

AFGHAN LINKS

ISSUE – 15 – 23rd April 2005 (TOTAL NO. 26)

Afghan Links is a free newsletter for readers who have a keen interest in Afghanistan, 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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CHILDREN

Kabul street children may lose 'nest'

Afghanistan's internationally renowned charity for street children, Aschiana, survived the Afghan wars of the 1990s and the Taliban era.

However, the free market economics of Kabul's post-war boom now seem a more potent enemy than rockets and bombs.

Aschiana, which means "the nest" and provides support, food, education and a refuge to 10,000 street children, faces the closure of its main centre in Kabul.

It is the victim of rocketing rents and land prices rather than artillery. The charity's compound on Char Rahi Malik Asghar, which it has occupied since 1997, has been sold by its owner to an international company.

A five-star hotel will be built on the site.

Kabul is a city in the grip of a housing boom that has seen the price of real estate soar to levels comparable with Western cities.

The three-acre Aschiana plot, close to the main government ministries, is believed to be worth around \$5m.

Working children

A small class of wealthy Afghan entrepreneurs and international companies have been the prime beneficiaries of the boom.

"Our rent for this site was \$1,500 a month," says Aschiana's director and founder, Engineer Mohammed Yousef.

"We have been looking for alternative sites but rents in the centre of the city are too expensive now."

Much smaller sites further from the city centre, where most of the street children gravitate, now cost around \$10,000 a month in rent.

Kabul has about 50,000 children working on its streets.

Many lost their parents during Afghanistan's 24-year conflict and they are often to be seen banded together and scavenging through rubbish.

Many make a meagre living polishing shoes or selling water, chewing gum or newspapers to drivers at busy junctions.

They often show the tell-tale, disfiguring scars of the parasite Leishmaniasis, which lays its eggs under the skin of those who live on the streets.

As well as sexual abuse and domestic violence, children at the centre have often suffered high levels of psychological trauma during the wars.

Trees felled

The early lives of many of the street children were dominated by the protracted siege of Kabul in the 1990s when random rocketing and gunfire by various militias killed an estimated 20,000 civilians.

Today children at the centre are still engaged in classes in art, music, dance, computing, sport and basic literacy.

"I don't want to tell the children that we are closing," says Engineer Yousef, above the sound of chainsaws.

Workmen have arrived to begin felling the trees in the courtyard where the children play games.

In a classroom learning mathematics, an 11-year-old boy called Hamed says his ambition is to become a doctor.

Previously, he was a refugee in Pakistan where his family fled after the death of his father.

Hamed says he makes 50 Afghans a day, the equivalent of \$1, selling bottles of water on the street before coming to the Aschiana centre.

He hopes to progress enough in his studies to go to a normal school.

A total of 661 children from Aschiana's centres were reintegrated into normal schooling last month.

In a classroom of 30 girls studying basic literacy, the walls are adorned with posters of different mines and cluster bombs.

Next door a class of girls is learning dress-making while in another part of the compound children practise still-life drawing.

Voracious market

The children come in during the day in shifts to maximise the number benefiting.

Aschiana is famed for its art and music. Many of the pictures painted by the children are sold, with half the money going to the artist and half to help fund the charity.

In the centre's music room, professional musicians are taking raucous singing classes with the children before heading off to earn their living at weddings and parties in the evenings.

Aschiana's director is certain the main centre for 800 children will close at the end of June. Another of Aschiana's six centres in Kabul, this one for 400 children, is also closing because of rent.

The charity relies on a mixture of money from the European Community, World Bank and numerous smaller donors such as the British charity Friends of Aschiana.

Last year, Aschiana survived on \$3 per child, per month.

With Kabul's voracious housing market making it ever harder for such organisations to function, that amount looks likely to drop further.

In a rare expression of his frustration, Engineer Yousef says: "Despite the problems that were faced during the Taleban era, Aschiana managed to continue to function.

"This will be a shame on the international community and the government of Afghanistan if we have to abandon the children now.

