



## **Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission**



**Annual Report**  
**1389 (2010/2011)**

**ACRONYMS**

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ACSF	Afghan Civil Society Forum
AIHRC	Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission
ANA	Afghan National Army
ANDS	Afghanistan National Development Strategy
ANP	Afghan National Police
ANSF	Afghan National Security Forces
AGEs	Anti-Government Elements
ARCS	Afghan Red Crescent Society
APF	Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions
AWSE	Afghan Women Services and Education
AWEC	Afghan Woman's Education Centre
AWN	Afghan Women's Network
AWSDC	Afghan Women Skill Development Centre
BEST	Basic Education and Employable Skill Training
BMT	Border Monitoring Team
CAT	Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CCCs	Child Correction Centres
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CPAN	Child Protection Action Network
CTFMRM	Country Task Force Monitoring, Reporting and Response Mechanism
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICCR	Indian Centre for Cultural Relations
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
IPAC	Indraprastha Public Affairs Centre
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRFM	Child Rights Field Monitoring
CRU	Child Rights Unit
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DAD	Development Assistance Database
DCs	Detention Centres
IMS	Information Management Section
DSCG	Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group
DoWA	Department of Women Affairs
FEFA	Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan
HR	Human Rights
HREU	Human Rights Education Unit
HRFM	Human Rights Field Monitoring
HRVs	Human Rights Violations

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ICC	International Criminal Court/International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights
ICTJ	International Centre for Transitional Justice
IDLG	Independent Directorate of Local Governance
IEDs	Improvised Explosive Devices
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
IMF	International Military Forces
M&IU	Monitoring and Investigation Unit
MoE	Ministry of Education
MoFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MoHE	Ministry of Higher Education
MoJ	Ministry of Justice
Mol	Ministry of Interior
MoLSAMD	Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NDS	National Directorate of Security
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NHRCK	National Human Rights Commission of Korea
NPWJ	No Peace Without Justice
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
PWDU	Persons with Disabilities Unit
RWI	Raoul Wallenberg Institute
SCS-N	Save the Children Sweden-Norway
SIT	Special Investigation Team
SPRC	Strategic Planning and Review Committee
TJU	Transitional Justice Unit
ToT	Training of Trainers
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMACA	United Nations Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UPF	Universal Peace Federation
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAW	Violence against Women
WRU	Women's Rights Unit

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## **Executive Summary**

In 1389, the AIHRC embarked on implementing its new Four-Year Strategic and Action Plan fulfilling its constitutional mandate of promoting, protecting and monitoring human rights in the country. The plan was developed in view of the new challenges of human rights promotion and protection, new developments in the country, and new institutional requirements; and it is seen as an important framework and an effective tool to enable the AIHRC to improve effectiveness and efficiency in its performance, and to achieve predetermined, assessable and measurable results. The development of the AIHRC's Strategic and Action Plan helped the AIHRC to become more concentrated, more effective, efficient and result oriented. In the current strategic plan, five strategic objectives: leadership, education, empowerment, advocacy, monitoring and investigation are determined to be achieved. The AIHRC activities and resources are mobilized toward achieving these five objectives. This report presents a summary description of outcomes and results of the programs and activities implemented by the AIHRC in 2010/1389. Achieving desired results and improved outcomes are essentials to accomplish the five objectives set in the Strategic and Action Plan. This report also states that the AIHRC achieved 85 per cent of its programming goals.

The AIHRC's achievements in 2010/1389 were a function of utilizing its Four-Year Action Plan (2010/1389 – 2013/1392), through active interaction with people, cooperation with the government, civil society and international institutions.

During 2010/1389, the AIHRC was a recognized leading authority in the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. The AIHRC, with a prominent presence both inside and outside of the country, maintained and expanded its leadership role before national and international institutions involved in protection and promotion of human rights. The AIHRC's leadership was internationally recognized with the prestigious Peace and Human Rights Prizes awarded to Dr. Sima Samar, the Chairperson of the AIHRC and Mrs. Sobhrang, Commissioner of the AIHRC.

During the reporting year, the AIHRC increased public awareness, and institutionalized human rights in military and police centers, judiciary organs and academic settings. The AIHRC increased the awareness of government and state officials of their responsibilities to promote and protect human rights as well as about the international obligation of the government of Afghanistan in promoting, protecting and respecting human rights.

During the year, the AIHRC improved its effectiveness by managing its programs and resources and strengthened expertise and professionalism of the AIHRC staff through the provision of relevant developmental and training programs. In this regard, the AIHRC built and developed the capacity of its staff members both in human rights

specialized areas and general fields of management, leadership, finance and conflict resolution. In addition, the AIHRC cooperated with government organs and provided them with necessary consultations. For example, the AIHRC provided assistance and support to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in drafting the GoIRA's report to CEDAW.

Furthermore, in 2010/1389, the AIHRC continued to receive the people's complaints about the violation of their human rights.

Despite all achievements, the AIHRC faced numerous challenges in pursuing its objectives in 2010/1389. During the year, the security situation deteriorated more than the previous year. Increased insecurity had a negative and somewhat direct impact on the AIHRC's programs and activities, as well as inflicting painful harm to the staff of AIHRC. During the year, the AIHRC lost its child rights commissioner Hamida Barmaki, her children, and husband as a result of a suicide attack.

The AIHRC also encountered a substantial budget deficit in 2010/1389, a major challenge hampering the realization of AIHRC goals. The budget deficit the AIHRC faced construed about half of the annual budget. The impact was two fold. First, it caused postponement in the payment of staff salary. Second, it forced the AIHRC to suspend some of its programs. In 2010/1389 other external challenges, for example, the government's lack of interest and political will in promotion of human rights, rampant and widespread corruption, especially in judicial organs, and abuse of power, lack of rule of law and continuation of culture of impunity remained as major obstacles the AIHRC had to face.

During this year, due to the deteriorating state of security, expansion of conflict, culture of impunity and lack of rule of law, human rights abuses of women and children continued. Horrifying cases of violence against women such as rape and trafficking of children continued to rise. Women and children were killed as a result of attacks on civilian areas. In addition, 2010/1389 was the deadliest year for civilians in the country. This year, more than 2459 Civilians were killed, 71 percent of which attributes to the armed oppositions of the government, and 19 percent to the international forces and the last 10 percent were killed by unknown persons.

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC learned many lessons. In relation to the budget, the AIHRC demonstrated better and more effective planning to implement its monitoring, protection and promotion programs. Better and effective planning by identifying program areas that would not be affected by budget limitations helped the AIHRC to diminish serious effects on the AIHRC's programs. This has helped the AIHRC to have better planning in place for the next year and to avoid financial problems if the donors commitment to provide financial support to the AIHRC slows.

Flexibility, communication, participatory planning, sharing and flow of information among and within the AIHRC's units and offices were crucial in doing so. Another important lesson learned by the AIHRC was its result-based programming approach that helped the AIHRC to be more focused, efficient, and effective in implementing its program.

Another important lesson which would be repeated was the AIHRC's approach to reach out to various categories and different groups of people, civil society and various advocacy networks in order to achieve its five goals. The AIHRC will maintain this approach in formulating and carrying out next year programs.

### **Strategic Objective Leadership**

In 2010/1389, the reputation of the AIHRC as an authority on human rights protection and promotion was enhanced. The frequent approach by government, media and civil society organizations to the AIHRC for comments, recommendations and consultations on matters pertaining to human rights issues was increased. Governments, civil society and other key national and international organs relied on the AIHRC's expertise. For example in 1389, the Presidential Special Advisor Board for Senior Appointment (PSABSA) sent 37 letters, the President's office on administrative affairs sent 26, the Ministry of Interior sent 6 letters to the AIHRC, Ministry of Foreign Affairs sent 8 letters, and the Ministry of Justice sent 8 letters, all requesting the AIHRC for its expertise on human rights issues.

Likewise, several international organizations referred to the AIHRC inquiring about various issues related to human rights. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Child Rights Committee, United Nations Women's Organization, United Nations Population Agency, APF, Amnesty International, the foreign ministries of various countries and various NGOs and other international organizations,<sup>1</sup> including international institutions relied on the information and comments from the AIHRC on human rights, women rights and children rights, and issues related to them.

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC was visible and proactive in drawing national and international attention to human rights issues in Afghanistan. In this regard, local media such as Aryana TV, Tolo TV, Saba and Shamshad TV, Hasht-e-Sobh newspaper, Sada-e-Watandar and Sada-e-Azadi Radios, Pazhwak news agency, and Afghanistan News Network. In addition, some foreign media such as BBC, CNN, Associated Press, France Press, Australian General Radio, New York Times and Washington Post referred and quoted from the AIHRC regarding various issues pertaining to human rights.

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<sup>1</sup> Human rights first, ICTJ, No Peace without Justice, center for constitutional rights, human rights and democracy, state departments, rule of law sections, UN, human rights unit, US institute for peace, NED, Open Society, Brookings Institutions

During the year, public awareness about the role, importance and impact of AIHRC had increased. This was achieved through publishing 31 press releases, 20 media sessions, and 30 TV and 40 radio roundtable discussions attended by the AIHRC board of leadership and its staff members that had a broad national and international coverage.

Furthermore, during the year, the AIHRC's participation and advice enriched national and international human rights programmes in Afghanistan. For example at the Kabul International Conference on 20 July 2010 (29 Saratan 1389), the AIHRC chairperson, Dr. Sima Samar drew national, regional and international attention towards human rights issues and civic responsibilities in Afghanistan.

In the process of the peace and reintegration program, the AIHRC presented a number of recommendations on the mechanism, observance of human rights, women rights and justice as the main subject of peace, that regarding the participation of women, the AIHRC's view was considered to some extent.

During the year, the AIHRC took an active part in ensuring good governance in the country. The AIHRC's offices at the provincial, regional and national level were visible in governance meetings with governors, district governors, chiefs of police, heads of provincial government departments, provincial councils, prosecutors, judges, religious scholars (*ulema*), elders and other national and international stakeholders effectively addressing peoples' grievances and problems. The AIHRC expanded its cooperation with the National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA) and sought cooperation with the High Office of Oversight (HOO). The AIHRC has become an active member of the High Commission on Prevention of Air Pollution. Additionally, the AIHRC presented recommendations and advice to the GoIRA concerning the National Consultative Peace Jirga, the Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan, the previous Presidential and Provincial Councils Elections, Parliamentary Elections, and a number of national legislations.

Besides, Dr. Samar and other members of the AIHRC attended several international conferences, and received several international awards.

### **Strategic Objective #2: Education**

During 1389, the AIHRC was recognized as the authority on human rights education. 29,020 people (11,307 women and 17,713 men) have increased their understanding and awareness about human rights issues by attending 243 workshops and 589 awareness raising meetings. The AIHRC tracked the effectiveness of its human rights education by conducting 62 follow up sessions and interviewing of 1406 people (922 men and 484 women). The result indicated that public awareness had increased and that the participants were witnessing changes in their behavior and conduct. Furthermore, people's reaction toward issues related to human rights, human rights violations and abuses, their interviews with and reference to media to flag human rights



issues and the frequency of their approach and visit to the AIHRC offices, NGOs and Governmental organizations to submit their complaints or report human rights abuses, had increased.

Similarly, the AIHRC was able to take effective steps toward institutionalization of human rights at schools, universities, teacher training centers, judicial training centers, religious centers and military training centers, police centers. The AIHRC, with the opening of a human rights study center in Herat University and integrating the subject of human rights in the curriculum of four public universities, two private institutions of higher education, three normal and two other government agency took positive steps toward the institutionalization of human rights.

In 2010/1389, because of effective interaction and intensive and systemic training and public awareness program with religious scholars, the clergy, tribal leaders and civil society groups on Islam and human rights, the level of negative propaganda against the AIHRC decreased and was rendered ineffective.

During 2010/1389, Media and research institutes focusing on human rights issues increased both in number and quality. The AIHRC signed agreements with 51 media outlets at national, regional and provincial levels. To this end, the AIHRC aired about 36,230 minutes of media programs, (27,104 minutes of radio and 9,126 minutes of television programs) concerning various issues of human rights through different channels from which 18 media outlets aired the human rights subjects, which had been prepared by the AIHRC, for free. This indicated an increase in interest and focus on human rights by the media.

As a result of the AIHRC training to police, military personnel, judicial officials, prison officers, defense lawyers and paralegals, their behavior and attitudes has changed positively, which reflected an increased understanding and adherence to human rights and humanitarian laws and principles. The AIHRC observed and recorded less human right violations by prison officers, decreased numbers of civilian casualties by pro-government forces, and assistance provided to victims of human rights by more defense lawyers aware of human rights.

Furthermore, the level of violation of the right to human dignity by the judiciary and judicial organs in the country shows a 76.4 % decrease from the previous year.

### **Strategic Objective 3: Empowerment**

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC improved its effectiveness by managing its programs and resources. In this regard, the AIHRC established a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Unit (MERU) on April 21, 2010 / Sawr 1, 1389. The unit has successfully assessed the report on the implementation process of the strategic and action plans. The MERU built the capacity of 136 staff members in Results-Based Management

(RBM) and Results-Based Reporting (RBR). The AIHRC also recruited 6 program coordinators to lead and manage the AIHRC program effectively.

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC strengthened the expertise and professionalism of its staff through the provision of relevant developmental and training programs. To this end, the AIHRC built and developed the capacity of its 335 (60 women, 257 men) staff members, through various workshops held inside and out side of the country. The training the AIHRC staff received were on good governance, advocacy, monitoring, action-based budgeting, complaint registration, violation against women, gender equality, management, result-based reporting, peace building, fighting against child trafficking, rule of law, conflict resolution, methods of public poll, and Afghanistan national laws.

The AIHRC took practical and effective measures to further build the capacity of its staff members and employed four consultants so as to strengthen the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Unit (RPWDU), Child Rights Unit (CRU), Headquarters Finance Section (HQFS) and HR unit, and to develop effective advocacy action plans. Moreover, six internationals spent their internships in the AIHRC, expanding the AIHRC's international relationships and raising Afghanistan's human rights issues at the international level.

Likewise, the AIHRC held orientation training for 37 newly recruited staff (eight female and 29 male) on mandate, duties and procedures of the AIHRC as well as the national and international human rights laws.

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC recruited 37 staff (eight female and 29 male) which reflects the diversity of the Afghan population in terms of gender, ethnicity, religion, language, and ability. During the recruitment process, in addition to competency, skills, and expertise, diversity in terms of gender, disability, ethnicity, and geographical representations was taken into consideration. In this regard, 22 Pashtoon, 7 Tajiks, 6 Hazaras and one Baloch were recruited.

Last year, 40 governmental and non-governmental institutions working for human rights and rule of law approached the AIHRC and requested human rights training for their staff or their partner organizations.

The AIHRC also played an active role in the preparation of the GoIRA's draft report to the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and carried out a capacity-building program for the GoIRA, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and CSOs.

In 2010/1389, the government of Afghanistan established a human rights protection unit in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The AIHRC played a supporting role in providing capacity building and human rights training to the unit. The establishment of this unit

indicates that the capacity of government will improve in the protection and promotion of human rights.

#### **Strategic Objective 4: Advocacy**

The AIHRC participated in the formation and reviewing of national legislations. It reviewed eight laws (Draft Law on the Protection of Destitute Persons and Families, Draft Law on the Structure and Mandate of Special Court of Ministers and Supreme Court Judges, Draft Law on Dispute Resolution *Shuras* (Councils), and Draft Family Law) and one regulation (Draft Regulation on Private Educational Institutes) Draft of Criminal Procedure Law, Draft of Law on the Structure, Mandate of the Prosecutors, and provided its comments and recommendations with a view to improving these legislations in accordance with international human rights standards. The AIHRC's comments and recommendations were largely accepted and incorporated in the law-making process. Additionally, the AIHRC submitted its shadow report on the implementation status of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) in Afghanistan, to the Committee on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and to the Committee on Child Rights (CRC). The CESCR repeatedly used the AIHRC's shadow report to peruse the GoIRA's report and repeatedly referred to the AIHRC's shadow report in its discussion session with the Afghan delegation in Geneva.

Likewise, as a result of the AIHRC's efforts, advocacy and awareness raising programs, the necessary ground was provided for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disability by the Parliament.

