

# AFGHAN LINKS

ISSUE – 19 – 19th May 2005 (TOTAL NO. 28)

*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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## **CONFERENCE**

### **UK to hold June donor conference for Afghanistan**

17.05.2005 Britain will hold a donor conference next month to raise funds to help rebuild Afghanistan, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said on Monday.

It will be in London on June 21, two days before Straw hosts foreign ministers from the G8 group of industrialised nations.

"We seek continued long-term international support and (the donor conference) will be another opportunity," said Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah at a news conference with Straw. The conference, which takes place three years after U.S.-led forces overthrew the Taliban, aims to raise aid for post-war reconstruction before existing commitments run out.

Billions of dollars of aid have been earmarked for Afghanistan in the last three years. A conference in Berlin last year raised pledges of \$8.3 billion.

Britain says it is the third-biggest international donor to Afghanistan and has contributed over \$100 million for the narcotics war alone.

Abdullah's visit to London comes at a sensitive time.

Tension is running high following anti-American protests in which 16 people were killed in Afghanistan after U.S. magazine Newsweek reported that U.S. interrogators had desecrated the Koran.

Newsweek has since said the report may not be true but it sparked protests across the Muslim world.

Afghanistan's government, formed just four months ago, has a long way to go to establish a safe and stable country.

Straw said "visible, palpable progress" was being made but Abdullah stressed the need for international support.

He insisted the latest protests did not represent a widespread rejection of western engagement.

"There are extremist elements, those who don't want the process of democratisation, stabilisation, rebuilding of Afghanistan," he said.

"But without the continuation of support from the international community ... the process is not consolidated enough for Afghanistan to stand on its own feet."

**Source:** <http://www.afghanmania.com>

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## **COUNTER-NARCOTICS – PRESS RELEASES**

- **Afghan Special Narcotics Force Conducts Renewed Operations In Nangarhar Province Against Traffickers**



**Kabul, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2005:** This morning (Tuesday) the Afghan Special Narcotics Force (ASN) began a series of raids in the Achin District of Nangarhar Province. The main objective of the operation is to disrupt illegal narcotics activities there.

The Afghan Minister of Interior, Ali Ahmad Jalali, notes that "this is the latest in a series of operations, demonstrating that the ASN is fighting the narcotics traffickers, who are the real enemies of progress in Afghanistan."

The ASN acts under the direct authority of President Karzai and the Minister of Interior. "The cultivation, processing and trafficking of narcotic drugs are illegal acts and are against Islam," says Mr Jalali. "That is why we are stepping up our efforts this year to uphold the rule of law, seize and destroy drugs, and bring drug traffickers to justice."

Since it became operational in January 2004, the ASN has carried out a series of operations across Afghanistan, destroying over 100 tonnes of opium, over 30 tonnes of precursor chemicals and over 80 drug processing laboratories. An elite, professional force, led and manned by Afghans of all ethnic backgrounds, it has recently grown significantly in size.

“The operations of the ASNF are directed at the drug traffickers,” says the Afghan Minister of Counter Narcotics, Habibullah Qaderi. “This is an important part of the Government’s counter narcotics plan for this year, launched by President Karzai on 16<sup>th</sup> February.”

The Force attaches great importance to speaking to local people during operations, including village elders and police officers. It has always received a positive response during its operations, highlighted by the fact that elders and police officers have identified additional criminal sites of interest. In order to ensure that narcotic drugs are destroyed, the ASNF has the authority to destroy its captured drugs on site during an operation. [home](#)

- **Afghan Government And United Nations Launch Survey To Assess Extent Of Drug Abuse In Afghanistan**

### **15<sup>th</sup> May 2005**

Kabul, 15th May 2005: The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Government of Afghanistan’s Ministry of Counter Narcotics have launched a joint project to assess the extent of drug abuse throughout Afghanistan.

According to the Afghan Minister of Counter Narcotics, Habibullah Qaderi, “the return of Afghan refugees from neighbouring countries and the availability of drugs within Afghanistan have undoubtedly added to the problem of drug abuse. It is difficult, however, to know the level of this abuse within the country, as no comprehensive study has yet taken place. So that is why we have launched this project.”

