

Monitoring Report of Wolesi Jirga

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Authored by: FEFA



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موسسه انتخابات آزاد و عادلانه افغانستان
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FEFA's Monitoring and Its Purpose:

Monitoring of the work of the Parliament for the purpose of informing citizens and promoting cooperation between the parliament and civil society is an effort that FEFA believes contributes to the development of the political system of Afghanistan and strengthens the highest representative institution of the country, the Parliament.



FIGURE 1 FEFA'S EMPLOYEES

To this end, FEFA has started a program to observe the work of the Wolesi Jirga and provide reporting and analysis that would help this institution to expand and advance its work. Collecting information on the work of the Parliament and disseminating it to the people and electorate of Afghanistan will promote this institution and has the potential to build closer links between the elected and the electorate.

FEFA will remain impartial and neutral throughout its work, in particular in its observation and reporting, and will adopt a code of conduct for its observers and analysts, as well as with full preparation to successfully implement this initiative in conjunction with Wolesi Jirga.



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I. Activities of Wolesi Jirga

I.1. Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions are the general meetings where all the representatives of the people in Wolesi Jirga discuss issues and approve laws to improve the life of citizens and build the legal framework of Afghanistan. FEFA has monitored these sessions and the table below will present the number of meetings held and the level of participation of MPs in the plenary sessions.

Plenary sessions	Number of sessions	Participation average
Ordinary	7	34 %
Hearing	4	49 %
Questioning	1	51%
Interpellation	1	98 %
Total	13	

Women Prticipation in the Plenary Sessions

Plenary Sessions	Number of Sessions	Participants averages
Ordinary	7	51 %
Hearing	4	45 %
Questioning	1	68 %
Interpellation	1	81 %
Total	13	



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II- Issues discussed at Plenary Sessions

Dismissal of Two vital Cabinet Posts

The Wolsi Jirga's responsibility to oversight on Government performance is clearly set out by the Afghan Constitution.

Rising insecurity in recent months, cross-border rocket attacks on some regions of Kunar province by Pakistani border forces, ineradicable corruption and nepotism within the Defense and Interior Ministries, assassination of high-profile figures across the country are the primary cause of the ministers' dismissal.

In an unprecedented plenary session where 246 MPs attended, the Lower House dismissed the above mentioned ministers, following successive no-confidence votes. According to the agenda, primarily, five MPS Jafar Mahdavi, Haji Sakhi, Shokoria Barekzai, Zulmai Mojadedi, and Sadeqi Zada Nili questioned the ministers and asked for a clarification on the mentioned issues.



The MPs expressed their concerns over rising insecurity in eastern and southern regions of the country, rocket attacks from across the Durand Line, intensification of suicide attacks and serial killings of high profile-afghan officials, allegation of corruption and nepotism within the mentioned ministries, and an overall lack of adopting policies by these security entities.

Shukria Barekzai concerns were mainly focused on the lack of military experts and advanced training programs in Defense Ministry. Barakzai also questioned the Minister on unclarified contracts given to his acquaintances and relatives.

Zulmai Mojajdidi pointed out the issue of rocket attacks fired into Konar province from across the afghan-pakistani border and the rising number of assassinations targeting high-profile Afghan officials. He then asked for allocating a specific amount of money to maintain the security of MPs and public leaders.



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In response to the questions made by MPs, the defense minister condemned rocket attacks on Kunar Province and said his personnel will take decisive action to curb the attacks. The Defense Minister added “we have discussed to located NATO forces in Kunar province along with Afghan military officials to come up with a solution to this problem”

The Defense Minister declared that the Ministry of Defense is waiting for John Alan’s findings, the ISAF commander in Afghanistan, who has traveled to Pakistan to follow up the issue.

At the same time, the Defense Minister rejected existence of corruption and weak training system at the Ministry of Defense.

As the heated session continued, the Interior Minister insisted on the existence of a good coordination among the Afghan police force, the national army and intelligence forces in taking crucial steps against alleged Pakistani missile attacks .He added the attacks have been staged by Taliban militants and Pakistani Army on Afghan soil. He also added that the Interior Ministry is allocating a number of operational security plans for maintaining security for the MPs and afghan officials.

Finally, the answers given by the Ministers were regarded as inadequate and partial and therefore, the MPs passed a vote of no confidence against the Defense and Interior Ministers. The outcome was unambiguous. Abdul Rahim Wardak, the Defense Minister received 72 votes in support, against 146 votes of no-confidence (four blank, five invalid); Besmullah Mohammadi, the Interior Minister received 90 votes of confidence, 126votes against (seven voted blank while five votes were void).

Dismissal of the two crucial Cabinet posts occurred at the same time when the country is struggling with security problems and with transition underway, the international community and the local people are anxiously speculating the decision’s impact on stability and governance in the country.

During the sessions, the atmosphere was under control, the MPs submitted their votes, and ballot boxes were placed and the decision was made. However, not long after the final decision, the atmosphere changed drastically. Some MPS protested against the outcome and questioned the process of interpellation and eventually left the hall.



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Wolsi Jirga approved six international documents including the strategic cooperation treaty with the UK

With Afghanistan's security problems, reconstruction programs and economic development activities seem to be challenging, especially after the security responsibilities are transitioned to Afghan national security forces in 2014. Therefore, long-term strategic security and economic agreements have been signed by the Afghan government and the international community to ensure that Afghan people won't be left alone again and that the international community's commitment will remain firm beyond transition.