The AIHRC strengthened and increased its participation in national, regional and international forums and networks, in order to advance human rights priorities. It had an active presence in national and international forum and networks. The AIHRC is a principal and leading member of the Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) in the country. In cooperation with 15 national and international institutions that are members of the Advocacy Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD), the AIHRC regulated and disseminated the ACPD's expectations from the National Consultative Peace Jirga. The AIHRC collaborated with the Transitional Justice Coordination Group (TJCG) to organize the first national gathering of war victims and their representatives in order to discuss issues related to peace, reconciliation, and justice. In addition, the AIHRC has been a leading and active member of parliamentarian women and women's rights activists network, the Coordination Committee of the Women's Shelter, the High Commission on Elimination of Violence against Women, the Judicial Committee of reviewing Cases related to honor killing, Technical Advisory Group, Strategy Committee of Gender Unit, the Child Protection Action Network (CPAN) Advocacy Committee for

Persons with Disability (ACPD), the Commission for Prohibition of Violence against Women (CPVW) and the Afghan Women's Network (AWN)

Further, the AIHRC established several human rights advocacy committees in Kabul, Daikundi, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Paktia, Ghor, Bamiyan, Herat, Uruzgan, Faryab provinces. These committees conducted regular meetings and held advocacy sessions discussing and following up different human rights issues in their respective provinces.

The AIHRC pursued its principal advocacy program of reducing civilian casualties in conflict affected provinces by formation of alliances with civil society group and establishment of advocacy committees. In cooperation with civil society organizations and NGOs, the AIHRC established advocacy committees in Kunduz, Nangarhar, Daikundi, Faryab, Paktia, Ghor, Baghlan and Uruzgan. These committees held regular meetings and proved instrumental in reporting civilian casualties, and advocating for safety of civilians and compensation. The AIHRC reports show that in 2010/1389, despite an overall rise in the number of civilian casualties, the number caused by pro-government forces had reduced.

These committees and their advocacy efforts proved effective in advocating for rights of people arrested on charges of terrorism. For example, the authorities of the Canadian embassy in Kabul made a pledge to provide legal services in the framework of a working plan for the Afghan prisoners, and implement it in Kandahar with the cooperation of the AIHRC and the committee members.

### **Monitoring and investigation**

Through regular and effective monitoring work of the AIHRC, the enjoyment of Afghan citizens of their human rights, in particular civil, political, socio-economic and cultural rights improved. In this year, the AIHRC produced, and published 15 thematic and research reports. These include four Research Reports on Corporal Punishment of Children in Schools, Situation of Child Addicts in Afghanistan, Situation of Widows in Afghanistan, Situation of School Education, and 11 thematic reports such as three reports on verification of political rights, reports on the Situation of Prisons and Detention Centers in Afghanistan in 2009/1388, Report on the Situation of Human Rights in 2009/1388, reports on court situation, reports on children situation, reports on women situation, reports on the Conflict between *Kuchis* and Rural Dwellers and reports on Operation Mushtarak in Mrja and Nadali. The majority of these reports were extensively covered by national and international media.

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC received and recorded 2,551 complaints involving 809 cases of human rights violations. The AIHRC, despite many challenges, successfully investigated 98% of cases of human rights violations (794 out of 809) and resolved 44%

of them ( 355 cases). The rest, 95 cases (11.7% ) was closed, and the remaining 44.3% (344) were followed.

The AIHRC conducted 1661 monitoring missions to prisons, women prisons and detention centers and as a result, 434 persons (55 women and 379 men) who had been illegally imprisoned or detained, were freed. As a result of the AIHRC's activity, there was a reduction in the use of handcuffs and shackles in prisons and detention centers and prisoner treatment improved compared to the previous year. The AIHRC also conducted 337/ 331,/ and 136 monitoring missions respectively to Juvenile Rehabilitation Centers (JRCs), children's shelters, and women's shelters as a result of which 114 children (12 girls and 102 boys) were freed. Additionally, after a four-year-long effort, the AIHRC succeeded to sign an Arrangement with the Joint Task Force 435 (JTF 435) on May 8 2010, (Saur 18, 1389) governing AIHRC's visits to the Detention Facility in Parwan (DFIP). Subsequently, Dr. Samar and fellow Commissioners had their first monitoring visit to DFIP and the AIHRC staff conducted the second round of monitoring. Two reports on the conditions of prisoners in DFIP was produced and shared and followed up by the AIHRC staff.

Compared to the 2009/1388 report, the AIHRC increased its monitoring missions by 43% in 2010/1389, which resulted to release of 60% more detainees or imprisoned persons (12% women, 48% men).

As part of continuous assessment of the situation of economic and social rights in Afghanistan, the AIHRC conducted 432 Human Rights Field Monitoring (HRFM) missions and interviewed 7,505 persons (3,685 women and 3,820 men). It also conducted 394 Child Rights Field Monitoring (CRFM) missions and interviewed 4,868 children (49.9% girls and 50.1% boys).

## ABOUT THE AIHRC

### Vision

**A just, democratic and developed society where human rights are observed, respected and protected.**

### Mission

- Encouraging and empowering government, individuals and civil society to promote, protect, and respect human rights.
- Leading the Afghan human rights movement and advocating for change at the local, national, regional and international level in the promotion and improvement of human rights protection.
- Monitoring the Government's compliance with national and international human rights obligations in order to assess national laws and policies and provide recommendations.
- Defending and protecting the rights of the victims of human rights abuses.
- Ensuring the AIHRC's impact and effectiveness.

### Values

- Human dignity
- Justice
- Equality and non-discrimination
- Freedom
- Commitment
- Transparency and accountability
- Consultation and participation
- Mutual respect and understanding

### Openness

The AIHRC will defend and observe all human rights values in implementing its mission.

Strategic Objective 1: Leadership

To exercise a leadership role on human rights issues in Afghanistan

Strategic Objective 2: Education

To support all Afghans to Understand, Exercise and Respect human rights

Strategic Objective 3: Empowerment

To strengthen AIHRC's capacity and empower government, civil society, and individuals to protect and promote human rights.

Strategic Objective 4: Advocacy

To advocate at the national, regional, and international level for the realization of human rights

## **THE ROLE AND MANDATE OF THE AIHRC**

The AIHRC is enshrined as a national human rights institution under Article 58 of the Constitution:

“To monitor respect for human rights in Afghanistan as well as to foster and protect it, the state shall establish the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan.

Every individual shall complain to this Commission about the violation of personal human rights. The Commission shall refer human rights violations of individuals to legal authorities and assist them in defense of their rights. Organisation and method of operation of the Commission shall be regulated by law.”

The Law on the Structure, Duties and Mandate of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission was adopted by the Council of Ministers in May 2005. Under the Law, the AIHRC is mandated to protect and promote rights and freedoms enshrined in Afghanistan's Constitution, international declarations, international conventions on human rights, human rights protocols and other international human rights instruments.

Article 5 of the Law establishes five objectives for the AIHRC:

1. Monitoring the situation of human rights in the country
2. Promoting and protecting human rights
3. Monitoring the situation of and people's access to their fundamental human rights and freedoms
4. Investigating and verifying cases of human rights violations
5. Taking measures for the improvement and promotion of human rights in the country.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>The Law on the Structure, Duties and Mandate of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Article 5, [http://www.aihrc.org.af/law\\_of\\_aihrc.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/law_of_aihrc.pdf)

Since its establishment, the main focus of the AIHRC's work has been on advocacy efforts to strengthen rule of law and end impunity. The AIHRC has also advocated for the improvement of legislation so that it is in compliance with international human rights treaties. Efforts have been undertaken to foster and support a culture of respect for human rights within government institutions and among the public through various training and awareness-raising activities. The AIHRC also protects the rights of victims by investigating cases of human rights abuses and supporting victims in seeking remedies and redress. The AIHRC also issues regular periodic, research and monitoring reports on the human rights situation in Afghanistan which include recommendations to Government outlining actions and measures needed to ensure the realization of human rights.

The AIHRC is led by nine Commissioners with service terms of five years who are appointed by the President. In order to ensure the AIHRC's independence, the President has no mandate or authority to remove the Commissioners once they are appointed. The President is responsible to appoint Commissioners who reflect ethnic, religious and linguistic diversity in Afghanistan, academic institutions and civil society organizations. The AIHRC's governance body, which is comprised of the Commissioners and Chairperson, is responsible for the adoption of policy, the approval of strategic plans and for ensuring the implementation of the annual plan of action. In addition, the governance body adopts procedures and mechanisms to ensure that the plans of action are implemented effectively and achieve expected outcomes. The annual action plans are administered by the Secretariat of the AIHRC led by the Executive Director. In order to ensure province-wide coverage of the AIHRC's services, the AIHRC has eight regional offices and six provincial offices with around 600 employees, including support staff members.

The areas of activity of the AIHRC include: human rights education; child rights, women's rights, transitional justice, monitoring, and investigation and the rights of persons with disabilities. These areas of activity are supported by the following units: Research and Policy; Report and Donor Liaison; Reporting; the Resource Centre; Logistics; and Information Communication Technology. Management systems are in place in order to ensure effective and efficient implementation of the AIHRC's programs and transparent administrative and financial performance. Increased efforts have been made to integrate results based management<sup>3</sup> principles and approaches into the overall management of the AIHRC. The AIHRC's governance body and secretariat strive to incorporate human rights values into its daily management practices and during all stages of program implementation.

In implementing its mandate and work, the AIHRC cooperates closely with Government, civil society, religious scholars (ulama), media and international partners. The AIHRC regularly provides support and technical expertise and advice to various Government ministries on human rights related matters and has held human rights awareness workshops and trainings for staff of the National Army, the National Police and teacher training institutes, universities and other public and private higher education institutes.

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<sup>3</sup> See section on of key terms for a definition of the term "results-based management".



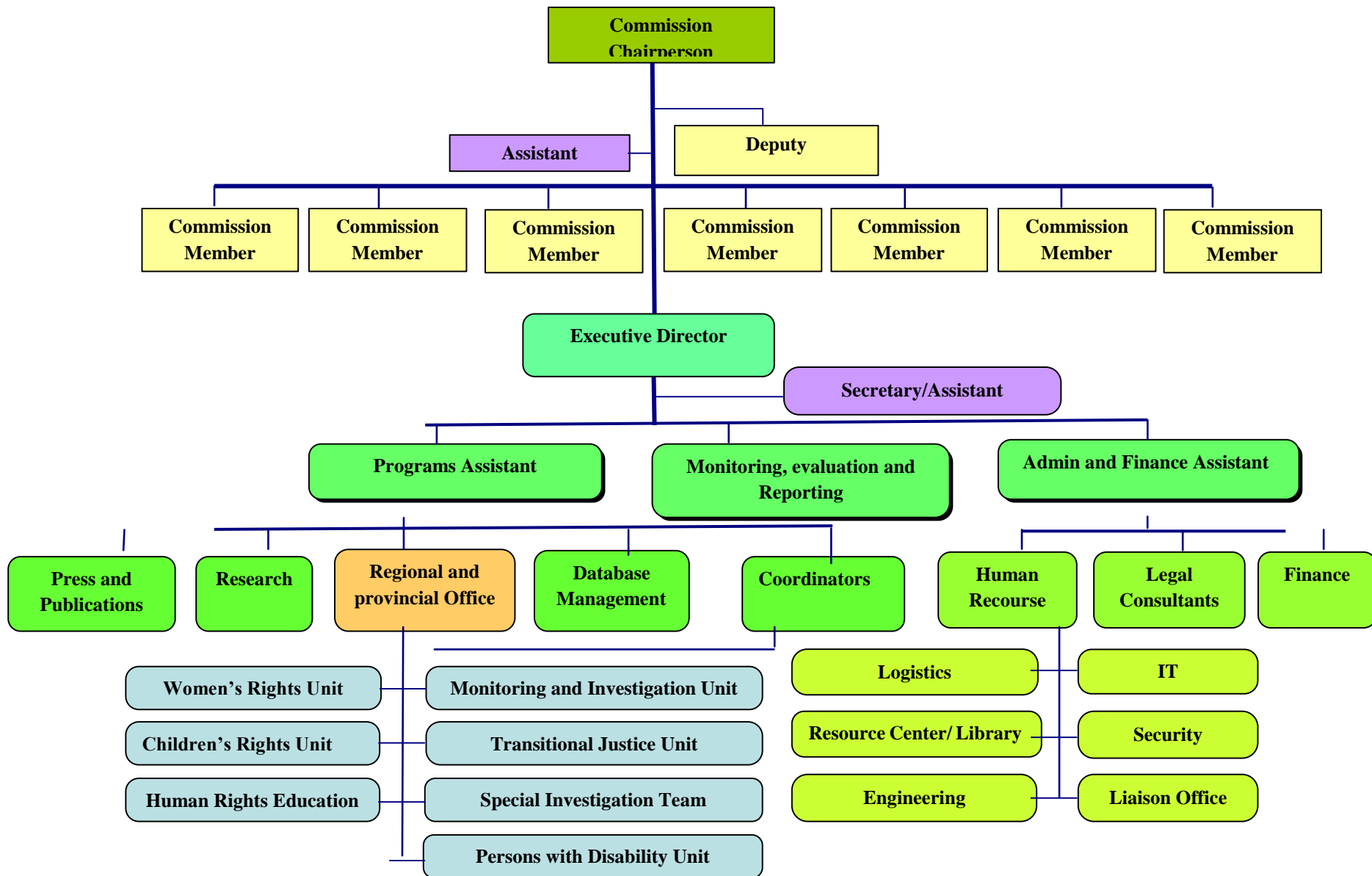
The AIHRC also regularly issues recommendations to the Government related to the human rights situation.

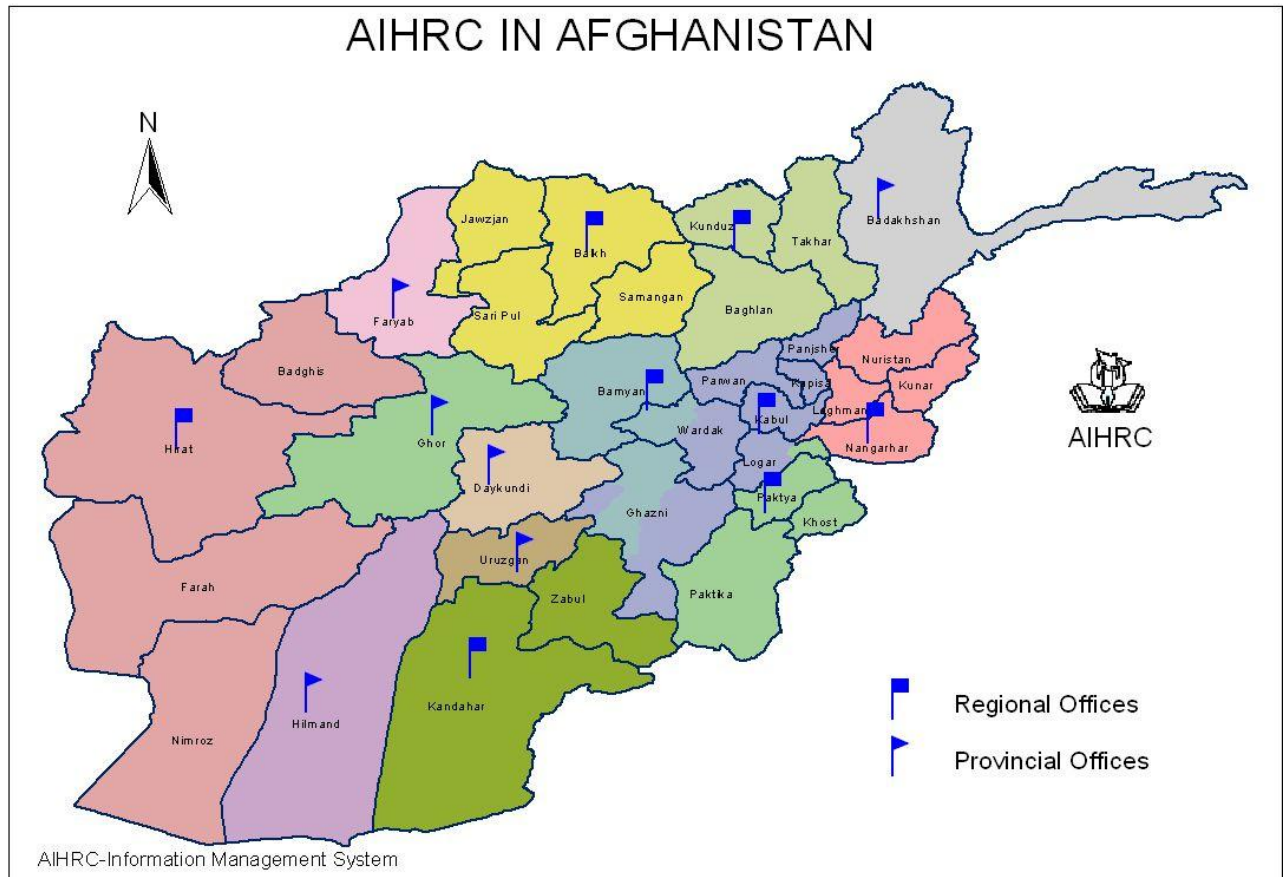
Since its establishment, the AIHRC has maintained close cooperation with civil society organizations (CSOs) in the areas of human rights awareness and advocacy. The AIHRC has undertaken various joint projects with CSO and also supported the training and capacity developments of a number of CSOs.

