



Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC)



Annual Report
1 January 2006 – 31 December 2006



Abbreviation Key

AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
ANA	Afghan National Army
ANP	Afghan National Police
CCC	Child Correction Centre
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of Children
CRU	Child Rights Unit
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DC	Detention Centre
HR	Human Rights
HREU	Human Rights Education Unit
ICC	International Criminal Court
M&IU	Monitoring and Investigation Unit
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
MoWA	Ministry of Women's Affairs
PWD	People with Disabilities
TJU	Transitional Justice Unit
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UN	United Nations
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNHCR	United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
VAW	Violence against Women
WRU	Women's Rights Unit



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Executive Summary

2006 marked an important milestone in the history of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) as it started to implement a new project in support of its three-year action plan 2006 -2008. This project formulates a logical analysis framework with appropriate benchmarks for accurate monitoring and reporting purposes, and is the result of an extensive consultation process with donor representatives and the United Nations. In its fourth year of existence, the Commission initiated a new era of direct bilateral relations with donors on 31 March 2006, when the Commission's project phased out from UNDP' s financial administration in consultation with its donors and partners.

During 2006, AIHRC fulfilled its mandate related to the promotion, protection and monitoring of human rights in accordance with the requirements settled in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and the Afghanistan Compact. Throughout the year, AIHRC ensured an efficient financial and programmatic management of its project, and thus represented a model of capacity-building for other national institutions.

The Commission continued to advocate for the promotion of human rights and strengthened partnerships with government and civil society organizations, donors and the United Nations through regular coordination meetings such as the quarterly meetings of the Project Committee. The Project Committee includes donor representatives, the United Nations and the Ministry of Finance. Its purpose is to ensure close and effective communication between partners and AIHRC, and to provide feedback and advice on progress towards achieving the Commission's three-year action plan.

A positive sign of progress at the end of the year was the confirmation of the list of Commissioners already working for the Commission in 2006 (with the exception of Commissioner Fakoor) and the appointment of three new Commissioners.

The AIHRC took the opportunity of the anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to grant awards to human rights activists. During the ceremony organized by AIHRC on 10 December 2006, the President of Afghanistan officially launched the Government's National Action on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation and declared 10 December as the Remembrance Day of victims of past human rights violations and abuses.

One of the greatest challenges faced by the Commission during 2006 was caused by the security situation, which has increasingly deteriorated in Afghanistan. Despite the threats caused by insecurity, the implementation of activities made a fair progress in accordance with the Commission's three year action plan. For the purpose of this report, a results framework has been designed that is able to indicate progress.



Promotion: Activities related to the promotion of human rights have progressed well during 2006, and were primarily implemented by the Human Rights Education, the Women's Rights, the Child Rights, the People with Disabilities units and the Transitional Justice Unit.

AIHRC continued to strengthen partnerships with civil society organizations throughout the year. The Commission implemented a strategic approach with government institutions and focused on advocating for human rights and raising awareness amongst governmental staff from the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Education, the Afghan National Army (Ministry of Defence), the Afghan National Police (Ministry of Interior), the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Attorney General's Office and prisons authorities. Staff members of governmental institutions were educated on human rights concepts. During the past year, the National Police Academy and the Afghan National Army provided human rights training to their students.

During 2006, the Commission informed thousands of people on human rights concepts through workshops, media broadcasts and meetings, and distributed 159,000 copies of its Human Rights magazine throughout Afghanistan. Besides of government officials, the Afghan National Army, the Afghan National Police, and the judiciary system, the Commission's advocacy efforts targeted mullahs, religious scholars, students, and the general public.

In cooperation with the Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF), AIHRC held an international conference from 15 to 17 August 2006 on the analyses of Family Law in the context of Islam. Scholars from Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan and Bangladesh were invited to share their experience in relation to Family Law according to Islamic Law, and its interpretation on subjects like marriage, divorce, child custody and polygamy. The participants included Afghan representatives from the judiciary system, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Parliament, Civil Society and AIHRC.

In addition, the Commission held an international conference on tolerance, self-immolations and how to set up an effective strategy to stop self-immolation incidents, from 14 to 16 November 2006 in Kabul, and in cooperation with Medica Mondial International. The objective of the conference was to discuss and exchange experiences with similar countries in relation with cases of self-immolations. The conference was enriched by the participation of representatives from India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, as well as representatives from Afghan Civil Society Organizations, the Ministry of Justice, Members of Parliament, and the Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth. At the end of the conference, a committee formed by AIHRC, Afghan civil society organizations, the Ministry of Justice, members of the Parliament's Statute Committee, and the Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth, was established to develop a strategy to counter the phenomenon of self-immolation in Afghanistan.

In the context of the campaign launched for the celebration of the International Day on the Elimination of all forms of Violence Against Women (25 November), AIHRC



produced a thirteen minutes long documentary film entitled *Vision of Afghan Women* and regularly broadcast by the Afghanistan National TV channel from 16 to 28 November 2006. The Commission also produced *Cable Seyah* (Black Cable), *Godigak-e Nargis* (Nargis' Doll) and a documentary film on the rights to equal education to raise awareness on child rights, and more specifically, to show the impact of violence on children.

A major obstacle faced during the past year consisted in lengthy procedures and negotiations with the Ministry of Education, which could not eventually lead to the insertion of the designed human rights material in the secondary school curricula. However, positive discussions took place towards the end of 2006, and it is hoped to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Education in this respect shortly.

Monitoring: Monitoring activities have progressed well during 2006, despite the deteriorating security situation in southern and eastern provinces of Afghanistan. During the reporting period, monitoring teams had to cancel, delay their missions or change their plans in some AIHRC offices such as those located in Kandahar, Maimana, Jalalabad, Hirat, and Gardiz.

Monitoring activities have been implemented by the Monitoring and Investigation, Child Rights, Women's Rights and HRFM units, in accordance with the Commission's three-year action plan. Prisons, Detention Centres and Child Correction Centres were regularly and successfully monitored throughout the year. As can be seen in the results framework in the following section, 573 monitoring missions of prisons and detention centres were conducted in 34 provinces. Hospitals and orphanages were increasingly monitored (16 hospitals in 13 provinces were monitored for violence against women, 21 orphanages and 26 Child Correction Centres across the country were monitored for cases of abuse and unsuitable living conditions).

During the reporting period, an improvement of the living conditions in men's and women's prisons has been observed. The Human Rights Field Monitoring Teams monitored the human rights situation throughout Afghanistan through the conduction of 10,280 interviews in 30 provinces and 132 districts.

AIHRC has continued to work in partnership with Save the Children Sweden-Norway, which has supported AIHRC in recruiting a Child Rights Field Monitor in six Human Rights Field Monitoring Teams. The objective of the Child Rights Monitoring project was to ensure that children were able to participate in the Commission's monitoring of the human rights situation in Afghanistan, particularly in assessing the implementation of the standards set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Six Child Rights Monitors have been recruited in the AIHRC offices in Kabul, Hirat, Jalalabad, Gardiz, Kunduz and Mazar-i Sharif, and conducted a total of 2,919 interviews (1,461 with girls and 1,458 with boys) in 63 districts of 18 provinces of Afghanistan. A total of 27 human rights violations related to children have been identified during these field missions.



Another important achievement consisted in the release of a National Report on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights in May 2006 in three languages (Dari, Pashto and English). This report assessed the government's obligations to protect and fulfil selected economic and social rights under international treaties ratified by Afghanistan. The report analyzed human rights trends and issues with a statistic-based narrative, and was submitted to government authorities with recommendations. The Commission also submitted during the past year a first report to the Parliament on the human rights situation and AIHRC's activities in Afghanistan along with recommendations, to be considered by the Parliament while reviewing and passing new laws.

AIHRC conducted a research to find the causes of self-immolations and honour killings in the south-west provinces of Afghanistan. The research was conducted in five months and involved interviewing victims and/or their relatives. Based on the findings, the AIHRC prepared a report on the causes of self-immolations and honour killings in the South-West of Afghanistan.

In addition, AIHRC completed two researches and issued reports on child labour and child sexual abuse in November 2006.

Protection: Activities related to the protection of human rights in Afghanistan have progressed well during the past year, despite the continuing weakness of the judiciary system and the absence of rule of law.

During the reporting period, the case management system was revised in consultation with UNHCR and seventeen human rights categories have been identified to cover all cases of human rights violations and abuses submitted to AIHRC.

As can be seen in the results framework in the following section, of the 1,645 complaints received during 2006 (which involved 2,063 violations), 1,296 complaints were investigated and 192 interventions led to resolution, 96 family disputes including violence against women cases were mediated with indications of resolution or improvement in the situation. The release of 459 illegally detained men, 172 illegally imprisoned men, 28 illegally arrested men and 184 illegally detained children in prisons, child correctional centres and detention centres was secured.

Upon AIHRC's intervention, 3 prisons wardens have been dismissed in Kabul after torturing a prisoner whose case was under investigation. In Ghazni province, police officers who had tortured a detainee were arrested following AIHRC's investigation and intervention.

In October 2006, the Commission recruited a National Human Rights Violations Focal Point based in Kabul with the responsibility to follow-up cases of human rights violations submitted by AIHRC provincial and regional offices with ministries and governmental authorities in the capital. From October 2006 to the end of December 2006, 16 human rights violation cases, which were identified by AIHRC regional and provincial offices in



Kandahar, Daykundi, Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif, and Hirat, were submitted to the National Human Rights Violations Focal Point. The National Human Rights Violations Focal Point ensured a consistent follow-up with the Attorney General, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice, and solved 6 human rights violation cases within three months.



Background

Since more than four years, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) has endeavoured to fulfil its mandate related to the promotion, protection, monitoring and investigation of human rights in the country.

The human rights provisions of the Bonn Agreement initiated in 2001 a series of national workshops, sessions and consultation meetings, which took place in 2002 and led to the establishment of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) by Presidential Decree in June 2002.

AIHRC benefits from an independent and constitutional status, which was legitimized in Article 58 of the Afghan Constitution:

" The State for the purpose of monitoring and protecting human rights in Afghanistan shall establish the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan. Every person in case of violation of his or her human rights can refer persons whose human rights have been violated, to legal authorities and assist the victims in defending their rights. The structure and functions of the Commission shall be regulated by law."

The Commission's duties and mandate have been legitimized through the adoption by Presidential Decree of the Law on the Structure, Duties and Mandate of the AIHRC in May 2005. The law set out regulations regarding the structure, duties, authorities, responsibilities and mandate of the Commission, and also addressed the independence of the Commission including the appointment of Commissioners.

The Afghanistan Compact includes the following benchmark for further development in the field of human rights in Afghanistan (Annex I, p.8):

"By end-2010: The Government's capacity to comply with and report on its human rights treaty obligations will be strengthened; Government security and law enforcement agencies will adopt corrective measures including codes of conduct and procedures aimed at preventing arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, extortion and illegal expropriation of property with a view to the elimination of these practices; the exercise of freedom of expression, including freedom of media, will be strengthened; human rights awareness will be included in education curricula and promoted among legislators, judicial personnel and other Government agencies, communities and the public; human rights monitoring will be carried out by the Government and independently by the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), and the UN will track the effectiveness of measures aimed at the protection of human rights; the AIHRC will be supported in the fulfilment of its objectives with regard to monitoring, investigation, protection and promotion of human rights."

The Afghanistan Compact translated the commitment of the international community and the Afghan Government present at the London Conference held on 31 January – 1 February 2006 to provide further support to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights



Commission (AIHRC) in relation to the promotion, protection and monitoring of human rights.

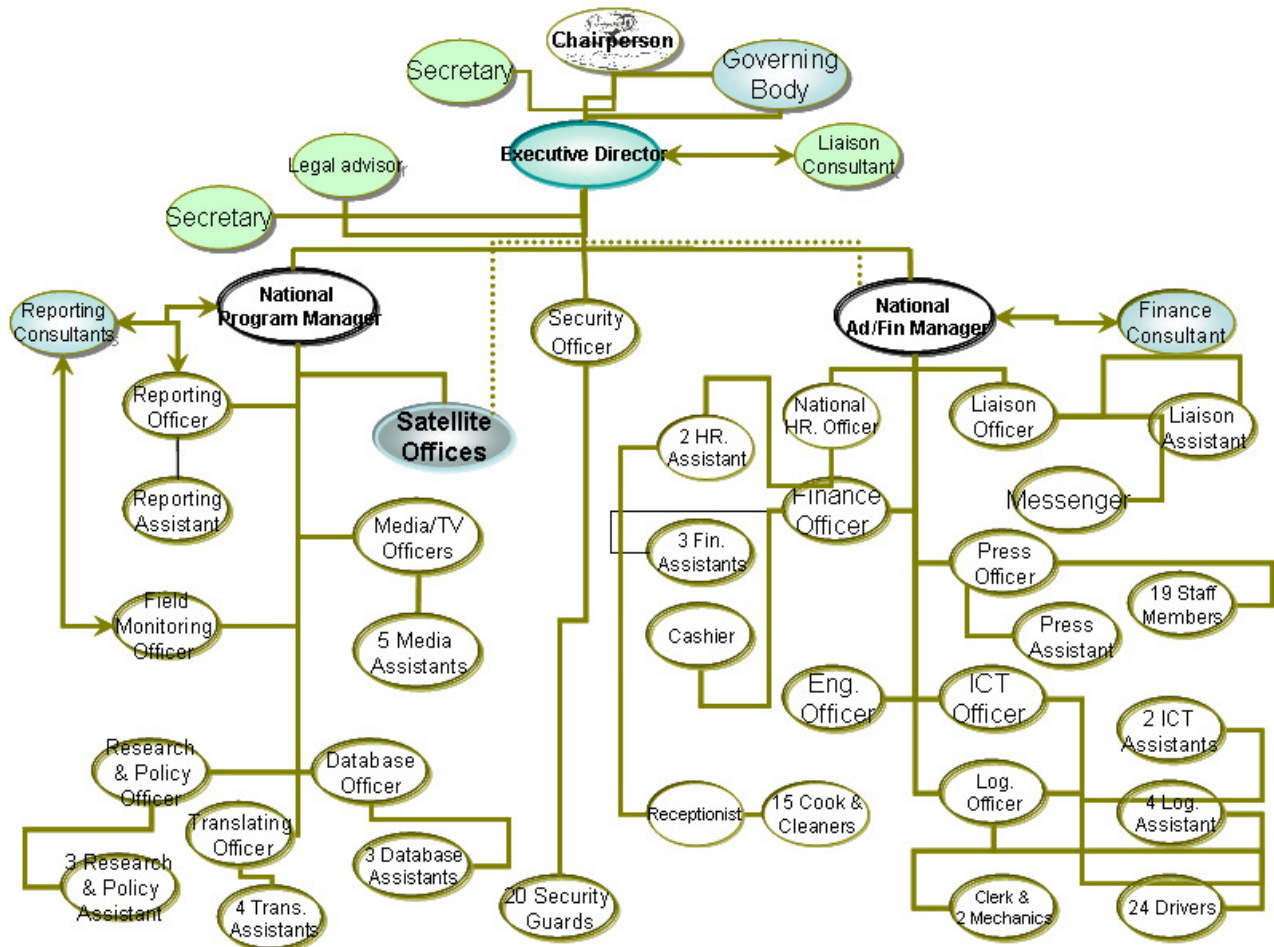
From 2002 to 2005, the Commission received a total of US\$ 16 million referring to contributions from Denmark, Switzerland, Finland, Norway, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, New Zealand, OHCHR, and UNHCR. New partners joined the list of donors providing financial support to AIHRC in 2006, such as Australia, the Netherlands, and Ireland.



Project Overview

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) has been chaired by Dr. Sima Samar since its establishment in 2002. During 2006, the Board of Commissioners included Mr. Ahmad Fahim Hakim, Mr. Ali Ahmad Fakoor, Ms. Hangama Anwari, Mr. Ahmad Zia Langari, Mr. Mohammad Farid Hamidi and Mr. Ahmad Nadir Nadiri. Dr. Soraya Sobhrang served as an Advisor on Women's Rights.