Data collection for the nationwide project is to be carried out in three phases. The first phase, which has just begun over the past few days, aims to collect data in eleven provinces of east and central Afghanistan: Kabul, Parwan, Kapisa, Logar, Paktia, Khost, Wardak, Nangarhar, Laghman, Kunar and Nuristan. The Second Phase of the survey will be conducted in the south and south-west regions of Afghanistan, and Phase Three will be carried out in the north-east and north-west regions of the country. Data collection for the whole project throughout the country is due to be completed by the end of June.

“The survey is based on what is called Rapid Situation Assessment methodology, which has been successfully used by UNODC in several other countries,” says Doris Buddenberg, the Representative for Afghanistan of the UNODC. “It consists of a combination of qualitative and quantitative data collection techniques and draws on a variety of data sources, such as interviews and analysis of hospital, prison and other available statistics.”

43 surveyors have been trained in drug demand reduction issues, interviewing skills and data collection techniques. A total of 3,000 interviews are due to be conducted throughout the country with both drug abusers and others involved with the issue. Data will be collected from provincial and district centres as well as from a sample of 161 villages covering 32 districts in 32 provinces.

The outcome of the assessment, which is due in September, will be a description of the nature, pattern and extent of drug abuse in Afghanistan, including an estimated figure of the number of drug abusers in the country. .

Mr Qaderi notes that “the results of the assessment will help provide necessary information for the development of intervention strategies for preventing drug abuse, and for planning the treatment and rehabilitation of drug abusers in Afghanistan.”

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- **Attorney General's Office one step closer to delivering justice for narcotics-related crime**

# PRESS RELEASE

United Nations Development Programme

Afghanistan Country Office, Shah Mehmood Ghazi Watt, Kabul



Afghanistan

Kabul, Afghanistan – On 14 May 2005 - UNDP handed over a new building for the Departments of Monitoring and Counter-Narcotics to the Attorney General's Office. In the presence of representatives from Afghan Justice Institutions and donor countries, the ceremonial ribbons were cut. The event included a reception and press briefing, and guests were invited to tour the facility.

The brand new building was constructed under the management of the UNDP Justice programme. Taking over the building will be the Deputies Attorney General for Monitoring and Counter-Narcotics – two branches of the Attorney General's Office. The Department of Counter-Narcotics is a new body within the justice institutions of Afghanistan, whose mandate is to take the lead in the prosecution of crimes related to illegal drug production and narcotics trade in the country.

UNDP's Justice Programme aims to rebuild and strengthen Afghan justice institutions, to develop Afghan law faculties while revising their curricula, and to enhance overall access to justice in the country. This latest contribution to institutional development in the justice sector is more significant than infrastructure and equipment. It contributes to the overall ability of Afghan institutions to administer justice with regard to narcotics-related crime – and to monitor the effectiveness of justice institutions throughout the country. The Project is funded by Italy, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

UNDP Country Director, Mr. Frederick Lyons, stressed that reconstruction is not only physical, stating "We are engaged with our counterpart institutions to assist in developing their human capital, through training and capacity development". He added: "UNDP plays a lead role in helping the institutions review their mandates and operations – the support given by UNDP to the revision of the curriculum in the Law Faculty, the support and advice provided to the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Court on a daily basis, are just some examples of our involvement".

H.E. Sarwar Danish, Minister of Justice, expressed the hope that the international community would continue to support the justice institutions with infrastructure and equipment, as well as badly needed human resource development.

"Today thanks to the work of the Afghan Government and to our donors, we are all witnessing the reconstruction of this country's justice system." stated Mr Lyons, "Half a year after the end of the Bonn-mandated transitional period, the institutions have grown quite considerably, and are on the way to self-reliance".

He addressed the need to extend justice and rule of law country-wide: "One of our current priorities is to help bring the rule of law to all districts – a heavy challenge, which UNDP is keen to take on. For this reason, UNDP is about to start implementation of a district-focused Access to Justice project funded by the European Commission with a contribution from Italy".

