with development agencies and the international community, will meet the remaining [Millennium Development Goals](#).

Rapid growth in Asia has and will continue to have an enormous impact on the global economy. Markets such as [China](#) and [India](#) are undergoing tremendous economic and social development. Trade within the continent is growing at nearly three times the global rate and Asia's share of world exports rose from 23% in 1985 to 38% in 2002.

Despite this recent economic growth in some countries, Asia still faces huge challenges and risks. This conference will raise the profile of both development challenges and opportunities and offers a platform for Asian countries to present and talk about their own experiences and perspectives.

The Secretary of State for International Development, Hilary Benn MP, comments: "The world has a lot to learn from Asia's development successes - not only South Korea, [Thailand](#) and [Malaysia](#), but, more recently, in China, India and [Vietnam](#). But Asia still faces many major challenges which need the world's support. Like a silent tsunami, poverty kills through diseases, increasing the likelihood of mothers dying in pregnancy and childbirth and malnutrition, all of which we can prevent. If the global community addresses such challenges now, in a generation, poverty eradication in Asia could be one of the world's great success stories."

A dedicated conference website has been launched: [www.asia2015conference.org](http://www.asia2015conference.org). All conference discussion papers will be posted on the site in advance of the conference and the site will also host a discussion forum allowing the public to have their say on Asian development issues.

**For further information, please contact:** Department for International Development Press Office: +44 (0)20 7023 0600 Rakhee Vyas: + 44 (0)207 067 0279.

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## **DRUGS**

### **Release of the Senlis Council's Latest Report – an Impact Assessment of Eradication**

#### **Media Advisory**

**PRESS CONFERENCE - Monday, 23 January 2006 – 10:15 a.m.  
Pamir Conference Room, Intercontinental Hotel, Kabul**

### ***Release of The Senlis Council's Latest Report – An Impact Assessment of Eradication***

The report examines the consequences of crop eradication in Afghanistan and draws on important lessons learned in Latin America and South-East Asia. Crop eradication could have disastrous effects on the reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan by hindering rural development and jeopardising stability.

#### ***Panel of speakers:***

- ❖ *Mr Emmanuel Reinert*, Executive Director, The Senlis Council
- ❖ *Ms Gulalai Momand*, Deputy Country Manager, The Senlis Council Afghanistan
- ❖ *Mr Jorrit Kamminga*, Special Policy Analyst, The Senlis Council
- ❖ *Professor Francisco Thoumi*, Director of The Research and Monitoring Center on Drugs and Crime Universidad del Rosario, Bogotá, Colombia

For further information, please visit

[http://www.drug-policy.org/modules/events/kabul\\_winter\\_symposium](http://www.drug-policy.org/modules/events/kabul_winter_symposium) or ask fro Reference 3\_F.

To register, download the registration form and return it by email at [francis@senliscouncil.net](mailto:francis@senliscouncil.net) or contact Jane Francis on +93 799 843 671 or +93 75 200 116 – [francis@senliscouncil.net](mailto:francis@senliscouncil.net) Manna Kamio +33 1 49 96 63 69 – [kamio@senliscouncil.net](mailto:kamio@senliscouncil.net) Or [media@senliscouncil.net](mailto:media@senliscouncil.net) [home](#)

## **EDUCATION**

### **Department for International Development (DfID)**

#### **Primary Education**

DFID has provided £5.4 million to the United Nations Children's Fund's (UNICEF's) access to education services, curriculum development and teacher training programmes. DFID funds the development of Afghanistan's education sector through our multilateral contributions (£40 million 2003/04) and through the Afghan Reconstruction Fund (£135 million since 2002).

#### **Higher Education**

DFID, in conjunction with the British Council, is also supporting the development of Afghanistan's higher education sector. From April 2006 Afghanistan will be eligible to apply for assistance under the Development Partnerships in Higher Education programme funded by DFID, to develop links between its higher education institutions and Universities and Institutions in other countries.

#### **Scholarships and Awards**

Afghanistan is already eligible for a number of scholarships and research awards administered by The British Council including the Chevening scholarship scheme, which funds international students to study in the UK at postgraduate level, and the [Overseas Research Students Awards Scheme](#) for international postgraduate research students.