AIHRC Organizational Chart



For more than two years and a half, the Commission awaited the confirmation of its present list of Commissioners and the nomination of three commissioners to complete the Board of Commissioners as per the Law on the Structure, Duties, and Mandate of the AIHRC. This was finalized by the President of Afghanistan at the end of December 2006. The present list of Commissioners was thus confirmed, with the exception of Mr. Ali Ahmad Fakoor. Dr. Soraya Sobhrang was officially appointed as Commissioner for Women's Rights. The Commission was marked by a significant sign of change with the appointment of two new Commissioners, Mawlawi Ghulam Mohammad Gharib and Mr. Abdul Karim Aziz. More specifically, the appointment of a religious scholar as a Commissioner will assist AIHRC in continuing to demonstrate that human rights



principles are positively correlated with Islam, and that the Commission respects religious values practiced in Afghanistan.

The Commission has one head office and 11 regional and provincial offices throughout Afghanistan located in Kabul, Mazar, Hirat, Bamyan, Kunduz, Gardiz, Jalalabad, Kandahar, Daykundi, Maimana and Badakhshan, and employs 475 staff members. This includes 132 staff members in the Kabul Headquarters, 295 staff members in its regional offices, and 48 staff members in its provincial offices.

AIHRC has seven program units to fulfil its mandate related to the promotion, protection and monitoring of human rights:

1. **The Human Rights Education Unit (HREU)**, which is primarily responsible for the promotion of human rights and for bringing about attitudinal and behavioural changes in the Afghan society to support the institutionalization of human rights. The vision of the program is a transformation from the prevailing culture of war and violence, to a culture of human rights and peace nationwide, supporting dialogue, tolerance, co-existence and diversity.
2. **The Women's Rights Unit (WRU)**, which promotes and protects women's rights through advocacy, training and education, and monitors the status and well-being of women in Afghanistan with the aim of addressing the underlying causes of violations of women's human rights, thereby contributing to effective policy analysis and submissions.
3. **The Child Rights Unit (CRU)**, which supports protection of child rights through providing coordination and support to stakeholders through its focus on awareness raising, promotion and monitoring of the status and well-being of children in Afghanistan. Like the WRU, its aim is to understand and address the underlying causes of the abuses of children's rights and advocate for laws and policies that protect children from such abuse.
4. **The Monitoring and Investigation Unit (M&IU)**, which is responsible for monitoring human rights, receiving complaints of abuses from the public, investigating those abuses and addressing them with the relevant authorities. While the WRU and CRU monitor the general well-being and status of women and children respectively, the M&I unit addresses individual cases of violations of the rights of all citizens including women and children. The M&IU also feeds data to other units to inform submissions to the President and relevant authorities, as well as the Afghan Parliament and the international community.
5. **The Human Rights Field Monitoring Unit (HRFM)**, which conducts missions to the field and actively gathers information on human rights issues through individual interviews, with an emphasis on accessing remote areas and a focus on refugees and IDPs. This complements the Commission's key responsibility to receive complaints of human rights violations through the Monitoring and Investigation Unit and enables the Commission to reach populations which may



not otherwise be able to access the AIHRC regional and provincial offices. Information on human rights violations and abuses, obtained through interviews, is shared with the Monitoring and Investigations units and other units of the Commission, where relevant.

6. **The Transitional Justice Unit (TJU)**, which is responsible for developing strategies and policies to confront past human rights abuses of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and for collecting documentation and information about the nature, causes and perpetrators of these crimes in Afghanistan.

7. **The People with Disabilities Unit (PWDU)**, which is responsible for the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities in Afghanistan. This unit has been newly established and has strengthened itself through hiring adequate staff for the AIHRC satellite offices throughout the country. The core activities of this unit have consisted so far in advocacy, affirmative actions, and awareness raising of the special needs and obstacles faced by people with disabilities. In the future, the unit will investigate individual complaints of violations in close collaboration with the Monitoring and Investigation Unit.

Six facilities have been established with the objective of supporting the Commission's programs: the Research unit, the Reporting unit, the Media and Publications unit, the Database Unit, the Resource Centre and the printing press.

On 1 January 2006, AIHRC entered in a new phase and started the implementation of the project in support of its three-year action plan 2006 -2008. The purpose of this project is to establish and sustain an effective partnership between the AIHRC and international development actors, government representatives and Civil Society Organizations to support the Commission in achieving the following objectives in accordance with the Afghanistan Compact, its own legislation and the themes of its action plan:

- Promoting human rights in Afghanistan
- Protecting human rights in Afghanistan
- Monitoring and investigating the human rights situation in Afghanistan
- Building the capacity and organizational strength of the AIHRC.



Major Activities and Achievements

The major activities and achievements of the AIHRC during the last year are set out in the results framework in the following section, which is arranged to reflect the Commission's three main areas of focus in the field of human rights that is the promotion, monitoring, and protection of human rights, as well as an additional priority area for the Commission related to the institutional strengthening and capacity building of the AIHRC. These main areas of focus are linked to clear objectives set in the Commission's three-year action plan.

Human Rights Education Unit (HREU)

The Human Rights Education unit is primarily responsible for the promotion of human rights and for bringing about attitudinal and behavioural changes in the Afghan society to support the institutionalization of human rights.

During the year 2006, the unit organised 293 workshops and 415 awareness-raising meetings, at which 23,168 people (7,086 of whom were women) learned about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the Convention on Elimination of all kinds of Discrimination Against Woman (CEDAW), conflict resolution, human rights violations, the harm of forced and child marriages, and the Convention against Torture, their results, underlying principles and relevance to Afghanistan.

AIHRC strengthened its promotion efforts with national police and national army institutions as well as security officials. Throughout the past year, the Commission trained ANA, ANP and security officials on human rights principles. This had definitely an impact on the decrease of the occurrence of beating and torture perpetrated by the Police. One significant sign of progress can be illustrated by the following case:

In Hirat province, the Human Rights Unit of the AIHRC conducted a workshop on human rights for law enforcement officials. On the second day of the workshop, some participants were absent. They attended the third day of the workshop and justified their absence the previous day by a last-minute raid on thieves that had been located in the province. During the third day of the workshop, the police officers narrated that one day before, they had been told by their superior to beat the arrested thieves. The police officers openly refused and stood to their superior justifying themselves with the human rights principles they had learnt during the first day of the workshop.

This included a total of 25 workshops over the past year aimed at training Afghan National Army (ANA), Afghan National Police (ANP) and security officials, as well as prison guards and highway police officers in the provinces of Kabul, Hirat, Paktia, Khost, Kunduz, Ningarhar, Badakhshan, Zabul, Takhar and Kandahar on human rights principles, with a total number of 869 trainees.



In the context of promoting and raising awareness on human rights amongst government officials, the HREU trained the prison and detention centre guards of Kabul Prison and Pul-i-Charkhi Prison, and had regular cooperation and coordination meetings with the ANA and ANP Training Centres, the Academy of Police and the National Security Training Centre. During the reporting period, the National Police and the National Army academies provided training on human rights to their students. Trainings on human rights principles in these institutions were monitored by the HREU. The unit also ensured a regular delivery of AIHRC publications to the Afghan National Army and Police institutions, as well as to other governmental bodies, such as the ANDS.

A positive achievement over the past year consisted in the Religious Affairs Department of Badakhshan and Jalalabad provinces accepting to instruct mullahs to publicize human rights concepts in mosques.

In the second half of the year 2006, AIHRC conducted a series of workshops on *Human Rights from the prospective of Islam*, partially funded by Equal Access, and targeting men, women, religious scholars, mullahs and teachers, in remote areas of Wardak, Bamyan and Ningarhar provinces. The overall objective was to raise awareness among the targeted groups and to mobilize community discussion groups on human rights. In this context, the HREU provided a total of 31 workshops and trained a total of 666 people, including 475 men and 191 women.

The HREU strengthened partnership with the Centre for International Journalism (CIJ), and provided financial support to the CIJ in relation with human rights workshops for journalists and the media working in Kabul. The first workshop on *Human Rights and Journalism* was conducted from 9 to 13 December 2006 for 30 journalists working for ministries, national and private T.V. channels in Afghanistan.

During the past year, advocacy efforts were emphasized in the universities of Kabul, Maimana, Hirat, Jalalabad, as well as in the National Police and National Army academies with weekly awareness-raising meetings organized by AIHRC within these institutions. A positive sign of progress consisted in the University of Hirat, adding human rights to the curricula of its faculties of Political Science, Economics and Literature. In addition, AIHRC trained five Maimana University teachers on human rights concepts and provided human rights related documentation to be further transmitted to students. A major obstacle faced during the past year was caused by the delay by the Ministry of Education to include the designed human rights material in the secondary school curricula. However, positive discussions took place towards the end of 2006, and it is hoped to have a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Education in this respect shortly.

The HREU cooperated with the AIHRC media staff to provide a total of 3,121 broadcast minutes for television and 10,302 broadcast minutes for radio on a variety of human rights issues including past human rights abuses, women's rights according to the principles of human rights and Islam, Justice for Children, the international day of the



Child and AIHRC duties and responsibilities, the tradition of *Bad*¹ from the prospective of Islam, torture, and the International Day on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.



Workshop on Human Rights for advisers to governors of Afghanistan, Kabul, November 2006

During the reporting period, AIHRC provided support to Aina TV in producing and broadcasting a bi-monthly human rights programme with a total of 660 broadcast minutes. The Commission collaborated with television and radio stations in Mazar, Hirat, Kunduz, Kandahar, Bamyán, Gardiz, Daikondi and Jalalabad, which continued to broadcast regular human rights related programmes throughout the year. Due to the advocacy efforts of the AIHRC, the Governor of Hirat launched in May 2006 a six-month awareness raising campaign against self-immolations. In this context, AIHRC has been active in providing human rights material to the media. Another indicator of success was observed in the province of Hirat, where a local newspaper entitled *Etefaq-e Islam* agreed to allocate a page to human rights issues twice per month.

In 2006, the Human Rights Education unit wished to stress the universality of human rights principles and the need to have human rights related documents translated in minority languages. The unit started to work on the translation into Uzbeki language of human rights documents such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Islamic Declaration of Human Rights and the Declaration of Human Rights and the Citizen. In addition the Human Rights Education Unit worked on the preparation of 10,000 copies of a brochure on the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in Uzbeki, as well as 10,000 copies of a brochure on the

¹ The *Bad* is a traditional practice related to forced marriages, which consists in giving out women and girls to resolve disputes between families.



occasion of the Child International day (20 November), which was distributed to the Afghan population by AIHRC offices throughout Afghanistan.

On the occasion of the 58th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), the HREU prepared fourteen sets of three to six meters banners including 7 articles of the UDHR in Dari and Pashto. These banners were placed in different areas of Kabul.

During the past year, the HREU continued to work in close partnership with civil society organisations to promote human rights in Afghanistan. One of AIHRC's focuses consisted in training civil society organizations on human rights concepts, so that they could on their turn raise awareness amongst the Afghan population on human rights issues. A few examples: In May 2006, the HREU provided training to 19 trainers employed by organizations which were members of the Afghan Women Network (AWN). In November 2006, the HREU conducted a Training of Trainers workshop for 30 staff of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA). In December 2006, the AIHRC conducted a one-day workshop aiming at training Afghan artists located in Parwan, Kapisa, and Panshir provinces on human rights principles.

In October 2006, the HREU conducted two awareness-raising meetings on human rights with 199 members of people with disabilities ' Social Centre and 40 voluntaries from a youth foundation.

Throughout 2006, the HREU provided Human Rights Education material such as brochures, posters, magazines and books, and worked in close collaboration with the civil society organization listed below:

- Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)
- Saday-e Azadi Foundation
- Noor Educational Centre
- Youth and Civil Society Centre
- Afghan Artists Association
- Afghan Human Rights Activists Foundation (AHRAF)
- Sanayee Development Foundation (SDF)
- Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA)
- Norwegian Projects Office (NPO)
- Development of Women's Abilities Organization (DWA)
- Shohada Organization
- Polghoo Reconstruction Foundation (PRF)
- Afghan Women Network (AWN)
- Afghan Women for Development (AWD)
- Afghan Civil Society Foundation (ACSF)
- United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
- Centre of International Journalism (CIJ)

The HREU, in close consultation with well-known experts and training institutions, developed, published and widely distributed a training manual on Human Rights



Education. This manual is to provide assistance to trainers on techniques and methods to conduct human rights trainings. The Commission identified national capacity, and worked closely with Afghan freelance consultants such as Mr. Hamidullah Natiq to develop the Human Rights Training Manual and conduct Training of Trainers workshops. The unit also worked on a manual to provide guidance on prison reform, where all international standards in relation with the condition of prisoners are taken into account.

In coordination with the Women's Rights unit, the HREU organized a one-day conference for female Members of Parliament on human rights and AIHRC's mandate, objectives and activities, in order to improve and strengthen the working relations between the AIHRC and the Parliament of Afghanistan.

Women's Rights Unit (WRU)

The Women's Rights Unit promotes and protects women's rights through advocacy, training and education, and monitors the status and well-being of women in Afghanistan with the aim of addressing the underlying causes of violations of women's rights, thereby contributing to effective policy analysis and submissions.

Achievements over the reporting period included awareness raising on women's rights through the celebration of the International Women's Day on 8 March by 8 AIHRC regional and 3 AIHRC provincial offices through conferences, meetings and poem-reading gatherings. On this occasion, 3 women's rights activists were awarded and 12,000 copies of a special issue magazine for Women's Day were printed and distributed throughout the country. Women sentenced for less than one year were released as a result of the unit's close collaboration on the related presidential decree with the Supreme Court and the Ministry of Justice, and a report on women's condition in Afghanistan including recommendations to the Government was issued.

During the past year, achievements related to the promotion of women's rights by the unit resulted in 13,597 people (4,110 of whom were men) learning about the concept of violence against women in Afghanistan, women's rights in Islam and CEDAW, and the work of the AIHRC to address women's rights, through the provision of 108 educational workshops and 261 awareness raising meetings. The WRU continued to focus on reaching community leaders such as mullahs and elders, as well as government officials in addition to women.

Other achievements consisted in monitoring women's prisons and detention centres, and providing protection primarily through interventions made at the request of women. During the past year, 21 women's prisons and detention centres were monitored in 15 provinces of Afghanistan². And as the result of the unit's negotiations with prisons authorities, minimum standards of women's prisons were found to have improved in

² Kabul, Balkh, Kunduz, Bamyan, Baghlan, Samangan, Laghman, Ningarhar, Hirat, Kandahar, Faryab, Takhar, Kunar, Paktia and Sar-e-Pul.



terms of provision of sufficient food, clean water, medical services, beds, sanitation, and quick processing of legal cases. 16 hospitals were monitored throughout Afghanistan for cases of violence against women. 518 women received legal advice, and 96 family disputes including violence against women cases were mediated with indications of resolution or improvement in their situation.

Advocacy efforts and regular contacts with government representatives were strengthened over the past year by the unit, notably to improve the condition of women detainees in Afghanistan. In this context, AIHRC could convince the Ministry of Justice and prisons authorities to keep women detainees in the building of the Women's Affairs department in Kunduz province instead of detaining them in a prison for women in another province, where they could not be visited anymore by their families. In addition, as a result of the WRU's efforts and the cooperation of the literacy department of Mazar-i-sharif, literacy classes started in Mazar-i-Sharif prison for women in November 2006.

The Commission witnessed over the past year an important number of self-immolation cases in the south- west provinces of Afghanistan (Hirat, Kandahar, Farah, Nimroz and Badghis) as well as cases of human rights violations including honour killings. AIHRC took the initiative of conducting a research to find the causes of self-immolations and honour killings in the south-west provinces of Afghanistan. The research was conducted in five months and involved interviewing victims and/or their relatives. Based on the findings, the AIHRC prepared a report on the causes of self-immolations and honour killings in the South-West of Afghanistan.