According to the agenda of the plenary session of Wolesi Jirga chaired by Abdul rauf Ibrahimi, the speaker of Wolsi Jirga on July, 30, 2012 where 129 MPs attended, six international documents were approved. The 18 committees of Wolsi Jirga specially the Committee on International Affairs of Wolsi Jirga had studied these documents beforehand. with no divergent opinions, the MPs did not discuss the documents in plenary session. The members of the Committee on International Affairs of Wolsi Jirga, Mohamad Noor Akbary, Dawood Kalakani and Abdul Qayum Sajady introduced these six documents to the session and the MPs approved them as follows:

1. Long-term Afghanistan-UK Strategic Cooperation Agreement

The mentioned document was codified in six sections and 16 articles and was signed by the Afghan president and the British prime-minister last year in London. This strategic document which was signed in London covers broad issues such as political cooperation, mutual cooperation on security issues, cooperation on strengthening good governance and implementing the rule of law, economic and social growth cooperation along with cultural development. By showing cards, majority of the MPs approved the pact.



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2. The Draft Law on Hiring Diplomatic staff

This draft law is considered very significant and codified in 3 chapters and 8 articles to solve diplomatic and political staff's problems. Based on this document, hereinafter, people with dual nationalities cannot be appointed abroad as an ambassador or a political representative of Afghanistan. This draft was also approved with majority votes in support and one vote against.

3. Afghanistan –Dominican Republic Agreement on the establishment of diplomatic relations

Based on this document, Afghanistan and republic of Dominica establish -non-attendance diplomatic relations.

4. Afghanistan-Turkey Cooperation Treaty

Based on this protocol, the Afghan land military forces will be trained in Turkey as well as getting special trainings there.

5. Attachment of the Treaty on Struggling Against Narcotic 1960.

Through this Treaty, Afghanistan joined the universal protocole of struggling against narcotic and get much assistance in struggling against narcotic. This attachment contains 22 articles and the member countries are committed to struggle against narcotic, and this document was put in a vote in Wolsi Jirga and the MPs approved it by majority of votes.

6. Constitution of international Center for Conservation and Study of Cultural Heritage

This document contains 14 articles based on which each member countries, In close collaboration with the UNISCO, provide protection and maintainance to cultural and natural heritage. Afghanistan will officially be known as a member of this International Center after signing the document.

It is worth mentioning that approving such international treaties plays an important role in promoting Afghanistan's international relations and highlighting its effective presence at international level. The government will take a considerable step towards country's national interest when signing this agreement.



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The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Chairman of the General Directorate of National Security questioned

Checking and questioning the performance of the governmental officials are among the most important duties of the Wolsi Jirga in order to perform its oversight role in its best way and contribute in implementing good governance.

Pakistani rocket attacks on Afghan soil, rising insecurity across the country and targeted assassination of high-profile Afghan officials obliged Wolsi Jirga to summon the Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Zulmai Rasool, and the Chairman of the General Directorate of National Security (GDNS) Rahmatullah Nabil before the assembly and question them. The same questions resulted in dismissal of the Interior Minister, Besmullah Mohammadi, and the Defense, Minister Abdul Rahim Wardak in the last interpellation session.

Wolsi Jirga in its plenary session chaired by Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi, speaker of Wolsi Jirga on August, 8, 2012 questioned Rahmatullah Nabil, the Chairman of the General Directorate of National Security and Dr. Zulmai Rasool, the Foreign Minister to present his explanations on cross-border rocket attacks on Afghan soil and the terrorist attacks in Samangan province.



To begin the session, some MPs including Arif Rahmani, Tahera Mojadedi, Shokoria Barezai, Sarwar Osmani and Amir Jan Dawlatzai presented their questions by asking “why the Afghan Government has not yet shown any reaction against Pakistan’s missile attacks?”. Followed by other MPs Gul Padshah Majedi, Dr. Nilofar Ibrahimi, and Farkhunda Zahra Nadery’s

questions, such as ;Foreign Minister’s opinion on the role of international community in Pakistan’s missile attacks specially the role of the US, that has signed strategic treaty with Afghanistan and yet has not shown any reaction towards the situation. They asked the Chairman of the GDNS about the actions taken place by the Internal Security Sectors to avoid these missile attacks. Then Mohammad Mohaqeq, Tahera Mojadedi, and Shokoria Barezai demanded the Chairman of the General Directorate of National Security to share his achievements in identification of alleged spies who are active within the Afghan government from. Subsequently Ibrahim Qasemi, Asadullah Saadati and Allahgul Mujahed asked for the future plans that GDNS has in hand for maintaining security in highways.



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Zulmai Rasool, the Foreign Minister, shared his information on the Pakistani missile attacks and said: “Pakistan’s missile attacks has been going on since 2011” then he added, “The political deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and myself, had several meetings with Pakistani officials to discuss this issue”. Zulmai Rasool declared that the Afghan president has already talked to the Pakistani prime-minister regarding this issue and the Afghan Ambassador in Pakistan has also met with Pakistani Foreign Minister to urge the government of Pakistan to prevent missile attacks.

The Afghan Foreign Minister addressed the decision made by the Pakistani government for conducting a joint security session and added that “if the diplomatic attempts fail the nation should make a decision.”

Rahmatullah Nabil, the Chairman of the General Directorate of the National Security said that Pakistan’s missile attack on Afghanistan is a truth and if any Afghan or foreigner ignores it, in fact, he/she ignores a war crime committed by Pakistan. He presented his statement regarding the issue and said: “Pakistani border security forces have expanded on to Afghan soil, in some cases even several kilo meters, and have established checkpoints in Afghan areas”. He added that since the beginning of this year different types of weapons have been used by Pakistani military forces on border regions of Kunar, Nooristan, and Nangarhar provinces, and for that convincing evidence exists.