#### **English Language Teaching**

Afghanistan is also set to benefit from the British Council's support for English language teaching, including support to curriculum development and to improve the English skills of senior government officials. Further information on these programmes and the rest of the [British Council's work in Afghanistan](#) is available.

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/countries/asia/afghanistan.asp>

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## **FUNDING AND FINANCE**

### **Ambassade De France En Afghanistan Service Of Cooperation Social Development Fund (SDF) - Second appeal for proposals**

#### **1- What is the Social Development Fund (SDF)?**

The SDF is a financial tool that the French ministry of foreign affairs has set up for use by the French embassies in countries located in the First Priority Zone (which Afghanistan is part of since 2003). These funds are provided to support “micro-projects” to reduce poverty and reinforce civil society. These projects are directed to “beneficiaries” living in harsh conditions (urgent needs to satisfy, critical level of poverty, weak capacity of action) who submitted a request and showed a will to take action, and who are organized or can be represented by a public or private institution.

#### **SDF beneficiaries in Afghanistan**

The beneficiaries of the micro-projects must be representatives of the Afghan civil society (NGO, associations, cooperatives, small businesses, diverse groups) or territorial organizations. In the special case of Afghanistan, where civil society is organized to a small degree, a French - or international - NGO could represent a group of beneficiaries (the NGO is then managing the micro-project). This NGO must be registered in Afghanistan as required.

The micro-projects should aim at one or several of the following objectives:

Contribute to the reinforcement of capacities, structuring and professionalization of the civil society organizations.

Reinforcing the structuring and professionalization of territorial organizations, particularly in their relationship to the civil society (district projects, local development projects, etc)

Support actions that help reduce poverty and inequalities through projects directed to self-reliance and responsibility of beneficiaries (improve the dynamism of micro-economic group, create income and jobs). A particular attention will be given to vulnerable and excluded populations (projects designed to improve gender equality, the rights of children and disabled) Reinforcing democracy and human rights through supporting the acquisition of fundamental rights by population, supporting democracy and dialog between civil society and the state

The amount of credit available through the SDF for a micro-project is between 10,000 and 35,000 euros.

The maximum duration of a micro-project is 18 months.

## **2- Second appeal for proposals**

Following the first appeal for proposals, which was launched 6 months ago, 15 projects had been selected. It so happens that most of them focused on vulnerable women.

Therefore, while the objectives will remain the same (as stated above), this second appeal for proposals will be reserved for projects supporting disabled people and/or street children.

- ❖ Projects involving both an Afghan and an international NGOs will be particularly appreciated.
- ❖ Only 1 proposal per NGO will be considered.
- ❖ NGOs having an ongoing SDF project ending after April 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 are not allowed to submit a new proposal.
- ❖ A detailed budget should be attached to the proposal.
- ❖ Proposals should be written in English or French. Their submission should strictly respect the below-mentioned deadline.

### **Deadlines**

*Submission of the proposal to the Embassy: before February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006*

*Preselection and visit/interview with the preselected NGOs: February 10<sup>th</sup> to mid-March 2006*

*Final selection, signature of the financial protocols and agreements: beginning of April 2006.*

**Please see Reference 3\_D for proposal guidelines.**

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### **❖ Ministry of Finance Releases New Circular - Regarding the Taxation of NGOs and Donor-Funded Projects**

The Government of Afghanistan has recently published a new Ministerial Circular regarding the taxation of non-governmental organizations ("NGOs") and donor-financed projects, Mr. Jalali, Director General of Revenue, announced today.

The Ministerial Circular is available on the Ministry of Finance website [www.mof.gov.af/tax](http://www.mof.gov.af/tax). The Ministerial Circular addresses the application of Income Tax Law to NGOs. The circular also addresses the application of the Income Tax Law to businesses and individuals that provide goods or services to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan pursuant to donor-financed projects.