The Woman's Rights unit strengthened during the past year mediation and awareness-raising efforts on Women's Rights. In Ningarhar province, an Afghan woman submitted a complaint to the AIHRC office located in Jalalabad. Joint efforts by the Women's Rights unit and the Monitoring and Investigation unit of the AIHRC consisted in raising her husband's awareness on women's rights, including the negative impact of violence against women. The woman's husband agreed to women's rights principles, and committed to stop his violent behaviour towards his wife. The AIHRC is in contact with the complainant, who confirmed a positive change in her husband's behaviour.

In cooperation with the Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBF), AIHRC held an international conference from 15 to 17 August 2006 on the analyses of Family Law in the context of Islam. Scholars from Egypt, Malaysia, Pakistan and Bangladesh were invited to share their experience in relation to Family Law according to Islamic Law, and its interpretation on subjects like marriage, divorce, child custody and polygamy. The participants included Afghan representatives from the judiciary system, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Parliament, Civil Society and AIHRC.

In addition, the Commission held an international conference on tolerance, self-immolations and how to set up an effective strategy to stop self-immolation incidents, from 14 to 16 November in Kabul, and in cooperation with Medica Mondial International.



The objective of the conference was to discuss and exchange experiences with similar countries in relation with cases of self-immolations. The conference was enriched by the participation of representatives from India, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Iraq, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, as well as representatives from Afghan Civil Society Organizations, the Ministry of Justice, Members of Parliament, and the Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth. At the end of the conference, a committee formed by AIHRC, Afghan civil society organizations, the Ministry of Justice, members of the Parliament 's Statute Committee, and the Ministry of Information, Culture and Youth, was established to develop a strategy to counter the phenomenon of self-immolation in Afghanistan.



AIHRC International Conference on Tolerance, Self-immolations and How to Set up an Effective Strategy to Stop Self-Immolation Incidents, 14 - 16 November 2006, Kabul.

The international day of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was celebrated on 25 November 2006. In this context, AIHRC launched a fifteen-day campaign to raise awareness on women's rights amongst the Afghan population. AIHRC produced a thirteen minutes long documentary film entitled *Vision of Afghan Women* and regularly broadcast by the Afghanistan National TV channel from 16 to 28 November 2006. In addition, the WRU prepared two short informative clips (2.5 minutes), including the number of cases of violence against women registered by AIHRC during 2006 in comparison with 2005 figures. This was broadcast by Tolo TV, Ariana TV and Aina TV for 15 days along with a Hadith, extracts of the Afghan constitution and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The WRU also cooperated with Save the Children Sweden-Norway in the elaboration of a brochure (10,000 copies) and a poster (10,000 copies) related to the international day of the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

In its public outreach and promotion efforts, the unit worked on a brochure related to Women's Rights according to Islam and a poster in Dari and Pashto on the right to education for women. The AIHRC office in Jalalabad produced *Jaber*, a film related to women's rights. The unit could also convince a film production company to insert human rights mottos in its films.



During the past year, the Women's Rights unit strengthened partnership with Civil Society Organizations, such as:

- Hawka Shelter for Women
- Kofa Shelter of Women
- GTZ
- Afghan Woman Network (AWN)
- Afghan Woman Educational Centre (AWEC)
- Save the Children Sweden Norway
- Afghan Civil Society Foundation
- Afghan Women Skills Development Centre (AWSD)

WRU also provided assistance to the Research unit in the conduct of a research on Afghanistan's customary laws and its impact on women with the support of the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU).

Child Rights Unit



Two chained child detainees in the Child Correction Centre in Takhar

The Child Rights Unit (CRU) supports the protection of child rights in close coordination with the Monitoring and Investigation unit, and focuses on awareness raising, promotion and monitoring of the status and well-being of children in Afghanistan. During 2006, promoting Child Rights, monitoring Child Correctional Centres (CCC), and protection interventions on behalf of children were the main activities implemented by the Child Rights unit.

Throughout the year, 10,040 people (4,049 of whom were women) including police, community elders, prosecutors, court staff and students learned about child rights, more specifically the Child Rights Convention, violence against children in the family, school, Society and its impact on Afghan children, and child labour, through 100 workshops and 236 awareness raising meetings. 51 orphanages and 26 Child Correction Centres across the country were monitored for cases of abuse and



unsuitable living conditions. Minimum Standards of Child Correction Centres in Kapisa, Balkh, Parwan, Kunduz, Baghlan, Jawzjan and Kandahar were found to have improved during the past year. 184 illegally detained children were released following AIHRC's intervention in Hirat, Mazar, Kandahar, Gardiz, Maimana, Kunduz and Jalalabad. As result of the advocacy efforts of this unit, the Ministry of Justice accepted to transfer children of convicted mothers to other institutions to protect them from the harsh and unsuitable environment of prisons. 38 children kept in prisons with their mothers have been transferred to other institutions to protect them from the harsh and unsuitable environment of prisons.

In the context of the Commission's coordination efforts, the CRU strengthened partnership with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs and with the following organizations over the past year:

- Save the Children USA
- Save the Children UK
- Save the Children Sweden-Norway
- Bakhter (local NGO)
- Terre Des Hommes (TDH)
- Bahzest Khanwada (local NGO)
- UNICEF
- Medica Mondial
- Children in Crisis
- Afghan Women Educational Centre
- Social Vocational Foundation (SVF)
- Ashiana
- Charity for Afghanistan (local NGO)

During the reporting period, the CRU participated in the Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) monthly meetings in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, Gardiz, Hirat, Kunduz and Jalalabad. During these meetings, information was exchanged and activities were coordinated in relation to cases of child rights violations. In addition, the CRU participated in the Youth Protection Action Network (YPAN) monthly coordination meetings, organized by Save the Children UK in Kabul. During these meetings, the CRU shared findings on youth rights in Afghanistan.

During the past year, the Child Rights Unit of the AIHRC regional office located in Gardiz discovered that there was no Child Correction Centre in Khost province, and that juvenile offenders were kept in detention centres and prison with adults. The Child Rights Unit's discussions with local authorities resulted in the establishment of a Child Correction Centre in Khost province.



The CRU conducted a workshop for 50 staff of the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA), and informed them about Child Rights, child trafficking, and child labour in Afghanistan.



Teachers and headmasters of the International Model School in Kabul attending a Child Rights workshop in December 2006

In November and December 2006, the AIHRC signed two agreements with local NGOs, Bahzest Khanwada and Bakhter to launch a campaign against corporal punishment on children. The objectives of these partnerships are based on the AIHRC three-year action plan related to the promotion of child rights. Bahzest Khanwada committed to conduct workshops on the physical impact of violence on children for a total of 500 kindergarten teachers in Kabul and 250 teachers in Kunduz, and Bakhter will conduct workshops on child rights targeting housewives in Kabul. In addition, as a follow-up to the Child to Child Training project, 8 volunteer children have been trained on Child Rights in Paktia and Daykundi provinces, who educated 1480 children on the Child Rights Convention and Declaration during the past year. The Child-to Child Training project began at the end of 2004, and introduced Child Rights to Afghan children through an educational package containing cartoons explaining issues faced by children and presented by child trainers. In 2004, a total of 251 children were trained through this program in Kandahar, Ningarhar, Mazar-i-Sharif, Hirat, Gardiz, and Bamyan. In 2005, the group of child trainers had expanded to 98 children, who continued to provide training to groups of children (3353 in total) in schools located in Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif, Kunduz, Maimana, Kandahar, Daikundi and Jalalabad.

On the occasion of the International Day of Children Solidarity on 20 May 2006, the unit produced and distributed 40,000 cards and school timetables including Child Rights Conventions to school students. The Universal Children's Day was celebrated on 20 November in different provinces (Sar-e-Pul, Laghman, Kandhar, Jaghory district of Ghazni province, Hirat, Kabul, Paktia, Kunduz, Fayab, Badkshshan, and Daikundi) by the 11 AIHRC regional and provincial offices. On that occasion, the AIHRC Kabul regional office worked on and printed a brochure on the Universal Children's Day (10,000 copies), worked on a book entitled *Survey on the Situation of Child Labour in Afghanistan* published in three languages, Dari (5,000 copies), Pashto (5,000 copies),



and English (1,000 copies), and distributed by regional and provincial offices. In addition, the CRU published the Child Rights Convention in 10,000 copies in Dari and Pashto Languages. The unit also cooperated with Save the Children Sweden-Norway on the preparation of banners to be placed in different locations of Kabul in order to raise awareness among the Afghan population on Child Rights.

AIHRC played a significant role in the reunification of an Afghan family in Kabul last year. During a monitoring mission in a Child Detention Centre Kapisa, the Child Rights unit discovered the case of a twelve-year old boy, who had been originally abducted in Kabul, and who had finally ended up in a Child Correction Centre in Kapisa after escaping from his abductor and spending a period of vagrancy. The child could not give his address, but the Child Rights unit could obtain from him the name of the school he had attended in the past. Through some investigation with his school, the Child Rights unit could track down the boy's family. Finally, the AIHRC could obtain the release of the young boy from the Kapisa Child Detention Centre, who was reunited with his family in the AIHRC office in Kabul.

Another significant achievement by the CRU consisted in the completion of two researches on child labour and child sexual abuse. The related reports were released on November 2006.

During the reporting period, the CRU produced three films: *Cable Seyah* (Black Cable), *Godigak-e Nargis* (Nargis' Doll) and a documentary film on the rights to equal education to raise awareness on child rights and, more specifically, to show the impact of violence on children. These films were officially screened on 7 October 2006.

In addition, the Child Rights Unit has developed a strategy for children with disabilities for the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, and contributed to the implementation of the Children at Risk strategy initiated by this ministry. The strategy has been drafted and will be finalized after being shared with stakeholders. It will be implemented by the Government of Afghanistan starting 2007. The Child Rights Unit is also a committee member for providing a strategy for children in conflict with the law. The work on this strategy is led by the Ministry of Justice.

During a meeting with the Upper House of the Parliament, the Child Rights Unit was informed about the case of a 16-year old girl, who had been trafficked to Pakistan with her disabled husband. The Child Rights unit, with the assistance of a Member of Parliament and the IOM office based in Kabul, was able to track down the location of the young girl in Pakistan. With the help of the IOM office based in Islamabad and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the girl was rescued and safely returned to Afghanistan, where she was reunited with her family.

Due to AIHRC' s joint advocacy efforts with Civil Society Organizations, UNIFEM and UNAMA, the Parliament accepted to extend the maximum age in the definition of a child to 18 years old. The legislation related to children in conflict with the law was reviewed by the Parliament. Whereas girls under 17 and boys under 18 were considered as



juvenile offenders in the past, a significant change consisted in having the limit of 18 years old set for both boys and girls. This positive change occurred thanks to the joint advocacy work of the AIHRC, Civil Society Organizations, UNIFEM and UNAMA.

Monitoring and Investigation Unit (M&IU)

The Monitoring and Investigation (M&I) unit is responsible for monitoring human rights, receiving complaints of abuses from the public, investigating those abuses and addressing them with the relevant authorities. While the Women's Rights unit and the Child Rights unit monitor the general well-being and status of women and children respectively, the M&I unit addresses individual cases of violations of the rights of all citizens including women and children. The M&I unit also feeds data to other units to inform the President, the Afghan Parliament, the international community and relevant authorities on specific cases of human rights violations.

Table of complaints and violations received, investigated and settled by the AIHRC in 2006

Period	Complaints and Violations		Investigated	Settled (closed)
	Complaints	Violations		
First quarter	387	512	311	171
Second quarter	490	609	381	236
Third quarter	405	517	321	192
Fourth quarter	363	425	283	158
Total	1645	2063	1296	757

During the year 2006, the unit continued to monitor prisons and detention centres according to the UN Minimum Standards for the Treatment of Prisoners, and to implement protection activities through complaints handling and interventions with authorities. 573 monitoring missions of prisons and detention centres were conducted in 34 provinces of Afghanistan. 459 illegally detained men, 172 illegally imprisoned men and 28 illegally arrested men were released. This included an approximate of 83 monitoring missions per month conducted by AIHRC throughout 2006.

4,978 people (1,116 of whom were women) came to the AIHRC seeking assistance, and were either processed as complainants, or received legal advice and referrals to appropriate authorities or organisations. Of the 1,645 complaints received in year 2006 (which involved 2,063 violations of human rights), 1,296 complaints were investigated and 757 interventions led to resolution.

During the reporting period, standards of prisons were found to have improved in the provinces of Hirat, Farah, Ningarhar, Khost, Bamyan, Badakhshan, Badghis, Kunduz, Laghman, Jawzjan, Daykondi, Konar, Kapisa, Kabul, Parwan, and Kandahar (behaviour of prison wardens, quicker legal processing of cases, increased light, sufficient number of beds, provision of clean water for drinking, improved health due to provision of



medical care). An educational centre was created in the Bamyán provincial prison, which now provides training and courses to detainees.

In addition, the unit submitted recommendations to the Ministry of Justice in relation with the construction of prison buildings in Kapisa, Wardak, Panshir and Logar provinces. The Ministry of Justice officially informed the Commission that its recommendations were approved, and land was allocated to build prisons in Wardak, Kapisa, Panshir and Mazar-i-Sharif provinces in December 2006.



Chains are still used by the police on detainees, Bagram district detention centre, October 2006

Upon AIHRC's intervention in the past year, 3 prison wardens have been dismissed in Kabul after torturing a prisoner whose case was under investigation. In Ghazni province, the AIHRC M&I unit was faced with a case of torture perpetrated by the police. AIHRC investigated the case and shared its findings with the Attorney General. The Commission's intervention led to the arrest of the police officers responsible for this act of torture.

In December 2006, during a monitoring mission in the Wardak provincial prison and detention centres, the AIHRC found out that five people were illegally detained by the police. Upon AIHRC's intervention, the five illegally detained men were released.

During the same month, a complainant asked for AIHRC's assistance in the context of the illegal detention of two of his relatives by the police in Kabul. After an investigation on the legitimacy of the case, the AIHRC met with the Kabul Attorney. After the meeting, the illegally detained persons were released.

To ensure a better coordination between its Headquarters and field offices, the Commission appointed in October 2006 a legal analyzer of human rights violations at the national level based in AIHRC Headquarters in Kabul.



His achievements from October 2006 to December 2006 are listed below:

- Legal section created in human rights case registration forms;
- Manual on the use of the Human rights registrations forms developed for the AIHRC programme staff;
- 17 human rights categories identified and a manual on the 17 human rights categories produced in close cooperation with UNHCR;
- Communication established with and support provided to AIHRC regional and provincial offices on specific legal cases;
- Capacity of AIHRC regional and provincial managers, monitoring and investigation officers and Human Rights Field monitoring team leaders built on the legal side of human rights violations through the conduct of 2 workshops;
- Check list on the monitoring of prisons prepared in close cooperation with UNAMA.

In October 2006, the Commission realized the need for recruiting a focal point based in Kabul with the responsibility to follow-up cases of human rights violations received from AIHRC provincial and regional offices with ministries and government authorities in the capital. This was a significant support provided to the provincial and regional offices which could not solve some human rights violation cases at the local level. From October 2006 to the end of December 2006, 16 human rights violation cases which were identified by AIHRC regional and provincial offices in Kandahar, Daikundi, Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif and Hirat were submitted to the National Human Rights Violations Focal Point. The National Human Rights Violations Focal Point ensured a consistent follow-up with the Attorney General, the Supreme Court, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice, and solved 6 human rights violation cases within three months. The processing of the ten remaining human rights violation cases is undergoing.

The following case illustrates the work accomplished by the National Human Rights Violations Focal Point:

On 13 December, the AIHRC Mazar-i- Sharif regional office contacted the AIHRC Headquarters in Kabul by e-mail and explained its powerlessness in a case involving a person illegally detained in Balkh prison on the order of the Balkh Governor, despite the fact that the convict was supposed to be released fourteen days before. The efforts of the AIHRC Mazar-i-Sharif in having the detainee released were vain. The National Human Rights Violations Focal Point discussed this case with the Attorney General in Kabul, who contacted the local attorney in Mazar-i-Sharif, and ordered him to have the illegally detained man released. Within an hour, the Mazar-i- Sharif Regional Office confirmed the successful release of the illegally detained man.

