

**AFGHANISTAN**

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SEBASTIAN KÖNIG

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**JUNE 2009**

**Review:** Last time the parliamentary and provincial council elections were held on 18<sup>th</sup> September 2005. First results were declared on 9<sup>th</sup> October followed by the declaration of the final results on 12<sup>th</sup> November, which were delayed due to accusations of fraud. Former warlords and their followers gained majority of the seats in both, the Lower House as well as the provincial councils. Women won around 28% of the seats in the Lower House, six seats more than the 25% guaranteed in the Afghan Constitution launched in 2004. Approximately twelve million voters were eligible to vote for the 249 seats of the Wolesi Jirga, the Lower House of Parliament, and the 34 provincial councils.

**Parliament:** 12.000 Afghan prisoners complained about the too little consideration of their legal rights and the inhuman conditions they are facing. The Minister of Justice, Attorney General and the Head of Prisons were called to the lower house to take care of this matter. On 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2009 a statement has been issued by 60 Members of Parliament (MPs), calling for prosecution of several members of foreign forces, which are charged of war crimes, such as bombing civilians, imprisoning children or the terrorization of the Afghan people.

**Elections:** The official election campaigns for this year's presidential and provincial council

elections started the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2009 and will end 48 hours prior elections day on 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2009. The elections are expected to be unfair and opaque by various candidates running for presidency. Resigned candidate Mr. Mohammad Dawood Mirakai expects President Karzai to use all available powers to succeed in getting re-elected. These accuses are strengthened by candidate for presidency (cfp) Mr. Abdullah Abdullah, claiming that President Karzai tried to stop him from further pursuing his idea of presidency by offering him bribe money - this accusation got denied by the president's spokesman. President Karzai and CFP Mr. Mirakai further expressed their perception of an international intervention during the election campaigns: US-Ambassador, H.E. Karl Eikenberry and President Obama's national security advisor are blamed for having met with selected CFPs (Mr. Ahsraf Ghani, Mr. Abdullah Abdullah and Mr. Mirwais Yasseni) as well as having held joint press conferences with them in order to influence the vote results in favour of the above mentioned candidates. - US-Ambassador repudiated the blames and expressed that the USA has and will remain impartial. Government officials are prohibited of expressing their support for any cfp and according to local media election campaign posters of President Karzai were removed from governmental as well as non-governmental areas. Cfp Mr. Ghani inquired President Karzai about

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taking part in a broadcasted debate. The inquiry got affirmed by the Presidents Spokesman, under the conditions that the debate's rules and criteria are observed and that the CFPs taking part in this debate only have one single nationality: Afghan. President Karzai is convinced of winning the debates and promised that there will be some unexpected surprises for his rival candidates. He further expressed that the people of Afghanistan do not support a change of the governmental system, as reference to one of the candidates supposed program. The Election Media Commission complained on 12<sup>th</sup> of June that the media is not remaining impartial.

So far 302 complaints were sent to the Electoral complaints commission (EEC) – some of them directed against President Karzai -, 33 presidential candidates and 54 provincial council's candidates have been removed from the election list due to war crimes, dual citizenships and/or relations to illegal militias. Among them were Mr. Mohammad Akbar Bai, Mr. Sayed, Mr. Jafar Hopiani as well as Mr. Sangeen Mohammad Rahmani, who plead not guilty of any of the above mentioned and perceive it as conspiracy. Mr. Shahla Atta, Mr. Abdul Majeed Samim, Mr. Mohammad Karim Torsan and Mr. Mohammad Bashir Bezhan have not registered their assets yet and might now face fines or exclusion of the elections, according to IEC. The "final list" was announced on 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2009 - 41 presidential candidates – but further withdrawal of candidates is not ruled out, depending on how these candidates stick to the rules and regulations.

1. Mirwais Yaseeni: First Deputy Ammanullah Payman and Second Deputy Abdul Qayoom Sajadi.

2. Rahimjan Shirzad: First Deputy Mohammad Assara and Second Deputy Malik Shakirullah.

3. Bismillah Shir: First Deputy Mohammad Hussan Tawhidi and Second Deputy Sikandar Khan Hussain.

4. Mohammad Yassin Safi: First Deputy Mohammad Israel and Second Deputy Mohammad Azim Tahir.

5. Bashir Ahmad Bezhan: First Deputy Abdul Ghafar Erfani and Second Deputy Fatema Naeemi.

6. Mohammad Sarwar Ahmazai: First Deputy Mohammad Karim Jalili and Second Deputy Sayed Rasool.

7. Mutasimillah Mazhabi: First Deputy Mohammad Nasim Rawza Baqi and Second Deputy Eftikhar Ahmad Yousofzai.

8. Moeenudin Aulfati: First Deputy Khan Mohammad and Second Deputy Nadia.

9. Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai: First Deputy Mohammad Ayoub Rafiqi and Second Deputy Mohammad Ali Nabizada.