Four ribbons were cut, allowing guests to tour the new building. These proceedings were aimed to symbolize the unity and synergy among the Afghan justice institutions, donor countries, and UNDP. The four ribbons were cut by the following attendees:

H.E. Abdul Mahmood Daqeeq, Attorney General, together with Mr. Frederick Lyons, UNDP Country Director.

H.E. Sarwar Danish, Minister of Justice, together with H.E. Ettore Sequi, Ambassador of Italy.  
H.E. Bahauddin Baha, Chairman of the Judicial Reform Commission, together with Mr. Simon Buckle, Chargé d' Affaires of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. H.E. Qyammuddin Kashaf, Judge of the Supreme Court, together with Mr. Yannick Hingorani, Acting Head of the Canadian International Development Agency.

For more information, please contact: Maurizio Giuliano, Communications Specialist (Justice), +93-(0)70-152757, [publicinfo.justice.af@undp.org](mailto:publicinfo.justice.af@undp.org); or Gary S. Holub, Communications Officer, +93-(0)70-201122, [gary.holub@undp.org](mailto:gary.holub@undp.org) [home](#)

## **HUMAN RIGHTS**

- **Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and NGOs Call on UN to Ensure Adequate Monitoring of Human Rights Situation in Afghanistan**

The overwhelming poverty within Afghanistan means that millions of people are not able to exercise even their most basic social and economic rights – such as the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being, to medical care, and to an education. In addition, there are other continuing abuses of human rights in Afghanistan, such as: widespread violations of women's rights; reports of child abduction and trafficking; the power of factional commanders, who engage in intimidation, extortion and land seizures; restrictions on the rights of minorities and other vulnerable groups; and arbitrary arrest, detention and torture by personnel associated with Government authorities. There are also credible reports of human rights violations by Coalition forces.

Finally, the work of the Independent Expert was essential insofar as he also provided critical support to the work of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

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کمیسیون مستقل حقوق  
بشر افغانستان



د افغانستان د بشر  
د حقوقو خپلواک  
کمیسیون

**May 16, 2005**

We are very concerned that the UN Human Rights Commission has not extended the mandate of the Independent Expert on Human Rights in Afghanistan. Although progress has been made since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, there are still significant, on-going human rights concerns in Afghanistan. We call on the UN Human Rights Commission to renew the mandate of the Independent Expert at its next session, and to explain how the High Commissioner for Human Rights intends to ensure proper and adequate monitoring of the human rights situation in Afghanistan in the meantime.

A recent UN report ranked Afghanistan 173 out of 178 countries on the Human Development Index. The overwhelming poverty within Afghanistan means that millions of people are not able to exercise even their most basic social and economic rights – such as the right to a standard of living adequate for health and well-being, to medical care, and to an education. In Afghanistan, over 25% of children die before the age of five, 60% of households have no access to safe drinking water, and only 28.7% of the population is literate (including only 14.1% of all women).

In addition, there are other continuing abuses of human rights in Afghanistan, such as: widespread violations of women's rights, including violence against women; reports of child abduction and trafficking; the power of factional commanders, engaging in intimidation, extortion and land seizures; restrictions on the rights of minorities and other vulnerable groups; and arbitrary arrest, detention and torture by personnel associated with Government authorities.

We are also concerned by reports that Coalition forces have arbitrarily detained Afghans in conditions which violate human rights law and international humanitarian law, including: unauthorized entry, arrest and detention without legal authority, and numerous allegations of torture and other mistreatment.

The role of the Independent Expert is essential, especially as the Independent Expert has provided critical support to the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in fulfilling its mandate.

We hope that the UN Human Rights Commission will continue to be as actively engaged in monitoring the human rights situation in Afghanistan as it has been in the past.