A great achievement for the Commission during the past year was the completion of the Complaints Registration database and the Case Management database. In August and



December 2006, a four-day workshop was organized in Kabul for all M&I and HRFM Units, as well as UNHCR HRFM focal points.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- To introduce the new Information Management System of AIHRC;
- To present the updated Human Rights categories list with special focus on an additional right;
- To present the new Complaint Registration form and database along with its guidelines;
- To present the new Case Management form and database along with its guidelines;
- To provide practical training on the use of the Complaints Registration and Case Management forms and databases.

In addition, four field missions were undertaken in coordination with UNHCR in Kunduz, Badakhshan, Bamyan and Daikundi AIHRC offices to install, update and trouble shoot issues related to these two newly introduced databases, and to provide support on the identification of human rights violations.

The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) gave AIHRC and UNAMA the responsibility to jointly monitor and prepare a report on prisons and detention centres in Afghanistan for cases of arbitrary arrests and legal process of detainees. The objective is to check that the behaviour of the Police, prosecutors and judges in relation to law enforcement conforms to the adopted norms and regulations. In this context, AIHRC and UNAMA agreed to jointly launch a campaign on monitoring prisons and strengthening the legal process of cases of detainees. AIHRC and UNAMA held a joint workshop for their staff on 1 and 2 November 2006, during which the Monitoring and Investigation unit staff from 11 AIHRC regional and provincial offices have been trained on the arbitrary detention monitoring checklist. Forms and guidelines have been finalized both in English and Dari, and the design of a database to regroup the data and produce a report is undergoing. The questionnaires are planned to be collected from the AIHRC field offices by January 2007.

A witness, November 2006:

“In Samangan province, a man raped and killed one of my family members and escaped from Samangan to Kabul. Police authorities arrested the culprit in Kabul, but his relatives were able to have him released rapidly. Upon AIHRC’s intervention and meeting with the head of the criminal department of Kabul, the suspect was arrested and sent back to Samangan for investigation. I would like to thank the Commission for this positive outcome.”



Human Rights Field Monitoring Unit (HRFM)

The Human Rights Field Monitoring Unit has been established in partnership with UNHCR in March 2005. The Human Rights Field Monitoring teams conduct monitoring missions in the field, and actively gather information on human rights issues through individual interviews, with an emphasis on accessing remote areas and a focus on refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). This complements the Commission's key responsibility to receive complaints of human rights violations through the Monitoring and Investigation Unit, and enables the Commission to reach populations which may not otherwise be able to access the AIHRC regional and provincial offices.

Each HRFM team aims at monitoring and gathering human rights violations data, based on a common framework with standardized tools and methodology agreed upon between the AIHRC and UNHCR, with the collaboration of UNAMA. The data is being stored in a database and will enable the AIHRC to provide accurate and comprehensive reports on the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

During 2006, HRFM teams maintained a significant field presence throughout Afghanistan despite the deteriorating security situation in the country, spent a total of 1042 days on mission, and conducted a total of 10,280 interviews (out of which 4,654 were with women and 5,626 with men) in 132 districts of 30 provinces of Afghanistan. 341 human rights violations have been identified over the past year, 228 cases of human rights violations and abuses were opened, out of which 114 were followed-up or referred to other organizations such as UNHCR, UNAMA, and the Norwegian Refugee Council. As a result of the HRMF teams' efforts, a total number of 95 cases have been resolved during 2006. 181 coordination/intervention meetings were held countrywide, involving all relevant programme units within AIHRC, in particular the Monitoring and Investigation unit, and provided a forum for planning and revision of field missions, as well as for the reporting and analysis of the human rights violations identified. Minutes of regular meetings between HRFM teams and UNHCR show good communication and co-ordination at the field level.

Another major achievement in 2006 consisted in the establishment of a Human Rights Field Monitoring team including two Monitors and one Team Leader in the AIHRC Badakhshan office, as well as a team of two monitors in the AIHRC Maimana office.

Human Rights monitoring methodology, as well as the common tools including the HRFM questionnaire guidelines on how to use the monitoring form, were revised.

A national report on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights has been produced, released and printed in three languages (Dari, Pashto and English) in May 2006. This report assessed the Government's obligation to protect and fulfill selected economic and social rights under international treaties ratified by Afghanistan. Statistic-based narrative analyses indicated human rights trends and issues for submission to government authorities. The report will be updated at the beginning of 2007 taking into consideration 2006 data.



During 2006, four capacity-building workshops were organized and held in Kabul for HRFM, M&I units of AIHRC and UNHCR HRFM focal points, with the following objectives:

- Presentation of HRFM achievements in 2005, work plan for 2006, presentation of revised HRFM questionnaire, intervention form, analyses and intervention strategy of Human Rights violations cases and how to improve reporting skills;
- Presentation on economic and social rights, methods of mediation/conflict resolutions and how to improve coordination between relevant units of AIHRC and UNHCR;
- Introduction of the new Information Management System of AIHRC;
- Presentation of the human rights categories list with focus on the additional rights recently added;
- Presentation of the new Complaint Registration form and database with the related guidelines;
- Presentation of the new Case Management form and database with the related guidelines;
- Practical trainings on how to use the Complaint Registration and Case Management forms and databases;
- Presentation of the new M&I monthly report.

To support the AIHRC field staff, ten field missions were undertaken over the past year by the HRFM Officer, Database Assistant, Human Rights Analyzer and Human Rights Advisor to Kunduz, Badakhshan, Bamyán, Mazar, Kandahar, Gardiz, Jalalabad, and Daikundi in coordination with UNHCR. The objectives of the missions were the following:

- Follow-up on the new Information Management System of AIHRC;
- Providing assistance in relation to the legal analysis of HRFM findings and identification of human rights violations;
- Providing assistance to HRFM units on the use of different reporting formats;
- Providing assistance on the creation of a standardized filing system;
- Ensuring a quality control of HRFM data;
- Ensuring a back-up of all data collected so far;
- Installing, updating, troubleshooting the Complaints Registration database, HRFM database, and Case Management database;
- Providing technical training on the use of forms and databases.

Security has been an issue of concern during 2006. Monitoring teams had to cancel, delay their missions or change their mission plan in many offices like Kandahar, Maimana, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, Hirat, Gardiz and Kabul throughout the year. However, AIHRC offices generally exceeded their planned target coverage for the monitoring of human rights throughout Afghanistan despite the security challenges faced.

AIHRC has strengthened partnership with Save the Children Sweden-Norway, which has supported AIHRC in recruiting a Child Rights Field Monitor in six Human Rights Field Monitoring Teams. The objective of the Child Rights Monitoring project was to



ensure that children were able to participate in the Commission's monitoring of the human rights situation in Afghanistan, particularly in assessing the implementation of the standards set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Six Child Rights Monitors were recruited in the AIHRC offices in Kabul, Hirat, Jalalabad, Gardiz, Kunduz and Mazar-i-Sharif, and conducted a total of 2,919 interviews (1,461 with girls and 1,458 with boys) in 63 districts of 18 provinces. A total of 27 human rights violations related to children have been identified during these field missions. The missions identified mostly the violations of the following rights:

- The right to life and the right to survival and development of the Child;
- The right to an adequate standard of living;
- The right to personal integrity/the right to protection from all forms of violence, including harmful traditional practices (child marriage and *Bad*);
- The right to liberty and security of person / the right to protection from trafficking and bonded labour;
- The right to Education.

30 co-ordination/intervention meetings, involving relevant units, in particular Child Rights and M&I units, were held within the AIHRC, and provided a forum for the reporting and analysis of child rights violations identified. A Child Rights Field Monitoring database have been developed, introduced and installed. All data collected from the field were entered into the Child Rights database in the regional and provincial offices of AIHRC, and exported to Kabul for a compilation, further verification and analysis at the national level.

Two capacity-building workshops were held in Kabul during the past year, with the participation of all Child Rights Monitors and HRFM Team Leader as well Child Rights Officer from the AIHRC regional and provincial offices. The objectives of the workshops were the following:

- Introduction of the Child Rights Monitoring Questionnaire and the Child Rights Monitoring tools, Methodology and Guidelines;
- Introduction of the Child Rights Field Monitoring monthly reports and co-ordination/intervention meeting minutes formats;
- Children interview skills;
- Introduction of the Child rights database, and how to use and enter the data collected from the field into database.

With the concern of ensuring sustainability in the future, and in consultation with UNHCR, the Commission has decided to merge the HRFM unit with the M&I unit in the second half of 2007. The Commission has initiated planning and working on this merging in the fourth quarter of 2006.



Transitional Justice Unit (TJU)

The Transitional Justice unit is responsible for developing strategies and policies to confront past human rights abuses of war crimes and crimes against humanity, and for collecting documentation and information about the nature, causes and perpetrators of these crimes in Afghanistan.

The Transitional Justice unit worked on two fronts during the past year. Firstly, the unit developed policies related to transitional justice in Afghanistan, and lobbied their adoption. Secondly, the unit enhanced efforts towards documentation and constituency building through community work and awareness-raising programs. The AIHRC assisted the Afghan Government, through the Office of the President of Afghanistan and his Advisor on international affairs, in developing the Government's Action plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation. Throughout the past year, the Commission has been engaged in lobbying and advocating for the implementation of the action plan at the national and international level, and in the public and official launch of the action plan by the President of Afghanistan. These efforts resulted in the official launch of the Government's Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation by President Karzai on 10 December 2006, and the implementation of the first key action consisting in the announcement of the national Remembrance Day of victims in Afghanistan. In addition, the Commission lobbied and supported activities to increase the involvement of Afghan Civil Society in transitional justice processes through its representation in the core group on transitional justice.

Key Action three of the Government's Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation mandated AIHRC to implement documentation activities related to past human rights abuses. The Commission's Transitional Justice Unit built its capacity to fulfil this very challenging responsibility. Throughout 2006, the Transitional Justice team implemented the project related to the mapping of the conflict and crimes which occurred in Afghanistan.

In this context, the major activity of the unit consisted throughout the past year in the investigation and documentation of 657 complaints on past human rights abuses, and the conduction of 1725 interviews with eye-witnesses of past war crimes and crimes against humanity, victims of human rights violations, ordinary people, officials and clergies. These victims and eye-witnesses were considered as key individuals who could provide evidence, information, and precise facts. The relevance of their eye seen testimony on important events was identified by the team prior to interviews. Some of the interviews took more than three days in order to get a full picture of the specific event. Although the warm welcome expressed by the Afghan people towards this exercise can be seen as an environmental opportunity, AIHRC has identified major challenges in the conduct of its transitional justice activities, such as the high level of danger related to the processes of documentation, the risk of receiving false information as well as political sensitivity combined with the work of conflict mapping. The Transitional Justice unit witnessed a decrease in people's confidence toward the expected outcome of transitional justice processes, due to the slow pace or lack of



reform and the lack of action towards the removal of past human rights abusers from power at the local level.

During the reporting period, the unit conducted 69 workshops and 325 awareness raising meetings to inform 9,537 people (2,718 of whom were women) including Civil Society representatives, governmental staff and community elders, on the topics of the truth-seeking commission, transitional justice history, the Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation, the conflict mapping project, and the different international justice mechanisms including the International Criminal Court and its possible role in Afghanistan.

The unit also continued to strengthen a cooperation network with civil society organizations throughout Afghanistan. The Foundation for Culture and Civil Society Foundation (FCCS) planned to conduct in cooperation with the European Union a series of workshops to build the capacity of Afghan Civil Society organizations on Transitional Justice and the truth-seeking process. Therefore, FCCS asked the AIHRC to provide for 25,000 copies of the Government's Transitional Justice Action Plan, which was published by AIHRC printing press in two official languages and handed over to the Foundation. This document will be distributed to Afghan Civil Society organizations by the Foundation throughout the country.

In addition, the Commission published and distributed more than 50,000 copies of the Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation to human rights activists, civil society organizations and community-based groups throughout the country. These efforts expended the transitional justice constituency and the ownership of the transitional justice processes by members of civil society organizations and the public, who increasingly supported transitional justice processes and the government's action plan.

The Commission also encouraged the formation of victims support groups, and initiated a first round of talks with a larger group of civil society organizations in this regard. This will hopefully soon result in the formation of the first victim group in Afghanistan.

The Commission's constituency building efforts with the support of UNAMA resulted in the creation of a Civil Society Transitional Justice working group. The working group conducted and organized the first Training of Trainers on transitional justice with the support of AIHRC, the International Centre for Transitional Justice and UNAMA. Regular meetings were held with the administrative support provided by Civil Society Organizations and the Human Rights Network.

The need for forensic knowledge was recognized by the conflict mapping researchers of the Transitional Justice Unit after discovering mass graves, or coming across some information about battle fields in civilian areas or mass graves during their missions. To address the capacity issue, the Commission trained 36 people, including AIHRC transitional justice staff and regional and provincial managers as well as 12 representatives of civil society organizations on the methodology of documentation of the mass graves, and other required forensic skills. The training was kindly provided by the Physicians for Human Rights and supported by UNAMA.



The unit produced a documentary film on past human rights abuses, which was very much effective in encouraging the debate on transitional justice in Afghanistan. It was screened during the launching ceremony of the Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation on 10 December 2006. The audience amounted to more than 300 people, and included President Karzai, the Chair of the Senate, civil society organizations, human rights activists, journalists, members of the Cabinet, Supreme Court, and victims' families. The documentary film on past human rights abuses was also aired by all four national TV stations with a nationwide coverage.

The unit has been dubbing in Dari and Pashto languages five documentary films related to post-conflict transitional justice activities in other countries to be broadcasted on national TV channels. The films have been provided by the International Centre for Transitional Justice.

One of the Commission's main roles consists in providing support to the Government in outlining policies and strategies as well as drafting human rights related laws. A significant support was provided to the Government when the unit drafted the law on the implementation of the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court. For the purpose of consultation, the Commission shared the document with national and international experts for feedbacks and comments, and is still in the process of inserting the comments received from the international community and experts in the law drafted in 2006.

People with Disabilities Unit (PWDU)

The People with Disabilities (PWD) unit is responsible for the promotion and protection of the rights of people with disabilities in Afghanistan. This unit has been established in the last quarter of 2005 in the Kabul office, and in 2006 in other AIHRC regional offices. The PWD unit has strengthened itself through hiring adequate staff during 2006 for the AIHRC regional and provincial offices throughout Afghanistan. Out of nine staff PWD members recruited in the AIHRC regional offices, eight are disabled persons carrying out their job very successfully.

The core activities and achievements of the unit consisted so far in advocacy, promotion and awareness-raising on the rights of people with disabilities. Over the year 2006, the main achievement for the unit consisted in 6,997 people (2,333 of whom were women), including community elders and governmental staff, learning about human rights, more specifically the rights of people with disabilities, through 41 workshops and 149 awareness-raising meetings. During 2006, the unit continued to establish partnerships with governmental and non governmental organizations, and held regular meetings with the Ministries of Martyrs and Disabled, Women's Affairs, Transport, and Urban Development, as well as with ICRC and Handicap International. A significant indicator of progress over the past year was observed when the Ministry of Urban Development agreed to have ramps built for people with disabilities in ministries and other private buildings.



The Commission's Legal Advisor worked in close collaboration with the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled on a new law related to the rights and benefits of people with disabilities and families of martyrs. This new law will include the rights of people with disabilities considering the provision of the international bill of rights and the new Draft Convention for the Rights of People with Disabilities, which will set a milestone in the legislation of Afghanistan.