10. Habib Mangal: First Deputy Mohammad Dawood Rawesh and Second Deputy Nafas Jahid.

11. Abdul Latif Pedram: First Deputy Noorahmad Barzeen Khatebi and Second Deputy Mohammad Ayoub Qasemi.

12. Zabiullah Ghazi Nooristani: First Deputy Mohammad Zubair and Second Deputy Aqa Sayed.

13. Shanwaz Tanai: First Deputy Nisar Ahmad Salemi and Second Deputy Mohammad Jan Pamir.

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14. Sayed Jalal Karim: First Deputy Faiz Mohammad Daqiq and Second Deputy Ghulam Abas Waiz-zada Behsoodi.
15. Mohammad Hakim Torsan: First Deputy Nasrullah Ziarmal and Second Deputy Sayed Mohammad Yasin Alawai.
16. Mohammad Nasir Anis: First Deputy Suraya Daqiq and Second Deputy Sayed Aminullah.
17. Abdul Hasib Aryan: First Deputy Abdul Fatah Ghanikhil and Second Deputy Mirza Mohammad Mia.
18. Abdul Salam Racketi: First Deputy Mohammad Ajmal Habib Safi and Second Deputy Mohammad Sadiq.
19. Ghulam Mohammad Regi: First Deputy Wali Mohammad Aksir and Second Deputy Baz Mohammad Yaftali.
20. Ziaulhaq Hafizi: First Deputy Sayed Mohammad Baqir Misbahzada and Second Deputy Haji Sayed Ahmad Hamdard.
21. Ramazan Bashardost: First Deputy Mohammad Mousa Barakzai and Second Deputy Afifa Marouf.
22. Mohammad Akbar Oria: First Deputy Abdul Zahir Mirzakhil and Second Deputy Zulmay Faqiri.
23. Mohammad Saeed Hashimi: First Deputy Mohammad Masoum and Second Deputy Mohammad Naeem Ansari.
24. Baz Mohammad Koofi: First Deputy Zarmina Sahar and Second Deputy Sayed Mohammad Baqir Ameri.
25. Abdul Majeed Samim: First Deputy Obaidullah and Second Deputy Sayed Shah Aqa.
26. Sangin Mohammad Rahmani: First Deputy Rajabgul, Second Deputy not known.
27. Nasrullah Baryalay Arsalai: First Deputy Abdul Baqi Turkistani and Second Deputy Sayed Mohammad Alam.
28. Mahboobullah Koshani: First Deputy Mohammad Zaman Atrafi and Second Deputy Mohammad Sharif Tarakhil.
29. Abdul Qadir Emami Ghorii: First Deputy Mohammad Yasin Katiba and Second Deputy Sultan Ali Murtaza Nikzad.
30. Shah Mohmod Popal: First Deputy Alim Rahiq and Second Deputy Shah Jahaan.
31. Abdulah Abdulah: First Deputy Humayoun Shah Asefi and Second Deputy Cheragh Ali Cheragh.
32. Shahla Atta: First Deputy Abdul Habib Siar and Second Deputy Gul Mohammad Urozgani.
33. Forozan Fana: First Deputy Nasimullah Darman and Second Deputy Ghulam Jailani Satari.
34. Ghulam Farooq Nejrabi: First Deputy Abdul Wakil and Second Deputy Ghulam Jailani Sediqi.
35. Abdul Jabar Sabit: First Deputy Mohammad Ali Mohammadi and Second Deputy Abdul Jabar Raufi.
36. Abdul Ghafoor Zoori: First Deputy Mohammad Zahir Aslami and Second Deputy Abdul Rashid Payman.

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37. Hedayat Amin Arsala: First Deputy Mohammad Ismail Qasimyar and Second Deputy Dost Mohammad Omari.

38. Mohammad Hashim Tawfiqi: First Deputy Shah Wali Rohani and Second Deputy Ghulam Ali Amin.

39. Gul Ahmad Paima: First Deputy Ahmad Shah Asar and Second Deputy Sulaiman Ali.

40. Hassan Ali Sultani: First Deputy Mesri Khan Mohmmmand and Second Deputy Abdul Raqib.

41. Hamid Karzai: First Deputy Mohammad Qasim Fahim and Second Deputy Mohammad Karim Khalili.

**Security and Governance:** The prevailing conditions in Afghanistan are worrying: lack of personal security, high government taxes, corruption, bribery, bad infrastructure, etc. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of June 2009 demonstrations were held by military officers – the second within one month - blocking Kabul's main intersection. Cause of the protest was the expropriation of land that these officers claim to be given on the presidential decree. The land has been given instead to members of parliament by General Zahir Azimi. They accused the President, Kabul Mayor as well as the Defense Ministry for negligence. The Defence Ministry announced that they have done their very best for the time being and expect the Kabul Municipality to give assistance to the retired military officers.

**Human Rights:** UNICEF as well as the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) classified the prevailing children's situation in Afghanistan as alarming: Child labour as well as the general use of violence is omnipresent,

families struggle for their existence, school attendance is not ensured. According to the Afghan Lawyers Bar Association (ALBA) an Afghan boy named Jawad got accused of having thrown a hand grenade at a US military vehicle - leading to the injury of two US soldiers and one interpreter – in 2002 at the age of 12 and is now imprisoned in Guantanamo, Cuba. ALBA considers the arrest as an offence against all international binding laws and violation of human rights and demands an immediate release of the boy. ALBA assumes other children to suffer the same tragedy

**Environment:** On the 4<sup>th</sup> of June 2009 - Afghanistan's international environment day - the Minister of Public Health held a speech pointing out the alarming air pollution in Kabul and other big cities, causing death in a high extend. He asked for an international conference regarding this issue, since Afghanistan is not capable of solving this problem without foreign help.

**Freedom of Speech:** A journalistic freedom of speech is not yet entirely implemented in Afghanistan, as the recent arrest of the journalist Norajan – working for the local radio station "Killid", located in the Khost province - together with his two brothers showed. Accused of having links with insurgents, they were arrested by coalition forces until the Ministry of Information and Culture could achieve their discharge by declaring this procedure as a violation of human rights as well as the freedom of speech.