"The international community has said it is here to help Afghanistan and its people to a better future. The children of Afghanistan are that future." **Source: By Tom Coghlan in Kabul, BBC News – 13th April 2005.** [home](#)

EVENT

Fundraising Dinner Event May 20th At Dar Maghreb Restaurant In Hollywood, California

Ashley Lewis ashleyblewis@yahoo.com

On Friday, May 20th American Support for Afghanistan will be holding a dinner fundraising event at the Dar Maghreb Restaurant, located on Sunset Boulevard in Hollywood, California. Tickets for this event are available pre-sale for \$60 and include dinner at belly dancing entertainment.

TICKETS MUST BE PURCHASED BY APRIL 30TH. Dar Maghreb is a restaurant that features exquisite food and a fun, lively atmosphere. You can view their website at www.darmaghrestaurant.com/darmaghreb/index.html. Tickets may be purchased in advance by mail or through our website at www.asanonprofit.org. Proceeds from this event will be used for the delivery of wheelchairs to Afghanistan and the sponsorship of Orphans.

Please contact us at info@asanonprofit.org or call Homaira at (805) 455-4066 if you are interested in attending this event or would like more information about this or our other fundraising events!

Thank You!

Source: Ashley Lewis, American Support for Afghanistan – 13th April 2005.

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GENDER

Questions for Research on Gender Programs in Afghanistan, 2002-2004

Please see attachment 1.14 for questions that will be used for a study produced for the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) on Lessons Learned from Gender-focused International Aid in Afghanistan. The findings will also feed into a PhD dissertation with a similar focus. Please share this with others you think may be able to answer the questions. If you are not affiliated with a particular organization, please answer the questions that you are able to, especially about your perspective on issues and implementation, etc. Any answers help, and they will contribute to a more thorough report and informed analysis.

THANK YOU! **Source:** Lina Abirafeh – 12th April 2005.

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HUMAN RIGHTS

- **Joint NGO Statement on U.N. Reform - Presented to the 61st Session of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights**

In his address to this year's Commission, the Secretary-General of the United Nations has set out a compelling vision of the need for urgent reform of the human rights system. Let us seize this historic opportunity to reshape the human rights system comprehensively, so that it protects all human rights, of all persons in all countries, at all times.

Amnesty International, Association for the Prevention of Torture, Bahá'í International Community, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions, Colombian Commission of Jurists, Dominicans for Justice and Peace, Fédération Internationale des Ligues des Droits de l'Homme, Franciscans International, Friends World Committee for Consultation (Quakers), Human Rights Watch,

International Commission of Jurists, International Service for Human Rights, Lutheran World Federation, Organisation Mondiale Contre la Torture, and Rights Australia welcome the strong reaffirmation in the Secretary-General's report "In Larger Freedom" that human rights and the rule of law are integral components of the "vital and achievable" reform goals for the Millennium Summit next September. We agree that security, development, and human rights are intrinsically linked and mutually reinforcing. Thus, any peace building commission and rule of law assistance unit must have a strong human rights component.

We share the concerns of the Secretary-General that the Commission on Human Rights lacks credibility. For years, NGOs have been exposing the shortcomings of the U.N.'s main human rights body, including its inability to address many situations of gross and systematic human rights violations around the world.

The Commission on Human Rights has been undermined by a number of actions, including: by states seeking election to the Commission not to strengthen human rights but to protect themselves against criticism or to criticise others; by states using procedural ploys to prevent debate on legitimate human rights concerns; by the undermining and lowering of human rights standards and norms; and by the unacceptable selectivity and double standards that have seen many situations of grave human rights concern ignored.

As the Secretary-General himself told us, these trends have stained the reputation of the U.N. We welcome this opportunity to examine the achievements and the failures of the Commission and to establish a system that responds swiftly to the needs of victims of human rights violations and their defenders.