### **The AIHRC Structure**

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission currently has eight Human Rights Commissioners. They are Dr Sima Samar, Chair of the AIHRC; Mr Ahmad Fahim Hakim, Deputy Chair; Dr Suraya Sobhrang, Commissioner in charge of Women's Rights Unit (WRU); Mr Abdul Karim Azizi, Commissioner in charge of Human Rights Education Unit (HREU); Mr Farid Hamidi, Commissioner in charge of Monitoring and Investigation Unit (M&IU) and Special Investigation Team (SIT); Mr Ahmad Zia Langari, Commissioner in charge of Persons with Disabilities Unit (PWDU); Mr Nader Nadery, Commissioner in charge of Transitional Justice Unit (TJU); and Maulawi Ghulam Mohammad Gharib, member of the Editorial Board of *Human Rights*, AIHRC's monthly magazine.

Human Rights Commissioners constitute the governing body responsible for overall decision- and policy-making of the AIHRC, while the executive body is tasked to implement the decisions and action plans approved by the Human Rights Commissioners. The following diagram illustrates the relationship:





The AIHRC is headquartered in Kabul with eight regional and six provincial offices throughout Afghanistan. The eight regional offices are situated in Bamyan, Gardez, Herat, Jalalabad, Kabul, Kandahar, Kunduz, and Mazar-e-Sharif; and the six provincial offices are located in Badakhshan, Daikundi, Ghor, Helmand, Maimana, and Uruzgan. The AIHRC currently employs 605 staff members, including support staff. This includes 153 staff members at the Headquarters, 338 staff members in the regional offices, and 114 staff members in the provincial offices.

In order to fulfill its mandate related to the promotion, protection and monitoring of human rights in Afghanistan, the AIHRC has so far established six programme units as follows:

1. **Human Rights Education Unit:** is primarily responsible for the promotion of human rights and for bringing about attitudinal and behavioral changes in the Afghan society to support the institutionalization of human rights. The vision of the program is a transition from the prevailing culture of war and violence to a culture of human rights and peace nationwide, supporting dialogue, tolerance, coexistence and diversity.

2. **Women’s Rights Protection Unit (WRU):** This unit is responsible for the promotion and protection of women’s rights through promotion, training, and monitoring 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 presenting reformative recommendations.
3. **Children’s Rights Protection Unit (CRPU):** Supports the protection of child rights by 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 to advocate for laws and policies that protect children from such abuse.
4. **Monitoring and Investigation Unit (M&IU):** This 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 WRU and CRU monitor the general well-being and status of women and children respectively, the M&IU addresses individual cases of violations of the rights of all citizens, including women and children. This unit also feeds data to other units, who form submissions to the President and relevant authorities, as well as the Parliament and the international community. Likewise, a team of this unit travels to the field and collects information about human rights through conducting individual interviews, and focuses on obtaining access to remote areas and IDPs.
5. **Transitional Justice Unit (TJU):** Develops strategies and policies to confront past human rights abuses of war crimes and crimes against humanity and to collect documentation and information about the nature, causes, and perpetrators of these crimes in Afghanistan. This unit also increases the awareness of the public on the Government of Afghanistan’s Action Plan on Peace, Reconciliation and Justice.
6. **Unit Protecting the Rights of the Persons with Disability (PWDU):** This unit is responsible for the promotion and protection of the rights of the persons with disability in Afghanistan. The unit’s core activities so far include the promotion, taking positive measures, and raising the level of awareness about the special needs and obstacles being faced by the persons with disability. In future, the unit will also be the recipient of the individuals’ complaints regarding instances violating the rights of persons with disability; the complaints will in turn be followed up by the monitoring and investigation unit.

**Support Sections**

A number of support sections have been established with the objective of complementing and supporting the programme units. They include the Research and Policy Section, National Reporting Section, Media and Publications Section, Information Management Section, Resource Centres, Translation Section, Legal Advice Section, Report and Donor Relations Coordination Section and Printing Press.

## AIHRC RESULTS AND IMPACT IN 1389

This section presents the results and impact of the AIHRC in 2010/1389 towards realizing the five overarching objectives stipulated in its 2010/1389 Action Plan including: 1) Leadership; 2) Education; 3) Empowerment; 4) Advocacy; 5) Monitoring and Investigation;.

### Strategic Objective 1: Leadership

To exercise a leadership role on human rights issues in Afghanistan

<b>The 1389 (2009/2010) Action Plan</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced reputation as an authority on human rights protection and promotion</li> <li>• Government, civil society and other key national and international stakeholders increasingly rely on AIHRC's expertise, information and findings.</li> <li>• AIHRC is visible and proactive in drawing national and international attention to human rights issues in Afghanistan.</li> <li>• Increased public awareness about the role, importance and impact of AIHRC.</li> <li>• AIHRC's participation and advice enrich national and international human rights programs in Afghanistan.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Performance Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree to which AIHRC's comments and recommendations on human rights issues are requested by the Government.</li> <li>• Number of times AIHRC is quoted/cited by other national and international organizations and media.</li> <li>• Change in the level of public awareness about the impact and role of AIHRC.</li> <li>• Number of misperceptions, allegations and negative propaganda against AIHRC.</li> <li>• Degree of accuracy of media reports and interviews about AIHRC and its work.</li> <li>• Degree to which National and International Human Rights Institutions, including the International Co-ordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, consult the AIHRC.</li> <li>• Number of times national and international institutions/organizations consult AIHRC.</li> </ul>

**Enhanced reputation as an authority on human rights protection and promotion.****Number of AIHRC's comments and recommendations on human rights issues requested by, and provided to, the Government.**

During 2010/1389, the GoIRA referred to the AIHRC frequently and asked for the AIHRC's views, cooperation, and assistance on different human rights issues. During this year, the government invited the AIHRC as a national human rights commission to participate in preparation, conduct, and follow up of Kabul Conference.

**National Consultative Peace Jirga:** The AIHRC welcomed peace, but stated its position by emphasizing on central role of human rights, justice, and women rights. In the AIHRC's view, the Jirga should not compromise human rights and justice, its legitimacy, its public support, and women's participation. The Jirga should not serve as a platform to further give legitimacy to those who were involved in various cases of human rights violations and to promote impunity. The AIHRC strongly believes, as the last nine years show, without justice and accountability, there will be no peace and stability.

In cooperation with CSOs and media, the AIHRC shared its concerns, on 5 and 13 April (Hamal 16 and 24) about APRP with Mr. Mohammad Masoom Stanekzai, the person in charge of APRP, stressing that APRP must not be developed and implemented at the expense of Afghanistan's achievements since the beginning of the Bonn process and that victims and their representatives must be heard and they must fully and effectively participate in APRP development and implementation. Mr. Stanekzai considered some of these concerns, particularly about increasing the number of women delegates in Jirga.

**Kabul International Conference on Afghanistan:** In the Conference held on July 20 2010, Chairperson Dr. Sima Samar drew national, regional, and international attention to issues related to human rights and civic responsibilities in Afghanistan.<sup>4</sup> Dr. Samar regarded the realization of human rights as the precondition for gaining public trust in the government, ensuring good governance, establishing rule of law, guaranteeing justice, and developing the country.

In addition, the AIHRC provided leadership role for Program for Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities (Program Six of Governance Cluster). The Program intends to increase

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<sup>4</sup> Full text of Dr. Samar's statement available at [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_eng/Eng\\_pages/Reports/Thematic/Remarks\\_by\\_Dr\\_Sima\\_Samar\\_at\\_Kabul\\_Conference\\_20-07-2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_eng/Eng_pages/Reports/Thematic/Remarks_by_Dr_Sima_Samar_at_Kabul_Conference_20-07-2010.pdf) (English text)

public awareness about human rights and civic responsibilities and ensure justice. In cooperation with the national and international institutions that are members of the Program Working Group, the AIHRC developed the Six-Month Action Plan of the Program, the three-year National Priority Program on Civic Responsibilities and Human Rights which was approved by the GoIRA.

*"—In cooperation with civil society and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), finalize and begin the implementation of the National Priority Program for Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities, and undertake human rights, legal awareness and civic education programs targeting communities across Afghanistan to foster a more informed public and civil society, and to increase Government accountability;*

*—Strive to ensure the necessary political and financial support for the AIHRC, while guaranteeing its constitutional status, and initiate discussions with the AIHRC within six months to explore its budgetary status."<sup>5</sup>*

**Negotiations on State's Funding for the AIHRC:** Negotiations with the Ministry of Finance (MoF) on securing governmental financing for the AIHRC as Afghanistan's national human rights institution resulted in appropriation of \$500,000 to the AIHRC by the MoF. This appropriation was approved by parliament. In accordance with the Afghan Constitution, the Law on the Structure, Duties, and Mandate of the AIHRC, Paris Principles relating to the status of national human rights institutions, and the Communiqué of the International Kabul Conference on Afghanistan, the GoIRA has an obligation to provide at least part of the AIHRC's budget, while guaranteeing its constitutionally established independent standing. The AIHRC urges the GoIRA to respect this commitment in practice.

**Election:** The AIHRC monitored the exercise of political rights in Afghanistan's second parliamentary election and presented its findings to the people and authorities through press conferences. In general, the AIHRC described the second parliamentary election as a relative success, despite security challenges, logistical inadequacies, and cases of electoral fraud. Nonetheless, the AIHRC has shared its findings on electoral irregularities and offences with ECC. The AIHRC has asked ECC and IEC to seriously and transparently address all election-related irregularities and violations so as to ensure the integrity of the electoral process.

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<sup>5</sup> Communiqué of the International Kabul Conference on Afghanistan (English text), Governance, Rule of Law, and Human Rights, p4



**Laws and Decrees:** The AIHRC participated in drafting the Presidential Decree on Pardon and Commutation of Sentence, Law on the Structure and Powers of Attorney's Office, Law on the Structure and Mandate of Special Court of Ministers and Supreme Court Judges, Law on Dispute Resolution *Shuras*, Law on the Protection of Destitute Persons and Families, Family Law, and Regulation on Private Educational Institutes, and presented its recommendations to the GoIRA to improve the regulatory measures. Specifically regarding the Draft Law on the Structure and Mandate of Special Court of Ministers and Supreme Court Judges, the AIHRC provided its comments to the Criminal Law Reform Working Group (CLRWG) on the establishment and independence of the Special Court, scope of implementation of the law, criminal proceedings, decision-making, removal, and dissolution of the Special Court, and concerning the Draft Law on Dispute Resolution *Shuras*, the AIHRC recommended that these *shuras* must not make rulings on civil and criminal matters only with the agreement of the litigants, and that those powers of the *shuras* that are not compatible with applicable national and international legal standards must be restricted. Many of the AIHRC's recommendations have been considered and accepted.

The GoIRA referred to the AIHRC on various issues related to its national and international obligation on protection and promotion of human rights. In this regard, the Presidential Special Advisory Board on Senior Appointment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Justice, and Ministry of Women's Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled, office of Attorney general, and Parliament referred to the AIHRC asking for its view and information on various human rights issues. Presidential Special Advisory Board for Senior Appointment with 57 requests, and the Ministry of Refugee and Repatriation Affairs with 2 requests made the most frequent and least frequent references to the AIHRC.

The National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), asked the AIHRC to participate and become a member of the High Commission of tackling Air Pollution and Improvement of Environment, composed of government organs and some judicial institutions.

The AIHRC increased its presence in national and international media during the reporting period. Being visible in the national and international media, the AIHRC expressed its positions on and drew national and international attention to important human rights issues in the country. Local media such as Aryana TV, Tolo TV, Saba and Shamshad TV, Hasht-e-Sobh newspaper, Sada-e-Watandar and Sada-e-Azadi Radios, Pazhwak news agency, and Afghanistan News Network, as well as some foreign media such as BBC, CNN, Associated Press, France Press, Australian General Radio, New York Times and Washington Post referred to and quoted from the AIHRC regarding various issues pertaining to human rights.

*"We see it as a sign of a new confidence on the part of the Taliban in the application of their rules, like they did in the '90s," said Nader Nadery, a senior commissioner on the*

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission. *“We do see it as a trend. They’re showing more strength in recent months, not just in attacks, but including their own way of implementing laws, arbitrary and extrajudicial killings.”*

—New York Times<sup>6</sup>

### Press Conferences, Media Statements and Press Releases:

A number of AIHRC’s comments and recommendations on human rights issues have been requested by, and provided to, the Government.

During the year, the AIHRC held 20 press conferences on important issues related to promotion and protection of human rights in Afghanistan. Through these press conferences, the AIHRC provided – in addition to its findings and concerns on human rights issues - comments and recommendations to government. These conferences were held in Kabul (6), Herat (1), Mazar-e Sharif (2), Jalalabad(4), Kunduz(4), Bamyan (2) and Kandahar (1) Provinces.

- Headquarters: The First Political Rights Monitoring Report in Afghanistan’s Second Parliamentary Election<sup>7</sup> and the Report on Civilian Casualties in the First Seven Months of the Year 2010<sup>8</sup> were released on August 8, 2010 (Asad 17, 1389). In these reports, the AIHRC presented its findings and recommendations to the Independent Election Commission (IEC), ECC, and other pertinent national and international authorities in a bid to improve the exercise of political rights during the election process, and drew public attention to civilian casualties, and urged all parties in the armed conflict to respect civilian life during battles.
- Headquarters: The Second Political Rights Monitoring Report was released on September 15, 2010 (Sunbula 24, 1389), three days prior to the polling day. In this report, the AIHRC referred to the increasing insecurity and its destructive repercussions on the freedom and fairness of the election, especially on the



Dr. Samar and Mr. Nadery presenting AIHRC’s First Political Rights Monitoring Report and Report on Civilian Casualties in the First Seven Months of 2010

<sup>6</sup>Full report at <http://www.nytimes.com/2010/08/17/world/asia/17stoning.html> (English text)

<sup>7</sup>Full report available at [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Reports/8\\_Aug\\_2010\\_SoEc.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Reports/8_Aug_2010_SoEc.pdf) (Dari text)

<sup>8</sup>Full report available at

[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Reports/Civilian%20Casualties\\_jan1\\_31\\_jul2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Reports/Civilian%20Casualties_jan1_31_jul2010.pdf) (Dari text) and

[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_eng/Eng\\_pages/Reports/Thematic/Civilian\\_Casualties\\_Jan\\_Jul31\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_eng/Eng_pages/Reports/Thematic/Civilian_Casualties_Jan_Jul31_2010.pdf) (English text)

- exercise by women of their political rights, as the biggest challenge facing the election process.<sup>9</sup>
- **Kabul Regional Office:** In cooperation with 20 CSOs, the AIHRC briefed the media on July 29, 2010 (Asad 7, 1389) about the situation of human rights in prisons and detention centers, particularly the pending cases of 106 illegally imprisoned or detained individuals. As a result of the AIHRC's efforts and in collaboration with CSOs, Minister of Justice Mr. Habibullah Ghalib informed in the meeting of the High Council of the Prisons on August 8, 2010 (Asad 17, 1389) that of these individuals, 51 persons have been released.
  - **Balkh Regional Office:** In cooperation with the Union of CSOs in Balkh province, the AIHRC expressed its concern about the murder of a woman teacher in Kaldar district of Balkh province and its negative effects on the education of girls in the district. As of October 9, 2010 (Mizan 17, 1389), many woman teachers in Kaldar district have refused to continue teaching. They have been replaced by male teachers, and the number of schoolgirls has plunged to a considerable low. In another media meeting during October 2010 (Mizan 1389), the AIHRC's Balkh Regional Office drew public attention to cases of violence against women in Balkh, Jawzjan, Samangan, and Sar-e-Pul provinces and expressed its serious concern over the rise in cases of runaways and child sexual abuse. The media meeting was extensively covered by local and national media.
  - **Bamyan Regional Office:** The AIHRC briefed the media on the situation of human rights in the region. Specifically, the AIHRC regarded money extorted by ANP when calling and arresting litigants as legally prohibited, explained the negative outcomes of the lack of district-level detention centers, especially women's detention centers, and presented its Report on the Conflict between *Kuchis* and Local People in Behsud and Daimirdad districts of Maidan Wardak province.
  - **Kunduz Regional Office:** The AIHRC briefed domestic and foreign journalists, CSOs, local influential figures, and provincial government officials on its efforts for the protection of victims and family members of those who lost their lives in North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) aerial bombings in Kunduz province. As a result of the AIHRC's efforts, the Federal Republic of Germany compensated, in a satisfactory manner, the damage inflicted on victims and family members of those who were killed in NATO aerial bombings in the province. In another media meeting in Taleqan, Takhar, the AIHRC informed media, people, and government authorities on the latest human rights developments in the region and the work results of the AIHRC's Kunduz Regional Office.
  - **Herat Regional Office:** The AIHRC briefed media on the situation of women's rights in West Afghanistan, particularly increasing cases of women's self-immolation, Afghan citizens' rights in Iran, and the rights of journalists, and explored possibilities of bolstering mutual ties between the AIHRC and media organizations in West Afghanistan.