According to the Chairman of the GDNS, the main goal of the Pakistan military is to evacuate the border regions of the country and expand towards the Kunar River and get advantage of the situation before Taliban are invited in roundtable of discussions. He added that he has received documents related to the terrorist attacks of Samangan province which caused the death of Ahmad Khan Samangani and some other residents of Samangan province and they will be revealed in public as soon as the investigations are over. At the same time, Tahera Mojadidi asked about the possibility of alleged spies of some neighboring countries being employed within the government especially security entities He emphasized that the General Directorate of National Security will take this issue in account and will launch an investigation to identify these spies. The Chairman of General Directorate of National Security also stated that an official committee has been formed in the Ministry of Defense and has so far identified 350 foreigners who have attempted to get enrolled in the Afghan Army with fake identity cards. And the Committee introduced them to justice and judicial organs.

After the MPs’ questions were answered by the summoned officials, the MPs decided on a letter sent by the Afghan government to the UN Security Council discussing the issue of Pakistani missile attacks on Kunar Province. Also the Wolsi Jirga speaker stated that “the Afghan



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government should clearly specify its position against Pakistan's missile attacks". As a result, the MPs condemned Pakistan's missile attacks on Afghanistan.

Checking on the performance of government officials and questioning them can be a positive step towards making the government accountable and trustworthy for the people of Afghanistan. We support this action of Wolsi Jirga and urge the MPs to keep moving forward.

Establishment of Oversight Committee on Government Performance

Checking on the problems of electorates during Wolsi Jirga's recession is the basic job of every MP. This could be an opportunity for MPs to travel to their own provinces where they got their votes from and reveal the problems that their local residents are facing.

Wolsi Jirga held its plenary session on July, 23, 2012 chaired by Abdul rauf Ibrahimy where 126 MPs attended. This session was allocated for the MPs to present their reports for their related provinces. The common problems according to the reports were security and economic problems, and allegation of corruption within the government entities.

One of the problems Reza Zada (Faryab province) reported during the session despite the lack of good governance and rising insecurity in Faryab Province was the issue of weapons purchased by the locals for maintaining their own security. The MPs discussed different issues during the session but due to the lack of specific agenda most of the discussions went on sporadically.

Most of the MPS believed that presenting the reports without a specific action plan is not the right way to examine the problems and it is a waste of time. The MPs suggested that all the issues reported from the different provinces should be categorized, and analyzed before being submitted to the WJ Committees for revision.

In conclusion, the MPs proposed establishment of an oversight committee on government performance to come up with solutions and oversee the implementation of decisions made by Wolei Jirga in the above mentioned issues.



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Commence of Debates over strategic draft on national security in Wolesi Jirga.

After three decades of civil war, Afghanistan has finally got its hand on security and peace. However, the Afghan enemies who had taken advantage of the prolonged war and insecurity under Taliban Regime are still trying to bring instability and unsettle security for their own selfish interests. Redundant missile attacks across the Durand Line on Kunar and Nuristan provinces added up to this anxiety and doubt.

To further discuss this issue, Wolsi Jirga held its plenary session chaired by Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi on July, 29, 2012 where 110 MPs attended. According to the agenda, the session was allocated to discuss the security situation in the country and the MPs were also scheduled to present their proposals on the issue. Among the MPs, Sadeqi Zada Nili (talked about security problems in Daikondi province and said: insecurity is partially linked to the Afghan decision makers. The appointment of inexpert staff is affected by nepotism. Security officials are appointed based on their ethnicity, tribe religion and political party. Therefore, we have to establish an Evaluation Committee to avoid these appointments based on favoritism and pave the ground for experts to serve in the army and police.”

Mohammad Azim Mohseni (Baghlan) said that the government and international community should not remain silent Pakistani missile attacks onKunar province. If the Government doesn't seriously consider the issue, it will increase morale in Pakistani border security army and will strengththeir power for their further attacks in future.

Subsequently, other MPs such as: AbdulLatif Pedram, Ramazan Bashardost, Mohammad Arif Taib suggested that Wolsi Jirga should suggest a policy on national security and send it to the government as soon as possible.

At the end of session, the MPs approved the decision on the establishment of a Committee on Internal security and therefore, the Committee on Defensive Affairs of Wolsi Jirga should draft this policy and present it in the next plenary session. It will finally be sent to the government and the government should take action based on this policy.

FEFA as a civil and impartial entity appreciates Wolsi Jirga's attempts on avoiding Pakistani missile attacks on border regions of Afghanistan and it hopes the Afghan military forces and the government take necessary action to defend country's integrity.



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Approval of the National Standards law

The National Standard Law has been codified to standardize the system of export and import of goods and services in the country. This legislature has been recently introduced to the Afghan government to devise and implement programs for social, cultural and economic progress .It is worth mentioning that by implementation of this law across the country, Afghan exports can enter the world market and compete with other countries at international level. This legislature ensures consumers access to standardized goods and services.

To discuss this Draft Law, Wolsi Jirga held its plenary session on July, 26, 2012 chaired by Abdul Zaher Qader, the First Deputy of Wolsi Jirga, where 127 MPs participated. According to the agenda, first, the National Standard Draft Law with 5 chapters and 26 articles was presented by Sher Wali Wardak, a member of the Committee on National Economy after being studied and revised by 18 committees of the Wolsi Jirga.



The mentioned law was drafted in order to regulate programs for standardization and control of trading activities (import and export). The Draft law, after being presented at the plenary session, was approved by a majority vote. .

FEFA believes that approval of the National Standard Law is a positive step towards economic and trade development by improving quality of products, processes and services.