Any reform must result in a stronger U.N. human rights system. Reform must lead to the principal U.N. human rights body addressing systematically and effectively all human rights violations in all countries on the basis of expert and independent information, including from treaty bodies, special procedures, U.N. country teams and the Office of the High Commissioner. Non-governmental organisations and human rights defenders supplement official sources, through their knowledge and experience working with and for victims. The human rights system must draw on all these sources of information.

The effectiveness and legitimacy of any human rights body depends in large part on its members' demonstrated human rights commitment, their readiness to be held accountable for their human rights obligations and their effective cooperation with human rights mechanisms. By cooperation, we mean responding fully and promptly to communications, facilitating visits by special procedures including through the issuance of standing invitations, by implementing their recommendations and by submitting timely reports to the treaty bodies.

The new body must be conceived to attract as members those that have a demonstrated commitment to the highest human rights standards. The mandate and working methods of the body must also be conceived to contribute to legitimacy and effectiveness.

Our organizations support the call of the Secretary-General to replace the Commission on Human Rights with a new body that has greater authority by being given a higher status in the U.N., and that, as a standing body, is able to meet whenever necessary to address human rights issues in the world.

We call on states to make rapidly a commitment to establish such a new human rights body. We call on states to set up an inclusive process, involving civil society, to discuss and shape the details of the new body. **Please see attachment 2.14 for the full statement.**

Source: Human Rights Watch – 14th April 2005.

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- **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS - Distance education course "INTRODUCTION TO HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION" (21 September-13 December 2005)**

HREA is calling for applications for the distance learning course: "Introduction to Human Rights Education. The course will be offered from September-December 2005. Course instructor is Felisa Tibbitts.

Please note that the registration deadline for this course is 1 July 2005.

Source: Diana Hughes - Distance Learning Programme, HREA <http://www.hrea.org/courses> for course details or write to Jeanne at Afghanlinks@aol.com for a copy. [home](#)

JOB VACANCIES

- **UNDP/Water Supply Dept., MRRD – Requires a Sector Planning Advisor**

The **UNDP/Water Supply Department, The Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development** is looking for qualified and interested candidate for the position of **Sector Planning Advisor**.

Please share and circulate this vacancy widely among your respective staff and interested candidates.

Please note that this vacancy is for **Internationals only** with the closing date of **24 April 2005**.

Source: Wahida Fazli, Human Resources Assistant, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Afghanistan (Kabul). Tel: +93 020 2101682 - 86 (4075) Fax: +873 763 468 836

Visit our website <http://www.undp.org/afghanistan>

Please see attachment 3.14 for the full details of the vacancy.

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- **Women for Women Require a Microfinance Consultant**

Position: Microfinance Consultant Area: **Kabul, Afghanistan** Dept: **Women for Women International – Afghanistan** Status: **9-12 Month term** Location: **Afghanistan**

Founded in 1993, Women for Women International (WWI) is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to providing women with the educational and economic tools and resources they need to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency. We work worldwide with women survivors of war and civil strife. Since its inception, the organization has distributed more than \$18 million in direct aid and microcredit loans and served more than 33,000 women participants. The organization has programs in Bosnia & Herzegovina, Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Rwanda, Kosovo, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Nigeria.

Women for Women International has been providing assistance in Afghanistan since October 2002. Currently, WWI supports more than 2,300 women participants in Afghanistan through our sponsorship program, rights awareness training, literacy classes, skills training, income-generation activities, and micro credit.

Women for Women International is seeking an experienced Microfinance Consultant to work in collaboration with the WWI Country Director to oversee all aspects of the microfinance program. The Microfinance Consultant will also be responsible for developing local capacity to manage the program. This is a nine month contract position based in Kabul, Afghanistan. The position will begin in March 2005.

Duties and Responsibilities:

- Identify, mentor and coach a local microfinance manager.
- Guide the credit supervisor and loan officers in microfinance management and operations.
- Train the finance and accounting staff.
- Assist with the expansion and growth targets set for Year 2 of the program.