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<sup>9</sup>Full report available at

[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Reports/Second%20Report%20on%20Political%20Rights%20Verification%20in%20Second%20Parliamentary%20Elections%20\(Dari\).pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Reports/Second%20Report%20on%20Political%20Rights%20Verification%20in%20Second%20Parliamentary%20Elections%20(Dari).pdf) (Dari text)

- Nangarhar Regional Office: The AIHRC briefed 20 representatives of media organizations and CSOs on the AIHRC's achievements and challenges in the region. The AIHRC's primary concern is the situation of persons who have been displaced due to armed conflict and recent floods in the region.
- In a joint AIHRC, UNAMA press conference held in Kabul, the AIHRC strongly denounced civilian casualties and expressed its concerns over the vulnerability of civilians and emphasized the protection of civilians in armed conflicts. It also demanded that the parties to Afghanistan's conflicts increase measures to protect civilians in 2011 (1390).<sup>10</sup> Likewise, the AIHRC and UNAMA presented 25 recommendations to the armed opposition of the government.

Media Statements: 1389, the AIHRC released 31 media statements on some events taking place in the country:

1. May 18, 2010 (Saur 28, 1389): The AIHRC urged the GoIRA and the international community to seek and implement a quick, fundamental, and just resolution to the armed and bloody dispute between *kuchis* (nomads) and rural dwellers in Maidan Wardak province. The AIHRC asked the GoIRA to fulfill its obligation to ensure the security of public life and property and the legal resolution of their disputes.
2. May 20, 2010 (Saur 30, 1389) May 20, 2010: The AIHRC strongly condemned the suicide attack carried out against a convoy of international security forces in a civilian populated area in Darulaman, Kabul, in which, according to the Ministry of Interior (Mol), at least 12 civilians were killed and 47 others injured. In the AIHRC's view, such strikes are in vivid contravention of the principles of Islam and universal human rights values. The AIHRC has always urged all parties to Afghanistan's armed conflict, especially the Taliban and other armed insurgents, to respect International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the war.
3. June 7 2010 (Jawza 17, 1389): The AIHRC released its first Report on the Situation of Prisons and Detention Centers in Afghanistan in 1388 (2009/2010) and drew the attention of Afghan authorities and people to the AIHRC's findings and recommendations regarding Afghanistan's penitentiary system.
4. June 15, 2010 (Jawza 25, 1389): The AIHRC regarded the blockade of public roads in Ghazni province as being against the precepts of Islam and international human rights standards and spoke in its condemnation.
5. July 10, 2010 (Saratan 19, 1389): The AIHRC strongly condemned the extrajudicial execution of a woman by Taliban in Badghis province, and voiced its concern over rising cases of extrajudicial killings in the country.<sup>11</sup>
6. August 8, 2010 (Asad 17, 1389): The AIHRC expressed its concern over the challenges facing the holding of the parliamentary election and referred to

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<sup>10</sup>[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2011/March9\\_AIHRC\\_2011\\_Press\\_releas\\_e.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2011/March9_AIHRC_2011_Press_releas_e.pdf)

<sup>11</sup>For more information, please see

[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_Dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/Pre\\_17\\_8\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_Dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/Pre_17_8_2010.pdf) (Dari text).

- insecurity and its adverse impact on the election, abuse of public property by some candidates, buying and selling of voting cards, and the import of fake voting cards from outside the country as the most serious problems for the upcoming parliamentary election.<sup>12</sup>
7. August 9, 2010 (Asad 18, 1389): The AIHRC vociferously condemned the killing of 10 international aid workers by AGEs in the border between Nuristan and Badakhshan provinces and once again urged all parties to Afghanistan's armed conflict to respect International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in the course of the armed conflict.<sup>13</sup>
  8. August 17, 2010 (Asad 26, 1389): The AIHRC strongly condemned the extrajudicial killing of a woman and man by Taliban in Kunduz Province and asked the GoIRA to take necessary and effective measures to prevent the reoccurrence of such incidents and to arrest, prosecute, and sentence the perpetrators of this crime.<sup>14</sup>
  9. September 1, 2010 (Sunbula 10, 1389): The AIHRC unreservedly deplored attacks by unknown persons against girls' schools. Insecurity is a serious challenge for the education of children and has caused the closure of many schools in the south and east of the country.<sup>15</sup>
  10. September 7, 2010 (Sunbula 16, 1389): The AIHRC condemned the murder of an RTA journalist and regarded the pressure, threat, intimidation, and killing of journalists as serious violations of human rights.<sup>16</sup>
  11. September 15, 2010 (Sunbula 24, 1389): The AIHRC expressed its concern over growing insecurity prior to the parliamentary election and referred to movement limitations of candidates and killing, injuring, and abducting candidates and election workers as serious insecurity implications that could eventually decrease turnout on the polling day.<sup>17</sup>
  12. September 18, 2010 (Sunbula 27, 1389): The AIHRC described the holding of Afghanistan's second parliamentary election as a relative success, in spite of security challenges, logistical inadequacies, and cases of electoral fraud.<sup>18</sup> Nevertheless, the AIHRC shared its findings on electoral irregularities and offences with the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC).

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<sup>12</sup>For more information, please see [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_Dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/8\\_Aug\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_Dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/8_Aug_2010.pdf) (Dari text).

<sup>13</sup>For more information, please see [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_Dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/9\\_Aug\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_Dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/9_Aug_2010.pdf) (Dari text).

<sup>14</sup>For more information, please see [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_Dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/pre\\_17\\_Aug\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_Dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/pre_17_Aug_2010.pdf) (Dari text).

<sup>15</sup>For more information, please see [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_Dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/pre\\_w\\_2\\_sep\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_Dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/pre_w_2_sep_2010.pdf) (Dari text).

<sup>16</sup>For more information, please see [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_Dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/Pre\\_release\\_07\\_sep\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_Dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/Pre_release_07_sep_2010.pdf) (Dari text).

<sup>17</sup>For more information, please see [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_Dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/Pre\\_15\\_Sep\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_Dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/Pre_15_Sep_2010.pdf) (Dari text).

<sup>18</sup>For more information, please see [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_Dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/Press\\_Release\\_18\\_sep\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_Dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/Press_Release_18_sep_2010.pdf) (Dari text).



13. September 20, 2010 (Sunbula 29, 1389): The AIHRC commemorated September 21, World Peace Day, by urging all parties to Afghanistan's armed conflict to end war, respect peace, and observe human rights for all. The AIHRC believes that human rights can be realized in a state of just peace.<sup>19</sup>
14. October 9, 2010 (Mizan 17, 1389): The AIHRC strongly condemned the killing of at least 19 persons, including the governor of Kunduz province, in an explosion in a mosque in Takhar province and called this violent and inhuman act an egregious violation of the principles of Islam and human rights
15. Kabul, January 29, 2010 (January 29, 2010): The AIHRC, while expressing its condolence on the martyrdom of its hard-working member, Hamida Barmaki and her family members, strongly condemned this anti-Islamic and savage attack. The AIHRC considers this horrible terrorist attack to be a crime against humanity and a clear violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).<sup>20</sup>
16. Kabul, January 29, 2010 (9 Dalw 1389): The AIHRC strongly condemned the suicide attack on Finest Store committed on Dalwa 8/January 20, 2010 which killed many people and injured some others. Targeting public centers and killing civilians is considered as an anti-Islamic and inhuman act, contrary to all human rights norms and standards, and a clear violation of human rights. The right to life is a basic human right which is granted by Almighty God. Individuals or any group has no right to violate this right without a legal reason.<sup>21</sup>
17. Kabul, January 12, 2010 (22 Jadi 1389): The AIHRC condemned this attack on Kabul city and expressed its deep condolence to the relatives of victims who lost their lives as a result of the suicide attack. The AIHRC expressed its deep concern on the continuation of such attacks and said that actions such as this are against all norms and principles of the sacred religion of Islam and a clear violation of international laws and regulations.<sup>22</sup>
18. Kabul, January 8, 2010 (Jadi 18, 1389): The AIHRC issued a press release and called the killing and wounding of civilians in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province as a crime against humanity and a clear violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and strongly condemned the attacks launched directly on civilians and crowded areas in the cities and districts.<sup>23</sup>
19. Kabul, December 14, 2010 (Qaus 23, 1389): The AIHRC issued a press release in regard to the Parliamentary Election's final results (2010/1389). In the statement the AIHRC, while appreciating voter turnout in the election,

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<sup>19</sup>For more information, please see

[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_Dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/Press\\_Release\\_Sunbula\\_29\\_1389.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_Dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/Press_Release_Sunbula_29_1389.pdf) (Dari text) and

[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_eng/Eng\\_pages/Press\\_Releases/2010/Pre\\_release\\_peace\\_23\\_sep\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_eng/Eng_pages/Press_Releases/2010/Pre_release_peace_23_sep_2010.pdf) (English text).

<sup>20</sup>[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2011/Press\\_Release\\_on\\_Sucide\\_Attack\\_8\\_Dalw\\_Hamida.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2011/Press_Release_on_Sucide_Attack_8_Dalw_Hamida.pdf)( Dari Text )

<sup>21</sup>[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2011/Press\\_Release\\_on\\_Sucide\\_Attack\\_8\\_Dalw.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2011/Press_Release_on_Sucide_Attack_8_Dalw.pdf)( Dari Text)

<sup>22</sup>[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/pre\\_12\\_Jan\\_2011.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/pre_12_Jan_2011.pdf)(Dari Text)

<sup>23</sup>[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/press\\_release\\_in\\_Dari\\_1\\_14\\_2011.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/press_release_in_Dari_1_14_2011.pdf)(Dari Text)

- emphasized on the obligation of the government and other relevant organs to acknowledge the political rights of the people and the independence of the Election Commissions (IEC& ECC). Likewise, the AIHRC expressed its concern over illegal intervention and the ignoring of people's votes.<sup>24</sup>
20. Kabul, November 25: The AIHRC, by issuing a press release on the occasion of the International Day of Elimination of Violence against Women (November 25), published statistics of violence against women occurring during the first six months of 2010/1389. The AIHRC called on the government, international community, and civil society organizations to undertake necessary and persistent measures to decrease violence against women countrywide.<sup>25</sup>
21. Kabul, November 22, 2010 (Qaws 1, 1389): In a press release on the occasion of Children's Day (20 November), The AIHRC expressed its concern over the human rights situation of children in the country. Despite ratification of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1994/1373 by the Afghanistan Government, and existence of other international legal obligations to which Afghanistan is a party, the situation of children continue to remained precarious. Many children have no access to their rights.<sup>26</sup>
22. Kabul, November 8, 2010 (Aqrab 17, 1389): the AIHRC, in a press release, stated that killing of civilians in Faryab and Helmand provinces as a result of suicide attacks and roadside mines amounts to crimes against humanity and explicit violation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL).<sup>27</sup>
23. Kabul, October 9, 2010 (Mizan 17, 1389): the AIHRC issued a press release regarding explosion in a mosque in the center of Takhar province, in which 19 Afghan civilians including the Kunduz governor were killed. This incident was strongly condemned by the AIHRC.<sup>28</sup>

Some other press releases are as follows:

- Press release regarding violation of women rights and violence against them in the South West zone,
- Press release regarding deprivation of a large number of children from their rights to education in South West zone.
- Press release regarding civilian casualties as a result of a bombardment by NATO forces in Shawali Kot District of Kandahar Province.
- Press release regarding civilian casualties caused by a suicide attack in Boldak district of Kandahar province.
- Press release regarding the human rights situation during the past nine months in Ghor province.

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<sup>24</sup>[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/Alamia\\_Election.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/Alamia_Election.pdf)(Dari Text

<sup>25</sup>[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/press\\_release\\_w\\_D\\_24\\_11\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/press_release_w_D_24_11_2010.pdf)(Dari Text)

<sup>26</sup>[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/Press\\_Release\\_On\\_20th\\_Nov\\_2010\\_After%20Edits.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/Press_Release_On_20th_Nov_2010_After%20Edits.pdf) (Dari Text)

<sup>27</sup>[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/pre\\_dri\\_8\\_Nov\\_10.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/pre_dri_8_Nov_10.pdf) (Dari Text)

<sup>28</sup>[http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Press\\_releases/2010/Pre\\_dri\\_9\\_Oct\\_2010.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Press_releases/2010/Pre_dri_9_Oct_2010.pdf)

- Press release on the occasion of December 10, International Human Rights Day.
- Press release on human rights situation of children and widespread violence against women.

*“Afghanistan’s Human Rights [Commission] criticized the way prisoners are treated. Ms. Samar says Afghanistan’s prisons are in dire need of reform. The AIHRC has published a report on the country’s prison system, censuring the Government for the situation of prisons and the way prisoners are treated...”*

BBC Persian<sup>29</sup>

*Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission strongly condemned the killing and beheading of eleven of civilians by the Taliban in Uruzgan province, killing of civilians under the political or military pretext is crimes against humanity and the perpetrators should be prosecuted.*

*Hasht-e Sobh (Daily 8 am)*<sup>30</sup>

**Government, civil society and other key national and international stakeholders increasingly rely on AIHRC’s expertise, information and findings.**

**AIHRC is actively involved in the development and implementation of all human rights-related programs and policies of the Government.**

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC was relied on by the Government, CSOs and other key national and international stakeholders. The Government of Afghanistan relied on the expertise of the AIHRC, and asked the AIHRC to take the lead on it’s Program for Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities (Program Six of Governance Cluster). The Program intends to increase public awareness about human rights and civic responsibilities and ensure justice. In addition, the AIHRC played an important role in the establishment of the Human Rights Support Unit (HRSU). The AIHRC provided technical advice to the UNDP and MoJ on the establishment of the HRSU. Furthermore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs ( MoFA) relied on the AIHRC on issues related to the human rights in Afghanistan.

In addition, the AIHRC was the principle reference for all national and international institutions on issues related to human rights in Afghanistan. The AIHRC provided

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<sup>29</sup>For more information, please see

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/afghanistan/2010/06/100607\\_k01\\_af\\_prisoners.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/persian/afghanistan/2010/06/100607_k01_af_prisoners.shtml) (Dari text).

<sup>30</sup>[http://www.8am.af/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=12669:1389-04-04-17-48-05&catid=1:2008-10-31-09-36-47&Itemid=487](http://www.8am.af/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=12669:1389-04-04-17-48-05&catid=1:2008-10-31-09-36-47&Itemid=487) (ari version).



information and expertise on the human rights situation in Afghanistan to State Department of the USA, APF, CESCRC, and OCHCR, ICC and several other UN and non UN agencies. The AIHRC information and reports were quoted and reflected in the reports of many of those institutions.