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High Office of Central Audit Law approved by Wolsi Jirga

The High Office of Central Audit has an important role in observing and reporting the performance of the executive body. This institution observes the performance of government entities on yearly basis or every six months and asks the executive entities for a detailed report of their activities for an impartial evaluation. Taking the mentioned duties and competences into account, this entity contributes in establishing of good governance across the country. Therefore, Wolsi Jirga held its plenary session on July, 26, 2012 chaired by Abdul Zaher Qader, the First Deputy of Wolsi Jirga with the participation of 127 out of 249 MPs. They discussed the Draft Law of the High Office of Central Audit containing 3 chapters and 27 articles that had been already processed and approved by 18 committees of Wolsi Jirga.

Abdul Hafiz Mansoor, the Head of the Committee on Oversight and Central Audit introduced the Draft Law to the session. Then, Shokoria Barekzai (Kabul) commented on the seventh article of the law (appointment of the Head of this entity by the president after receiving vote of confidence from Wolsi Jirga) and believes that this article can be contrary to the article 64 of the Afghan constitution. She added “I think this law will be rejected since it will be difficult to receive the two third votes of the MPs for approval. Therefore it is better to add the dismissal of the Head of this entity instead of getting vote of confidence from Wolsi Jirga”. But Abdul Hafiz Mansoor said, “all committees of Wolsi Jirga have approved this amendment.” The session ended with the approval of the draft with 64 votes in support 40 votes against and 6 blank votes.

From FEFA’s point of view, if the laws are reformed and passed accurately by Wolsi Jirga, this can help parliament strengthen its oversight role on government and consolidate its place within the state.



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Approval of the Regional Cooperation Agreement of SARK Members on Commercial issues and two other International documents

Due to the current political and economic situation of Afghanistan, opportunities have been given to the government in order to improve its relationship at international level. After signing different strategic treaties with the western partner countries, Afghanistan has now the opportunity to benefit from close relationship with its neighboring countries by signing this agreement.

To further discuss this issue, Wolesi Jirga held its plenary session on August, 8, 2012 chaired by Abdul Rauf Ibrahimi, the Speaker of Wolesi Jirga where 137 MPs attended. They approved the three following documents after discussing the agreement. At the beginning of the session, the reporters of the Committee on International Affairs, Mohammad Dawood Kalakani, Rahima Jami and Jafar Mahadavi presented the following information on the mentioned documents:

1. Afghanistan-Italy Long Time Agreement: this agreement contains 8 articles and is already signed between Afghan and Italian governments. The agreement covers issues such as; economic development, security, corruption, cultural promotion and cooperation and combat against narcotics in which both parties demonstrated their commitments to achieve these objectives.

2. The Regional Cooperation Agreement of SARK Members on Commercial Issues: This Organization consists of seven South Asian countries; Bangladesh, Srilanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Afghanistan and Pakistan who are all striving to accelerate economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region. The current agreement is signed to promote economic relations among the member countries and to pave the ground for better commercial opportunities in the future.

3. The International Convention on eliminating Nuclear Terrorist Actions: This document is formulated to encourage peaceful uses of atomic energy in order to maintain peace and security in the world. All the countries across the globe have the right to have access to atomic energy, although peaceful uses should be guaranteed and according to this document, illegal use of atomic energy is considered crime.

After discussing the agreements, Wolsi Jirga approved the above three mentioned international documents. According to the agenda, the MPs managed to discuss the Wolsi Jerga's prestige. Therefore, this session was announced secretly by the speaker of Wolsi Jirga and the observers were asked to leave the hall.

To the CSOs, especially FEFA, Afghanistan needs to strengthen it political and economic relations with other countries in the World which will eventually result in Afghanistan's



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significant involvement in international community. However, concerns exist over the implementation of these commitments by the parties both the countries and the organizations. . Therefore, FEFA calls for further strengthening of observational role of the parliament especially Wolsi Jirga to carefully observe the process of implementation.

Higher Education and Work Experience Should be set as top priorities for the District Governors

Based on the Constitution, the district is an administrative unit of Afghan government which is made of several small villages. The MPs have always expressed concern over District Governor's illiteracy and/or poor education.

Wolsi Jirga held its plenary session on August, 29, 2012 chaired by Abdul Zaher Qadir, the First Deputy speaker of Wolsi Jirga where 126 out of 249 MPs attended. They mainly focused on Civil Services Law. This law was discussed in Wolsi Jirga several times before, and once again Mohammad Sarwar Osmani, the Deputy of the Committee on Judicial and Justice Affairs brought it up during the plenary session. He pointed out the controversial fifth article of this law. . This article specifies the criteria for District Governor candidates . The article says “ a candidate running for a district governor position must be over thirty years old, possess a high school certificate and have at least 8 years of work experience , those who have bachelor degree are required 6 years of work experience and those with Masters degree must have 3 years of work experience “.

The Judicial and Justice Committee also wanted to include the following amendments to this article:

“ District Governor position candidate, must be over 30 years old, high school graduate, and have 10 years of work experience .Those who have bachelor degree are required 8 years of work experience and Masters degree holders should have 3 years of work experience”.

Another amendment suggested by the MPs was “ a person who wants to be appointed as District Governor should be over 30 years old and must hold bachelor degree with 3 years work of experience.”

However, Sayed Mohammad Alemi Balkhi (Kabul) stated “ limiting the educational criteria to having at least a bachelor degree is quite challenging and on top of that having sufficient work experience is very specific and demanding for those who possess one or the other qualification” . Subsequently, Seddiq Ahmad Osmani (Parwan) said “ we should pave the ground for educated



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young. Therefore, it is important to stipulate bachelor degree as part of the criteria for those who want to be appointed as district governors.