Knowledge, Skills, and Experience Needed:

- University and/or post-graduate degree in Business Administration, International Economic Development or related field.
- Minimum five (5) years prior overseas work experience in a microfinance program.
- Solid understanding of microfinance operations and strong financial and accounting skills.
- Excellent interpersonal skills with experience in a mentoring/coaching relationship.
- Familiarity with bi- and multi-lateral government agencies, donors, non-governmental organizations and other development agencies.
- Overseas experience in post-conflict environment.
- Experience in providing capacity building assistance to national staff.
- Self motivated and goal/deadline oriented.

- Excellent computer skills.
- Ability to work as a team member.
- Ability to handle stress and work under pressure at times.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Strong commitment to working with women and women's issues.

To Apply:

Submit a cover letter and resume via e-mail (preferred), fax or regular mail to:
Women for Women International

ATTN: Human Resources

1850 M Street, NW
Suite 1090

Washington, DC 20036

Fax: 202.293.0853

E-Mail: humanresources@womenforwomen.org (preferred)

(Reference Microfinance Consultant in the subject line of e-mail applications)

It is not necessary to resubmit an application if you have previously applied.

*** Only candidates who are selected for an interview will be contacted. Early application is encouraged. Interviews will be scheduled on a rolling basis. the position will be open until filled. Applicants will be contacted directly to schedule an interview.***

NO CALLS, PLEASE. <http://www.womenforwomen.org/auemjo.html>

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MEDIA AWARDS AND TRAINING

- **Awards And Fellowships - Transparency International Integrity Awards**

Transparency International (TI) invites individuals and organisations to submit nominations for the 2005 Integrity Awards. The annual awards recognise the courage and determination of individuals and organisations fighting corruption around the world.

The winners of the Awards are a source of inspiration because their actions echo a common message: corruption is surmountable.

Candidates must have undertaken an action that is likely to significantly influence, or have had a significant impact on, existing levels of corruption in his or her country or region. Their actions must be particularly imaginative, innovative or courageous, and deserving of international recognition.

The TI Integrity Awards were established in 2000. To date, awards have been given to 11 activists. In many cases, the awards have led to a change of laws in certain countries. The awards also serve to encourage and support the winners in their anti-corruption initiatives. Past winners have been honoured for tackling corrupt practices in the pharmaceutical industry, exposing an oil-and-supplies scam in the military, uncovering corruption in the tax system and pioneering the introduction of a new judicial management system.

Nominations must be submitted no later than 1 July 2005. Award winners will be honoured on 11 November 2005. For more information, visit

<http://www.transparency.org/integrityawards/index.html> or e-mail styler@transparency.org

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- **Training Course Reporting on Food and Agriculture to be held from 2 May – 11 June 2005**

Press Release

Online course on reporting commodities opens May 2

MANILA, March 29 – The Konrad Adenauer Center for Journalism at the Ateneo de Manila University (CFJ) is now accepting applications for a six-week online course on **Reporting on Food and Agriculture to be held from 2 May – 11 June 2005**

The course aims to develop skills on writing about farm topics and will tackle a wide range of issues including environmental degradation, genetically modified seeds, trade

policies and disaster reportage. Major global commodity exchanges and their influence on the decisions of Asian farmers will also be explored.

Rene Pastor, deputy editor of the commodities desk of Reuters in New York will teach this course. Pastor has covered assignments ranging from coups and earthquakes and has worked in Singapore and Manila before his assignment to the United States. He also covered the attacks on the World Trade Center and the destruction of the commodity exchange there.

Fellowships are available to qualified and deserving journalists who are full-time staff of a news media organization in Asia. Applications must be received by Monday, 25 April 2005. Application forms may be downloaded from <http://cfj.ateneo.edu> or requested by e-mail at newsroom@admu.edu.ph and submitted by fax at +632 926 3254. The CFJ may also be contacted by phone at +632 926 3253 or +632 426 6001 (local 5215).