*“the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission told Human Rights Watch of a number of cases in which provincial governors, security chiefs, and senior civil servants have been accused of using government resources to support candidates, sometimes in an intimidating manner.”*

*Human Rights Watch*<sup>31</sup>

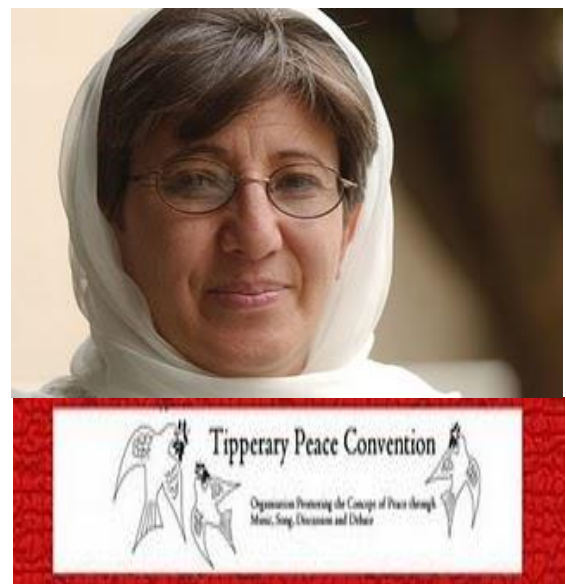
*“AIHRC expressed its serious concerns about the release of 14 Taliban detainees, released without fair trial principles. The Commission stated that the releases of these individuals were politically motivated. ”*

- *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)*<sup>32</sup>

**AIHRC is visible and proactive in drawing national and international attention to human rights issues in Afghanistan.**

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC displayed and maintained a strong presence at national, regional, and international levels. The AIHRC’s leadership was awarded internationally on different occasions with numerous important and honorable prizes, and recognition globally. Chairperson Dr. Sima Samar received an honorary doctorate from Carleton University, a renowned university in Canada. Carleton University conferred the honorary doctorate on Dr. Sima Samar “in recognition of her

leadership and courage in the defense and promotion of the rights of women and of democracy and human rights for all.”<sup>33</sup> In the doctorate awarding ceremony, Dr. Samar stated, “It is important to realize that the demands for recognition of women’s rights and human rights come from within Afghanistan. As Afghan women, we want to live with the full rights and dignity of human beings.” In addition, Dr. Samar was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize—an honor for her, the AIHRC, people, GoIRA, and human rights



<sup>31</sup> <http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2010/09/09/afghanistan-unchecked-violence-threatens-election>

<sup>32</sup> <http://unama.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1741&ctl=Details&mid=1882&ItemID=9339>

<sup>33</sup> For more information, please see <http://www2.carleton.ca/newsroom/news-releases/carleton-confers-honorary-doctorate-on-human-rights-activist-sima-samar/> (English text).

activists in the country and region,<sup>34</sup> but eventually the prize was awarded to Liu Xiaobo, a Chinese human rights activist. The Chairperson of the AIHRC was also announced as the winner of 2010 Tipperary International Peace Prize.<sup>35</sup> The previous recipients of this prize, which was established in 1984, included former South African President Nelson Mandela, former Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Irish singer and writer Robert Fredric Xenon, and former US President Bill Clinton.

The international Geuzen Prize was also conferred on Dr. Samar.<sup>36</sup> Geuzen Institute stated that she was recognized for contributions to advancing human rights and specially women's rights and for her social services in Afghanistan. March 14, 2011 marks the day the prize was presented. Since 1887, the mentioned institute has invariably presented its medals to the individuals and institutions that somehow devote themselves to fighting dictatorship and discrimination as well as ensuring democracy and human rights.

Another prestigious award in 1389 was conferred to Dr. Soraya Rahim Subhrang, the Commissioner of Women's Rights Unit in the AIHRC. She received the 2010 Front Line Award for Human Rights Defenders at Risk from the organization Front Line Protection of Human Rights Defenders in Dublin, Ireland. The award was given to Dr. Sobhrang for her efforts in monitoring, promoting, and protecting women's rights in the country.<sup>37</sup> Using this opportunity, Dr. Sobhrang presented a picture of the human rights situation in Afghanistan and the AIHRC's activities to the Irish President, Parliament, Department of Foreign Affairs, and Irish Human Rights Commission (IHRC) and held discussions with the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the European Union (EU), and Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan. The AIHRC's leadership explained the situation of human rights in Afghanistan in regional and international forums.



Dr. Sobhrang received the Award For Human Rights Defender

In drawing international attention to human rights issues in Afghanistan, the leadership of the AIHRC played an active role in regional and global initiatives on human rights promotion and protection. In this regard, Dr. Sima Samar, the AIHRC's Chair, participated in the 23rd Meeting of ICC in Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland, from March 23 to 25, 2010. In its 23rd meeting, the ICC discussed its draft Strategic

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<sup>34</sup> For more information, please see [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_dari/Dri\\_Pages/Dr\\_Sima\\_samar.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_dari/Dri_Pages/Dr_Sima_samar.pdf) (Dari text).

<sup>35</sup> For further information refer to: <http://www.tipperarypeace.ie/>

<sup>36</sup> For further information see: <http://www.geuzenverzet.nl/?lang=EN>

<sup>37</sup> For more information, please see <http://www.frontlinedefenders.org/front-line-award-human-rights-defenders-risk> (English text).

Plan 2010 - 2013 and unanimously elected Ms. Rosslyn Noonan, Chief Commissioner of the New Zealand Human Rights Commission (HRC), as the new ICC Chairperson.<sup>38</sup>

Pohanyar Ahmad Fahim Hakim Deputy Chairman of the AIHRC participated in the International Conference entitled **(Educating for Human Rights, Peace and Intercultural Dialogue)** which was held by Western Sydney University in Australia from November 4 to 6, 2010. He was not only one of the key speakers in the conference, but had an important role in the working committee and drafting of the resolution of the Conference. During this Conference the reports and activities of the AIHRC were highly appreciated, especially the activities that were carried out by the AIHRC under difficult and challenging situations for the promotion of human rights through human rights training.

Mohammad Musa Mahmodi, the AIHRC Executive Director, participated and contributed to the discussion in the international workshop on Enhancing Cooperation between Regional and International Mechanisms for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights organized by the OHCHR, where he presented the AIHRC's points of view on enhancing international and regional mechanisms and its link to the national human rights institution NHRI. He also attended the Forty-Fourth Meeting of the ESCRC, where he submitted and discussed the AIHRC Reports on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and deliberated on the enjoyment of these rights by Afghan citizens. The Committee used the shadow report citing it extensively on the review of Afghanistan report to CESCR on May 12-14, 2010.

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC's offices handled diverse governance problems and issues by organizing or participating in over 324 meetings with the GoIRA, international community, civil society, and media. The AIHRC organized or participated in meetings with the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs, and Disabled (MoLSAMD); Ministry of Justice (MoJ); National Assembly; Provincial Councils; Supreme Court (SC) and other courts; Attorney-General's Office (AGO); Ministry of Information and Culture (MoIC); Mol; IEC; Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC); provincial governors; district governors; chiefs of police; religious scholars (ulema); universities; teacher training institutes; Afghan Women's Network (AWN); CPAN; ACPD; TJCG; national and international media; UNAMA; United Nations Development Program (UNDP); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); International Organization for Migration (IOM); and other national and international stakeholders.

- **The AIHRC Deputy Chair of Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) on Children and Armed Conflict in Afghanistan's western region.** The AIHRC's Herat Regional Office was selected as the Deputy Chair of MRM, established

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For more information on ICC23, please see <http://www.nhri.net/default.asp?PID=627>.

under United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1612 and 1889 on Children and Armed Conflict, in the western region. UNICEF, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), Human Rights Unit of UNAMA, Afghan Red Crescent Society (ARCS), and CSOs are MRM members. The objective of MRM is to prevent, monitor, and report on the involvement of children in armed conflict in Afghanistan.

- **The AIHRC's role in governance, rule of law, and human rights in Bamyan.** The AIHRC successfully resolved the stand-off between Bamyan Provincial Governor and Bamyan Provincial Council over disagreements regarding preparations for the International Kabul Conference on Afghanistan, especially the Bamyan Retreat of the Kabul Conference Organizing Committee, which had practically paralyzed the provincial administration in Bamyan province for over a month. Additionally, the AIHRC's Bamyan Regional Office took an active part in the highest governance meeting in Bamyan province and the AIHRC's recommendations on legal resolution of public disputes have been largely considered and accepted.
- **Commission on the Prohibition of Violence against Women begins its work in Bamyan province.** As a result of efforts by the AIHRC's Bamyan Regional Office in cooperation with CSOs, the Commission on the Prohibition of Violence against Women held its first meeting under the chairmanship of Bamyan provincial governor. The meeting discussed the legal basis and procedure of the Commission in Bamyan.
- **Participation in APRP Meetings in Faryab Province.** The AIHRC's Faryab Provincial Office attended APRP meetings held under the chairmanship of Faryab provincial governor and emphasized the pivotal position of justice in APRP.

## Human Rights and Environment

The AIHRC sought areas of cooperation in the area of human rights and environment with NEPA, the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation, and Livestock (MoAIL); Ministry of Hajj and Endowment (MoHE); provincial governors; district governors; municipalities; academic institutions; religious scholars (ulema); and CSOs, and achieved considerable progress in one case.

- **Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Involving the AIHRC, Herat University, and NEPA in Herat.** The tripartite MoU involving the AIHRC, Herat University, and NEPA in Herat has been drafted and will be signed in the next reporting period. The three parties to the MoU will initiate and strengthen their collaboration in the area of human rights and environment, particularly through drawing public attention to human rights in Afghanistan's western region, increasing public awareness about the implications of environment on human rights, and advocating for the right to healthy environment.

## Human Rights and Anti-Corruption

The AIHRC sought areas of mutual cooperation with HOOAC regarding human rights and anti-corruption.

- **The AIHRC's Anti-Corruption Paper:** The AIHRC has developed an Anti-Corruption Paper, which elaborates the AIHRC's three anti-corruption priorities: (1) Establishment of performance-based management systems and structures to monitor, evaluate, and report on the results of the AIHRC's work; (2) financial and logistical audit; and (3) reform of contracting, procurement, and employment systems. The AIHRC's anti-corruption priorities were welcomed by HOOAC and the AIHRC will report to HOOAC on the implementation of its anti-corruption measures.
- **Efforts to sign a bilateral MoU:** The AIHRC met with HOOAC to explore avenues to sign a bilateral MoU, increase coordination, and refer anti-corruption-related cases of human rights violations to HOOAC. The two sides will continue their meetings.

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC organized several periodic quarterly information sharing meetings and public conferences in Bamyan, Jalalabad, Herat and Kunduz provinces, through which the AIHRC expanded its relationships with partner individuals and institutions, and informed them of the results of its work.

- **Increased CSO awareness about the results of the AIHRC's work in Nangarhar:** In a bid to encourage the culture of reporting and accountability, the AIHRC presented, in a meeting, the results of its work to 20 CSOs in Nangarhar province. The attendees received information about the results of the AIHRC's work and urged the AIHRC to pay greater attention to human rights protection in outlying areas in Nangarhar province.
- **A mechanism to hold regular AIHRC-media meetings in Paktia:** The AIHRC met with the National Journalists' Union of Afghanistan in Paktia, South Asian Free Media Association (SAFMA) in Paktia, Head of the radio *Paktia Qazh*, Lemar TV journalist, Head of Radio and Television Afghanistan (RTA) in Paktia, and Head of Information and Culture Department in Paktia and the attendees agreed to hold quarterly meetings at the AIHRC's Paktia Regional office so as to share information and reflect human rights issues in media in Paktia and its surrounding provinces.

## Roundtables

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC held nine roundtables in Nangarhar, Kabul, and Khost provinces and used these as venues to draw the attention of government officials and the people to important human rights issues in Kabul and provinces. Issues such as women's rights, the right to peaceful assembly, rights of prisoners, objection to the execution of Afghans in Iran, the Interim Criminal Procedure Code, the right to work, the

right to freedom of expression, and causal factors of violence against women were discussed in these roundtables.

- The AIHRC held a roundtable discussion on the causes of violence against women in Khost province in which members of the Khost Provincial Council, head of Khost *Ulama* Council, Acting Head of the Department of Women's Affairs, a lawyer, and a journalist participated. As a result of the roundtable discussion, which was telecast on provincial TV, the people of Khost were informed of the causes and consequences of violence against women and the provincial justice system welcomed the discussion.

In a bid to increase public awareness about the role and impact of the AIHRC, the AIHRC's members appeared in 30 TV roundtables and 40 radio round tables, including 20 of such programs that were aired live. The AIHRC members and staff gave comments and expressed the AIHRC views and positions on various human rights issues such as women's rights, the right to assembly and association, right to freedom of movement, right to freedom of expression, rights of prisoners, reports on the execution of Afghans in Iran, Interim Criminal Procedure Code, right to work, causes of violence against women, human rights situation in Afghanistan and the AIHRC's work for the improvement of it, human rights and environment and the factors of pollution, the government's obligation toward children rights, the situation of laboring children in Afghanistan, peace, reintegration and human rights principles, the transference of Bagram detention facility to Afghans, the rule of law, family and domestic violence and its negative impacts on children, and the inhumane treatment of Afghan refugees by Iranian security officials.

### Human Rights Promotion through “*Human Rights*” and the AIHRC's Website

At least 320,000 persons from across the country were directly informed about important human rights issues through the AIHRC's monthly magazine “*Human Rights*” and publications and booklets. These issues encompass reports on human rights developments at the provincial level, people's political rights during the election process, Islam and human rights, citizens' rights and duties in the Afghan Constitution, justice, victim's jirga for justice, women's rights in Islam, development, anti-corruption, the role of women in judiciary, democracy, and other human rights-related topics. Additionally, the AIHRC's website (in Pashto, Dari, and English) was a significant instrument for disseminating news and information about the results of the work of the AIHRC, and was viewed by a total number of 573,877 persons





(47,823 persons per month). Compared with the previous year, a further number of 147,841 persons have accessed the AIHRC's website for news and information. In this reporting period, at least 150 materials on the results of the AIHRC's work and human rights developments in the country were uploaded to the website, in addition to an internet radio program which was listened to by 35,942 persons.

The increase in the number of visitors from the AIHRC's website and readers of AIHRC's magazine indicates two complementary but rather important issues. First, the AIHRC has used its communication tools effectively, and second there has been an increase in the number of people who find it's information useful and credible, and use its website for research or information purposes.

## Strategic Objective 2: Education

(Action Plan (1389) (2009/2010)	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhanced public awareness about human rights.</li> <li>• Human rights education is institutionalized within schools, universities, teacher training institutes, judicial and legislative training centres, religious centers and police/national security training institutions.</li> <li>• The behavior and attitudes of police, military personnel, judicial officials, prison officers, defense lawyers and paralegals reflect an increased understanding and adherence to human rights and humanitarian laws and principles.</li> <li>• The quality and quantity of media and research institutes focus on human rights issues.</li> <li>• Violence in the home, work place and public sphere, particularly against women and children has decreased.</li> <li>• An increased number of people consult and trust human rights institutions and organizations</li> </ul>	<p><b>Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree to which public knowledge about human rights principles and norms has increased.</li> <li>• Degree to which negative human rights propaganda is effectively countered.</li> <li>• Number of public statements made by government officials, Parliamentarians, religious scholars (ulema) and civil society organizations in support of human rights.</li> <li>• Extent to which media and research institutes focus on human rights issues.</li> <li>• Degree to which the behavior and attitudes of police, security personnel, judicial officials, prison officers, defense lawyers and paralegals reflect an increased understanding and adherence to human rights obligations and international humanitarian law.</li> <li>• Degree to which human rights education and concepts are institutionalized within schools, universities, teacher training institutes, judicial and legislative training centers, religious centers and police/national security training institutions.</li> <li>• Level of violence in the home, work place and public sphere, particularly against women and children.</li> <li>• Degree to which people consult and trust human rights organizations</li> </ul>

### Helping all Afghans to Understanding, Apply and Respect Human Rights

During 2010/1389, the AIHRC was recognized as the authority on human rights education. 29,020 people (11,307 women, and 17,713 men) increased understanding and awareness about human rights issues by attending 243 workshops and 589 awareness raising meetings. The AIHRC tracked the effectiveness of its human rights education by conducting 62 follow up sessions and interviewing of 1406 people (922 men and 484 women). The result indicated that public awareness had increased and that the participants were witnessing changes in their behavior and conduct.