In particular, the circular reiterates the fact that NGOs are not exempt from tax merely because they register their organizations with the Ministry of Economy in Afghanistan. Instead, to be exempt, NGOs have to file an application for tax exempt status under Article 10 of the Income Tax Law. Regulations will be issued in March 2006. These forthcoming regulations will provide a format for the application.

The circular also announces that the Ministry of Finance seeks to ensure that, going forward, **all** contractors will be subject to tax on their profits. This is true regardless whether the contractor is working on a donor-funded contract. Thus, for example, construction companies performing work for the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan pursuant to a contract funded by the World Bank or Asian

Development Bank will be subject to the Income Tax Law in the same manner as those contractors that provide goods and services to private companies. The Ministry of Finance will seek to ensure that this policy is made clear in all future procurement contracts.

Moreover, the circular clarifies that the Ministry of Finance will seek to tax the employees of donor countries and international financial institutions if they are Afghan citizens. Thus, the Income Tax Law will apply equally to Afghan citizens that are employed by the United States Agency for International Development and Afghan citizens that are employed by private companies.

Mr. Jalali said, "It is extremely important that the tax rules in Afghanistan apply equally to all contractors, regardless of who is paying their salary. It is also important that all Afghan citizens be taxed fairly under the same law. This policy will help ensure that the tax rules are applied consistently going forward."

**Please see the attached circular Reference 3\_C kindly sent for circulation in the Afghan Links Newsletter by John MacDonald of the Ministry of Finance in Kabul.**

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## **GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY**

### **❖ To Create a Stable Afghanistan: Provisional Reconstruction Teams, Good Governance, and a Splash of History**

The coalition and NATO face the complex challenge of establishing a legitimate functioning government in Afghanistan that can withstand the withdrawal of Western forces. To meet this challenge, they might look to earlier British efforts to manage the North-West Frontier along Afghanistan's eastern border. Proven methods the British used in the frontier districts could generate a coherent four-step plan for reconstruction. Indeed, as resources shrink, new, imaginative measures—plus tried and true ones—will be needed to control geographically dispersed tribes to prevent the reemergence of terrorists or armed insurrection.

The North-West Frontier linking Central and South Asia, an ethnic Pushtoon area where tribesmen cross freely from Afghanistan and back, was one of the British Empire's most challenging territories. A negligibly small British administrative and military apparatus routinely and successfully controlled this extensive area using a mix of incentives and force to encourage tribes to control themselves.

From the 1890s to 1947, British control relied heavily on a small number of highly trained British officers and officials who embraced many of the structures the East India Company established during the previous century. These frontier officers, part of the Indian Civil Service or Indian Political Service, were highly educated, committed, conscientious, and hard working. Many had studied Indian law and history and spoke some of the local languages. They had a deep sense of duty and a strong national identity. All required a great depth of administrative competence and judgment to wield successfully the extensive powers that lay at their disposal. They contributed significantly to the province's security and stability. The political officer and Indian political agents were particularly valuable in navigating the intricacies of tribal politics.

Despite the frontier officers' unquestionable ability, it was impossible for British officers alone to administer such a large geographical area. Educated and trustworthy Indians were recruited into the ranks of the Indian Civil Service. Recruitment standards were high, with emphasis on integrity and ability. These were invaluable, and many shared the same ethics and principles as their British counterparts, which they gained during their education in England. Their participation was essential (for balance and legitimacy) and inescapable. Small number of geographically dispersed Britons, unaided from within, could never have successfully governed such a diverse population.

The same organizing principle was true of the army. While a relatively small British Army force remained in the West Frontier (acting more as a cohesive, reliable reserve than a force of first use), the majority of forces came from the Indian Army. The Army's main duty was to protect the peaceful border inhabitants from hostile tribesmen and, on occasion, to conduct punitive operations. In the main, volunteer British officers commanded these units, which served as a large, capable standing force. However, for more routine activity, frontier scouts normally controlled tribal territory, and the frontier constabulary normally controlled settled areas. Both came from the local Pushtoon populace.