CFJ, a joint project of the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) and the Ateneo, was founded in June 2000 to promote good journalism in Asia. It carries out its mandate by providing training opportunities primarily to working journalists in the region. Journalists from the Pacific Islands are also welcome to apply. CFJ training programs include the diploma programs in online and broadcast journalism, certificate courses and a degree program leading to the Master of Arts in Journalism. [home](#)

SECURITY

- **Kabul - Warden Message - April 12, 2005**

As the abduction of a U.S. citizen in Kabul on April 10, 2005 demonstrates, the potential remains great for attacks against U.S. citizens and interests in Afghanistan. While the victim was able to escape from his abductors soon after being kidnapped, this incident highlights the need for U.S. citizens in Afghanistan to maintain a high level of vigilance and to take appropriate steps to increase their security awareness. The Embassy recommends that all Americans living and working in Kabul continue to restrict their movements, observe the strictest of security measures, and defer any unnecessary travel around the city. The Embassy particularly recommends that U.S. citizens in all parts of Afghanistan avoid traveling alone at any time.

Americans in Afghanistan are urged to monitor the local news and maintain contact with the U.S. Embassy in Kabul. As the Embassy continues to develop information on any potential security threats to U.S. citizens in Afghanistan, it will share them with the American community via the Warden System. We take this opportunity to remind the community of the continuing threats outlined in the current Travel Warning for Afghanistan and Worldwide Caution Public Announcement. The full text of each can be found at <http://travel.state.gov>. Updated information may also be obtained by contacting the American Embassy in Kabul at usconsulkabul@state.gov or by calling the Consular Section on 020-230-0436.

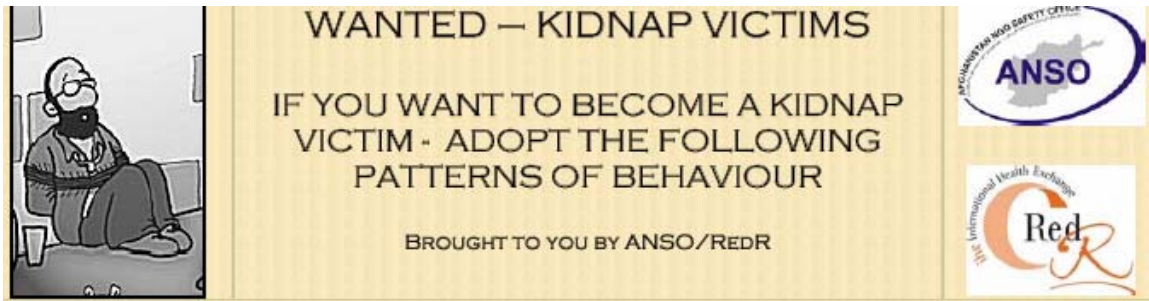
The Department of State also shares information through its consular information program documents, available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>. In addition to information on the Internet, U.S. travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the U.S. or outside the U.S. and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. **Source:** Russel J. Brown, Consul, United States Embassy, Kabul, Afghanistan. [home](#)

- **Kidnap Threat**

Information received from Coalition Forces indicating a threat of kidnap to US nationals. This threat should be assumed to apply to all foreign nationals and not only US nationals.

Source: Nick Downie, Project Coordinator, Afghanistan NGO Security Office coordinator@afgnso.org Mob: 0093(0)70 283320 Mob: 0093(0)79 322133 Thuraya Sat: 0088216 21200728 Mobique Sat: 0087376 3093395. [home](#)

- **WANTED – KIDNAP VICTIMS**



- Convince yourself that: "It will not happen to me"
- Assume that you are invulnerable to kidnap because of your nationality/ ethnicity/religion/sex/work that you or your NGO are doing.
- Ensure your movements and timings are entirely predictable - to make it easier for the kidnapers to abduct you.
- Always travel to work at the same time and by the same route.
- Adopt a high profile so that everybody knows where you live and work.
- Publish your movement plans well in advance so that the maximum number of people will know to where, when and how you are traveling.
- Always travel alone on foot and preferably at night-this will make you a prime and easy target for amateur kidnapers.
- Always travel alone at night in a large white 4wd -this will make it easier for kidnapers to follow you and study your movement patterns.
- Never carry a radio or phone so that you are unable to summon help or tell people your whereabouts.
- Do not report suspicious activity (such as being followed – your office/house being watched), or change your patterns of behavior.
- Ensure your guards do not know how to behave or react if they too see suspicious activity outside your home or residence.
- Finally ensure your drivers do not know how to behave if a kidnap attempt occurs.

