

AFGHAN LINKS

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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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ACBAR PRESS STATEMENT

ACBAR Condemns Attack On Mosque



ACBAR CONDEMNS ATTACK ON MOSQUE

ACBAR expresses, on behalf of its membership, its feelings of shock and outrage over the cowardly attack out yesterday in the Abdul Rab Akhonzada which has left 20 dead and over 50 wounded.

The fact that this attack was carried out in a mosque, during the memorial service for Maulawi Abdullah Fayaz, murdered two days ago makes this act even more reprehensible.

ACBAR condemns this act in the strongest possible manner.

ACBAR likes to express its solidarity with the people of Kandahar and convey its sympathy to the friends and relatives of the victims of this horrendous attack. It is convinced that the Afghan people will continue to stand firm against all acts of violence targeting innocent people.

ACBAR asks the international community and the Afghan government to step up the international community to double their efforts to create a secure environment for ordinary Afghans to live a normal life.

Source: Acbar information office 2nd June 2005.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- **The full text of the NGO Code of Conduct**

Please see attachment 1.21 for the NGO Code of Conduct.

- **Statement Of The Special Representative Of The Secretary General Of The United Nations For Afghanistan At The Launch Of The NGO Code Of Conduct**

UNAMA and the family of UN agencies warmly congratulate Afghan and international NGOs on the launch of their Code of Conduct. It sets very high standards that are relevant not only to NGOs but to the aid community at large. It should be broadcast far and wide and will boost popular confidence in what all of us are trying to achieve in Afghanistan.

There is no doubt that the reconstruction effort needs more transparency and accountability, from everyone. In the past three years, in the rush to try and deliver the peace dividends that the Bonn agreement called for, and to address the dramatic social and economic deficit the country suffers from, some basic requirements were sometimes overshadowed and some important lines were blurred, helped by a persistent legal and policy vacuum.

Together with the upcoming NGO legislation, the Code of Conduct paves the way for what should be a new and better framework for reconstruction, in which the respective roles of NGOs, the private sector and government entities are clearly defined, regulated and monitored. It should be supplemented with the lessons that have been learned regarding the functions of PRTs in the area of reconstruction.

This effort will not only benefit the NGO community. It will enable the reconstruction process in Afghanistan to retain a feature essential to its success: drawing on the goodwill, the expertise,

knowledge and comparative advantages of the widest possible gamut of individuals and organizations – civilians and military, Afghans and foreigners, public, private and NGOs sectors.

The NGO community has been a pillar of Afghanistan's survival in the past two decades, with which the UN has worked very closely and which the UN is proud to call a partner. Today's initiative can only make this partnership stronger, and establish Afghan civil society even more firmly as a key actor in the rebuilding of its country. Kabul, 30 May 2005.

JOB VACANCY

British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG) Require a Project Manager

www.refugeecouncil.org.uk

The humanitarian situation in Afghanistan changes all the time. You'll make sure we do too.

BAAG
BRITISH AND IRISH AGENCIES AFGHANISTAN GROUP

REFUGEE COUNCIL

project manager

brixton, london £31,191

The British and Irish Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG) was set up almost twenty years ago to make public the humanitarian needs of the Afghanistan people and Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan. Our expertise and knowledge have grown over the years and we now stand as one of the most influential and effective networks in our field. Following recent events in Afghanistan and a full service review, we're seeking to strengthen our advocacy capacity and become more influential with policy makers. In this brand new role, working with the Refugee Council, you'll make sure we succeed.

Your primary challenge will be to implement the strategic direction as defined and agreed in our organisational review. At the head of a specialist team, you'll lead the development of our advocacy, fundraising and policy making strategies, while representing us in negotiations at government level. You'll also maintain an overview of the developments in Afghanistan and how they impact our work. In everything you do, you'll remain balanced, objective and sensitive to the needs of all groups involved in the BAAG - from large NGOs to small specialist agencies.

An experienced manager with knowledge of the operating environment in Afghanistan and two years' experience of aid work with an NGO, you're more than up to the challenge. Your experience also includes planning projects, developing policy and advocacy and both creating and implementing fundraising strategies. You're analytical and results driven too, with the ability to build relationships with external partners and represent our work at the very highest levels. Given the nature of the role, you must be willing to work flexibly and travel when required.

For an application pack please phone 020 7832 1623 and quote ref: RC230/G.
Closing date for receipt of completed application forms: 15th June 2005.
Downloadable application packs available from www.jobsincharities.co.uk

The Refugee Council - taking positive action for equal opportunities. Charity No. 1014576

MEDIA

Herat tunes in to a new Dawn

TOLO TV, the station that has captured the spirit of the new Afghanistan, has officially launched in the regional capital of Herat.