**Dr. Sima Samar**, Chairperson, Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission

**Other Signatories:** Afghanaid, Afghan Civil Society Forum, CARE, Christian Aid, Cordaid, Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC), Japan International Volunteer Center (JVC), Norwegian Project Office / Rural Rehabilitation Association for Afghanistan, Norwegian Refugee Council, Ockenden International, Sanayee Development Foundation, Tribal Liaison Office, Trocaire, War Child.

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## **JOB VACANCY**

### **Save the Children Require a Programme Manager – North Afghanistan**

Programme Manager – North Afghanistan required. Salary: - £25, 002 p.a, 12 months, Unaccompanied

Leading from the front, you'll plan and manage all aspects of the regional programme. You'll assess and respond strategically to local humanitarian and protection needs, and then continuously monitor and report upon progress made. Managing resources and finances alike, you'll also maintain communication networks with colleagues and key partners up to government level. And when successful, you'll ensure we meet both the short-term emergency and long-term rehabilitation needs of children throughout the region.

With substantial experience of international NGO relief and development work, and a solid understanding of the staff, security and resource management involved, you're well equipped to make a real impact. You're flexible, analytical and adaptable, and you have the communication skills needed to represent our work and negotiate at all levels. You're politically and culturally sensitive too, and comfortable managing, implementing and evaluating often-complex projects.

**This is a readvertisement: Previous candidates need not apply. Please see attachment 4.19 for the job description and person specification.**

Please complete an online application at [www.savethechildren.org.uk/jobs](http://www.savethechildren.org.uk/jobs)

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## **JUSTICE**

**PRESS BRIEFING - PRESENTATION TO THE MEDIA OF UNDP JUSTICE PROGRAMME'S NEWSLETTER "THE JUSTICE MONITOR"**



United Nations Development Programme

Communications Office

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**PRESS BRIEFING : PRESENTATION TO THE MEDIA OF UNDP JUSTICE PROGRAMME'S  
NEWSLETTER "THE JUSTICE MONITOR"**

**When:** Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2005, 10:00 hrs (10 am)  
**Where:** UNAMA (Compound B), Press Briefing Room

UNDP is deeply involved in efforts to re-establish law and order in the country, along with the Afghan Government and the international community. Their project "Rebuilding the Justice Sector of Afghanistan" aims to strengthen Afghan Justice institutions, to develop Afghan law faculties while revising their curricula, and enhance overall access to justice in the country. The project's major donors are Italy, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

The "Justice Monitor" will inform the public, about the work of UNDP and other developments in the justice sector. Indeed, UNDP Justice Programme works very closely, on a daily basis, with Afghanistan's three permanent justice institutions – Ministry of Justice, Attorney General's Office, Supreme Court – and with Kabul University. This new publication will provide news from these institutions, and information on overall challenges and developments in Afghanistan's justice.

The newsletter will be published in Pashto, Dari, and English. Due to technical reasons, only the English version will be available at the briefing, exclusively for the media. An official launch will take place, as soon as the Dari and Pashto versions are printed.

*For further information, please contact:*

Maurizio Giuliano, Communications and Public Information Specialist (Justice), UNDP  
Tel. +93-(0)79-152757 [publicinfo.justice.af@undp.org](mailto:publicinfo.justice.af@undp.org) Gary Holub, Public Information and Communications Officer, UNDP, Tel. +93 (0)70.201.122 [gary.holub@undp.org](mailto:gary.holub@undp.org) **Please see attachment 1.19 for the first issue.** [home](#)

## **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

### **Links to FAQs and Update on Consultative and Advisory Groups' Progress**

The National Development Strategy (NDS) is the Government of Afghanistan's overarching strategy for promoting growth, generating wealth and reducing poverty and vulnerability. It will provide the framework for the development of Government policies, and guide the allocation of resources and programmes towards these goals. The NDS will be prepared in two phases: (i) an Interim NDS will be prepared during 2005 and completed in October 2005; (ii) a Final NDS will be completed in 2006.