Another significant achievement for the unit in 2006 consisted in the establishment of an advocacy committee for people with disabilities, involving AIHRC, as well as Afghan and international Civil Society organizations. During the past year, the committee worked on a declaration sent to all ministries and governmental institutions asking them to respect the rights of people with disabilities and reintegrate the respect of people with disabilities rights in national strategies, rules, regulations and policies. The declaration was also sent to media, embassies and international organizations. During the fourth quarter of 2006, representatives from this Committee met with Mr. Qanooni the Chief of Parliament, and had a presentation for Members of Parliament on the situation of People with Disabilities in Afghanistan, along with recommendations on the action to take in the future. The outcome of the meeting was fruitful, as the Chief of Parliament promised that the rights of people with disabilities would be taken into account in laws and regulations to be passed by the Parliament.

To facilitate the access to infrastructure for people of disabilities, AIHRC has officially requested the Ministry of Urban Development to consider accessibility restrictions faced by people with disabilities when approving the design of public and private buildings and urban infrastructures. More specifically, AIHRC suggested new buildings should have ramp, alleviator compartments and special toilets for people with disabilities. The ministry has promised to consider these suggestions in the future. Positive change was noticed in this respect by the AIHRC, as new governmental buildings and parks rehabilitated recently in Kabul include ramps.

The international Day of People with Disabilities ' Rights was celebrated on 3 December 2006 in 8 regional and 3 provincial offices of AIHRC through the conduction of seminars, meetings and gatherings in coordination with Civil Society Organizations. On this occasion, the AIHRC published 2000 posters on the rights of people with disabilities with the motto "*We are disabled but not UNABLE to do anything*". These posters were distributed to regional and provincial offices to be posted in public places. In addition, large posters were posted on public advertising boards located in key crossroads location throughout Kabul city, along with banners promoting the rights of people with disabilities.

Another achievement for the People with Disabilities unit consisted in having the Universal Declaration of Human Rights printed into the Braille script by SERVE Afghanistan, which was funded by AIHRC. This will be distributed to the AIHRC regional and provincial offices, the UN and NGOs working for blind people, as well as university libraries, public libraries, the school for blind people, and the Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled.



A five-day training workshop was held for the newly recruited staff members of the PWD units of the AIHRC regional offices, during which they were briefed on the AIHRC mandate, working methods and programme implementation.

Research Unit

The research unit enables the Commission to submit opinions, recommendations and report to local, regional and national authorities related to the promotion and protection of human rights.

During 2006, the Research unit completed the monitoring report on the Parliamentary Elections, as well as a research on women's condition in Afghanistan. The unit also worked on a report on customary laws in Afghanistan and its impact on women with the support of UNIFEM.

In addition, the Research unit completed two researches on child labour and child sexual abuse in collaboration with the Child Rights unit, and released reports on child labour, and child sexual abuse.

The AIHRC assisted the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) through the conduction of a research on Family Dynamics and Family Violence in Bamyán, Hirat and Jalalabad.

Furthermore, the unit completed the research on the causes of self-immolation by women in the provinces of Hirat, Farah, Nimroz, Ghor and Kandahar, as well as a research conducted with the support of UNIFEM and related to Afghanistan's customary law and its impact on women. The research unit also participated to the finalization of the national report on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights, which assessed the Government's obligation to protect and fulfill selected economic and social rights under international treaties ratified by Afghanistan.

The unit was strengthened in the third quarter of 2006 through the recruitment of an Advisor, who revised the unit's strategic plan and searched for partners to contract further researches.



Other achievements

Capacity building

One of the Commission's main objectives in the context of the implementation of its three-year action plan 2006 -2008 consists in strengthening itself and provide capacity-building to its staff.

The AIHRC hired a consultant to build capacity within the Research unit and strengthen this unit for better achievements and to increase the quality of the researches conducted by this unit.

A Peace-Building and Human Rights Advisor has been seconded to the Commission from Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst (DED) for a period of two years. The advisor has the responsibility to build the capacity of AIHRC programme staff on peace building and conflict resolution. The advisor initiated capacity-building efforts through the conduction of workshops on conflict transformation and peace-building for the Human Rights Education and the Transitional Justice units of the AIHRC Kabul regional office. The training sessions will continue in the future and comprise topics such as peace building, reconciliation, conflict resolution methods, communication and mediation.

The Commission also hired a Donor Relations and Reporting Consultant, who was conveyed the responsibility to build capacity of AIHRC staff on reporting and donor relations tasks, and ensure an efficient liaison with donors in the new phase of direct bilateral relations. During the past year, the capacity of the AIHRC programme staff working in 8 regional and 3 provincial AIHRC offices was raised in reporting requirements and Results-Based Management through reporting workshops held in 2006.

During the reporting period, the AIHRC Commissioners visited regional and provincial offices to build capacity on the AIHRC three-year Action Plan and its implementation, and to evaluate the staff on the activities implemented in the past. Several missions were undertaken by AIHRC Commissioners and Senior Management throughout the year to Maimana, Daikondi, Hirat, Kandahar, Gardiz, Jalalabad and Ningarhar. These missions aimed at building the capacity of the AIHRC staff, assessing the progress and gaps faced in the implementation of the activities in the context of the Commission's three-year action plan, and evaluating the staff on the activities implemented in the past.

In the fourth quarter of 2006, the Commission welcomed a visiting fellow funded by Harvard University's Henigson Human Rights Fellowship. The objective is to raise the AIHRC programme staff's capacity in monitoring international humanitarian law and protecting civilians in the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan. Two capacity building workshops were conducted in November 2006 for the Kandahar and Jalalabad offices, and further sessions are planned for the regional programme staff in Gardiz and Hirat. There is also an attempt to strengthen the AIHRC's regional and national liaison



contacts with the international military presence in Afghanistan. Several meetings were held to establish and deepen such links.

AIHRC appointed an advisor for the child right unit, who is now working as a volunteer to prepare the strategy for children with disabilities.

AIHRC welcomed from March 2006 to December 2006 six law graduated students from Kabul University under an internship programme provided by Global Rights Foundation, and thus gave them the opportunity to build their capacity and proficiency in matters related to Women's Rights, human rights monitoring and investigation, Transitional Justice, and human rights research.

In addition, AIHRC staff participated in capacity-building workshops organized by Save the Children Sweden/Norway and the Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC).

Five AIHRC staff members participated in a Leadership programme conducted by the Memphis Afghan Friendship Summit and were trained on topics such as the meaning of leadership, communication, group decision-making, and resolving conflict. The programme covered three four-day long sessions throughout the year (in April, August and October).

The participation of AIHRC staff in training and conferences carried out abroad is listed below:

- The Commission's Admin./Finance Manager attended a leadership training course in Georgia in February 2006;
- A Transitional Justice Officer attended a Transitional Justice seminar in South Africa in February 2006;
- A Child Rights Unit Officer attended a Child Rights workshop in Nepal in February - March 2006;
- A Transitional Justice Officer working in the Kabul AIHRC office attended the Reconciliation Expert Network meeting in Sweden in March 2006;
- The Jalalabad Regional Office Manager attended a Women's Rights workshop in Sri Lanka in March 2006, a Human Rights related workshop in Taiwan from 20 to 27 May 2006, and a workshop on women peacemakers in the United States of America planned from 18 September 2006 to 11 November 2006;
- Mr. Farid Hamidi, AIHRC Commissioner, and the Bamyan Regional Office Programme Secretary, attended a training on responding to conflict in the United Kingdom from 24 April to 30 June 2006;
- A Monitoring and Investigation Unit Officer in the AIHRC Kabul Regional Office, attended a course on Refugee's Rights in Italy from 9 to 13 May 2006;
- A Transitional Justice Officer from AIHRC Regional Office located in Jalalabad, attended a course on transitional justice in Belgium from 16 to 22 May 2006;
- A Child Rights Officer from the Kabul regional office attended a workshop on Child trafficking and Sexual Abuse in India from 22 July 2006 to 24 July 2006,



as well as a Child Rights based monitoring and evaluation in Nepal from 9 to 13 October 2006;

- The Human Rights Education Officer of the Kabul regional office attended a human rights training workshop in Thailand from 27 November to 8 December 2006;
- The Women's Rights Officer of the Hirat Regional Office attended a workshop on the promotion of gender equality in Japan from 7 November to 9 December 2006;
- The AIHRC National Reporting Officer, the Kabul Regional Programme Manager, the Kunduz Regional Programme Manager, the Human Rights Field Monitoring Assistant from the Bamyan Regional office and the Headquarters' Research Assistant attended a workshop on national human rights institutions and the international human rights system from 10 to 14 December 2006 in Jordan.

International Relations and awareness-raising on human rights

During 2006, AIHRC representatives raised awareness on human rights at the international level and cooperated with a broad network of international partners.

In February 2006, Dr. Samar, AIHRC Chairperson, attended a conference on Women and Politics organised by Canadian Parliament members, and addressed the human rights situation and Women's Rights in Afghanistan. She participated at the London Conference held on 30 January and 1 February 2006 to ensure the inclusion of human rights in the Afghanistan Compact's agenda. Dr. Samar was nominated UN Special Rapporteur and visited Sudan in March 2006 in preparation of the human rights situation report of this country. In May 2006, Dr. Samar, attended a conference on human rights in Boston University, USA, as well as the Asia Society conference and the Carter Centre Human Rights Defender Forum. In June 2006, Dr. Samar attended a meeting on procedures to be followed by UN Special Rapporteurs organized by the United Nations' Council in Geneva, Switzerland, and took this opportunity to give an overview of the human rights situation in Afghanistan. She also participated in the International Conference on the Freedom of Expression in Yemen on 25 and 26 June 2006. Later on, Dr. Samar attended the 11th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Forum (APF) of National Human Rights Institutions in Suva, Fiji Islands, from 31 July to 3 August 2006. The APF meeting is one of the largest regular human rights events in the Asia Pacific, gathering more than 150 representatives from national human rights institutions, governments, non-governmental organizations and the United Nations. In August 2006, Dr. Samar attended the second meeting on procedures to be followed by UN Special Rapporteurs, organized by the United Nations' Council in Geneva, Switzerland. She took this opportunity to give an overview of the human rights situation in Afghanistan and Sudan. Dr. Samar introduced AIHRC to human rights organizations in Taiwan from 9 October to 10 of November 2006, and attended an international workshop on Women's Rights in Switzerland from 27 November to 3 December 2006. In December 2006, Dr. Samar attended a one-day conference on engaging the Afghan Civil Society in the transitional justice process, organized by the Open Society Institute



in Dubai. At the national level, Dr. Samar held 4 meetings with President Karzai during the past year to discuss the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

Mr. Fahim Hakim, AIHRC Deputy Chairperson and Commissioner, attended the conference on Prisoners' Rights in Sweden and undertook a consultancy in a regional round table in Burundi in August 2006. Mr Hakim also attended a workshop on Conflict Resolution in Iran from 3 to 8 December 2006, and a conference held by the Norwegian Afghanistan Committee (NAC) on 11 December 2006, where he had a presentation on Post-Bonn Reconstruction and Human Rights Terms for Negotiation.

Commissioner Anwari participated in a workshop on how to secure Women's Rights through international law in Afghanistan and Pakistan in Lahore, Pakistan, in March 2006, as well as a high level regional meeting on how to address human trafficking and HIV/AIDS in Nepal from 18 to 25 May 2006. Commissioner Anwari participated in an international round table in Belfast, Ireland, on 17 June 2006, on the role of human rights commissions in conflict and post-conflict situation as well as economical and social rights. Commissioner Anwari also attended the Petersburg conference on Afghanistan, five years after the fall of the Taliban, in Berlin, Germany, from 23 November 2006 to 3 December 2006 and a conference on Conflict Resolution in Iran from 3 to 8 December 2006.

Commissioner Hamidi visited Tajikistan for the Afghanistan Culture Week from 24 to 27 November 2006.

Commissioner Nadery attended a conference in March 2006 in Jordan on the establishment of Iraq's Human Rights Commission, during which he made two presentations on how to establish a Human Rights Commission. Mr. Nadery also attended a workshop on the revision of the Iraqi Constitution in Oman from 13 March to 18 March 2006. In May - June 2006, Commissioner Nadery attended the first meeting of the Establishment of International Organizations for the Fight against Terror in Spain. The aim of this meeting was to defeat terror through democracy, and Mr. Nadery was appointed Secretariat member of this organisation. Commissioner Nadery attended the Reebok Human Rights Award Ceremony held in the USA on 26 June 2006, as well as a conference on human rights in Iran from 6 to 14 September 2006, and a conference on Citizens against Terror from 17 to 22 September 2006 in Spain. He attended a meeting of human rights defenders of Asia and Latin America in the Netherlands from 23 to 26 September 2006, as well as the 21 Asia young leaders Summit in South Korea from 17 to 19 November 2006. In December 2006, Commissioner Nadery attended a one-day conference on engaging the Afghan Civil Society in the transitional justice process, organized by the Open Society Institute in Dubai, as well as a human rights conference in Germany from 16 to 18 December 2006.

Dr. Sobhrang, AIHRC Advisor on Women's Rights and officially appointed AIHRC Commissioner at the end of December 2006, attended a Child Rights workshop in Nepal from 18 to 25 May 2006. In addition, she participated in a Women's Rights workshop in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 11 and 12 September 2006 as well as the Forum for the Future in Jordan on 27 and 28 November 2006.



Dr. Ramoz, AIHRC Executive Director, attended a conference on Justice Rapid Response on 13 June 2006 in Italy, as well as a workshop on the establishment of a human rights commission in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 12 August 2006, and a conference on democracy, pluralism, human rights and political parties on 11 December 2006 in the Netherlands, with a presentation on human rights and political parties in Afghanistan.

Mr. Rahimi, National Programme Manager, attended the Civil Society and Democracy conference in Mongolia on 26 June 2006.



President Karzai, during the ceremony celebrating the 58th anniversary of the International Declaration of Human Rights, 10 December 2006, Kabul

At the national level, AIHRC raised awareness on human right issues through eleven press conferences in 2006 on different issues and occasions such as the International Human Rights Day, the condition of Afghan prisoners in US prisons in Guantanamo Bay, the Women's Rights situation in Afghanistan, the human rights situation in Northern Afghanistan, the assassination of Mrs. Safia Ama Jan in Kandahar, the failed attempt of murder targeting the President of the Senate, censorship, the situation of child labor in Afghanistan, as well as the traffic accident involving US forces and causing riots and demonstrations at the end of May 2006. AIHRC also expressed serious concern on the occurrence of civilian casualties in Kandahar, as well as on 20 cases related to the violation of press freedom.

In addition, the AIHRC enhanced promotion efforts on the occasion of the 58th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, celebrated on 10 December 2006 in the Afghanistan National TV hall in Kabul. The ceremony benefited from the presence of President Karzai, core diplomats, Members of Parliament, Civil Society Organizations representatives and journalists. A short five-minute documentary film was screened on human rights violations, which moved the entire audience including the



President of Afghanistan. During the ceremony, three awards were dedicated to human rights activists, more specifically to Ms. Safia Aman, the Head of the Women's Department assassinated in Kandahar, Mr. Mirwais, a journalist who died in a suicide bomb attack in Kandahar, and the Bayat Foundation for its humanitarian activities. President Karzai declared 10th December as Remembrance Day for victims of human rights violations and abuses, and officially launched the enforcement of the national action plan on Peace, Reconciliation and Justice.

On 6 and 7 December 2006, an international conference on how to strengthen Civil Society was jointly held by the Afghan Civil Society Forum and the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA). In the context of its efforts to strengthen partnerships with Civil Society, the AIHRC moderated the conference and provided financial assistance for its conduction.

AIHRC Commissioners and Senior Management's advocacy efforts on human rights

During 2006, AIHRC Commissioners and Senior Management played a significant role in advocating for human rights and providing support and recommendations to the Government in policy-making. These efforts mainly consisted in establishing a coordination network with government representatives, Members of Parliament, and Civil Society as well as representatives from the international community.