Lessons learned from the British experience of the North-West Frontier remain pertinent and are transferable to settling the conflict and furthering the national reconstruction of Afghanistan. **For the rest of the paper go to**

<http://usacac.leavenworth.army.mil/CAC/milreview/download/English/NovDec05/roe.pdf> or ask for Reference 3\_G. Source: Major Andrew M. Roe, British Army – recommended by Gary Bell – Refugee Council. [home](#)

## ❖ Gains in Afghanistan Result in Climb in World Freedom Index

### State's Fried highlights the importance of NATO to Afghanistan's success

Washington -Strengthening civil liberties and recent parliamentary elections have moved Afghanistan from "not free" to "partly free" on the Freedom House's worldwide index of liberty.

Daniel Fried, the State Department's assistant secretary for European and Eurasian affairs, attributes much of the country's recent progress to the growing involvement of NATO allies in Afghanistan's reconstruction following decades of civil turmoil.

"The alliance has made substantial progress in 2005," Fried told the Dutch newspaper de Volkskrant in an interview published January 10.

"There is an underlying commonality of views, of what we want to do together in the world," Fried said. "We achieve these goals -- the U.S. and a strong European partner -- working through NATO, working through the U.S.-EU relationship to advance freedom and security in the world."

**"Afghanistan saw its status move from Not Free to Partly Free because of strengthening of civil society and a modest improvement in the rule of law following the holding of relatively successful parliamentary elections,"**

Freedom House's director of research, Arch Puddington, said in a preliminary report released in late December 2005. The organization has been compiling data on measures of world freedom since 1972.

Afghanistan was one of 27 countries to improve its status on the Freedom House's 2006 Freedom in the World report.

NATO currently has 9,000 troops in Afghanistan. The military alliance makes all of its formal decisions by consensus among its 26 member nations. The NATO allies in December 2005 agreed to send an additional 6,000 troops early in 2006 to accelerate reconstruction in Afghanistan. (See related story.)

### NATO Mission Both Military And Humanitarian

NATO forces with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan are involved in a host of security and peacekeeping missions throughout the country. In recent months, multinational troops have built schools, provided training for security forces, destroyed weapons stockpiles, and opened a newly rebuilt bridge in the western province of Herat.

"NATO is doing a good job," Fried said. "In so many European countries we are seeing an increased commitment to NATO, we are seeing NATO acting more effectively in the world," says Fried. "The Germans, Italians, Spanish, among others, are running PRTs [Provincial Reconstruction Teams] in Afghanistan. This is making a difference for people on the ground." On January 6, the Spanish contingent of ISAF arranged for a woman from Herat to be transferred to Madrid, Spain, to receive medical treatment for burns sustained in an accident a year ago. Spanish medical teams learned about her condition four months ago, attempted to treat her injuries but realized her condition was not improving. The 19-year-old woman and her father are now in Spain where she is receiving specialized care for two months to three months. "It is important that NATO keep its word to the Afghan people, to the democratically elected Afghan government," Fried said. "This is a multilateral effort by a great multilateral alliance. Together we are doing good things and we will do more."

In the fall 2005, building sites for 10 schools opened in Herat. The construction of the schools is supported by ISAF and the Italian government as part of their commitment to the future of Afghanistan.

"Culture and education of young people are the main themes in order to lay the foundations for a good future," said PRT Commander Colonel Amadeo Sperotto at the opening ceremony for the school construction. "And this is the reason we worked together with local authorities to give an answer to people's demands."

Fried agrees. "There are emotions involved every time troops are put abroad. And that is understandable. But the conditions are there for a successful mission in Afghanistan. The alliance made a promise to the Afghan people and we have to carry it out."

A summary of the Freedom House report is available on the organization's Web site. Freedom House is a nonpartisan, nonprofit entity dedicated to promotion of freedom throughout the world. See Rebuilding Afghanistan for more information on the country's economic development and reconstruction efforts. **Source:** Vince Crawley - Washington File – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2006

Go to <http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=70&release=317> for links to the charts, graph and essay, or email [Afghanlinks@aol.com](mailto:Afghanlinks@aol.com) for References 3\_A and 3\_B.