The Interim NDS has four components:

- (1) Strategy:** prepare a national strategy for promoting growth and reducing poverty and vulnerability, that builds on earlier strategies;
- (2) Consultation:** ensure consultation among key stakeholders on the Interim NDS in 2005, and prepare a plan for a comprehensive participatory process for the Final NDS in 2006;
- (3) Overcoming Obstacles:** ensure that the NDS takes account of obstacles to it being implemented, and suggests solutions; and
- (4) Data:** gather and use existing data on the nature and causes of poverty, and develop a plan for gathering any additional data needed for the Final NDS in 2006.

**For FAQs on the National Development Strategy go to <http://www.af/NDS/>**

### **Consultative Groups**

Consultative Groups (CGs) are the key vehicles to support Ministries in their preparation of the [National Development Budget](#). There are 16 CGs, each corresponding to one of the National Programmes that make up the structure of the Budget.

Each CG is headed by a Chair Ministry, with support from a donor or UN agency focal point. The rest of the Group is made up of representatives from the Other Ministries concerned with the particular National Programme, along with officers from major donors, UN agencies and NGOs.

Advisory Groups (AGs) have been established to ensure that cross-cutting issues (Gender, Environment, Humanitarian Affairs, Human Rights, M&E, and Counter-Narcotics) are mainstreamed effectively in the work of the CGs, and thereby reflected in policy framework and the Development Budget.

**For link to Consultative and Advisory Groups' progress go to:**

<http://www.af/cg/default.asp>

Next Advisory Group meeting: -

Sunday, May 29, 2005	2:00:00 PM	Humanitarian Affairs Advisory Group	SDC Office, st. 13, 3rd Right, H # 486, Wazir Akbar Khan, Kabul.
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## **SECURITY**

- **Kidnapped In Kabul – Embassy of Afghanistan, Ottawa, May 17th, 2005**

The news of the forced abduction of our friend Clementina Cantoni on the night of May 16 in Kabul has shocked us and created new concerns about the security conditions in the Afghan capital.

We have known Clementina for nearly three years and saw her last month in Kabul on several occasions during our recent trip to Afghanistan.

Clementina, who works for CARE International, is a true humanitarian who has devoted several years of her life to helping the destitute and poor, especially widows and orphans. She is a care-giver who has given hope to thousands of Afghans and helped the most disadvantaged members of society earn a dignified living through vocational training and new skills learning. She also ran programs to promote small-scale entrepreneurship among women. Despite opportunities to work in other parts of the world, she was drawn to Afghanistan. During our last meeting in mid-April, she announced that she would take a break from her work in Afghanistan in June, after serving for over three years as an international aid worker there.

We ask the abductors to show compassion toward a friend of the Afghan people and immediately release her from captivity. Afghans are known for their hospitality to all. This act goes

counter to all Afghan, Islamic and human norms. As the widows of Kabul said today during a demonstration, "this act brings shame upon our country."

At this moment, our thoughts and prayers are with Clementina, and with her family and friends. We eagerly await the happy news of her safe release.