Finally, the MPs came to an agreement on the fifth article of the Civil Services Law accepting the original article :“ those running for the District Governor position, must be over thirty years old, possess a high school certificate and have at least 8 years of work experience , those who have bachelor degree are required 6 years of work experience and those with Masters degree must have 3 years of work experience“. The Law was approved with 58 votes in support and 50 votes against.

FEFA is delighted with the results of this plenary session and appreciates the intentions of the legislatures on standardizing the administrative unit of the country for good governance and pave the ground for young educated people to serve in high government posts.

III- the Issues Discussed in Wolesi Jirga's Committees

The Committee on Human Rights and Women Affairs

Rising Violence against Women

It is clearly proven that women form half of the Afghan society and their presence in every field is significantly required for maintaining peace, security and welfare. As a result we can say that violence against women is a challenging phenomenon in the Afghan society the recent incident of Ghorband district of Parwan province where a woman was executed in public by Taliban was clearly an example of growing violence against women. Thus, the committee on Women Affairs of Wolsi Jirga held session and expressed its concern over rising violence against women in the country.

This session was conducted on July, 24, 2012 chaired by Fawzia Kofi, Head of this Committee with participation of its 6 members. According to the agenda, the participants were asked to talk about violence against women which is increasing day by day nationwide.



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Robaba Parwani(Kabul) said“ local militias and power brokers should be over thrown and the Mullahs should bring awareness by preaching on violence against women. Fawzia Kofi (Badakhshan) said “Women are struggling against violence every day, and this is not a cultural issue but a political one. She then pointed out one of the biggest achievements of international community in Afghanistan which is creating different ways of educating women. Taliban seek ways to take revenge from the international community by executing and committing violence against women which is absolutely against the provisions of holy Quran. Over the past six months, 9 women have been killed in different regions of the country and we demand full rights given to Afghan Women through Islamic law and not secular western law. Therefore I suggest approving the Law on Eliminating Violence against Women that has been amended in its best way and conducting sessions with the Mullahs, CSOs, related entities and the President to take action on against these brutal actions”.



To conclude the session, it is decided that the committee should soon discuss the Family Law and the Law on Eliminating Violence against Women and introduce them to the plenary session after gaining approval of the Committees. Also the Committee Members should decide on conducting sessions with scholar’s council, CSOs and the President to seek ways to fight violence against women.

We believe that only condemning of the incidents cannot be effective in uprooting violence against women. We need to approach this negative social phenomenon by practical solutions.



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Establishing advocacy committees in provinces for eliminating violence against women

Women are considered as vulnerable cortex of the society and at the same time they have important roles in the country's development and stability. During the decades of political unrests in the country women have been victims of these calamities and have been ignored by the society.

After the fall of Taliban regime, women found their way back in the society and enjoyed the rights and privileges given to them. However, statistics show that women's rights have been suppressed especially in recent months, and therefore violence against women has doubled. The Committee on Human Rights, Civil Society and Women Affairs held a consultative session chaired by Fawzia Kofi on August, 5, 2012 with the presence of Deputy of Ministry of Women Affairs, Deputy of Ministry of Haj and pilgrimage, the Head of UNAMA's Human rights department, secretariat of UN Women section and representative of the Union of Afghan Women.

To start off the session, Fawzia Kofi presented the reports on rising violence against women and asked for reasonable solutions for the problem. The Deputy of Ministry of Haj said that violence against women is mostly caused by people's poor awareness of women's rights, high level of illiteracy, war, and finally shortcoming in law enforcement as well as security challenges. He added "we will hold an overwhelming campaign nationwide to create awareness on women's rights and we also plan on printing a book called *Fortunate Family* in which women's rights are explicitly described". Subsequently, the Deputy of Ministry of women Affairs said "Unawareness of the law and lack of cooperation of the scholar's council in this field have increased violence against women. Representative of UNAMA said "shortage of attention by Security forces and lack of rule of law have made people use informal justice and these are the big challenges against women rights".

The participants stated that "warlords and Mullahs speeches that have words of hatred against women are other factors that have resulted in increasing violence against women.

At the end of the session, the participants decided to establish an advocacy committee for women to avoid Mullahs' hate speeches against women in mosques. They also emphasized on the Ministry of Haj conducting training programs for mullahs to create awareness on Civil Law and the Law on Eliminating Violence against Women. Moreover, it was decided to design a database to establish coordination among government and civil entities working on this field. And the



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provisions of the Media Law and the Law on Eliminating Violence against Women to hide the identity of victims should be highly implemented.

The Committee on Petitions and Complaints

Concern over Land grabs by power brokers

The Committee on Complaints and Petitions of the Wolesi Jirga is an office where major problems of citizens are referred to. In case government offices fail to respond to the problems of people, this committee steps in to find efficient ways to fight these challenges.

After Wolesi Jirga's recession, the Committee on Complaints and Petitions held its session on August, 7, 2012 chaired by Abdali Mohammad, the Secretary of this Committee and discussed some of the petitions received by this committee.

According to the agenda, the Committee was scheduled to discuss recent presidential decree on combating against corruption as well. However, the Committee members changed the agenda and instead chose to discuss more on the complaints and petitions received lately by this Committee.

The members of the Committee debated the issue of illegal land grabs by power brokers, fraud in retirement systems and high electricity bills. The Head of the session promised that the committee will follow up the issues and communicate with affiliated entities to come up with better solutions for the mentioned problems and provide their applicants with adequate results in the next session.