Furthermore, people's reactions toward issues related to human rights, human rights violations and abuses, their interviews with media and requests to follow human rights issues, and the frequency of their visits to the AIHRC offices, NGOs and Governmental organizations to submit their complaints or report of human rights abuses, was increased.

Similarly, the AIHRC was able to take effective steps toward the institutionalization of human rights at schools, universities, teacher training centers, judicial training centers, religious centers and military training centers, and police centers. The AIHRC, by opening a human rights study center in Herat University and integrating of the subject of human rights in the curriculum of four other public universities, two private institutions of higher education, three normal and two other government agencies took positive steps toward the institutionalization of human rights.

In 2010/1389, because of effective interaction and intensive and systemic training (18), public awareness programs (2) and follow up meetings (10) conducted with religious scholars, the clergy, tribal leaders and civil society groups on Islam and human rights, the level of negative propaganda against the AIHRC decreased and was rendered ineffective.

During 2010/1389, the quantity and quality of the media and research institutes focusing on human rights issues had increased. The AIHRC signed agreements with 51 media outlets at the national, regional, and provincial. At this end, the AIHRC aired about 36,230 minutes of media programs, (27,104 minutes of radio and 9,126 minutes of television programs) concerning various issues of human rights through different channels from which 18 media outlets aired the human rights subjects, prepared by the AIHRC, for free, which indicated an increase of interests and focus on human rights by the media.

As a result of the AIHRC training to police, military personnel, judicial officials, prison officers, defense lawyers and paralegals, their behavior and attitudes positively changed which reflected an increased understanding and adherence to human rights and humanitarian laws and principles. The AIHRC observed and recorded less human rights violations by prison officers, decreased number of civilian casualties by pro-government forces, and assistance provided to victims of human rights by more defense lawyers aware of human rights.

Further, level of violation of the right to human dignity by the judiciary and judicial organs in the country shows 76.4 % decrease from the level of a year before.

### **Enhanced public awareness about human rights.**

2.1.1 Workshops, training sessions, scientific seminars and awareness raising programs are held.

**29,020 people (11,307 women, and 17,713 men) increased understanding and awareness about human rights issues by attending 243 workshops and 589 awareness raising meetings.**

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC trained 6,692 persons (1,899 women and 4,793 men) through holding 243 three days training workshops. These workshops and training sessions were exclusively designed to educate government officials, judges, prosecutors, lawyers, prison and detention center officials, police and security forces, military personnel, members of provincial councils, members of village shuras, mullahs, academia, women, journalists, professionals, civil society members and vulnerable persons. The results that were achieved were diverse. The training sessions not only increased the trainees' understanding on human rights, but also behavioral changes happened in the work place, in families, and in government officials' execution of duties. Other results were that mullahs, influential people, and media presented human rights discourse in a more positive way to their constituencies and communities, and discussed it further in mosques, television speeches, and village gatherings. As a result, human rights awareness was raised in villages and at the district level. To assess the result of its work, the AIHRC held 62 follow up meetings participated by 1,406 persons (484 women and 922 men), and consultations with the stakeholders all over the country. The result showed that these workshops increased public awareness of participants on human rights issues and changed their behavior and attitudes. In interviews, the participants expressed their pleasure to have attended the AIHRC's training workshops and requested that the AIHRC hold more workshops for them and their colleagues. Furthermore, the AIHRC was recognized as the authority on human rights education in the country.

Similarly, the AIHRC increased its understanding and level of awareness of 22,328 persons on human rights by holding 589 human rights awareness sessions all over the country.

The workshops and awareness raising meetings helped participants increase their understanding on issues such as human rights and Islam, human rights and democracy, rule of law, good governance, fair trials, fair and free elections, effects of administrative corruption on human rights, child rights, women rights, negative outcomes of forced and early marriages, human rights and the Afghanistan National Army, human rights and the Afghanistan National Police, elimination of violence against women and children, justice for children, harmful traditions, human rights and environment, civil and political rights, international humanitarian rights, political rights of women, democracy, child harassment, principles of fair trials, rights of people with disabilities, basic rights of citizens, protection of vulnerable people, torture, human rights and good governance, human rights standards for law enforcement organs, the role of civil society in the promotion and protection of human rights, human rights and youth, the rights of

prisoners, as well as familiarization with international human rights laws and the right to development.

#### Quotations by participants

“My behavior against my wife and children has been changed. In the past when my wife or children expressed their views on some matters, I paid no attention to them, but now when they speak and I want to prevent them, immediately I remember the workshops held by the AIHRC and I correct my behavior.”

- A workshop participant in Bamian.

“I learned new things from the last three day workshop and understood that human rights are for the wellbeing and happiness of society. Learning about human rights increases love in my family. I started cooperation with my wife at home. Learning about human rights helped me to improve my life...”

- A workshop participant in Faryab.

“I am a reciter of the holy Quran. After receiving training in the workshops, now I talk about the causes of disability and the rights of people with disability in every session.”

- A workshop participant in Balkh

## 22 Training Workshops Organized by CSOs and 758 persons were trained.

CSOs increased the awareness of 758 persons (346 women, 439 men) about human rights by holding 22 workshops 2 follow-up sessions, and two awareness sessions in Kandahar, Faryab, Nangarhar, Bamyān Kunduz, Diakundi, Balkh and Laghman. These workshops were assisted by the AIHRC and conducted by different CSOs. Moreover, the AIHRC expanded its cooperation with journalists and reporters. During the year, AIHRC staff members together with 151 national and local journalists (35 women, 166 men) jointly attended



A session with journalists held in Uruzgan province

two training workshops, five awareness sessions, two follow up sessions, and discussed topics on human rights and journalism. The CSOs initiative in expanding human rights education and public awareness was a strategic development that has produced trust, expertise, local knowledge and ownership of human rights education programs. Moreover, since CSOs are active in the field, their follow up reports show that positive changes in the behavior and attitude of participants has been observed.

### Increased Discussion about Commonalities between Islam and Human Rights

762 mosque leaders, *ulama*, teachers, religious scholars, students, and local influential figures (0 women, 762 men) discussed the commonalities between Islam and human rights in 18 “Islam and human rights” workshops, and 12 follow up and awareness raising meetings in Kunduz, Ghor, Badakhshan, Jalalabad, Uruzgan, Paktia, Kandahar, Ghazni, Samangan, Bamyan, Daikundi, and Herat Provinces, and achieved greater consensus in this area. Generally, the results of these workshops were assessed to be positive and the participants stressed the need for the continuation of “Islam and human rights” workshops in the future. Many of them stated they have a greater understanding about human rights and that they now think there are strong commonalities between human rights and Islam. The greatest result for the AIHRC was that the participants turned into educators of human rights in their districts and villages, and started to fend off negative propaganda raised by some individuals against the AIHRC and human rights in the country as an unislamic concept.

- In an “Islam and human rights” workshop in Ghazni, the participants said that they now have a positive attitude towards the concept of human rights and the AIHRC’s programs. They added that they previously thought that human rights was a western product, but they now think that human rights are universal values based on the very humanity of a person. They promised to cooperate with the AIHRC for the promotion of a human rights-friendly culture in Afghan society.
- As a result of efforts by the AIHRC’s Herat Regional Office, members of High Council of Herat *Ulama* and Clerics stated that they informed people about human rights and the results of the AIHRC’s work during the Friday congregational prayers in mosques and that their attitude towards corporal punishment of children has changed.
- In an AIHRC human rights training workshop in Tirin Kot between



Workshop attended by Mlaamams of Mosques in Trinkot Uruzgan

- August 26-28, 2010 (Sunbula 4-6, 1389), 25 mosque leaders recommended that if corruption and warlordism came to an end in Uruzgan province, Islamic laws, God's commandments, and State regulations would be implemented and then human rights could be realized. Uruzgan religious scholars (ulama) also issued a resolution banning many anti human rights practices like retaliation (badal).
- On February 16, 2011 (Hoot 10, 1389), the Kunduz Regional Office, in cooperation with UNAMA and the Women's Affairs Department in Kunduz, held a one day seminar under the title "The Role of Islamic Sharia in Implementation of the Law on Prevention of Violence against Women". This seminar was attended by 70 participants (30 women and 40 men) including religious scholars (ulama), civil society institutions, human rights activists, local government representatives in Kunduz province, sub governors, elders, representatives of mass media, lawyers, staff of government and non governmental organizations in Kunduz Province. Information was presented about the law on the prevention of violence against women and its implementation based on Sharia norms. Finally attention was paid to better ways for the implementation of this law.
  - The Human Rights Education Unit of Kunduz Regional Office, in cooperation with Religious Guidance Department (Ershad, Haj wa Awqaf), convened a three day training workshop under the title "Common Aspects between the Sacred Religion of Islam and Human Rights" which was participated by 24 religious scholars (ulama) of Kunduz city. This workshop was held on October 20, 2010 (Aqrab 11, 1389) and continued until October 22 (Aqrab 13). During this workshop, they pointed out common aspects between the sacred religion of Islam and human rights teachings. It was demanded that religious scholars (ulama) cooperate in promotion and expansion of human rights concepts among the people.

### Child to Child Training of Human Rights



Child to child training workshop in Badakhshan

In the year 2010/1389, the AIHRC held child to child training programs for 116 children (56 girls, 60 boys) in Kabul, Herat, Daikundi, Faryab, Paktia, Bamyan, Ghor, Kunduz, Badakhshan and Kandahar. They were trained as child rights trainers and each of them would train at least 30 children on child rights issues. As a result, 116 children directly, and 3480 children indirectly, increased

their understanding and awareness of child rights. The outcome of these training

sessions have been two fold. First, the AIHRC has institutionalized child to child training into schools through generating competition and capacity development programs. Second, children's awareness of their rights had an effect on other circles in society, such as family and friends.,A change in behavior and attitude was therefore observed.

- *The Kabul Regional Office held a three day child to child training workshop at the Family Wellbeing Organization on June 9, 2010 (19 of Jawza 1389), to train 10 children (five girls and five boys) as child rights trainers. Until 9 July, 2010 (18 Saratan 1389) these children would transfer their child rights knowledge to at least 300 of their classmates at the Family Wellbeing Organization. These children have hearing and speaking impairment.*
- *During the training workshop which was held on 3-4 November, 2010 (12-13 Aqrab, 1389) in Faizabad City, 10 children received necessary training as child rights trainers. In the wake of that workshop, 10 training workshops were held in 10 schools in Faizabad City from 24-31 October, 2010 (15-22 Aqrab, 1389) and the trained children gave training to other children on child rights issues. These child trainers, with the help of pictures, talked about child rights and responded to questions raised by other children.*

**Human rights education is institutionalized within schools, universities, teacher training institutes, judicial and legislative training centres, religious centres and police/national security training institutions.**

Incorporation of human rights subjects and concepts into school curriculums, universities, teacher training colleges, judicial training centers, religious centers and military and police training centers provides an opportunity for a broad spectrum of people to increase their understanding about and become familiar with human rights through systematic and formal education. In this regard the AIHRC managed to include human rights subjects in the curriculum of more schools and training institutions. As a result of activities by the AIHRC in 1389, a human rights subject was included in education programs at Herat University, Bamyan University, Nangarhar University, Badakhshan University, Orooj Higher Education Institution in Kabul, Bamyan Teachers Training College, Jaghori Teachers Training College, Ghor Teachers Training College, Civil Service and Administrative Reform Departments in Faryab province, Education Department of Bamyan, and the Afghan Journalism Center. Based on the memorandums of understanding signed between the AIHRC and Bamyan University, Bamyan Teachers Training College and Jaghori Teacher Training College, 500 students of these two academic institutions were trained and taught by four instructors in two semesters. Similarly, a human rights subject was taught to the instructors of teacher training colleges in Parwan, Kapisa, and Panjshir provinces during the last year. In addition, the AIHRC officially inaugurated the Center for Human Rights in Herat



University and gave term-end examinations to students of Daikundi Teacher Training Institute who had completed their human rights subject.

According to a memorandum of understanding between the AIHRC and the Center of Administrative Reforms and Civil Services in Fariab province regarding the inclusion of human rights subjects in the curriculum of six-month courses at this center, the AIHRC's educators, during two teaching hours, provided training to 55 participants of the above mentioned courses on the right to marriage and establishment of family as well as negative outcomes of forced marriages. The training was held 10-19 February 2010 (21-30 Dalw 1389). Similarly, the Ghor Teacher Training College initiated teaching of a subject on Introduction to Human Rights to 470 students of the institute.

- **Human rights teaching and the inauguration of a Human Rights Center for Herat University.** As a result of the AIHRC's efforts in cooperation with Herat University, the subject of human rights was taught in several faculties like Law and Political Science, Shari'a Law, and Education Faculties. In addition, the AIHRC's Chairperson, Chancellor of Herat University, and Herat Acting Provincial Governor officially opened the Center for Human Rights in Herat University in order to further increase access by students and other interested persons/institutions to human rights resources in the province.
- **Human rights teaching began in Bamyán University, Bamyán Teacher Training Institute, and Jaghori Teacher Training Institute.** Based on the AIHRC's MoUs with Bamyán University, Bamyán Teacher Training Institute, and Jaghori Teacher Training Institute, the subject of human rights was taught to 500 students of these higher education institutes during the first semester. In the ceremony to Bamyán University's human rights course, the AIHRC's Chairperson, Bamyán Provincial Governor, and Chancellor of Bamyán University stressed the promotion of human rights through educational institutions and viewed it as an effective means to mainstream human rights in the country.
- **MoU signed between the AIHRC and Nangarhar University.** In accordance with a MoU between the AIHRC's Nangarhar Regional Office and Nangarhar University, five students of the Law and Political Science Faculty started writing their theses in the area of human rights in consultation with the AIHRC, and the AIHRC, in return, paid stipends to these students and to their assisting professors.
- **Human rights course for students in Badakhshan University.** According to an MoU with Badakhshan University, the AIHRC held a course on human rights for students of the university's Literature and Humanities Faculty. This course will be held for the Education Faculty in the near future as well.

Establishment of a human rights resource center, in the scientific and research centers as well as in the libraries is an outstanding measure taken by the AIHRC for the promotion and expansion of human rights. The latest human rights publications, research, and articles published or released by the AIHRC were put at public disposal in

these centers. During the last year, the AIHRC Regional Offices in Kabul, Bamyan, Herat, Gardez, Kunduz, Mazar-e-Sharif, Jalalabad, and Paktia, as well as provincial offices in Badakhshan, Daikundi, Faryab, and Ghor established human rights information sections in their respective provinces.

These centers were opened in the Faculty of Law at Kabul University, Kateb and Kardan Higher Education Institutions, Naderia, Panjsad Family, Habibia, Aisha-e-Durani, Sufi Islam and Alawuddin high schools in Kabul, the Daikundi Province Public Library, the Faryab Province Public Library, the Ghor Province Public Library, three schools in the center of Bamyan, Education University of Herat, Herat Public Library, Kunduz Public Library, Balkh Public Library, Takhar Public Library, the Paktia Teachers Training College, Literature and Languages Faculty of Badakhshan University, Youth Department in Daikundi, Daikundi Teachers Training College, Culture and Information Department in Faryab, Ghor, Kunduz, Baghlan, Takhar, Parwan and Nangarhar Provinces.

**The quality and quantity of media and research institutes focus on human rights issues are increased.**

Taking into consideration the increasing impacts of media, especially radio and television on the people of Afghanistan, the AIHRC tried to utilize the capacity of media in the promotion and mainstreaming of human rights in society. The AIHRC signed new MoUs with 51 media outlets<sup>39</sup> in the provinces of Bamyan, Herat, Kabul, Balkh, Kandahar, Kunduz, Badakhshan, Daikundi, Faryab and Jawzjan. Out of 51 partner media, 18 broadcasted or telecasted the AIHRC's media programs gratis and this is indicative of the level of understanding and collaboration between the AIHRC and media organizations in the promotion of human rights in Afghanistan.