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## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

### **British Council's Afghan Human Rights Project**

The British Council is working with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), to help it establish connections with other human rights commissions around the world, so as to share experience and knowledge on the best ways to protect and promote human rights.

This forms part of a wider British Council project, mostly focussed on the Commonwealth, which aims to develop an effective network and support system for human right commissions, in order to improve and increase the impact of their work. The project is based around proactive information exchange, the development of learning materials, and the provision of training in key technical and/or operating skills.

The AIHRC was established in 2002 as a consequence of the Bonn Agreement to promote and protect human rights in Afghanistan. It currently focuses on five areas:

- monitoring and investigation of human rights violations and abuses
- protection and promotion of women's rights
- protection and promotion of children's rights
- human rights education
- transitional justice.

Within the British Council's project, the AIHRC has taken part in workshops on disability and human rights, on the effectiveness of human rights commissions, on the methods for holding public inquiries into human rights abuses, and on using the UN mechanisms for protecting human rights.

For more information about the British Council's project, see:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/governance/jusrig/CHRC.htm>

For more information about the AIHRC, see: <http://www.aihrc.org.af/>

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## **SECURITY**

- ❖ **Briefing to the Security Council on the situation in Afghanistan by Jean Arnault, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan**

**Please Refer to 3\_E for the full briefing sent to Afghan Links by ACBAR 19<sup>th</sup> January 2006.**

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- ❖ **New Afghan meet to unveil 5-year peace building plan**

An international conference on Afghanistan this month will unveil a five-year blueprint on security, human rights, development and narcotics, a senior U.N. official told the Security Council.

Jean Arnault, the top U.N. envoy in Afghanistan, said on Tuesday that the Afghan government and its supporters had nearly completed a new "Compact for Afghanistan." He called it a "blueprint for what will be, in the next five years, an intensive exercise in peacebuilding."

The conference, to be held in London on Jan. 31 and Feb. 1, is designed as a follow-up to the December 2001 U.N.-led meeting in Bonn, Germany, which set the political course for the central Asian nation. That event occurred after a U.S.-led force ousted the ruling Taliban.

Chaired by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Afghan President Hamid Karzai, the London conference is to produce benchmarks and timelines on security, good government, human rights, the rule of law, development and combating the drug trade, Arnault said.

He said the compact also would seek to improve the delivery of aid.

But Arnault said that challenges, particularly in security, showed "the job is far from done," despite 9,200 foreign troops and a promise from NATO of an additional 6,000.

In the past 12 months, Arnault said, 19 suicide attacks have been carried and 13 of them in the last 10 weeks.

On Sunday, a Canadian diplomat, Glyn Berry, 59, and two civilians were killed and three Canadian soldiers and nine locals were wounded in a suicide attack on a military convoy in Kandahar city.

In response, the Security Council backed the London conference, condemned the recent "terrorist attacks" in Kandahar and offered condolences to Afghanistan and Canada, said the council's current president, Tanzanian Ambassador Augustine Mahiga.

The Taliban, which has claimed responsibility for the Kandahar attacks, is believed to have regrouped across the border in Pakistan's tribal areas and its western province of Baluchistan, a region that since the early 1980s has been a refuge for Afghan families escaping conflict.

U.S. Ambassador John Bolton said the United States, among others, would be making a "major pledge in support of Afghan development" at the London conference, where he also expected a fuller discussion of security issues.

**Source:** Evelyn Leopold - UNITED NATIONS Alertnet – (Reuters) - 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006. [home](#)

### ❖ **Suicide Bombers Kill Dozens in Afghanistan - Violence in South Is Seen as Message to NATO**

KABUL, Afghanistan, Jan. 16 -- At least two dozen people were killed in a pair of suicide attacks in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province on Monday, marking the deadliest day of suicide bombings here in the more than four years since the fall of the Taliban.

The larger of the attacks took place in Spin Boldak, a town on the Pakistani border, when a bomber drove his motorbike into a crowd of hundreds who had gathered at a festival to watch a wrestling match, according to the provincial governor, Asadullah Khalid. That attack killed at least 20 people and injured several dozen more.