Further advice and training can be obtained from RedR/ANSO redr@afgnso.org [home](#)

Source: ANSO – 14th April 2005

- **Karzai to ask Bush for Security Deal – Karzai wants Long Term Security Partnership with US and Possible Permanent Military Presence**

President Hamid Karzai said Wednesday he is preparing a formal request to President Bush for a long-term security partnership that could include a permanent U.S. military presence. At a joint news conference with U.S. Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, Karzai said he had consulted many of his country's citizens in recent weeks about "a strategic security relationship," with the United States that could help Afghanistan avoid foreign interference and military conflicts. "The conclusion we have drawn is that the Afghan people want a long-term relationship with the United States," Karzai said. "They want this relationship to be a sustained economic and political relationship and most importantly of all, a strategic security relationship to enable Afghanistan to defend itself, to continue to prosper, to stop the possibility of interferences in Afghanistan."

Karzai said he has previously discussed this with Bush, but is now planning to formalize the request, but did not say when. Rumsfeld was asked about America's willingness to offer security guarantees to Afghanistan and to establish permanent military bases here. He said this was a matter for President Bush to decide. In Washington, White House press secretary Scott McClellan said Wednesday that "discussions are ongoing" with Karzai on future security arrangements but would not comment on Bush's position on a permanent U.S. military presence in Afghanistan or other long-term partnership. "I don't want to speculate about anything beyond that," McClellan said. Rumsfeld described the military-to-military relationship between Afghanistan and the United States as good, and said it had grown and strengthened, but he was noncommittal on whether Washington hoped to establish permanent military bases.

"What we generally do when we work with another country is what we have been doing. We find ways we can be helpful, maybe training, equipment or other types of assistance. We think in terms of what we are doing rather than the question of military bases and that type thing," Rumsfeld said. **Source:** Robert Burns, Associated Press, 14th April 2005. [home](#)

- **Oxford Research Group**

As you may know, the 2005 Review Conference of the Parties to the [Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons \(NPT\)](#) will be held in New York next month.

In the words of the United Nations, the NPT is "a landmark international treaty whose objective is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology, to promote co-operation in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and to further the goal of achieving nuclear disarmament and general and complete disarmament". We, like many NPT State Parties and other independent analysts, believe that the NPT remains the pivotal nuclear arms control instrument, which requires continued and renewed support. However, the thirty-year nuclear non-proliferation regime is in danger of disintegrating due to the divergent perspectives of some State Parties.

In the run-up to the Review Conference, Oxford Research Group (ORG) is pleased to announce publication of a further six policy briefings in the joint ORG/BASIC ['Breakthrough or Bust' NPT project](#).

This now brings to 12 the number of briefing papers in our series, with a final four briefings and a summary overview to be published shortly.

Overview - [Breakthrough or Bust in '05?: The Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference](#) (pdf) Feb. '05

No.1 - [Strengthening the NPT Regime](#) (pdf) Feb. '05

No.2 - [Nuclear Weapons Free Zones: The Untold Success Story of Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation](#) (pdf) Feb. '05

No.3 - [Turning Security Assurances into a Legally Binding Instrument](#) (pdf) Feb. '05

No.4 - [Test Moratorium and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty](#) (pdf) Mar. '05

No.5 - [The US-UK Mutual Defence Agreement: Contributing to Vertical Proliferation?](#) (pdf) Mar. '05

No.6 - [Challenging the NPT: North Korea's Nuclear Weapons Programme](#) (pdf) Mar. '05