TOLO, which means dawn, has captured the mood and voice of the new Afghanistan since its launch in October 2004. TOLO's programs are contemporary, its male and female hosts represent the many faces of Afghanistan, and it brings national and international news, issues and entertainment to its eager audiences.

"TOLO has become the leading station in all of our free to air terrestrial cities, Kabul and Mazar because our philosophy is to broadcast programming that is relevant and engaging for our audiences. This model has also driven the success of TOLO TV's related radio station ARMAN FM.

"It is interesting to note that our entertainment programs as well as our news and current affairs programs, including the 6.30 report, all have strong followings. Afghans are keen to enjoy themselves after such a troubled past, but they are equally mindful of the importance of personally staying engaged with our nation and the world around us.

"Our audiences have embraced TOLO TV. Based on our experience in launching ARMAN FM in Herat, we expect the people to just as enthusiastically tune in to TOLO TV on Channel 9 as well." said Saad Mohseni, Director of TOLO TV.

TOLO TV will continue its expansion into regional capitals in coming months, with plans to broadcast in Kandahar and Jalalabad underway. TOLO TV also broadcasts via satellite across the region, covering Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, India, Gulf countries, Turkey, Central Asia and parts of Europe. Tolo's satellite coordinates are as follows:

Satellite: SESAT2 at 53 degrees East

Frequency: 11643.5 Mhz

Symbol Rate: 2500

FEC: 3/4

Ku Band

Contact info@tolo.tv for further information, pictures or to arrange interviews.

Source: 2nd June 2005, Tolo TV.

NATO

NATO-GCSP Conference - New Approaches to Civil-Military Relations: Strategies and Practices

Geneva, 6-8 July 2005 - DRAFT PROGRAMME attached – please refer to 2.21

Accommodation

Hotel Mon Repos (Five minutes walk to the WMO Building)

131-133, Rue de Lausanne

CH-1202 Genève

Tél +41 22 909 39 09

Fax +41 22 909 39 93

<http://www.hmrge.ch/accueil.htm>

Venue

WMO Building

7bis Avenue de la Paix

CH – 1211 Geneva

POVERTY

Global Call to Action Against Poverty



The Global Call to Action against Poverty (G-CAP) is a worldwide alliance committed to forcing world leaders to live up to their promises, and to make a breakthrough on poverty in 2005. The objective is rather to act together in order to influence on governments to act against poverty and

to achieve the MDGs than to reach absolute agreement on a detailed global policy platform.

G-CAP wants to be an opportunity for all people who believe in ending poverty; existing coalitions, community groups, Trade Unions, individuals, Religious and Faith groups, campaigners and more for expressing their demands of a real action for overcoming poverty.

In Johannesburg, September 2004, the G-CAP International Facilitation Group identified some broad policies to unite the alliance's actions:

- Trade justice
- Debt cancellation
- A major increase in the quantity and quality of aid
- National efforts to eliminate poverty and achieve the Millennium Development Goals that are sustainable and implemented in a way that is democratic, transparent, and accountable to citizens

Hundreds of organizations and individuals are involved with the different campaigns of this global movement. The White Band Campaign is the one major symbolic action tying together all of alliance's activities and campaigns across the world.

There are two main dates in 2005 where people will be wearing the white band internationally, to demonstrate how many people believe that now is the time to eradicate poverty.

July 1st 2005: To put pressure on world leaders before the G8 meeting, and force them to make decisions to benefit the world's poorest people.

Early September 2005: We are five years into the establishment of the Millennium Development Goals, and the world is way off track. This is the opportunity to make sure that world leaders at least keep these promises to improve the lives of millions of people living in poverty.

G-CAP is also made up of national campaigns around the world. Countries build on existing networks, and the strategies and activities that are already being planned.

The Global Call to Action Against Poverty is an alliance of both South and North; it is not a membership organization.

Any non-profit organization willing to support the core message and joint action is invited to become involved. The main level of co-ordination will be national platforms, layered under regional networks. National activities will be home grown, will include national priorities and national demands and will build on existing initiatives. Mass mobilization and people-centred advocacy will be key to the campaign.

SECURITY

New CrisisWatch bulletin from the International Crisis Group

CrisisWatch No.22, 1 June 2005

Thirteen conflict situations around the world deteriorated in May 2005, according to this month's edition of [CrisisWatch](#).* In Uzbekistan, following months of public unrest, government troops in the eastern city of Andijon fired indiscriminately into protesters, killing as many as 750 mostly unarmed civilians, including women and children. More than 570 were killed in a wave of violence in Iraq. Pakistan suffered sectarian attacks that left dozens dead, and at least 19 were killed in violent anti-U.S. demonstrations in Afghanistan.