Earlier in the afternoon, a suicide bomber in the city of Kandahar, near the main mosque downtown, attacked an Afghan army vehicle, killing four soldiers and a civilian. Fourteen other people were wounded, according to a local hospital official.

Mohibur Rahman, a soldier who was in the vehicle directly behind the one that was hit, said he saw someone who looked to be in his teens dart in front of the convoy. "He lay down under the first vehicle and blew himself up," Rahman told Radio Azadi, a local station in Kandahar.

There has been a spate of violence in Afghanistan's south, marked by a number of suicide attacks. On Sunday, a suicide bomber in Kandahar killed a senior Canadian diplomat and two other civilians. Earlier this month, a bomber killed 10 in Uruzgan province, just a few hundred yards from where the U.S. ambassador had been holding a meeting, though the ambassador was not considered to be the attack's target.

The U.S. military is scheduled to hand over control of security in the volatile south to NATO-led forces later this year, and security officials here suspect that terrorists are attempting to scare NATO nations into backing out of their commitments. The Netherlands has been wavering over whether it will send additional troops to the south, and officials expect its parliament to vote soon on the issue.

Also planned in the coming weeks is a conference in London at which the Bush administration, members of the European Community and the United Nations will discuss their participation in Afghanistan's reconstruction.

The south "has been a focal point, and there are a variety of reasons," said Afghan Defense Minister Rahim Wardak. "It has to do with the London conference. And it has to do with the NATO takeover."

Kandahar was once the religious stronghold of the extremist Taliban militia, which was driven from power by U.S.-led forces in late 2001, and the region has continued to harbor pockets of Taliban supporters. Some of the Islamic militia's senior figures reportedly took refuge across the Pakistani border, and Afghan officials suspect many recent attacks have been launched from there.

The strikes on Monday came just hours after President Hamid Karzai told reporters gathered for a breakfast at the presidential palace that the struggle against terrorism in Afghanistan was not over, despite some progress.

"Afghanistan's success does not mean that it is now fully on its own feet. It will take many, many more years before we can defend ourselves with our own means," Karzai said.

Insurgents in Afghanistan have shifted tactics in recent months, from fighting international forces on rural battlefields to suicide attacks in urban areas. Despite a quarter-century of war, such attacks in Afghanistan have historically been relatively rare because of a cultural aversion to suicide. Since September, however, there have been at least 25 suicide bombings.

Both Afghan and foreign officials insist the new strategy is a sign of desperation by insurgents who suffered devastating battlefield defeats last spring and summer. But those same officials are also concerned that terrorists here may be mimicking tactics in Iraq that have succeeded in terrorizing much of the population.

Karzai said that most of the suicide bombers attacking in Afghanistan have been foreigners, but that some Afghans have also been involved. Intelligence information, he said, indicates that terrorist leaders are recruiting drug addicts to carry out attacks and that some may not even realize they are being sent on suicide missions.

The latest attacks follow a U.S. missile strike aimed at al Qaeda's deputy leader, Ayman Zawahiri, just across the border in Pakistan. Pakistani officials said Zawahiri was not hit in Friday's strike, but that at least 13 villagers -- including women and children -- were killed. Tens of

thousands of Pakistanis in cities across the country took to the streets in protest over the weekend; there were no major rallies on Monday.

Pakistani officials have said they believe that the Predator drone aircraft used in the missile attack was launched from within Afghanistan. But Karzai said Monday he did not know whether that was the case. "Afghan territory can be used for antiterrorist activities, as it is being used right now. But on that attack we have no information at all," Karzai said. "We heard it from the press, as everybody else has heard it."

U.S. senators from both parties on Sunday defended the attack as necessary in the struggle against al Qaeda, which had been sheltered in Afghanistan during the Taliban's rule. On her visit to Liberia for the inauguration of that nation's new president, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice declined to speak specifically about the strike but said the United States makes no apologies for its efforts to track and kill terrorist leaders. "These are not people who can be dealt with lightly," she said.