Public outreach and awareness-raising on human rights efforts were translated throughout 2006 by the participation of AIHRC Commissioners and Senior Management in TV round tables, mainly to discuss human rights issues in general, the Government's strategy in the fight against corruption, Transitional Justice, Peace and Reconciliation. Throughout 2006, Commissioner Hamidi and Dr. Ramoz, Executive Director, participated in a joint round table on the topic of Vice and Virtue organized by the Foundation for Culture and Civil Society. Dr. Ramoz participated in a separate round table in the Parliament with Civil Society representatives and members of Parliament on the topic of Vice and Virtue. Commissioner Fakoor participated in round tables on Islam and its relevance to Human Rights, aired on the Afghanistan National Television.

During the past year, Commissioner Anwari had meetings and exchanges with Save the Children UK as well as Save the Children Sweden-Norway, to coordinate activities in the field of protection and promotion of Child Rights in Afghanistan. Commissioner Anwari worked in partnership with Save the Children Sweden-Norway on the shadow report on the situation of children in Afghanistan, which will be used by the Government to report on the Child Rights Convention in the future. Commissioner Anwari held meetings with UNODC and Members of Parliament in relation with the law against juvenile offenders, which defines 17 years old as a threshold for girls, and 18 for boys. AIHRC and UNODC decided to produce a report to be submitted to the Ministry of Justice on the issues faced in the implementation of this law, along with clear recommendations. Commissioner Anwari also held meetings with Members of Parliament on the law related to juvenile offenders and on the law related to the legal age of marriage, which is currently 16 years old for girls and 18 years old for boys, and therefore discriminatory towards girls. Based on Afghanistan's commitment towards



international standards and Human Rights principles, AIHRC, through its Child Rights and Women Rights Units, lobbied Members of Parliament, Civil Society, the Media, and other national institutions, and could convince the Parliament to set a similar threshold for juvenile offenders (under 18 years old for both girls and boys) in the law related to juvenile offenders.

In October 2006, Commissioner Anwari organized a consultative meeting with commissioners, the adviser of the child rights unit and the child rights unit staff of the Kabul regional office to discuss the draft strategy on children with disabilities, drafted by the Commission's Child Rights adviser in cooperation with the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Disabled and Martyrs. The strategy will be soon submitted to the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Disabled and Martyrs along with recommendations. Commissioner Anwari is also Co-Chair of the Technical Advisory Group on Women and Children (TAG) under the ANDS implementation structure for the rule of law working group. UNIFEM facilitates the TAG, and members include UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP, UNAMA, UNODC, USAID, AIHRC, the Canadian Embassy, and the Court for Juvenile Offenders.

Dr. Sobhrang, Advisor to the Commission on Women's Rights and officially appointed Commissioner in December 2006, had meetings with the Minister of Higher Education to discuss the provision of training on human rights principles to female students living in university hostels. She also lobbied Members of Parliament on women's rights. More specifically, several meetings were held when the issue related to the free movement of female Members of Parliament was raised, based on the misinterpretation of an Islamic rule preventing women to travel alone. Initially, this issue was to be discussed during a parliamentary session. It was successfully written off the agenda of the Lower House of the Parliament, and thus freedom of movement for female Members of Parliament was guaranteed. In addition, Dr Sobhrang met with the members of Helmand Provincial Council in November, and discussed the condition of women's rights in Helmand province. Dr Sobhrang also attended a meeting on violence against women along with Members of Parliament and Afghan Civil Society organizations. In October, Dr. Sobhrang conducted a workshop for female Members of Parliament, and informing them on the AIHRC's mandate, objectives and activities. The objective was to improve and strengthen the working relations between the AIHRC and the Parliament.

In addition, AIHRC collaborated during the past year with the National Democratic Institute to raise the capacity of researchers of the Research and Policy Unit of the National Assembly.

Commissioner Langari was in close contact with the Asia Pacific Forum for national human rights institutions (APF) during the year. AIHRC obtained the full membership of the Asia Pacific Forum in 2005. The Advisory Council of Jurists (ACJ) of APF assesses every year the situation of the fundamental rights mentioned in the international human rights treaties. The exchanges were dealing with a questionnaire to be filled by member countries such as Afghanistan to assess the situation of the right to education in the respective countries. The questionnaire covered all obligations of the government mentioned in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



(ICESCR), as well as the activities and the role of the national human rights institutions pertaining to the right to education in their relevant countries. In May 2006, Commissioner Langari, accompanied by the AIHRC National Programme Manager and two members of Parliament, undertook a trip to Hirat province to assess and analyze the causes of self-immolations by women in the region. The Governor of Hirat indicated that the main causes of self-immolations were family violence, poverty, lack of education and poor judicial system as well as corruption in the governmental institutions contacted by women in difficulty. The Governor assured AIHRC of his full cooperation and asked his Haj and Endowment, and Information and Culture departments to address the issues related to self-immolations through mosques and media. In December 2006, Commissioner Langari focused on gathering information and sending the Commission's application to get the membership of the International Coordination Committee for national human rights institutions (ICC). This membership will enable the Commission to submit recommendations on human rights issues to the Human Rights Council.

Furthermore, Commissioner Langari was the focal point throughout 2006 for activities implemented in the context of the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). During the reporting period, the second quarter report of ANDS related to the sub-group of Law Enforcement, Human Rights and Transitional Justice was prepared. Three awareness-raising meetings related to the ANDS were organized for governmental staff. The challenges faced were due to a lack of interest in ANDS and a lack of planning for results from governmental institutions, which failed to appoint ANDS focal points. In November 2006, Commissioner Langari met with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Canadian Embassy, UNAMA and ANDS office, and highlighted challenges faced during the year, more specifically, the lack of interest from the Afghan government in ANDS.

Commissioner Langari also continued to chair the Human Rights Advisory Group meetings held in 2006. In the fourth quarter of 2006, Commissioner Langari attended a consultative meeting on drafting a strategic plan to eliminate drugs and poppy cultivation. The strategy was revised and submitted to the Ministry of Counter Narcotics along with recommendations.

Commissioner Nadery met with the US military to follow-up on the Memorandum of Understanding related to the monitoring of the Bagram detention facilities. The objective was to follow-up on the Commission's suggested changes on the Memorandum of Understanding and terms of reference, and to discuss cases of complaints submitted by detainees. Some suggestions by the Commission were incorporated in the Memorandum of Understanding, and four detainees were released as an outcome of AIHRC's efforts. The documents related to the monitoring of the situation of prisoners in US military detention centres and prisons have been sent to the United States for approval. In addition, Commissioner Naderi held regular meetings with UNAMA and high-level representatives from the international community to discuss the Transitional Justice three-year action plan for Peace, Justice and Reconciliation on recording and documenting past human rights abuses.



During the past year, Commissioner Hakim interacted with high level representatives of the international community. One of the meetings involved a French delegation and representatives from the Ministry of Interior and the National Police. Commissioner Hakim strengthened partnerships with Civil Society and met with the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan to discuss the provision of Training for Trainers by AIHRC to SCA senior staff. SCA also asked Commissioner Hakim to conduct a two-day workshop to train its staff on the Afghan Constitution as well as on the role of AIHRC in the protection and promotion of human rights in Afghanistan.

Commissioner Hamidi met with various representatives from different ministries to discuss the AIHRC Report on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and to explain the human rights complaints procedures into place in the Commission. During 2006, Commissioner Hamidi met with Wolesi Jirga representatives to share the findings of Commission on several researches, and to strengthen partnership between the Commission and the Wolesi Jirga representatives. In addition, Commissioner Hamidi has been appointed in a Special Advisory panel to advise the President of Afghanistan on senior appointments on the criteria of competency, education, experience, and reputation. The Special Advisory panel will make sure that candidates for high ranking positions have no records of human rights violations, and have no links to illegal armed groups. The panel has worked on its Terms of Reference so far and on establishing its office, the advisory efforts will start in practice from January 2007 onwards.

In November 2006, Dr Sima Samar, AIHRC Chairperson, Commissioner Hakim, Commissioner Langari and Commissioner Hamidi met with Attorney General Sabet, and discussed the fight against corruption within the Afghan Government in the context of human rights principles. It was agreed at the end of the meeting to build a closer working relationship between the two bodies, and AIHRC also committed to publish regular information on the progress made in relation to the fight against corruption within the Government in its monthly magazine.

The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) gave AIHRC and UNAMA the responsibility to jointly monitor and prepare a report on prisons and detention centres in Afghanistan for cases of arbitrary arrests and legal process of detainees. The objective is to check that the behaviour of the Police, prosecutors and judges conforms to the adopted norms and regulations in relation to law enforcement. In this context, AIHRC and UNAMA agreed to jointly hold a series of meetings in November 2006. The first meeting was with the Minister of Justice, to discuss the AIHRC/UNAMA joint campaign on monitoring prisons and strengthening the legal process of cases of detainees. The meeting was fruitful, as Minister Danesh showed full support to the campaign and sent an official letter to the various departments of the Ministry of Justice to cooperate with the AIHRC and UNAMA. AIHRC and UNAMA also held two separate meetings with Deputy Attorney-General Ishaq, and the Deputy Minister of Interior to explain the objectives of the AIHRC/UNAMA joint campaign on monitoring prisons and strengthening the legal process of cases of detainees. During both meetings, AIHRC and UNAMA could secure the support of these high-ranking officials to the campaign.



As a result of joint efforts by AIHRC Commissioners and AIHRC staff, the Commission submitted during the past year a first report to the Parliament on the human rights situation and AIHRC's activities in Afghanistan along with recommendations.

Legal Affairs

According to the Afghanistan Compact signed by the Afghan Government and the international community during the London Conference held on 31 January 2006 and 1 February 2006, the Government of Afghanistan is to put together by 2010 a legal framework including various laws such as the Criminal Law, Civil Law, and Commercial Law, in respect of the Afghan Constitution's principles. In this context, the Ministry of Justice established a committee to revise laws drafted by relevant ministries and provide adequate recommendations. The AIHRC played an important role in the preparation of the committee's strategy plan, which was approved by the Cabinet of Afghanistan. As a member of this committee, AIHRC has revised and submitted recommendations on the following laws during 2006:

- The Law on corporation and private companies, which was recently reviewed by national and international advisers working in the Ministry of Commerce's department of privatization. The AIHRC's changes and recommendations related to the final version submitted by the Ministry of Commerce were approved by the review committee.
- The law on business arbitration, the law on business mediation, the law on public health, as well as the income tax law, which were drafted by the privatization department of the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Justice. These laws were also revised by the AIHRC, which submitted recommendations to the Ministry of Justice according to Human Rights and legal principles.
- The law on post-mortem medical examinations and the Criminal Procedures Law
- The Labour Law drafted by the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Disabled and Martyrs. The work on this law is undergoing, and the revised version will be soon submitted to the Ministry of Justice along with recommendations.

In addition AIHRC discussed the Media Law and presented its suggestions to influential members of Parliament in coordination with media personnel.

The international community, more specifically countries involved in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), and the Afghan Government have signed several Memoranda of Understanding concerning the transfer of persons apprehended in Afghanistan between their contingents of ISAF to Afghan authorities. These Memoranda of Understanding provide AIHRC full access to the persons transferred from international forces to Afghan authorities, as well as to the facilities where such



persons are held. This is a positive sign for the Commission, whose monitoring role is fully recognized both at the national and the international level.

Upgrading the AIHRC Website

AIHRC website was upgraded and had new features developed during 2006, including a link to other websites such as BBC news, the British Embassy education section, the Ministry of Justice and other national and international organizations.

Communication between the AIHRC Headquarters and the 11 AIHRC regional and provincial offices was strengthened through the creation of e-mail addresses for each regional and provincial office.

During the past year, the supporting speed of the AIHRC website was increased from 1,000MB to 150 GB, the space of website from 400 Mb to 5000 MB. The internet speed was improved for the AIHRC Headquarters as well as for the AIHRC regional offices in Kabul and Hirat.

From 1 August to 31 December 2006, 85,385 people visited the AIHRC website.

Database Management unit

AIHRC has been able to efficiently put into place a Management Information System through its Database Management unit over the past year. This represents one of the Commission's major successes and achievements, which enables to have a comprehensive data related to human rights violations and cases gathered in a professional manner.

During 2006, the database management unit has been filing human rights violations complaints received from the AIHRC Regional and Provincial offices and has created the databases listed below, with the cooperation of the relevant programme units:

- Complaints Registration database
- Case Management database
- Transitional Justice Conflict Mapping database
- Child Rights Field Monitoring database

In addition, the Database Management unit updated the Human Rights Field Monitoring database. Upon completion of these databases, the unit conducted workshops during the third and fourth quarter of 2006 to introduce and train the AIHRC programme staff on the related databases. The work on these databases also included an important input from the Database Management Unit in terms of forms, questionnaires and guidelines.



The unit participated in field missions to AIHRC offices in Kunduz, Badakhshan, Bamyan and Daikundi. The aim of these field missions was to assist the AIHRC satellite offices with the installation, use and trouble shooting of the databases, as well as to provide legal advice on case management.

Since November 2006, the Database Management unit has been working on the Arbitrary Detention Monitoring Checklist Database. The forms and guidelines have been finalized both in English and Dari so far, and the design of the database has progressed by 60%.

The AIHRC Resource Centre

During the past year, the Resource Centre has cooperated with the different AIHRC programme units to facilitate the provision of soft and hard materials for workshops. The AIHRC Resource Centre based in Kabul has received 1054 visitors. The AIHRC Resource Centre based in Kabul has a total of 4,000 books on various topics such as law, human rights, politics, history, economics, judiciary, management, and culture in several languages (Dari, Pashto, and English). 530 Copies of different films were copied and distributed through workshops and awareness raising meetings, and internet facility was provided to external visitors.

The AIHRC Resource Centre is an effective means for the Commission to promote human rights. The Commission is concerned with giving access to human rights related document and internet for all categories of the Afghan population. In the context of these efforts, the Bamyan AIHRC Resource Centre established specific hours when girls can use internet facilities to ease access to the internet for girls in this region.

The AIHRC has expanded a library in Bamyan regional office with 250 books out of which 90 books were donated by Asia Foundation, CDs and one computer. The capacity of the Bamyan regional office will be built with the help of this additional information resource. The expansion of the AIHRC Resource Centres in the remaining AIHRC satellite offices is under process. So far, the AIHRC equipped all its regional and provincial offices with books for the usage of its staff and the public with 80 % of the total amount of books has been purchased until now, and established libraries in its regional offices in Hirat and Mazar-i-Sharif.



Institutional strengthening

In 2006, the AIHRC continued to strengthen itself, and represent a model of capacity building and sustainability for other national institutions, while entering in a new phase of self-administration and direct bilateral relations with donors from 1 April 2006. From this date onward, Price Waters Coopers (PWC) conducted a quarterly review of AIHRC financial reports and provided recommendations on further steps to take as well as advice on capacity-building.

In January 2006, in order to improve and increase the quality of activities implemented in the framework of the three-year action plan, AIHRC dissociated its Kabul regional office from the Headquarters, and appointed a regional manager at its Head. An Administrative and Finance Manager was appointed in AIHRC Headquarters to improve coordination within AIHRC offices at the national level and to provide further support to administrative, finance and logistics matters. A Donor Relations and Reporting consultant was also appointed to support the Commission in donor relations and reporting tasks after the phase out from UNDP administration.

During 2006, the Logistics unit could finalize the commission's inventory of assets and 14 new vehicles were purchased for the AIHRC satellite offices to improve the transportation means put at the disposition of the AIHRC programme staff, and which are vital for a good implementation of activities. In addition, AIHRC purchased 71 desktop computers and 12 laptop computers, 10 photocopier machines, and 11 digital photo cameras. One complete sound system for the Kabul regional office conference hall was purchased in order to increase the efficiency of its staff. Within the scope of improving the communication system into place in AIHRC, the Commission purchased 41 VHF handsets, 11 RX and TX VHF repeaters, 20 VHF GM mobile sets for 20 AIHRC vehicles, and acquired two VHF radio frequencies as well as two CODAN frequencies from the Ministry of Telecommunications.