**Source:** Ambassador Omar Samad and Mrs. Samad, Embassy of Afghanistan, Ottawa, May 17, 2005. [home](#)

- **UN Security Measures Since May 9<sup>th</sup> 2005 that Remain in Place**

**SECURITY MEASURES:**

**AFGHANISTAN** (from 9 May 2005)

No	Aspect	Security Measures
		<b>Effective 9 May 2005. Will be reviewed on 23 May 2005</b>
1	Curfew for all UN Agencies	<b>23h00</b> in Kabul. ASCs to determine in other regions
2	Social Functions (See Note 2)	Yes – with prior security review and additional security measures.
3	Restaurants	<b>International staff not allowed to visit the previously security cleared restaurants</b>
4	Public Places/Bazaar	<b>No visits to public places, or Internet Café's. Chicken Street off limit.</b>
5	UN Agency Conferences/ Workshops	Yes – with prior security review
6	Working days and working hours	Normal
7	Radio Check /Carrying of radios	<b>All International UN Staff must have VHF Radio with them at ALL times.</b>
8	Increased tracking of international staff movement in cities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Advanced Defensive/ Evasive Driver Training</b></li> <li>• <b>Security awareness training/ briefing for all staff.</b> To include: Communications drills, Emergency incident actions and reporting procedures, and hostage incident management for staff.</li> <li>• <b>Mandatory Agency radio/staff tracking</b></li> <li>• <b>Restrict road movement in Cities (especially Kabul) for all international staff as follows:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peak periods (06h30 to 08h30 and 16h00 to 18h00): 1 x MOSS vehicle to and from Workplace. Increased UNPU &amp; Rapid Action Division (RAD) patrolling during this period.</li> <li>• Work Hours (i.e. 08h30 to 16h30): 2 x MOSS vehicles.</li> <li>• After hours and weekends: 2 x MOSS vehicles.</li> <li>• Mandatory Radio check with international staff daily.</li> <li>• Increased UNPU &amp; RAD patrolling</li> <li>• Extra UNPU mobile patrol to be in location of UNOCA main gate to assist with night travel along the JAA-KBL road.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9	Staff levels (WSL, RSL, ESL)	WSL
10	Visits/Mission to Afghanistan	Normal
11	Staff rotations (incoming staff)	Normal
12	Road+ Air Missions	Normal
13	Increased Guards/ QRF	As per MOSS
14	Accommodation of UN international staff	<b>All MOSS compliant Guest Houses are Safe Havens. International UN staff may only stay in a MOSS compliant Guest House. List of UN DSS cleared non-UN Guest Houses for use by international staff on a temporary basis should be revisited.</b>
15	Visitors to UNICA Guest Houses	No open nights – UN staff members invited guests only

**Notes:**

1. International staff **not allowed** to visit the previously security cleared restaurants, or any other Restaurant within Kabul City, or as cleared by AFSCOs in other regions. The following Restaurants are also off limits with immediate effect:
  - Elbow Room, District # 2
  - Red Hot Sizzling, District # 16
  - Intercontinental Hotel, District # 4
  - Karwan Sarah, District # 4

- German Restaurant, District # 10
- Gandamak, District # 10
- Anar, District # 10
- L'Atmosphere, District #10

2. **EMERGENCY INCIDENT REPORTING PROCEDURES:** Immediate actions that should occur on all initial emergency security incidents:

- In the event of an emergency the first point of contact is with Kilo Delta Base Radio Room, Agency Radio Room, or a Security Officer (Kilo Zulu-1, Kilo Zulu-2). Start your call with the words 'EMERGENCY- EMERGENCY-EMERGENCY – SECURITY INCIDENT'. If it is not an emergency then start with 'SECURITY- SECURITY-SECURITY – SECURITY INCIDENT' You should provide the following initial information:
  - Call Sign (Name)
  - Exact location (if possible)
  - Time of incident
  - Type of incident/emergency
  - Number of UN casualties
  - Any assistance required
- When an EMERGENCY or SECURITY message is called ALL non-essential radio traffic is to cease on that particular channel.
- Listen in to the radio net so that you know what is happening and can receive any general security messages; this is the primary communication means.
- Security Alert Stages may be given; **White City, Yellow City Lock Office, Safe House, Bunker**

- **ANSO Survey**

A survey has recently been circulated regarding the ANSO project and how it can be improved. The response to this survey has been fairly poor to date, with only 13 returns from the over two thousand people on this distribution list. ANSO has hired an outside consultant to review its activities with the firm intention of improving its services - key part of this process is feedback from beneficiaries. I would like to urge you to please send in your response in order to bring benefit to the community as a whole. Strong criticism is invited – this is not meant to be an exercise that validates the status quo, but one that really examines how effective the program is and where it needs to be improved. My thanks to everyone who has already responded and to those that will respond in the near future. Phillip Halton, Security Consultant, ANSO External Review Project, AWCC 079 323 792. **Please see the attachment 2.19 and submit completed surveys directly to [philliphaltan@yahoo.ca](mailto:philliphaltan@yahoo.ca) [home](#)**

- **ANSO-CARE report, "NGO Insecurity in Afghanistan", released Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2005**