In total, the AIHRC produced and broadcast/telecast around 36,230 minutes of media programs (27,104 minutes of radio programs and 9,126 minutes of television programs) in local and national media, covering diverse human rights themes, such as people's political rights in the election process, torture, peace and security, familiarization with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights documents, the right to health, police and human rights, the right to property, civilian casualties, child rights, women's rights, and national and international human rights standards—an increase of around 5,975 minutes of media programs compared with the previous reporting period. In addition, the AIHRC had hundreds of pages printed and published in different print media. .

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- *In February-March 2010 (Hoot 1389), the AIHRC signed a memorandum of understanding with the Radio Voice of Youth in Herat. According to this agreement the Radio Voice of Youth broadcast a program once a week (four programs in a month) and ten messages per day (three minutes per month) on various subjects of human rights. The topics issued by this radio included: non-protection of perpetrators by the AIHRC, human rights and living environment, Mothers Day and protection of womens rights.*
- *Based on the memorandum of understanding signed with the Media, human rights issues were systematically broadcast through media in Kunduz province and its other neighboring provinces. Radio Cheragh, Radio Roshayi, Radio Hamsada and Radio Aikhanum held round table discussions on human rights and the role of law, child rights, the right to marriage and divorce, the basic rights and obligation of citizens enshrined in the constitution, and fair and free elections, which were all broadcast during the last year.*
- The AIHRC enhanced the level of its cooperation with media leaders. The AIHRC's Kunduz Regional Office and Daikundi Provincial Office held three meetings in order to strengthen the AIHRC's cooperation with media in Kunduz, Takhar, and Daikundi provinces.
- *In cooperation with Media, human rights issues were highly reflected in the media of Badakhshan province. Badakhshan state radio television, local radio Amoo, Radio Baharestan, Radio Kokcha and state publication Badakhshan, focused on numerous human rights subjects such as child rights and the cases of its violations, womens rights and women runaways from home, the right to marriage and the rights of people with disabilities.*

To improve the quality of human rights articles in the libraries and scientific and research centers, the AIHRC held seminars with the persons in charge of the libraries, librarians and book sellers. These seminars were held in Mazar-e Sharif, Kunduz, Badakhshan and Bamyan. Holding of these seminars resulted in the development and improvement of their capacities and understanding of human rights as well as the delivery and provision of information and reference books on human rights. Follow up meetings and monitoring showed that beneficiaries of libraries and clients of book stores expressed their consent on the improvements and changes in the services and availability of books to them.

- The AIHRC held a one day seminar on 5 January 2010 (15 Jadi 1383) in Mazar-e Sharif, which was participated by 18 library heads in the provinces of Samangan, Sar-e-Pol, Jawazjan and Balkh, as well as the Chairman of Information and Culture Department of Balkh province. For better organization of this seminar, trips were made to the provinces of Sar-e-Pol and Jawzjan to talk and discuss with the library heads in these provinces.

- The AIHRC organized a one day seminar under the title “Book Studying Culture” on 5 February 2010 (16/11/1389) at the Faryab Provincial Office, which was attended by 30 librarians, book sellers and artists.

The AIHRC established human rights information and resource centers in its regional and provincial offices and provided facilities for public awareness on different human rights issues. The resource centers, through utilization of modern learning methods and facilities such as books, films, educational CDs, education brochures, human rights magazines, dailies and publications, and internet services provided facilities for the promotion and expansion of human rights in the provinces. During the year 2010/1389, 4,000 people (1,159 women, 2,841 men) from different social strata such as instructors, students, religious scholars (ulama) and governmental and non-governmental employees referred to these resource centers of the AIHRC in Kabul, Bamyan, Ghor, Daikundi, Badakhshan, Kunduz, Faryab, Nangarhar, Balkh and Kandahar provinces and used the resource centers. The AIHRC’s provincial offices in Badakhshan, Daikundi, and Ghor provinces and regional offices of the AIHRC in Kabul, Balkh and Bamyan purchased and added to its inventories a total number of 519 copies of books, CDs and other equipment such as cameras and films, which helped to further equip the resource centers.

The AIHRC has started preparing a list of books available, in order to inform individuals, civil society, and state organs about the AIHRC’s resource centers and to encourage them to use these centers. The provincial offices of the AIHRC in Badakhshan, Daikundi, Faryab and Ghor as well as the regional offices in Balkh, Kandahar, Kabul, Bamyan, Kunduz, Herat and Nangarhar prepared a list of 22,302 copies of books about different subjects and made the list available to people. This list includes books on law, human rights, politics, culture, computer science, language studies, art, literature, management, geography, economics, research, subjects on religion, education, English language, philosophy, media studies, and the laws of Afghanistan. The facilities were available and used by the Parliament, Ministry of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Information and Culture, Ministry of Women Affairs, Ministry of Haj and Awqaf, universities, teachers training colleges, public libraries, private higher education institutions, journalists, religious scholars (ulama), instructors, university students, the Attorney’s Office, teacher training colleges, and courts.

**Violence in the home, work place and public sphere, particularly against women and children has decreased.**

The AIHRC celebrated the International Day of Women (March 8), International Day of Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (November 25), International Day of Children, and International Day of Human Rights (December 10) through holding seminars, workshops, public meetings, exhibitions, rallies, media programs, and the

release of two reports on the situation of children and violence against women. By celebrating these important days, the AIHRC tried to increase the level of awareness about human rights and to expand and mainstream human rights into society, as well as urge the government to fulfill its obligation toward the human rights of individuals in Afghanistan. Overall, 4,349 persons (3,085 women, 1264 men) directly participated in these events in provinces such as Kabul, Takhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Paktia, Bamyán, Kandahar, Balkh, Jalalabad, Badakhshan, Ghor, and Faryab, which were attended by different social strata including those in charge and employees of state offices, non-government organizations, members of provincial councils, representatives and members of civil society, religious scholars (ulama), tribal elders, journalists, teachers and students, employees of the Ministry of Education, and women rights activists. Celebrations of these important days increased awareness about violence, particularly violence against women and children. This resulted in more sensitivity toward these issues.

- *The Bamyán Regional Office held a one day meeting under the name of Women's Rights to celebrate the universal day of women on 10 March 2010 (19/2/1389). This session was attended by 25 persons (15 women and 10 men) including women rights activists and journalists. They discussed the problems of women and the needs of women in Bamyán province, and demanded further cooperation among civil society organizations in the improvement of the situation of women in that province.*
- *The Kandahar Regional Office, in cooperation with UNAMA, celebrated International Women's Day on 8 March, 2010 (22/12/1389). This ceremony was held in the AIHRC's hall and participated by 200 people (120 women and 80 men), including representatives of governmental and non governmental organizations. During this session, speeches were delivered on historical struggles by women for their rights, the statistics of violence against women, female suicide, the economic, social and culture rights of women, and the ways to improve women's quality of life .*
- *In celebration of International Women's Day, the AIHRC held a session in the conference hall of Ghor Province's Information and Culture Department. This session was attended by 250 people (200 women, 50 men) from different social strata. The speakers talked about the causes of violence against women and the ways to struggle against it. They also discussed the status of women in Islam and in the country's national laws. At the end, participants demanded the follow-up of cases of violence against women and punishment of the perpetrators.*

### Strategic Objective 3: empowerment

To strengthen AIHRC's capacity to empower government, civil society, and individuals to protect and promote human rights

(Action Plan (1389))	Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved effectiveness of AIHRC in managing its programs and resources.</li> <li>• Strengthened expertise and professionalism of AIHRC staff through the provision of relevant developmental and training programs.</li> <li>• The staff composition of AIHRC increasingly reflects the diversity of the Afghan population in terms of gender, ethnicity, religion, language and ability.</li> <li>• Increased capacity of AIHRC to resolve and follow-up on reported human rights cases, and complaints of human rights violations.</li> <li>• Increased capacity of civil society and the government to protect, monitor, and promote human rights.</li> <li>• Increased ability of AIHRC and civil society organizations to influence the government on human rights matters through the provision of advice and recommendations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Degree to which performance management systems and mechanisms are institutionalized within AIHRC.</li> <li>• Degree to which the expertise and professionalism of AIHRC has improved.</li> <li>• Degree to which AIHRC staff composition reflects the diversity of the Afghan population.</li> <li>• Number of human rights complaints received and percentage resolved/referred.</li> <li>• Number and quality of public and treaty-body reports prepared by the Government.</li> <li>• Number of activities and projects implemented jointly with human rights defenders and civil society.</li> <li>• Number of human rights programmes and projects independently designed and carried out by civil society.</li> <li>• Number of recommendations provided to Government on human rights policies and issues.</li> </ul>

#### Improved effectiveness of AIHRC in managing its programs and resources

#### The Establishment and the Results of the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Reporting Unit (MERU)

The AIHRC established a Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Unit (MERU) to monitor, evaluate, and report on the implementation of the Four-Year Strategic and Action Plans 2010-2013 (1389-1392). The establishment of the unit was essential in furthering and

internalizing result-based management in the AIHRC. In order to enhance reporting standards at the AIHRC, MERU prepared results-based monthly reporting templates based on the Four-Year Strategic and Action Plans and sent these to the Commissioners, Executive Director, HQ, Regional Offices, Provincial Offices, consultants, and interns..

The AIHRC organized six training workshops to build the capacity of all HQ Heads of Sections, Regional and Provincial Program Managers, and Heads of Units in Regional and Provincial Offices in RBM and RBR. In these workshops, the participants increased their knowledge and skills regarding the concept of RBM, the AIHRC's Four-Year Strategic and Action Plans, the concept of RBR, the AIHRC's reporting process, and the importance of producing results-based and timely reports.

As a result the AIHRC prepared and presented three quarterly reports on the results of the AIHRCs program in 2010/1389 to the public, stakeholders, CSOs and donors. Positive feedback to the AIHRC reports show that substantial improvements in terms of moving toward result-based reporting has been made.

Similarly, in order to improve and strengthen the AIHRC's organizational and programming performance, the AIHRC recruited six coordinators through a competitive and open procedure. The coordinators played an important role in improving coordination and implementation the Four-Year Strategic and Action Plan in a holistic, effective and efficient way. It also increased the effectiveness of the AIHRC's six program units.

In order to review and assess the implementation of the Action plan, the AIHRC held a three day mid-term review workshop on identifying strengths and weaknesses in the AIHRC's Four-Year Strategic and Action Plan for 2010-2013 (1389-1392). The workshop discussed issues like strengths and weaknesses of the Strategic and Action Plan, implementation assessment, and the relevant financial and administrative matters. Initial workshop assessment indicates that insecurity, lack of funding, and lack of cooperation of GoIRA, especially the justice system, are the biggest problems for the implementation of the Strategic and Action Plan, while specific objectives and activities are the major strengths of the plan. A need was also felt to place more emphasis on and produce more results in the new areas of activity, such as human rights and the environment, human rights and anti-corruption, and human rights and Islam.

The AIHRC in achieving its anticipated target in the AIHRC Four-Year Strategic and Action Plan to become self-sustained and domestically funded secured the provision of \$500,000 fund from the state budget to the AIHRC development project. The allocation was made to the AIHRC's development project after lengthy, intensive, and difficult discussions with the government and MoFA. As a welcome start point, the MoFA approved and incorporated the AIHRC as a budget entity into the National Development

Budget and submitted it to the Parliament. Further discussion is underway to make the AIHRC a full budgetary unit.

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC strengthened the expertise and professionalism of its staff through the provision of relevant developmental and training programs. To this end, the AIHRC built and developed the capacity of its 335 (60 women, 257 men) staff members through various workshops held both inside and outside the country. The AIHRC staff received training on good governance, advocacy, monitoring, action-based budgeting, complaint registration, violations against women, gender equality, management, result-based reporting, peace building, fighting against child trafficking, rule of law, conflict resolution, methods of public poll and Afghanistan national laws.

Likewise, the AIHRC held orientation training for 37 newly recruited staff (eight female and 29 male) on mandate, duties and procedures of the AIHRC as well as national and international human rights laws.

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC recruited 37 staff (eight female and 29 male) which reflects the diversity of the Afghan population in terms of gender, ethnicity, religion, language and ability. In the recruitment process, in addition to competency, skills and expertise, diversity in terms of gender, disability, ethnicity and nationality was taken into consideration. In this regard, 22 Pashtoon, 7 Tajiks, 6 Hazaras and one Baloch were recruited. The recruitment process was competitive, open and transparent. The AIHRC, for the sake of transparency and promoting equal opportunities, employed new tools such as announcing job postings through the AIHRC and ACBAR websites. The Commission's job announcements contain specific items to encourage marginalized and vulnerable groups, especially women, to apply for the jobs.

In accordance with the provision of the AIHRC Four Year Strategic and Action Plan, the AIHRC established a committee to test, shortlist, interview, and select qualified staff members for education and training opportunities abroad and to develop a procedure for them to transfer their knowledge to other staff within the AIHRC. This committee will help increase the transparency and effectiveness of training and staff development opportunities within the AIHRC. This committee gave 28 AIHRC staff the opportunity to attend various training sessions inside and outside of the country. The AIHRC staff who attended the training sessions have brought and applied new skills and knowledge to the daily work of the AIHRC. For example, methods of conflict resolution obtained in this training were applied in the AIHRC's educational program.

The AIHRC recruited two technical assistants (TAs) to strengthen and develop the capacity of its financial and human resource units. The result of their work was an internalized result-based and updated financial system and an efficient, effective human resource unit in the AIHRC. Meanwhile the AIHRC utilized the expertise and skills of

three program consultants. The consultants who were hired by or seconded to the AIHRC assisted the AIHRC child rights unit CRU, unit of rights of people with disability URPD and human rights education unit HREU in building and improving their capacities.

- Between 26 July and 2 August 2010 (4-11 Asad 1389), a seven-day advocacy and monitoring training workshop was held for 12 staff members of RPWDU. The workshop had two results: (1) An action plan was prepared for advocating for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and (2) the issue of disability was considered and included in the AIHRC's overall monitoring activities.
- In cooperation with the Coordinator of RPWDU, the consultant met with officials from the Ministry of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs, and Disabled (MoLSAMD), Handicap International (HI), Mine Action Coordination Center for Afghanistan (MACCA), Disability Stakeholders Coordination Group (DSCG), Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Network, and Afghan Landmine Survivors' Organization (ALSO), sharing information and broadening mutual collaboration.
- A monitoring training workshop was held on August 7-10, 2010 (Asad 16-19, 1389) and an advocacy training workshop was held on September 25-30, 2010 (Mizan 3-8, 1389) for 22 staff members of CRU and CRFM staff. As a result of these workshops, Child Rights Advocacy and Awareness-Raising Strategy was developed and the AIHRC's child rights monitoring system was consolidated.
- In cooperation with the Coordinator of CRU, the consultant met with officials from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), International Organization for Migration (IOM), CPAN, CSHRN, Agency Coordinating Body for Afghan Relief (ACBAR), MoE, and Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) for the purpose of sharing information and developing bilateral and multilateral collaboration.
- An administrative, financial, and logistical affairs training workshop was held on July 31-August 5 2010 (Asad 9-14, 1389). As a consequence of this workshop, 30 staff members increased their knowledge and skills in using PBB.
- In cooperation with the Finance Manager, the Consultant introduced the system of PBB in the AIHRC. The AIHRC is now able to produce its financial reports based on its performance in accordance with the Four-Year Strategic and Action Plans.

Last year, 40 governmental and non-governmental institutions working for human rights and rule of law approached the AIHRC and, requested human rights training for their staff or their partner organizations. The AIHRC gave a positive response to 18 of the requests and cooperated with them. It shows the scope of relations between the AIHRC and governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

- Demanded by the IDLO, the regional office of the AIHRC in Balkh had an active participation in the training term for lawyers. This training program was held for ten graduates of the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences at Balkh University in the month of Hamal. The participants' awareness on human rights concepts was raised.

The AIHRC also played an active role in the preparation of the GoIRA's draft report to the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and carried out a capacity-building program for the GoIRA, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and CSOs. The AIHRC provided technical and expert assistance regarding the number of cases of violations of women's rights, statistics of violence against women and the requirements of the international treaty body. Two members of the AIHRC participated in the drafting committee as active members to draft the report to CEDAW.