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The Committee on Budget and Finance

Property deeds should be given to 90 Families of Tahe Maskan residents

Civil war has affected this war torn country in many different ways. - Houses have been largely destroyed leaving people with no access to secure tenure or a legal title to their old homes to live in. Considering the current population of Afghanistan, large number of people lives without having a house of their own. To further deepen this misery, Afghan warlords grab private and state-owned lands in many areas of Kabul and other provinces to build illegal towns and buildings.

The residents of Tahaye Maskan area of Kabul province filed a petition to the Complaints Committee of Wolsi Jirga regarding their property deeds not given to them by the Kabul Municipality and are asking for the committee's consideration on this issue.

To review this petition, The Complaints Committee held its session on August, 14, 2012 chaired by Obaidullah Barezai, Head of the Committee where the Deputy of Kabul Municipality was also summoned to answer the questions presented by the members of the Committee regarding the problems of Tahay e Maskan residents. .

At the beginning of the session, the representatives of the 90 families of Tahay e Maskan explained their problems and said "we have been living in this residence area for 33 years which was distributed to us by the Kabul municipality. And yet, the Municipality has not given us property deeds despite our years of service in this department. Meanwhile Kabul municipality has given the property deeds to the residents of Kolola Poshta and some other towns that belong to Kabul Municipality. We demand this Committee to follow up this issue and tackle our problem."

The Deputy of Kabul Municipality said "These houses have been rented to our employees and they live there as long as they employed full time with us. As soon as they leave the job or retire, we will take the houses back".

After hearing the parties' reasons and arguments, the Committee decided that Kabul Municipality has to give property deeds to the residents. Additionally, the MPs urged the Deputy of Municipality to take serious action on this issue and according to the MPs guidelines inform the committee of the results for the next session.



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FEFA appreciates the performance of the Complaints and Petitions Committee of Wolsi Jirga in handling people's problems and urge the members of this committee to take this issue seriously and attempt to avoid land grabs across the country.

Approximately 95 thousand Afghans are receiving treatment abroad due to the lack of standard health system in Afghanistan

Lack of an accurate observatory system to check on the quality of imported drugs and medicines is an extremely important issue. To assess the complaints of drug traders on the import of non-standardized and poor quality drugs and corruption within the respective institutions, the Complaints and Petitions Committee of the Wolsi Jirga summoned the Minister of Public Health before the assembly. . Complaints filed by drug traders covered mainly issues such as; smuggling of low quality drugs into the country, problems at the custom checkpoints and lack of warehouses for drugs and medicines,

This Committee held its session on August, 28, 2012 chaired by Obaidullah Barezai, the Head of this Committee, with participation of 9 members. Suraya Dalil, the Minister of Public Health was summoned to present her response to the complaints of the traders.

To start of the session, one of the drug traders raised the issue of bribery at customs checkpoints where drug trucks are stopped for hours which severely affects the drugs inside the trucks. He said "these are the factors endangering people's health and also our economy. He demanded the Minister of public health to take serious action on solving these challenges.

The Minister of Public Health, Surya Dalil admitted the problems at customs checkpoints and said, "We are aware of these problems and the Ministry is considering critical solutions for these problems in order to avoid importing of low quality drugs and smuggling of illegal drug across the borders. Meanwhile, we have eradicated 42 tons of low quality drugs in Nangarhar, 23 tons in Balkh and 2 tons in Takhar province. She promised the Ministry will seriously consider building warehouses and said, "Following traders request demanding land and electricity, we have drafted a plot and will discuss it in the council of Ministers".

Subsequently, Head of the Pharmacy Department of the Ministry of Public Health said "smuggling low quality drugs is a big challenge for the Ministry of Public Health. He also said, "First, it is duty of the Border Police to prevent smuggling illegal drugs and then the Ministry of Public health is responsible for checking over the drugs sold at the pharmacies " He also urged the traders to build warehouses at the customs with their own money. Head of the Pharmacy Department of the Ministry of Public Health reminded the drug traders of warehouses built by



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traders in Herat province. . “Paying tax before presenting the cost bills is one of the reasons the trader’s goods are stopped at custom checkpoints and this problem must be solved in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance” he expressed.

Allah gul Mujahed and Obaidullah Barekzai, members of the Committee, criticized the current situation of the hospitals that results in patient’s preference of receiving treatment abroad.

At the end of the session, members of the Committee asked the Minister of Public Health to follow up the issues discussed in the session and inform the Committee of the results.

The Minister of Public Health pledged to solve the drug traders’ problems. She added that the Ministry of Public Health will soon establish a hospital in Kabul city where standard and internationally recognized appliances will be used to treat patients properly.

The World Bank Relinquished to Pay the Pledged Amount of Money

Lack of Afghan central government’s legitimacy and unbalanced distribution of foreign aids; have drastically slowed down the process of development in the country.

To discuss this issue, the Working Committee of the Commission on Budget and Financial issues held a session on August, 5, 2012 chaired by Nasratullah Sadeqi Zada Nili with participation of the Heads of Budget Departments of the Ministries of Finance, Public Health, Education, Agriculture, and Rural Development. These representatives presented their reports on the 68 million dollars budget allocated by Ministry of Finance to healthcare, education, agriculture and rural rehabilitation sectors.

Additionally, the Committee members asked for a clarification on amount of 500 thousand dollars allocated as precautionary budget for developing provinces.

The Head of Budget Department of the Ministry of Finance said “the World Bank has abstained to pay the amount of money it promised to the Ministry of Finance. And in some cases, they even proposed conditional commitments. The World Bank also intends to revise the amount of 17 million dollars it pledged to pay for the Ministry of Education.