A significant sign of positive institutional strengthening over the past year consisted in the recruitment of 113 staff members during 2006. The Human Resource section of the Commission also processed 29 resignations, 21 transfers and 12 promotions.

AIHRC Senior Management undertook several field visits in the AIHRC satellite offices for the purpose of capacity-building and evaluations. Internally, the head of the different programme units constantly sought to raise capacity of their staff through regular internal meetings and brainstorming sessions.

During the third and fourth quarter of 2006, AIHRC focused its efforts on the annual internal assessments of its satellite offices, which aimed at analyzing the progress made since the last internal assessment in 2005, and evaluating the AIHRC regional and provincial offices on programmatic, financial and administrative procedures. The Commission put together a detailed questionnaire targeting each programme unit as well as the finance, administrative, and logistics units. 7 teams of assessors were defined; guidelines on the objectives and procedures of the internal assessments were written and explained during a coordination meeting involving the National Programme



Manager and the team of assessors. The assessment missions have been initiated in September and completed in December, and a report on the general findings of the internal assessment for 2006 has been drafted along with recommendations.

Separately, the Organizational Development Consultant International (ODCI) conducted an internal control within the AIHRC administrative and finance sections from October to December 2006. The assessment report is expected to be received by the end of January 2007.

During the second half of 2006, all regional and provincial offices were authorized to hire a teacher to raise the capacity of the AIHRC staff in English and computer skills.

The AIHRC is planning to strengthen its printing house, and to buy a new printing press. In order to analyze the market and to find the best possibilities, two printing officers travelled to Iran from 24 November 2006 to 1 December 2006, and gather information through Iranian printing houses on good quality printing machines.

In the second half of December 2006, a two-day meeting was held at the AIHRC Headquarters, involving AIHRC Senior Management based in the Headquarters, and the AIHRC Regional and Provincial Regional managers. The objective of the meeting was to reflect on the achievements fulfilled by the Commission as a whole in 2006, which corresponded to the first year of the AIHRC's action plan 2006-2008. The Commission was successful in implementing its Action Plan in 2006, despite the numerous challenges faced. The meeting also aimed at discussing the action plan for 2007, and have a brainstorming on the needs for the 2007 Action Plan for its further effectiveness and efficiency. After receiving the Regional and Provincial Manager's comments on the action plan, the Commission has been working on the revision and the budget of the action plan for 2007.

Publications

During 2006, AIHRC press & publication unit was instrumental for the efforts of the Commission in raising awareness on and promoting human rights through the publication and distribution amongst the Afghan population, Civil Society and governmental institutions of the documents listed below:

- AIHRC monthly magazine (159, 000 copies).
- *Brochures on:* Educational curriculum (8,000 copies), the Place of Women in Islam (10,000 copies), No Peace without Justice (25,000 copies), Child Rights related brochures (18,000 copies), Torture in Dari (5,000 pages), Rights of People with Disabilities in Dari (10,000 copies), Women's Rights in Dari (10,000 pages) , Peace, Justice and Reconciliation in Dari and Pashto (23,000 pages), torture (14,000 copies), Transitional Justice (15,000 copies), Child Sexual Abuse (10,000 copies), the International Tolerance Day (10,000 copies), the



International Day of the Child (10,000 copies), Women's Rights (10,000 copies), People with Disabilities' Rights (2,000 copies); Women's Rights (10,000 copies), human rights in Uzbeki (10,000 copies).

- *Conventions, legislation and action plans:* the Afghan Constitution and the Law on AIHRC 's Structure, Mandate and Duties in Dari and Pashto (5, 000 copies), Three booklets on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the Economic, Social Convention and violence (30,000 volumes), Child Rights Convention booklet (10,000 copies), Call for Justice Report (2,000 copies), Universal declaration of Human Rights (10,000 copies), Convention of elimination of torture (10,000 copies), Child rights Convention (10,000 copies), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (10,000 copies), International convention on economical and social rights (10,000 copies) , Convention on the elimination of torture (10,000 copies), the Child rights Convention (10,000 copies), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (10,000 copies), Convention on the rights of immigrants (30,000 copies), Transitional Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation in Dari and Pashto (25,000 copies).
- *Reports:* AIHRC 's First Report to the Afghan Parliament (1,000 volumes), The Social, Cultural and Economical Rights Report (3,000 volumes), AIHRC Annual Report, June 2005 -May 2006 (1,000 copies), Call for Justice Report (2,000 copies), Research report on Child Labour in Pashto (2,000 copies), Child Labour report in Dari Language (2,000 copies)
- *Posters on:* the International Tolerance Day (5,000 copies), the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (20,000 copies), Women's Rights in Dari and Pashto (10,000 copies), Painting on woman's rights printed as a poster (10,000 copies), 10th of December, anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10,000 copies)
- *Others:* Charts of the Child Rights Convention (10,000 copies), Gender and Rights (1000 books), a handbook on Freedom, Democracy and Parliament (2,000 volumes), four chapters in educational manuals corresponding to 85,000 pages, Human Rights Education guidelines (1,000 copies), Human Rights System in the United Nations (1000 volumes)

These documents represented an important load of work, not only for the AIHRC Press and Publication unit, but also for the relevant programme units, which provided a substantial input to produce the content of brochures, posters and other documents.

Construction work

The physical construction of offices around the country has progressed by 55% in Kandahar, 35% in Bamyan, and 75% in Hirat. The construction work in Kunduz and Gardiz has been completed and the surrounding wall of the Kabul compound has been



built so far. Weather conditions represented a challenge in the conduct of construction activities during 2006.

In Kandahar, progress in the construction work has been made in relation to the reception room, plastering of the first floor and the basement, as well as on the sanitary and electric system.

In Hirat, the plastering of the first floor was completed, and progressed by 70% on the second floor of the building. The electric and water system has progressed by 65%. The tiling of room surfaces and washrooms, as well as the work on the septic well has progressed. The surrounding wall was completed.

In Bamyan, the construction work of the AIHRC office has progressed in the basement, and the first floor of the building. The work related to the septic well was completed.

Throughout the past year, the Commission has contracted construction engineers for site supervision to ensure an effective and technical monitoring of the construction work related to the AIHRC offices.

Delays in the construction work for the building to be located in Kabul during the past year were caused by issues related to the distribution of land by the Government and acquisition of land by the AIHRC. The administrative work in relation with the approval of the sketches of the building in Kabul is complete; a bill of quantity had been requested and submitted to the Ministry of Urban Development. The Commission is waiting for the review and final approval of the bill of quantity by the Ministry of Urban Development, which will enable the Commission to contract a construction company on a bidding basis, and to start the construction of the building itself.



Challenges and Overview of the Human Rights Situation in 2006

AIHRC faced important challenges in 2006, which hampered the implementation of the activities planned to reach its objectives related to the promotion, protection and monitoring of human rights. These challenges also represent obstacles to the improvement of the human rights situation during the past year, either directly or indirectly.

The deteriorating security situation in Afghanistan throughout 2006 presented a serious obstacle for the implementation of planned activities and field missions by AIHRC. The most insecure areas were the Kandahar, Khost, Paktia, Paktika, Orozgan, Hilmand and Hirat provinces, with several terrorist attacks in Kabul throughout the year. AIHRC could tackle the security challenges with flexibility, and sought alternatives to implement its action plan in the insecure provinces of Afghanistan by taking into account regular security updates and shifting the implementation of planned activities from a tormented district to a safer district. Insecurity, conflict and fighting in Afghanistan stand for a serious threat to the life and freedom of movement for Afghan citizens. Therefore, the increase of security incidents over the past year represented a serious challenge to the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

Major obstacles throughout 2006 consisted in the absence of Rule of Law, the presence of a culture of impunity and the abuse of power by government officials, along with a weak judicial system, slow process of legal cases, and the lack of reforms within the Government to improve the judicial and social system. In addition, the incidence of torture on detained or imprisoned persons was still occurring throughout the past year, although cases of torture have declined.

Furthermore, the Government failed in practice to take rapid action on the promotion of human rights, and more specifically, on the transitional justice process. It took a year to the Government to launch the Action Plan on Peace, Justice and Reconciliation in December 2006, whereas it had been approved by the Cabinet in December 2005. The lack of commitment by the Afghan Government was also translated by the Ministry of Finance cancelling the Government's pledge of US\$ 1,000,000 to the Commission and presenting the excuse of insufficient budget at the disposition of the Government. It is however essential that the Government fulfils the requirements of the Paris Principles, and demonstrates its commitment to the promotion, protecting and monitoring of human rights in Afghanistan through the provision of financial support to the Commission. The negotiations with the Ministry of Education proved to be lengthy during the past year, and human rights materials have still not been inserted in secondary school curricula. However, the Ministry of Education has recently shown an interest to enhance its cooperation with the AIHRC in respect of developing a new teaching curriculum. Finally, the Commission also noticed a lack of strategic approach by the Government of Afghanistan in fulfilling the objectives set in the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) and in the Afghanistan Compact, as well as an insufficient knowledge of ANDS mechanisms by government officials. These challenges rendered the work of



the Commission difficult during the past year, and represented obstacles for the improvement of the human rights situation throughout 2006.

Another important challenge for the Commission was caused by bureaucratic and lengthy logistical procedures, as well as the lack of professional and high quality companies in Kabul, which slowed down the finalization of purchases planned for the fourth quarter 2006. In addition, the slow disbursement of donor contributions represented a serious obstacle for a good implementation of activities, especially in the first and the second quarter of 2006, when the Commission had to decrease its expenditures partly due to the lack of funding available.

The human rights situation in Afghanistan was challenged throughout 2006 by practices such as child and forced marriages, and customs such as the *Bad*, which consists in giving out women and girls to solve family disputes. Violence perpetrated against women, exploitation of children, deprivation from the right to Education, illegal detentions and deprivation of economic and social rights in terms of having a proper housing, access to clean water and health facilities, contributed to the occurrence of human rights violations throughout the year.

Traditions and customs in Afghanistan can be the cause of violence perpetrated against Afghan women. An example: In July 2006, a woman living in Kabul contacted AIHRC, and showed bruises and marks of beating caused by her husband and in-laws. The Women's Rights Unit initiated a series of mediation meetings with her husband, and discovered that the beating was a way for the husband and the family in law to express their frustration in relation to the common practice of paying a certain sum of money to the bride's family before marriage. Most families get indebted for several years to fulfil the financial requirements implied by a wedding and mostly claimed by the bride's family. The mediation efforts and awareness-raising on women's rights by the WRU resulted in a positive outcome, as eventually violence on the complainant ceased.

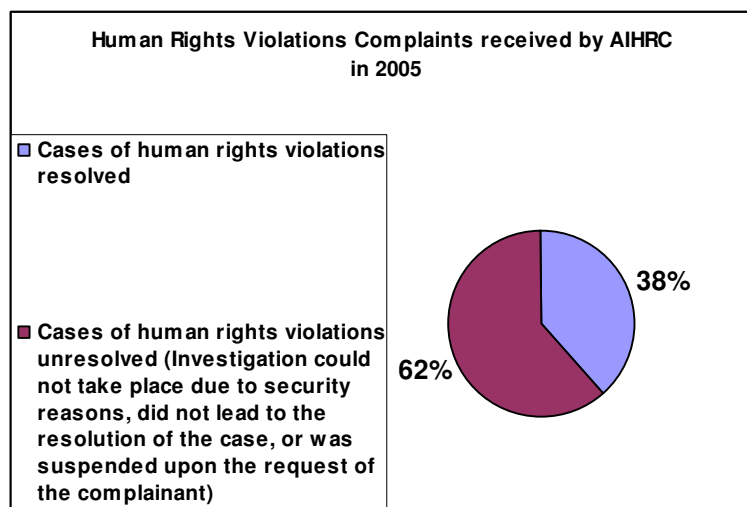
Girls going back to school have been one of the main images of progress portrayed by the Afghan Government, the international community and the Media. However, today in Afghanistan, 85% of women are illiterate and the total number of school for girls is half less than the number of schools for boys. Girls represent only 3% of pupils and students, and they are hardly allowed to continue their education beyond the fifth or sixth grade. In addition, the right to education is not granted to children coming from poor families. These children have to work or beg to feed their families, and are at risk as they can be easily be the victims of sexual and other kind of abuses in their working environment.

However, the presence of a permanent national institution working to promote, protect and monitor human rights with the confidence of the Afghan people and a four-year long experience added a positive note to the human rights situation in Afghanistan in 2006,

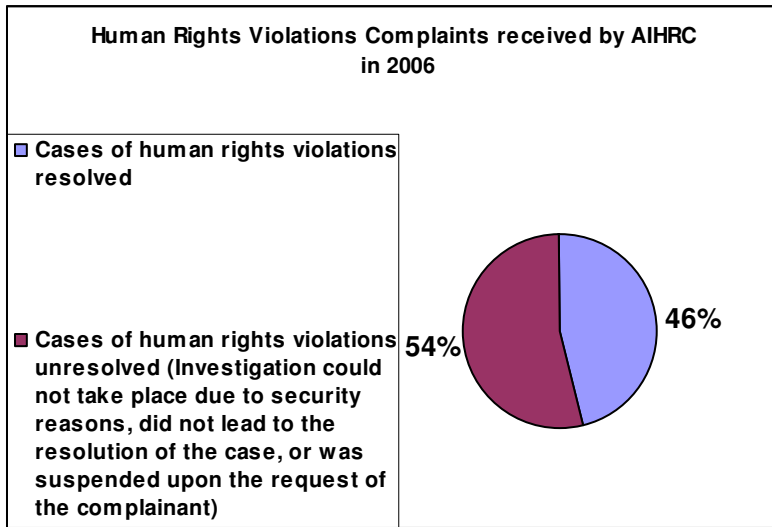


when 4,978 people (22% of whom were women) came to the AIHRC seeking assistance.

The Commission's achievements certainly improved the human rights situation in Afghanistan through awareness-raising efforts on human rights by the conduction of human rights related workshops, resolution of human rights violations cases through intervention and mediation, and the improvement of the situation of prisoners in detention centres and prison through negotiations with prison authorities. Some figures for 2006 can illustrate a positive sign of progress in the human rights situation in Afghanistan as 459 illegally detained men, 172 illegally imprisoned men, 28 illegally arrested men, and 84 illegally detained children were released upon AIHRC's intervention. 96 family disputes including violence against women cases were mediated with indications of resolution or improvement in their situation. Of the 1,645 complaints received in year 2006 (which involved 2,063 violations of human rights), 1,296 complaints were investigated and 757 interventions led to resolution. Advocacy efforts by the Commission with the Afghan population, the Government and the Parliament also resulted in having human rights concepts more taken into consideration in policies, strategies and laws at the national level.



Finally, the decrease in the number of complaints related to human rights violations complaints (1645 cases) received in 2006 in comparison with 2005 (2401 cases received) can also reflect a progress in the human rights situation in Afghanistan during 2006. A significant indicator of progress consists in the increase in the number of positive resolutions in 2006 (46% of the cases were resolved) in comparison with 2005 (38% of the cases were resolved). Given the challenges and obstacles described above, 46% of cases resolved in 2006 constitute a positive number.





AIHRC Project Results and Resource Framework for 2006

Intended Outcomes

1. Functioning of the AIHRC improved through institutional strengthening and AIHRC capacities fully developed in all programme areas (referring to Objective 1 of the AIHRC's three-year action plan: *The AIHRC, a well-functioning national human rights commission*). 2. Public awareness increased on human rights and full support of human rights by governmental authorities and Civil Society (referring to Objective 2 of the AIHRC's three-year action plan: *Promotion of human rights, to enhance awareness raising initiatives on various human rights topics*). 3. The human rights of all Afghans are better protected (referring to Objective 3 of the AIHRC's three-year action plan: *Protection of human rights, to effectively deal with HRs complaints and protection of everyone's basic human rights*) 4. HRs situation assessed and analysed through regular monitoring and human rights violations, and more specifically on detention centres standards at the national level. Ability of this comprehensive body to illustrate trends and changes (referring to Objective 4 of the AIHRC's three-year action plan: *Monitoring of HRs, to assess the HRs situation and highlight the priorities in terms of protection and promotion of HRs*).