**Source:** Griff White – Washington Post Foreign Service – 17<sup>th</sup> January 2006 – Researcher Julie Tate in Washington contributed to this report. [home](#)

### ❖ Canada Diplomat Killed in Afghanistan

A suicide car bomb hit a Canadian military convoy Sunday in southern Afghanistan, killing two civilians and a senior Canadian diplomat, officials said.

A purported Taliban spokesman, Qari Mohammed Yousaf, claimed responsibility for the attack, which also wounded three Canadian soldiers and 10 other people.

He warned that "these attacks will continue for a long time. We have many more suicide attackers ready to go."

"We will continue this strategy until all foreign forces leave Afghanistan," he said in a telephone call to The Associated Press.

Afghanistan has been hit by about 25 suicide bombings in the past four months — a relatively new tactic for militants here and one that has reinforced fears the country may see more assaults modeled on those in Iraq.

Sunday's attack occurred as the convoy was driving near the Canadian base in Kandahar, a former Taliban stronghold, said Interior Ministry spokesman Dad Mohammed Rasa. At least two civilians were killed and 10 were wounded, he said.

Glyn Berry, 59, who was Canada's senior diplomat in southern Afghanistan and the political director of a 250-member provincial reconstruction team, also died.

Canada's Deputy Chief of Defense, Lt. General Marc Dumais, said three Canadian soldiers also were wounded and two were in critical condition with life threatening injuries.

"They had no indication that the attack was coming. It was very sudden," Dumais said.

Nine Canadians have died in Afghanistan. Four soldiers were mistakenly bombed by a U.S. fighter pilot in 2002 and four others have died in accidents.

Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin expressed condolences to the victims' families while campaigning in Quebec and said the mission in Afghanistan is vital.

"Our participation in the mission in Kandahar is essential to establishing peace and security," Martin said. "It's in a nation that's struggling to find its way."

Canada has about 650 troops in Afghanistan, nearly all in Kandahar, and Ottawa plans to increase the Canadian military presence there to 2,000 next month in support of NATO's plans to expand its peacekeeping mission into the more volatile southern region.

A witness to the attack, shopkeeper Rahim Gul, said he saw a sedan vehicle blow up as it was passing the convoy.

"The explosion was so big. It destroyed one jeep and blew it totally to the other side of the road," he said, adding that he saw at least three wounded soldiers.

Violence across southern and eastern Afghanistan spiked last year, leaving about 1,600 people dead, the most since U.S.-led forces ousted the Taliban in 2001 for hosting Osama bin Laden.

The fighting normally eases during the winter months, when snow blankets the region, but the past few weeks have seen a string of suicide attacks and other assaults.

President Hamid Karzai said in an interview with AP last week that he expects suicide attacks to continue "for a long time," though it was not clear whether the Taliban or other militant groups were behind them.

**Source:** Daniel Cooney - Associated Press Writer - Associated Press writer Rob Gillies in Toronto contributed to this report – 15<sup>th</sup> January 2006. [home](#)

## ❖ Oxford Research Group Publications

Oxford Research Group (ORG) has published the latest International Security Monthly Briefing, [Control Without the Consequences](#), (**Ask for Reference 3\_H if you have difficulty with the link**) by Global Security Consultant, Paul Rogers.

At the end of last year, I.B. Tauris published the second ORG International Security Annual Report, [Iraq and the War on Terror: Twelve Months of Insurgency, 2004/2005](#). This book collates Paul Rogers monthly briefings from May 2004 to April 2005, together with two new chapters, to provide a detailed analysis of the last year in the 'war on terror' and related conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan. Copies of the book can still be ordered for £11.99 plus postage from <http://www.orgshop.org.uk/> <http://www.orgshop.org.uk/asp/home.asp>

You may also be interested in the [interview with Paul Rogers](#) that appeared in *The Guardian* recently.