There were other concerns raised by The Heads of Budget Departments. They declared that start of new projects always depends on a certain amount of money that the Ministry of Finance is responsible for. They also added that they have postponed building new schools and hospitals due to the lack of budget.



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Finally, the Head of Budget department of the Ministry of Finance presented his explanation to the session but they were inadequate to satisfy the members of the Committee. Therefore, the members decided to summon the Minister of Finance before the assembly to present detailed information on this issue. Furthermore, it was decided that the above mentioned Ministries must give a monthly report on their budget expenditure to this committee.

The Committee on Judicial and Justice

The National and International Observers, Representatives of the Political Parties and Media must attend Election Commission's Sessions

The Committee on judicial and justice Affairs of Wolsi Jirga held its session on August, 26, 2012 chaired by Mohammad Mohaqeq, the Head of the committee to discuss the Law on the IEC's Composition, Duties and Mandate. The Election Commission Representative and the Executive director of FEFA Jandad Spinghar were invited to express their opinion on the reformation of the mentioned law.

According to the agenda, Mohammad Sarwar Osmani, the Committee Deputy addressed the articles of the IEC law to the assembly and the participants of the session were to highlight the articles required reformation. They emphasized on financial independency of the Electoral Complaints Commission and the motion was carried. FEFA already had this issue in its Draft proposed to the IEC's Composition, Duties and Mandate and shared it with the Committee on Judicial and Justice Affairs of Wolsi Jirga.

According to the members of the Committee, they have taken FEFA's suggested draft into account to reform this law. The participants also discussed the controversial terminologies such as; observer and monitor used in the IEC law. Khalid Oria, Representative of the IEC said "the cited terminologies should be explained separately in the draft while the Executive Director of FEFA said " these two words *observer* and *monitor* varies and to ensure transparency in electoral processes, it is necessary to remove monitor from the draft law and only the word observer should be used. He added, "If we use the word *observer* in this draft, the role of election observer entities will be strengthened". Finally, FEFA's Executive Director's suggestion on the use of the terminologies was convincing to the members of the committee and therefore, the word *monitor* was omitted from the draft law.

As the session went on, Jandad Spinghar emphasized more on the adoption of a new openness policy for Election Commission's session. He stated that the sessions of Electoral administration



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are kept open all over the world. The members of the Committee approved his suggestions and inscribe the issue to the Draft Law on the IEC's Composition, Duties and Mandate: *presence of national and international observers, representatives of the political parties and media are welcomed to attend the sessions held by the Commission.*

To conclude the session, the MPs decided to share the Draft IEC Law with other committees of the Wolsi Jirga and after receiving their feedback introduce it to the plenary session for approval.

IV- Overseeing the Work of the Government

1IV-Parliamentary Hearing

Parliamentary hearings are those sessions where Ministers and all government authorities report to the MPs on the policies, plans as well as the performance of their organs. The hearing sessions held by the Wolesi Jirga in this month are:

Number	Body/Authority	Issues un hearing	Date
1	MPs of Wolsi Jirga	Presenting report of their provinces	23/7/2012
2	MP, Seddiq Ahmad Osmani	Presenting the 2010 Qatia report	8/7/2012
3	The MPs of Wolsi Jirga	Presenting report of their provinces	13/8/2012
4	The Minister of Finance and Foreign Affairs	Presenting information about Tokyo Chicago conference development	11/8/2012



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• Parliamentary Questioning

NO	Body/Authority	ISSUE ON QUESTIONING	DATE
1	Rahmatullah Nabil Chair NSD	On Pakistan's missile attacks	1/8/2012
2	Zulmai Rasool		

• Parliamentary Interpellation

No	Body/Authority	Issue on Interpellation	Date
1	General Abdul Rahim Wardak Deffence Minister	Pakistan's Missile Attacks and other security related issues	04/08/2012
2	General Basmellah Mohammadi Interior Minister		



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Active MPs of This Month

Number	Mps Name	Number Of Questions Asked
The Budget For Struggling Against Corruption		
1	Dr. Jafar Mahdavi	1
2	Homira Ayubi	1
3	Haji Abdul Majid Wardak	1
4	Mohammad Dawood Kalakani	2
5	Breshna Rabi	1
6	Shokoria Barakzai	2
7	Ali Akbar Qasemi	1
8	Monawar Shah Bahadari	1
9	Mohammad Sarwar Osmani	1
10	Zulmai Mojadedi	1
11	Shenkai Zaheen Karokhil	1
12	Seddiq Ahmad Osmani	1
13	Sadeqi Zada Nili	1
14	Ali Akbar Qasemy	1
15	Mawlavi Abdul Rahman Rahmani	1
16	Haji Sakhi Moshwani	1
17	Mirbat Khan Mangle	1



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Number	Mps Name	Number Of Questions Asked
18	Dr. Nilofar Ibrahimi	1
19	Dr. Jafar Mahdavi	1
Budget		
1	Mohammad Hussain Fahimi	1
2	Ramazan Jamazada	1
3	Shokoria Barakzai	1
4	Fatema Nazary	1
5	Sediq Ahmad Osmani	1
6	Dr.Zaher Sahadat	1
7	Sadeqi Zada Nili	1
8	Syed Hussain Alemi Balkhi	1
9	Hela Arshad	1
10	Monawar Shah Bahadory	1
Security		
1	Wazhma Safi	1
2	Sheenki Zaheen Karokhail	1
3	Qazi Nazeer Ahmad Hanifi	1
4	Mohammad Akbar Setanakzai	1
5	Dr, Naqeebullah Fayeeq	1
6	Hajee Sakhi Mashwani	2
7	Qazi Nazeer Ahmad Hanifi	1
8	Dr, Jafar Mehdi	1