Lethal bomb blasts shook Central Sulawesi in Indonesia, site of serious Christian-Muslim fighting in 1999-2001. In the most serious attack on the Burmese capital Yangon in recent history, three coordinated blasts killed at least 19 and injured 162. Fifteen died in clashes in Somalia, threatening the fragile transitional government. Amid continued economic decline and fears of famine, conditions in Zimbabwe further worsened when the government announced plans for the demolition of shacks home to one million urban poor. The situations also deteriorated last month in Angola, Bolivia, North Korea, Papua New Guinea and Turkey.

May 2005 also brought improvements to the conflict situations in six countries. Georgia had a positive month with the signing of a major agreement that plots the full withdrawal of Russian forces from Georgia by the end of 2008. Relations across the Taiwan Strait took a step for the better as China announced a lifting of its ban on most travel to the island. The peace process in Cote d'Ivoire made limited progress with a deal on disarmament. The situations also improved in Central African Republic, Kyrgyzstan, and the Philippines.

For June 2005, *CrisisWatch* identifies the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia and Uzbekistan as Conflict Risk Alerts, or situations at particular risk of new or significantly escalated conflict in the coming month. No new Conflict Resolution Opportunities were identified for June.

TRENDS AND WATCHLIST SUMMARY

MAY 2005 TRENDS

Deteriorated Situations

Afghanistan, Angola, Bolivia, Indonesia, Iraq, Myanmar/Burma, North Korea, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Zimbabwe

Improved Situations

Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Philippines, Taiwan Strait

Unchanged Situations

Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Basque Country (Spain), Bosnia & Herzegovina, Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Chechnya (Russia), China (internal), Colombia, Cyprus, DR Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, India (non-Kashmir), Iran, Israel/Occupied Territories, Kashmir, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Liberia, Macedonia, Mauritania, Moldova, Nagorno-Karabakh (Azerbaijan), Nepal, Nigeria, Northern Ireland (UK), Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia & Montenegro, Sierra Leone, Somaliland (Somalia), Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela, Western Sahara, Yemen

JUNE 2005 WATCHLIST

Conflict Risk Alert

DR Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Somalia, Uzbekistan

Conflict Resolution Opportunity

None

* NOTE: *CrisisWatch* indicators - up and down arrows, conflict risk alerts, and conflict resolution opportunities - are intended to reflect *changes within countries or situations from month to month*, not comparisons between countries. For example, no "conflict risk alert" is given for a country where violence has been occurring and is expected to continue in the coming month: such an indicator is given only where new or significantly escalated violence is feared.

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US/AFGHAN RELATIONS

Boost Afghan aid to make its rebound reality

Since 2001, many governments in the Islamic world have quietly staked their future on close relations with the United States, from Morocco to Pakistan. But no Muslim leader has been as willing to openly and boldly embrace an alliance as Afghanistan's Hamid Karzai.

Karzai was in Washington recently to sign a memorandum on a "strategic partnership" with Washington: In return for committing itself to democracy, human rights and opposition to terrorism, Karzai hopes Afghanistan will continue to be protected by American troops and bolstered by U.S. aid for another decade or more.

Without this long-term commitment, he says frankly, his country has no hope of achieving lasting stability or emerging from the ranks of the world's poorest nations.

Lots of Muslim leaders think this way; Karzai is virtually alone in his willingness to argue the case for friendship with the United States to an often suspicious or hostile public. He has been willing, even, to forgive the Bush administration's misdeeds – including the brutal mistreatment of Afghan prisoners by U.S. guards and interrogators.

Support like that from a democratically elected leader in a country that once hosted al-Qaida is priceless – which is why it's disappointing that the Bush administration remains relatively parsimonious in its support for Karzai.

Some 17,000 U.S. troops continue to defend the Afghan government from the remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaida, and more than two dozen have been killed in escalating violence since the end of March. But the military commitment remains well short of what would be needed to fully pacify a sprawling country of 24 million people. Equally, the Afghan government has nothing for reconstruction; in that context \$5 billion in U.S. aid, while generous, is not enough to decisively turn the country around.

Now would be a good time to accelerate the aid effort. The upsurge in violence, including recent anti-American riots, is in part aimed at derailing September elections that would consolidate Afghanistan's transition to democracy.

More U.S. and NATO troops are needed to secure those elections; more aid would help convince Afghan voters that Karzai's bet on Washington makes sense. For no cost at all, the administration could cease its gratuitous undercutting of its ally – including the leaked complaint that the Afghan leader was not sufficiently committed to combating opium trafficking.

Since the U.S. government is itself divided over the wisdom of an aggressive assault against poppy cultivation, it makes little sense to fault Karzai for his caution. Better, again, to supply his government with the resources that would allow it to tackle the underlying problems.

Source: The Washington Post, Editorial 31st May 2005.

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.