NGOs operate in all provinces of Afghanistan, including in areas where there is minimal UN or Government presence; yet the unprecedented number of NGO fatalities (41 NGO staff killed since 2003) has made it more difficult to reach those in need. The report analyzes the issue of NGO insecurity in Afghanistan, and includes statistics on NGO fatalities since 2003, as well as the result of a survey of over 50 NGOs on how insecurity affects their operations. Michael Kleinman, Advocacy Coordinator, CARE Afghanistan, Tel.: 070 276 716. Email: [michael.kleinman@care.org.af](mailto:michael.kleinman@care.org.af)  
**Please see attachment 3.19 for the Report. [home](#)**

- **Foreign Agencies Attacked In Badakhshan**

The offices of foreign aid organisations including FOCUS and the Agha Khan Foundation, AKF, been set on fire in the Faizabad and Baharak districts of the northeastern province of Badakhshan. After Friday prayers on May 13, worshippers staged protests outside the NGO offices, apparently incited by mullahs at the mosques. The demonstrations were initially peaceful, but turned violent after policemen shot into the crowd, killing or injuring a number of people. Protestors then looted and torched buildings used by AKF, FOCUS, Afghan Aid and the United Nations World Food Programme. (Cheragh is an independent daily run by the Development and Democracy Association.) **Source:** IWPR'S AFGHAN PRESS MONITOR, No. 71, May 16, 2005. [home](#)

## YOUTH CONVENTION

### Youth Convention Sets Agenda for Afghanistan's Future



Media Release  
15 May 2005

### Youth Convention Sets Agenda for Afghanistan's Future

More than 60 university students from around Afghanistan have met in Herat to discuss their role in the future of their country. Students from Kandahar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Khost, Herat, Bamyan, Jalalabad and Kabul attended the convention organized by Sayara Media & Communication at Herat University, from May 10-12.

Titled "Securing Afghanistan's Future: The Leaders of Tomorrow", the convention tackled subjects from future opportunities for young women to the state of Afghanistan's universities.

Guests included the Deputy Minister for Youth Affairs, Nematullah Bejhan, two representatives from the Ministry of Higher Education, Najibullah Nazif and Dr. Shah Wali ullah Adib, along with experts in education, women's rights and politics, included Mrs. Fauzia Azzis, Director of Education for UNESCO in Afghanistan.

In a joint conclusion document elaborated by students, the participants underlined that the Conventions "gave the students a unique opportunity to meet their colleagues from around the country" and "set a framework of action and discussion on the important issues of the country".

Kandahar University student Rokia said that "the conferences gave a new framework of action for the new generation of university students in Afghanistan". "It is the first time we have the opportunity to meet colleagues from 7 universities and have an active role on the learning process", she added. Marzia Nekzod, a student from Balkh University, underlined the importance of "these kind of initiatives to the national unity of Afghanistan". "In a few years we may all meet again as main players of Afghanistan, so it is good to get to know from now".

Students from these universities will attend a second convention in Kabul from May 21-23. The focus will be on the parliamentary elections and the establishment of democratic processes and institutions in Afghanistan.

The conventions are organised by Sayara Media & Communication as part of its national Novice Journalism Training Program (NJTP). Since 2002, the NJTP has trained nearly 800 students from six universities and established 5 campus radio facilities and training media centers.

The NJTP is a USAID-supported project developed by Sayara and managed in coordination with the Ministry of Higher Education and five regional universities in Herat, Mazar-i-Sharif, Jalalabad, Khost and Kandahar. NJTP training has also taken place at Kabul University.

**For more information about the conventions, the NJTP or Sayara Media and Communication please contact:** Gabriel Dvoskin, Project Director, Novice Journalism Training Program, Sayara Media and Communication, [gabrieldvoskin@sayara-media.com](mailto:gabrieldvoskin@sayara-media.com) or 070291740. Enayat Hakim, National Coordinator, Novice Journalism Training, Program, Sayara Media and Communication, [enayat\\_hakim@yahoo.com](mailto:enayat_hakim@yahoo.com) or 070274173. [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.**