Outcome Indicators

Human rights increasingly incorporated in formal education and training in government agencies, particularly the judicial and security sectors. Increasingly accurate media coverage of women and child rights issues. Government ministries and departments increasingly establish and support human rights units or staff persons. Increased incidence of mullah speaking and acting in support of human rights principles. All data from complaints received through monitoring of Prisons, Detention Centres (DC) and Child Correction Centres (CCC) nationally for minimum standards and for violations of rights of prisoners and detainees are into place in a database with regular reports. Establishment and strengthening of laws to protect human rights in Afghanistan. Laws increasingly applied by police and courts. A reduction in the number of violations by government officials. Publishing of national human rights situation reports, increase in number of cases resolved, formalisation of procedures and increased efficiency.

Partnership Strategy: UNAMA, UNHCR, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Education, Attorney General's office, civil society organisations, education and science academia, media, AREU, UNIFEM, Global Rights, Save the Children Sweden Norway, Equal Access
Project Title: Project in Support of the AIHRC's Three-Year Action Plan (2006-2008)



Intended Outputs for 2006 (Re: Outcome 1: Institutional Strengthening)	2006 Outputs (related to Outcome 1)	Indicative Activities
Outputs 1.1. Capacity of AIHRC staff is strengthened. Construction activities in AIHRC satellite offices progressed. AIHRC staff is provided for better transportation means to conduct field missions.	Capacity of AIHRC staff built on databases created by the Database Management unit, the capacity of 17 AIHRC staff is raised through workshops and courses abroad, 113 staff members recruited, construction activities were completed in Gardiz and Kunduz and progressed by 55% in Kandahar, 35% in Bamyan, and 75% in Hirat. 14 new vehicles are purchased to improve the efficiency of field missions.	Workshops conducted in Kabul , training provided to AIHRC staff abroad, and through field missions to AIHRC satellite offices, purchase of vehicles
Intended Outputs for 2006 (Re: Outcome 2: PROMOTION)	2006 Outputs(related to Outcome 2)	Indicative Activities & Programme Units responsible for activities.
Outputs 2.1 Minimum of 16,000 people (40% female) per year or 4000 people per quarter receive information about and discuss UDHR principles (including decision makers).	23,168 people made aware of UDHR principles the Convention on Elimination of all kinds of Discrimination Against Woman (CEDAW), conflict resolution, violation, forced marriages and its results, and the Convention on Torture and its principles, and their relevance to Afghanistan (30,5% women, and including mullahs, ANA, ANP, teachers and students) through 293 workshops and 415 awareness raising meetings. 3,121 minutes of TV and 10,302 minutes of radio broadcast on a variety of human rights issues including past human rights abuses, women's rights according to the principles of human rights and Islam, Justice for Children, the international day of the Child and AIHRC duties and responsibilities, the tradition of <i>Bad</i> from the prospective of Islam, torture, and the International Day on the Elimination of Violence Against Women.	Afghans participating in UDHR promotion activities, public broadcasts prepared and aired from 8 provincial centres; 2 international radios and one national TV network (HR Education Unit -HREU). According to report from National TV, 85% of population covered through programs. More than 20,000,000 sheets on various HR topics and researches are produced.



<p>Outputs 2.2 8,800 people (50% female and 2,200 people per quarter) informed of women's rights in Islam and VAW (including mullah, elders and officials) Awareness raised among the Afghans on women's condition in Afghanistan</p>	<p>Women's rights in Islam and CEDAW, and VAW issues and existence and purpose of AIHRC was taught to 13,597 people (30% of whom were men, including mullah, elders, government officials) through 108 workshops and 261 awareness raising meetings.</p>	<p>People participated in women's rights promotion activities, partnership with CS institutions and organization of two international conferences on Family Law and self-immolations (Women's Rights Unit - WRU)</p>
<p>Outputs 2.3 8,800 people (50% female and 2,200 people per quarter) learn about child rights and the vulnerability of children in the Afghan Society (including prosecutors, students and court staff).</p>	<p>Child Rights, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), child labour and impact on Afghan children, and protection from child trafficking was taught to 10,040 people (40% of whom were women), including police, elders, prosecutors, court staff and students through 100 workshops and 236 awareness-raising meetings.</p>	<p>People participated in child rights promotion activities (Child Rights Unit - CRU).</p>
<p>Outputs 2.4 Nationwide discussions and information provided on transitional justice and its relationship to human rights. Minimum 4000 people reached each year.</p>	<p>9,537 people informed about the purpose and history of transitional justice, of the International Criminal Court (ICC), and <i>A Call for Justice Report</i>, government action on peace, Justice and reconciliation conflict mapping, truth seeking commission (28% of whom were women), including civil society, governmental staff, religious scholars and community elders, through 69 workshops and 325 awareness raising meetings around the country.</p>	<p>Meetings held around the country with civil society to raise awareness on Transitional Justice, 25,000 copies of the TJ action plan distributed widely. (Transitional Justice Unit - TJU)</p>
<p>Output 2.5 2000 people (40% female and 500 people per quarter) learn about the rights of people with disabilities</p>	<p>6,997 people (33% female) including community elders, governmental staff learn about rights of PWD, role of PWD in Society and responsibilities of the Government to support PWD through 41 workshops and 149 awareness-raising meetings.</p>	<p>Workshops and meetings, relevant publications and posters (PWD)</p>



Intended Outputs for 2006 (Re: Outcome 3: PROTECTION)	2006 Outputs (Related to Outcome 3)	Indicative Activities & Programme Units responsible for activities
<p>Outputs 3.1 Prison authorities informed of failures to uphold the Minimum Standards in Prisons. Improvements in standards of prisons and detention centres, child correctional centres and other government institutions (hospitals, orphanages, etc).</p>	<p>Improved standards of men's prisons in Hirat, Farah, Ningarhar, Khost, Bamyán, Badakhshan, Badghis, Kunduz, Laghman, Jawzjan, Daykundi, Konar, Kapisa, Kabul, Parwan and Kandahar. Improved standards of women's prisons in Kabul, Balkh, Kunduz, Bamyán, Baghlan, Samangan, Laghman, Ningarhar, Hirat, Kandahar, Faryab, Takhar, Kunar and Sar-i-Pul. Improved Standards of Child Correction centres in Kapisa, Balkh, Parwan, Kunduz, Baghlan, Jawzjan and Kandahar.</p>	<p>Interventions and meetings with authorities to address violations and the role of government/prison authorities. (M&IU supported by CRU and WRU)</p>
<p>Outputs 3.2 Investigations initiated into all verified complaints of human rights violations. All cases opened for investigation should be investigated within one month of being opened. Within 6 months of being opened, a min. 30% of cases should be closed after finding effective remedy.</p>	<p>1,296 complaints investigated (1,645 complaints received, involving 2,063 violations and abuses), 192 cases resolved. 96 family disputes including VAW mediated, with feedback indicating resolution or improvement in situation. 518 women received legal advice. Secured release of 459 illegally detained men, 172 illegally imprisoned men and 28 illegally arrested men. Secured release of 184 illegally detained children in prisons, child correctional centres and detention centres.</p>	<p>Interventions with authorities to address violations and the role of the government / local authorities in providing effective remedy. (M&IU, WRU, CRU). Complaints/Case Forms filled out and legal advice recorded. (M&IU). Mediation and facilitation to address family disputes and problems of violence and abuse. (WRU)</p>
<p>Intended Outputs for 2006 (Re: Outcome 4: MONITORING)</p> <p>Output 4.1 11 hospitals monitored at the regional level for VAW. Orphanages monitored for conditions and signs of abuse.</p>	<p>2006 Outputs (Related to Outcome 4)</p> <p>16 hospitals in 13 provinces monitored for VAW. 51 orphanages monitored for conditions and signs and abuse.</p>	<p>Indicative Activities & Programme Units responsible for activities</p> <p>Monitoring hospitals and orphanages (WRU & CRU)</p>



<p>Outputs 4.2 All women's prisons and all Child Correctional Centres (CCC) monitored. All male prisons and detention centres approached for monitoring.</p>	<p>21 Women's prisons in 15 provinces monitored according to UN Minimum Standard Rules for Treatment of Prisoners (Minimum Standards). 26 Child Correction Centres monitored. 573 monitoring missions conducted in prisons and detention centres in 34 provinces.</p>	<p>Monitoring of CCCs, DCs and prisons for adherence to Minimum Standards and for violations. Reporting incidents of violations. (WRU, CRU, M&IU)</p>
<p>Outputs 4.3 400 interviews (100 interviews per quarter) are conducted each year and evidence collected nationwide of past human rights abuses in Afghanistan for the conflict mapping exercise (identification, recording and documentation of cases of past human rights abuses)</p>	<p>Recorded data of past human rights violations and abuses pertaining to transitional justice, including mass killings, illegal detentions and disappearances, 1725 victims, eyewitnesses and clergies interviewed and 657 complaints documented.</p>	<p>Interviews undertaken to identify incidents of past human rights violations. Complaints/Case forms completed for entry to database. (TJU)</p>



Finance

Annual Financial Summary for 2006 (1 January – 31 December 2006)

Activity ID	Total Budget for Jan-Dec 2006 (US\$)	Total Expenditure for Jan-Dec 2006 (US\$)	Remaining Balance (US\$)
101 Women's Rights	804,674	379,115	425,559
102 Child Rights	658,231	311,026	347,205
103 Human Rights Education	828,457	398,820	429,637
104 Monitoring & Investigation	695,357	373,135	322,222
105 Field Monitoring	272,716	100,851	171,865
106 Transitional Justice	744,938	335,677	409,261
107 Research and Policy	188,110	103,788	84,322
108 Media and Publication	961,482	216,805	744,677
109 People with Disabilities Rights	575,371	94,701	480,670
110 Reporting	30,750	52,401	(21,651)
111 Resource Centre	168,807	19,922	148,885
112 Database	10,250	19,658	(9,408)
113 Running costs	3,697,382	1,845,219	1,852,163
114 Governance costs	310,032	140,430	169,602
115 Construction of new buildings	3,058,540	1,042,383	2,016,157
Total:	13,005,097	5,433,932	7,571,165

Donor	Total Funds Available for 2006 (US\$)	Total Expenditure for 2006 (US\$)	Remaining Balance (US\$)
1002 CANADA	2,211	-	2,211
1003 Denmark	1,220,770	965,127	255,643
1004 Finland	1,151,659	1,116,521	35,138
1005 Norway	504,635	242,101	262,534
1006 New-Zealand	671,060	262,265	408,795
1007 United Kingdom	1,005,126	493,068	512,058
1008 USAID (Construction)	2,201,146	1,050,162	1,150,984
1008 USAID (Salaries) ³	368,217	555,266	(187,049)
1009 OHCHR	37,800	37,800	-
1010 Govt. of Afghanistan	111,858	111,858	-
1011 SDC- Switzerland	749,831	562,500	187,331
1012 Irish Aid	131,724	30,000	101,724
1013 SCA	4,000	4,000	-
1014 Netherlands	589,950	89,950	500,000
5000 AIHRC Income	835	835	0
Total:	8,750,821	5,521,453⁴	3,229,368

³ The difference between expenditure and donor contribution received was received in Jan. 2007

⁴ This amount includes US\$ 87,521 charged by UNDP.



The financial summary for 2006 shows a balance of funds amounting to US\$ 3, 2 million at the end of 2006. There are many reasons to justify the fact that expenditures were lower than the total amount of funds available:

- The deteriorating security situation in the country, especially in the South and South-East, implied a decrease in the number of monitoring missions and at times, conduct of human rights related workshops.
- There was a very slow cash flow and disbursement of financial support provided throughout 2006. As can be seen in the schedule of donor disbursements detailed below, no funds were received in the first quarter at all, and a significant number of disbursements were made in the fourth quarters of 2006. Even then, most of the contributions were disbursed towards the end of the quarter, which presents a serious challenge in terms of financial planning for the Commission. As a consequence, the Commission had to plan its budget accordingly , with the uncertainty on further availability of donor funding, and reduced its expenditures on purpose.

Schedule of donor disbursements in 2006

Donor	Amount of funds (US\$)	Date of receipt of funds	Related Quarter of 2006
United Kingdom	1,000,000	24-Apr-06	Second quarter
Finland	1,116,521	26-Apr-06	Second quarter
SDC Switzerland	749,975	10-May-06	Second quarter
Norway	484,202	25-Jun-06	End of Second quarter
Denmark	170,387	12-Oct-06	Fourth quarter
New Zealand	509,960	9-Nov-06	Fourth quarter
Irish Aid	131,724	7-Dec-06	End of fourth quarter
Netherlands	589,950	14-Dec-06	End of fourth quarter
USAID (salaries)	368,217	19-Nov-06 and 3-Dec-06	Beginning and end of fourth quarter

- On the total of US\$ 3, 2 million, US\$ 900,000 are related to past contributions to AIHRC that need to be transferred to AIHRC by UNDP as it is no longer administrating AIHRC's accounts.
- The AIHRC had planned to finance a T.V. serial and two films, as well as to purchase generators, a printing press whose cost would amount to approximately US\$ 400,000. These undertakings could not concretize in practice during 2006 due to lengthy logistics procedures and the lack of serious and professional trade companies on the Afghan market.

A contribution agreement amounting to AUD 1,000,000 was signed between AIHRC and the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) on 20 December.



Conclusion

In conclusion, 2006 represented a year full of significant achievements and growing challenges for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission in relation to the promotion, protection, monitoring and investigation of human rights in Afghanistan.

An important number of monitoring missions and human rights related workshops were conducted throughout the year. Human rights were promoted through the production of films, documentaries and human rights related material broadcast on radios and T.V. channels, as well as the publication and distribution of a monthly human rights magazine and human rights documents such as brochures, books, reports, conventions and posters.

Partnerships with civil society organizations and advocacy efforts at the Government and the Parliament's level were strengthened. Several databases were developed to enable an efficient and professional monitoring of human rights, and human rights related researches enabled the Commission to produce high quality reports with useful recommendations to the Government.

Despite an important number of challenges, the implementation of activities related to the Commission's three-year action plan 2006-2008 made a positive progress throughout the past year. AIHRC is constantly concerned with strengthening and improving itself, this is why its Senior Management initiated a series of internal meetings to draw lessons from the past year, to reflect on the AIHRC's achievements in 2006 and to discuss the Commission's action plan and budget for 2007. During 2006, an internal assessment of the AIHRC offices as well as a separate internal control assessment focusing on the administrative and finance section was conducted.

The Commission ended 2006 stronger institutionally, with the official nomination of the Board of Commissioners by the President of Afghanistan, which had been awaited for more than two years and a half. In addition, significant achievements consisted in an important number of capacity-building opportunities, as well as a significant improvement of the transportation and communication means at the disposition of the AIHRC staff. The construction of AIHRC offices symbolises the permanency of this national institution and its long-term commitment to improve the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

The Commission endeavours to make a difference in the daily lives of the Afghan people, in a country where human rights violations are daily perpetrated. AIHRC has been enriched by more than a four-year long experience and is proud to represent a model of capacity-building and sustainability for other national institutions.

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In the future, AIHRC hopes to continue its close collaboration with the Government and people of Afghanistan as well as with its donors and partners, and to progress towards the achievement of the benchmarks set in the Afghanistan Compact for the development of Afghanistan.

Albert Einstein stated that “our defence is not in our armaments, nor in going underground. Our defence is in Law and Order”. The Commission supports this view and hopes to see the “Law of Force” replaced by the “Force of the Law”. Long-term commitments by the international community towards the AIHRC as well as an adequate political will and support from the Afghan Government are essential, since the promotion and protection of human rights is a pre-condition for a well-functioning democracy, good governance and the Rule of Law in Afghanistan.



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