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Number	Mps Name	Number Of Questions Asked
9	Sayed Hussain Almi Balkhy	1
10	Mulawee Abdul Rahman Rahmani	1
11	Shokoria Barakzai	3
12	Mohammad Sarwar Osmani	3
13	Nazifa Zaki	1
14	Haji Mohammad Mohaqeq	1
15	Mohammad Younis Qanooni	1
16	Ramazan Jumazada	1
17	Mohammad Saley Saljoqi	1
18	Dr, Naqeebullah Fayeq	1
19	Zulmi Mujadedi	1
20	Gul Pacha Majeedi	2
21	Obaidullah Barakzai	1
22	Mohammad Sawar Osmani	1
23	Fowzia Kofi	1
24	Ameer Jan Dowlat	1
25	Enayatullah Baber Farahmand	2
26	Abdul Wodood Payman	1
27	Allahgul Mojahed	2



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Number	Mps Name	Number Of Questions Asked
28	Mohammad Azeem Muhseni	1
29	Ameer Khan Yar	1
30	Doctor Nilofar Ibrahim	1
31	Mohammad Sarwar Osmani	2
32	Mohammad Naeem Lali Hamidzai	1
33	Habiba Sadaat	1
34	Abdullah Mohammadi	1
35	Wazhma Safi	1
36	Asadullah Sadaati	3
37	Mohammad Ibrahim Qaseemi	1
38	Farkhunda Zahra Naderi	2
39	Qurban Ali Urfani	1
40	Meerbat Khan Mangal	1
41	Mohammad Reza Khoshak Watandost	1
42	Dr, Naqeebullah Fayeeq	1
43	Doctor Zaheer Sadaat	1
44	Mohammad Dawood Kalakani	1



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Number	Mps Name	Number Of Questions Asked
45	Humaira Ayubi	1
46	Fozia Kofi	1
Health And Education		
1	Saeed Hassan Shareefi Balkhabi	1
2	Saranwal Abdul Rahuf	1
3	Obaidullah Barakzai	1
4	Doctor Naqeebullah Fayeeq	1
5	Asadullah Sadaati	1
6	Qazi Abdul Rahim	1
7	Mahmood Khan Sulaiman Khail	1
8	Enayatullah Babur Farahmand	1
9	Doctor Zaheer Sadaat	1
10	Paween Nurestani	1
11	Humaira Ayubi	1
12	Waqeel Abdul Jabar	1
13	Engineer Saheb Khan	1
14	Obaidullah Ramin	1
15	Sheenkai Zaheen Karokhail	1
16	Safora Elkhani	1
17	Muhibullah Furqani	1



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Number	Mps Name	Number Of Questions Asked
18	Hajee Sakhi Mushwani	1
19	Hajee Mohammad Qurban Nurestani	1
20	Hajee Mohammad Hasheem	1
21	Mohammad Hassan Mamozai	1
22	Mohammad Saleh Saljuqi	1
23	Mulla Sayed Mohammad Akhon	1
24	Ali Ahmad Akhlaqi	1
25	Engineer Ghafar	1
26	Engineer Saeed Ekram	1
27	Engineer Kamal	1
28	Mullah Tarakhail Mohammadi	1
29	Mullawee Shahzada Shaheed	1
30	Meerbat Khan Mangal	1
31	Ramazan Bashar Dost	1
Law		
1	General Nazeefa Zaki	1
2	Ustad Mohammad Akbari	1
3	Shokoria Barakzai	1
4	Fozia Kofi	1
5	Saeed Ali Kazemi	1



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Number	Mps Name	Number Of Questions Asked
Sport		
1	Doctor Naqeebullah Fayeeq	1
2	Ahmad Behzad	1
3	Mohammad Noor Akbari	1
4	Naheed Fareed	1
International Affair		
1	Shokoria Barakzai	1
2	Ramazan Bashar Dost	1
3	Zalmi Mujadeedi	1
4	Urfanullah Urfan	1
5	Sadeeqizada Nilli	1
6	Hajee Sakhi Moshwani	1
Women Affair		
1	Farkhunda Zahra Naderi	1
Media		
1	Shokoria Barakzai	1
2	Janral Naqeebullah	1
3	Mohammad Hassan Rahmani	1
4	Parween Nurestani	1
5	Obaidullah Ramin	1
Judicial		



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Number	Mps Name	Number Of Questions Asked
1	Mullawee Abdul Rahman Rahmani	1
Justice		
1	Khalilullah Shahidzada	1
2	Safya Aymaq	1
Public Services		
1	Basheer Ahmad Tayeenge	1
2	Ustad Mohammad Akbari	1
3	Genral Nazeefa Zaki	1
W.J Internal Procedure		
1	Mohammad Noor Akbari	1

About FEFA

- Based on its constitution FEFA organization: as a civil and impartial institution, wants a peaceful democratic society and good governing in Afghanistan, has always tried to do its part through increasing awareness level of people from democratic process, strengthening transparency in activities of democratic institutions and by supporting good governing in the country.
- FEFA was established in 2004 as a nongovernmental organization and registered in ministry of economy.
- FEFA has experience of 2004 and 2010 Afghanistan elections
- FEFA has membership of Asian network (ANFREL) and also has close and perpetual relation with ODHIR which is one part of organization of security and cooperation of European Union that works in election field.
- FEFA has experience of observation over more than 10 elections of Asian and European countries and had chance to attend in international conference on election
- FEFA in electoral correction process through suggested proposes about electoral law and lawsuit for changes in laws has close cooperation with lawmaking institutions of country- policy maker institutions and civil society



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