Over the next few months ORG will be publishing a briefing paper entitled *Iran: Consequences of a War* by Paul Rogers; a Current Decisions Report containing arguments for and against a decision to replace Britain's strategic nuclear weapons system, from some of our most prominent senior political, military, legal and ethical commentators; and an in-depth paper on non-traditional threats to global security, including climate change and socio-economic divisions. In addition to our off-the-record work with policy-makers, we shall be hosting a NATO workshop in Egypt on human security in military interventions. Details of these will be provided in future emails, as well as on [www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk](http://www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk)

**Source:** Chris Abbott - Research Officer (Global Security Programme).

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## HEALTH

**Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) and Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal (SGAA) announce Joint Operation**

**PRESS RELEASE Kabul, 3 January, 2006**

### **Joint Operation of SCA and SGAA**

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) and Sandy Gall's Afghanistan Appeal (SGAA)\* have great pleasure in announcing that from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2006, SGAA's physiotherapy and rehabilitation programmes in Jalalabad and Eastern Afghanistan will be run jointly with Swedish Committee for Afghanistan's Disability program – RAD (Rehabilitation of Afghans with Disability)\*\*.

From this date SCA RAD will be responsible for management of the project while SGAA will continue to raise funds and provide technical support. In 2007 RAD plans to expand the programme by starting Community-Based Rehabilitation activities in Eastern Afghanistan. SGAA believes that this will provide wider access for the disabled to rehabilitation services, especially those in rural areas, and is a positive step forward in the region until such time that the government can take responsibility for these services. Together SCA and SGAA will continue to lobby with local and national government for the improvement of national disability services in Afghanistan and the integration of physiotherapists and orthopaedic technicians into Ministry of Public Health's service structure.

In Kabul and Jalalabad SGAA from January 2006 can be contacted through the SCA RAD offices at the following numbers:

Mr. Zemarai Saqeb – RAD Programme Coordinator, Kabul	Tel: 070 207 866
Mr. Samiuddin Saber, RAD/SGAA Manager, Jalalabad	Tel: 070 263 283
Mrs. Fiona Gall – SGAA Consultant, Kabul	Tel: 070 285 056
Ms Anne Hertzberg – RAD Senior Technical Advisor, Kabul	Tel: 0799 016 344

\* [SGAA](#) works in the three eastern provinces of Nangrahar, Laghman, and Kuner and treats over 12,000 patients a year with physiotherapy and makes over 2,500 orthopaedic appliances,

wheelchairs and mobility aids. SGAA also provides health education and disability awareness in schools and clinics to 80,000 children and adults a year.

\*\* Rehabilitation of Afghans with Disabilities (RAD) is a comprehensive disability programme of SCA. RAD covers more than 1,400 villages in 32 districts in 10 provinces in the northern, north-eastern and south-eastern regions of Afghanistan .The programme has five components; Community Mobilization, Awareness and Advocacy, Employment Support, Special Education, Physiotherapy, and Orthopaedic Workshops. The direct beneficiaries of the rehabilitation services and awareness of the programme are more than 100,000 persons while 150,000 persons indirectly benefit from the programme each year. The Services are provided through three orthopaedic workshops, 46 physiotherapy clinics, 44 Community Rehabilitation and Development Centers and Sub-Centers and at the homes of the person with disabilities (Home Based Training). [home](#)

### **JOB VACANCIES**

**International Medical Corps (IMC) require for Afghanistan - Certified Midwives, a Country Director, Finance Officer, Medical Director, ObGyn Physicians and a Paediatrician**

Attached, please find International Medical Corp's (IMC's) updated listing of employment opportunities in **Afghanistan**.

There are Certified Nurse-Midwives - Country Director - Finance Officer - Medical Director - - ObGyn Physicians – Pediatrician. **See Reference 3\_I for details.** [home](#)

**If you want further information on any of the above subjects please email Jeanne Bryer at [Afghanlinks@aol.com](mailto:Afghanlinks@aol.com) NB. All information contained here identifies the source and is shared with readers in good faith. If you find any incorrect details please let me know and they will be rectified immediately. Afghan Links is produced by Jeanne Bryer who formerly worked for the British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group and who currently works for Khorasan Orphanage in Kabul and the Kathy Evans Afghan Education Trust. If you no longer wish to receive the Afghan Links Newsletter please send an email to Jeanne [Afghanlinks@aol.com](mailto:Afghanlinks@aol.com) and your address will be removed.**