No.7 - [The Importance of a Fissile Material Treaty](#) (pdf) Apr. '05

No.8 - [NATO: Nuclear Sharing or Proliferation?](#) (pdf) Apr. '05

No.9 - [The Illegality of Nuclear Weapons](#) (pdf) Apr. '05

No.10 - [A Promise Not Realised: Nuclear Disarmament by the Nuclear Weapon States](#) (pdf) Apr. '05

No.11 - [Towards a Universal Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime](#) (pdf) Apr. '05

No.12 - [The Need for a Strengthened IAEA Safeguards System](#) (pdf) Apr. '05

We have recently met in Geneva with a large number of key State Parties to the NPT, who have expressed appreciation of our work and have engaged very seriously with our analyses and recommendations. We are hopeful that our work will have influenced the nature and direction of the debate on some of the key issues facing the conference.

Please [contact us](#) if you would like any more information about the NPT and our joint project.

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F: +44 (0)1865 794652 www.oxfordresearchgroup.org.uk

Latest Oxford Research Group publications

[Endless War: The global war on terror and the new Bush Administration](#) - Paul Rogers

[Iraq in Light of the January Elections](#) - David Beetham

[Breakthrough or Bust in '05? The NPT Review Conference](#) - ORG and BASIC

International security monthly briefing

[The Bush Administration, Insurgencies and Iran](#) - March 2005.

Source: Dr. John Sloboda, Oxford Research Group - Executive Director – 15th April, 2005. [home](#)

UNAMA PRESS BRIEFING
TALKING POINTS

- **Civic education campaign starting; first posters released**

With the elections now scheduled for 18 September, the Joint Electoral Management Body (JEMB) is starting to publish material to inform Afghans of their rights and duties as voters - or as candidates. This is done in the framework of a countrywide civic education campaign, much like it was done during the Presidential Election.

Displayed behind me are the first two posters produced by the JEMB. As you see, the posters are in Dari and Pashto. One of them urges Afghans to vote for the Wolesi Jirga and the Provincial Councils. The other reminds voters they need to be registered to cast their ballots and for those who have not yet registered, they will be able to do so in the near future.

As more visual material will be released for the civic education campaign, they will all bear the same inscription, which you can read at the bottom of the posters in the section in green: "Vote and participate in the rebuilding of Afghanistan!" This will be the civic education campaign's trademark.

We have CDs on the side-table. Each includes a digital copy of both posters, in Dari and Pashto. Print media, please feel free to download the posters and publish them in your newspapers.

- **Three-week candidate nomination period to begin on April 30th**

On April 3rd, the JEMB made a decision regarding candidate nomination for the elections. From April 30th until May 19th, candidates will be able to register their applications to run for the Wolesi Jirga or the Provincial Councils in Candidate Nomination Offices, which are currently established in each 34 province.

To do so however, potential candidates will have to meet specific requirements as stipulated in the Constitution, the Electoral Law and the JEMB regulations. Potential candidates will have to be registered as voters, be over the age of 18 - in the case of the Provincial Councils - and over 25 for the Wolesi Jirga; candidates will not be able to apply if convicted or deprived from their civil rights by a court decision. In addition, potential candidates will have to present a list of signatures of registered voters, provide a monetary deposit and sign and abide by the Code of Conduct for Candidates. One of the key points of the Code of Conduct is the compulsory declaration by candidates that they do not command – or belong to – illegal military forces or armed groups. Finally, in certain cases specified by the law, candidates may also have to resign from public office.

By 25th May, a preliminary list of candidates will be finalized. From June 4th until June 9th, candidates and registered voters will be permitted to challenge the nomination of candidates on the preliminary list.

Click [here](#) to view the fact sheets in Dari, Pashto and English. **Please see attachment 3.14 for the full briefing. Source:** Ariane Quentier - Snr. Public Information Officer – 14th April 2005.

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If you want further information on any of the above subjects please email Jeanne Bryer at 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 and your address will be removed.