In 2010/1389, the Government of Afghanistan established a human rights protection unit in the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). The AIHRC played a supporting role in providing capacity building and human rights training to the unit. The establishment of this unit indicates that the capacity of government would improve in the protection and promotion of human rights. The AIHRC agreed to prepare and review the draft of a memorandum of understand with the Human Rights Support Unit (HRSU) and the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) to define bilateral cooperation between the AIHRC and that Ministry. In addition, to strengthen the capacity of the Human Rights Protection Unit of the Ministry of Justice, the AIHRC developed the capacity of 15 staff on human rights and shared AIHRC training materials with them.

The AIHRC provided a leadership role for developing and preparing the Program for Human Rights and Civic Responsibilities (Program Six of Governance Cluster). The Program intends to increase public awareness about human rights and civic responsibilities and ensure justice. In cooperation with the national and international institutions that are members of the Program Working Group, the AIHRC developed the Six-Month Action Plan of the Program, and the three-year National Priority Program on Civic Responsibilities and Human Rights which was approved by the GoIRA.

Through technical, financial and joint program, the AIHRC strengthened the capacity and skills of numerous CSOs in Kabul and the provinces. The AIHRC signed a memorandum of understanding and contracts with more than 12 CSOs and assigned them to conduct 22 of the AIHRC's workshops, awareness raising meetings, and follow up sessions. The result was that the capacity of CSOs was built, their self confidence was increased, and a large gap was filled.



During this reporting period, the AIHRC accepted 2 students from the Faculty of Language and Literature at Badakhshan University (one man and one woman) as interns for six months, and provided theoretical and practical job training opportunities for them in all program sections.

Similarly during the last year, the AIHRC provided six internship opportunities to students from the USA, Germany, and Holland at the AIHRC and assigned them to cross units. These trainees were provided on job mentoring and training and also assigned to different and specific projects. As a result the interns furthered the international relations of the AIHRC and reflected the current human rights issues of the country to the international level.

### **Summary of the activities of the trainees**

1. One of the trainees sought the views of 400 inhabitants of Kabul on the impacts of administrative corruption on human rights. As a result of this opinion polling, a 23 page research report under the title (Human Rights Violations Related to Administrative Corruption: Analysis and Proposals) was prepared. In this report, monitoring on decisions and judicial honesty, utilization of the roll of media and civil society in the fight against administrative corruption and taking legal measures at the national and international levels were proposed as the ways to address human rights violence emanating from administrative corruption.<sup>40</sup>
2. One trainee assisted the AIHRC's staff in preparing a plan for cooperation between the AIHRC and the Government of Japan and presenting information about tribal discrimination and potential solutions, to be presented to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.
3. One trainee assisted AIHRC staff in monitoring political rights during parliamentary elections in 2010/1389 and editing the English text of the report on the situation of detention centers in 2009/1388.
4. One trainee assisted the AIHRC in editing parts of the report on conflict mapping, and participated in coordination sessions on Transitional Justice and provided this group's response to the Consultative Peace Jirga and Kabul International Conference.
5. One trainee presented speeches on basic principles of forensic medicine, documentation of torture, and gender equality to the staff of the Monitoring and Investigation and Women Rights Units. The trainee tried to prepare the ground for cooperation between the AIHRC and Youklin University of Britain regarding mass graves and human identification.
6. One trainee cooperated with the AIHRC in preparing a suggested format for an investigation about women and child trafficking in Afghanistan. This trainee designed a questionnaire for the investigation, and a questionnaire on monitoring of human rights in the borders. The trainee also worked with the Children's Rights Unit in regard to human trafficking and modern slavery, designed a proposed annual plan

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for women rights, and prepared a suggested format for an investigation into the legal and judicial situation in Afghanistan. The trainee tried to expand the relation between the AIHRC and governmental and nongovernmental organizations in countries such as Germany, the United States, Japan, Britain and Sweden.

## Strategic Objective 4: Advocacy

### Advocacy at National, Regional and International levels for HR Investigation

(Action Plan (1389	
<p><b>Outcome</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increased number of laws, policies and regulations are in place to protect human rights.</li> <li>• Human rights treaties have been ratified and existing laws have been harmonized with international human rights treaties.</li> <li>• AIHRC has strengthened and increased its participation in national, regional and international forums and networks in order to advance human rights priorities.</li> <li>• The Action Plan on Peace, Reconciliation and Justice is implemented.</li> <li>• 4.5 Policies and measures that violate human rights are proactively prevented.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of laws passed and amended to enhance human rights.</li> <li>• Number of human rights treaties ratified and international resolutions and recommendations incorporated into national laws, regulations and procedures.</li> <li>• Quality of participation in advocacy networks and joint initiatives with civil society, human rights defenders, Parliamentarians and national, regional, international forums and networks.</li> <li>• Extent to which the five actions under the Action Plan on Peace, Reconciliation and Justice are implemented.</li> <li>• Remedies are provided to communities and individuals who have been victims of human rights abuses.</li> <li>• Number of measures taken to proactively prevent human rights violations.</li> </ul>

**An increased number of laws, policies and regulations are in place to protect human rights.**

**Human rights treaties have been ratified and existing laws have been harmonized with international human rights treaties.**

The AIHRC participated in the process of reviewing, drafting and amending laws and legislation in the country. As a result, the number of laws, policies and regulations to protect human rights increased. The AIHRC reviewed eight laws (Draft Law on the

Protection of Destitute Persons and Families, Draft Law on the Structure and Mandate of Special Court of Ministers and Supreme Court Judges, Draft Law on Dispute Resolution Shuras (Councils), and Draft Family Law) and one regulation (Draft Regulation on Private Educational Institutes)) Draft of Criminal Procedure Law, Draft of Law on the structure, Mandate of the Prosecutors, and provided its comments and recommendations with a view to improving these legislations in accordance with international human rights standards. The AIHRC's comments and recommendations were largely accepted and incorporated in the law-making process.

For example:

1- The AIHRC played a key role in drafting the regulations for women protection centers. The AIHRC emphasized on the following points:

- Provision of immune and safe shelters to female victims of violence, ensuring their security, provision of food, and other life commodities.
- Improving accessibility, availability of and methods for receiving women in these centers.
- Improving conditions for reintegration.
- Protection and provision of a full enjoyment of rights for women and girls staying in the protection centers. (ensurance of their rights to health, the rights to adequate food and recreation facilities.)
- Greater responsibilities of the Ministry of Women Affairs MoWA in ensuring the rights of women and girls who are staying in the protection centers.

2- In drafting the laws, "Draft Law on Dispute Resolution Shuras (Councils)", the AIRHC recommended that:

- The mandate of these *shuras* and *jirgas* shall be limited and their decisions should be in accordance with the Afghan Constitution and Afghanistan human rights obligations.
- Emphasize were made on special attention to the rights of women, children and other vulnerable group before this Shuras.
- The Shuras shall not have jurisdiction over cases related to criminal activities.
- The decisions made by these Shuras and Jirgas should be registered.

The AIHRC actively advocated and prepared the ground for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). To this end, numerous awareness raising programs and advocacy meetings were carried out by the AIHRC. The AIHRC joined hand with the CSOs and NGOs and launched an effective program of advocacy all over the country, mobilizing politicians and provincial officials and influential people to support the AIHRC's call. As a result, the Parliament of Afghanistan has tabled the covenant in the plenary for a vote in its first session.

- The AIHRC held numerous advocacy and awareness sessions in cooperation with CSOs in Nangarhar, Bamyán, Kandahar and Herat Provinces. In these sessions the AIHRC increased the level of understanding of participants on the rights of people with disability and the importance of ratifying the Covenant that would protect and promote of rights of people with disabilities. The participants decided to launch an advocacy campaign through the media and urge authorities and members of the Parliament.
- The AIHRC office in Kandahar Province launched an advocacy campaign for ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities through televised round table discussions. The follow up of the discussion with the Governor of Kandahar Province resulted in a letter from to be sent from the governor to the LDG and Parliament.
- The AIHRC in Herat province celebrated the Universal Day of People with Disabilities and issued a five point resolution for ratification of the convention. After that, in a meeting with the provincial governor, the problem related to the persons with disabilities was discussed and specific recommendations were put forward to provide facilities for the persons with disabilities. The governor promised full cooperation.
- The AIHRC office in Kabul, in cooperation with civil society organizations, held advocacy programs on the rights of persons with disabilities. In a conference while introducing the law on the rights and privileges of the persons with disabilities, a resolution was passed which demanded that the state of Afghanistan join the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- As a result of the AIHRC advocacy and persistent communication with the MoJ, the law on the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities which was passed by the parliament was accepted by the MoJ .

**AIHRC has strengthened and increased its participation in national, regional and international forums and networks in order to advance human rights priorities.**

The AIHRC pursued close cooperation and effective coordination with institutions, networks and different committees active in the area of protection and promotion of human rights and increased its participation in advancing human rights priorities in the country. The AIHRC has membership and has taken a leading role in CPAN, Advocacy Committee for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Coordination Committee (HIV), the Commission on Prevention of Violence against Women, Afghan Women Network (AWN) Technical Advisory Group, Committee on Gender Strategy, expanded the

effectiveness of the AIHRC advocacy in promotion and protection of human rights in Afghanistan.

The AIHRC efforts and advocacy by expanding and consolidating its relations with state and civil society organizations produced positive and effective outcomes. The AIHRC active participation in more than 150 sessions of CPAN; working Committee on War Prisoners, Advocacy Committee for Persons with Disabilities, Afghanistan Women's Network and Coordination Group for Transitional Justice. The AIHRC had active role in all these sessions and made good achievement in realization of human rights in Afghanistan.

The AIHRC is a member and leading body in CPAN and enjoys the trust and confidence of state institutions and civil society organizations. For example, the AIHRC regional office in Nangarhar, through participation in one of this network's sessions, raised and discussed problems related to the children correction center in Nangarhar Province with partner organizations, especially the Justice Department. As a result the network based on the AIHRC proposal formed a committee to follow up on the issue. The committee was composed of five members including the AIHRC, UNIMA, UNICEF, and MOLSAMAD Department. The committee followed this issue with the court and MoJ, and solved the problem.

The AIHRC also had an active role in Advocacy Committee for Persons with Disabilities. The AIHRC in cooperation with 15 national and international institutions, who are members of the advocacy committee, organized a meeting and submitted the expectations of the committee from the National Consultative Peace Jirga which was held in Kabul, to the Jirga. Implementation of the Law on the Rights and Privileges of the people with disability, ratification of the Convention on Rights of People with Disability and the Treaty on Prevention of Cluster Ordinates, budget allocation by the state to the programs in the area of disability and campaigning against stigmatic idea about disability were among the most important expectations of the committee from the National Consultative Peace Jirga. Some of these expectations were discussed among the representatives of this jirga.

The AIHRC Mazar office provided and facilitated basic living requirements to poor beggars with disabilities roaming around the Mausoleum of Hazrat Ali, and a proposal was put forward to the Provincial Council. Through the related organs, the needy beggars with disabilities were recognized and their problems were taken into consideration. As a result, 37 beggars with disabilities were provided shelters and other facilities by the Red Crescent.

In addition the AIHRC had an active participation in the sessions held for the Prevention of Violence against Women as well as in the sessions convened by Afghanistan Women

Network. For example, during one of these sessions, the case of a woman from Gulran District of Herat Province was brought up who had been attacked by her husband and suffered 24 stab wounds. After partial treatment, she was discharged from the hospital. Since she was threatened by her husband's family, she was introduced to the women's shelter. In a session on prevention of violence against women, and encouraged by the AIHRC, the Governor of Badakhshan expressed complete support to the program on prevention of violence against women. In coordination with the AIHRC, a decision was made to prevent heavy wedding expenditures which had negative impacts on families and contribute to violence against women.

- The AIHRC, in order to support CSOs in their endeavor to protect vulnerable and female victims of violence, launched an effective advocacy program. In this regard, the AIHRC met with different government authorities, and expressed its point of view and the need for CSOs to continue their support through running safe houses and shelters for vulnerable women in Afghanistan. The government must not limit or interfere in the work of CSOs in providing support to women's shelters. In a high profile meeting which was held at the AIHRC Kabul office and was attended by the CSOs, National Security Advisor to the President, and MoWA, MoJ and Supreme Court representative as well as MPs, the AIHRC emphasized the continuation of operating women shelters and the need to work on a regulation governing this issue. The AIHRC secured the GoIRA's assurance through Mr. Spanta, the National Security Advisor to the President.

1, No woman would be surrendered and given to her relatives without her consent and an assessment of her safety.

2, Women's shelters can continue their operations under support of the CSOs

3, Any irregularities on running women's shelters is subject to the application of the Afghanistan's laws.

Similarly the AIHRC is a member of the Tag Group Committee. This Committee holds a session every month which is participated by UN Women, and carries out activities for gender equality.

The AIHRC has played an outstanding role in preparing the ground for establishing and strengthening human rights advocacy groups and committees at the country level. During this reporting period, the AIHRC established a human rights advocacy committee in the provinces of Kabul, Daikundy, Badakhshan, Nangarhar, Paktia, Ghor, Bamyan, Herat, Urozgan and Fayab to advocate for human rights. The said committees hold its sessions and carries out its advocacy programs on a regular basis, and they advocate on various areas of human rights in the related provinces.

- As a result of the follow-up by the AIHRC, the Governor of Daikundi established an advocacy committee in understanding with the AIHRC, UNAMA, and civil society organizations. Various issues were discussed during this committee's sessions. For example the AIHRC expressed concern about the non-existence of a primary court prosecutor in Kitty district. Steps were then taken by the provincial authorities and a primary court prosecutor's office was established in this district to settle the cases, and now the local people do not have to travel to the center of the province to settle their deputed.
- The Advocacy and Monitoring Committee on CEDAW was established in Badakhshan province. For better and more effective monitoring on the implementation of CEDAW in that province and providing effective and beneficial suggestions to the provincial authorities.
- As a result of efforts made by the AIHRC in Ghor province and with cooperation of Provincial Council members, lawyers, Rural Development Department, civil society organizations, Free and Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan, and some schools, a human rights advocacy committee was established in this province.
- In coordination and cooperation with the UN, Police, Women's Affairs Department, PRT, Independent Association of Lawyers, ICRC, Department of Justice and other state offices and civil society organizations, the AIHRC established a Human Right Advocacy Committee in Faryab Province. After its establishment, the Committee held its sessions regularly. For example in one session of that committee discussion was made about the illegal killing of a pregnant woman by police. It was decided that a delegation should be assigned to make further investigations into this case.
- In cooperation with the Public Health Department, City Court, Police, Attorney's Office, United Nations, and International Legal Foundation in Afghanistan, a Committee of Human Rights Advocacy was established in Paktia province for the first time. In the sessions of this committee, issues such as problems of narcotic addiction, lack of health centers, identity cards and age registration, lack of a forensic department, lack of safe shelter, lack of female prison officers and lack of human rights awareness were discussed. The related state organs made a commitment to take serious measures to find a solution to these problems.
- As a result of endeavors by the AIHRC a Human Rights Advocacy Committee was established in Bamyan province with the cooperation and coordination of the Rule of Law Team, the PRT, and the Afghanistan Legal Aid Organization. In its first session discussion was made on the need for the establishment of the Committee, and other subjects such as settlement of the criminal cases the perpetrators of which are absent. Views were exchanged in this regard.
- As a result of the endeavors by the AIHRC and in cooperation with the Lawyers Association, the civil society network, ILF, Qanon Ghoshtonki, NRC, Human Rights Organization, Human Rights Organization and Environment, a Human Rights Advocacy Association was established in Kabul. In its first session, the Committee decided to draft a memorandum of understanding among participant organizations. Based on that memorandum of understanding, the members of the committee continue their cooperation with the Kabul Regional Office
- The AIHRC in Herat province established the Advocacy Committee in cooperation with representatives of Handicap, Voice of Women, War Child, UNAMA, INTERSAS



, UNHCR, IOM, IRC, Nahzat-e Mili-e Jawanan (National Youth Movement), Youth Department, Turkman Youth Association, CPAN, Medica Mondiale, ILF, Women Lawyers Association, Ashiana, Women Affairs Department and Head of Police Office. All partner organizations welcomed the establishment of this committee. In the starting session, a discussion was held around human rights issue of children. Education of children was considered to be the main issue and it was decided that, during their meeting with the heads of the Education Department in Herat, members of this committee would raise this issue and they would discuss the education problems of children. They would demand the in charges to take serious measures to address these issues.

- In cooperation with the AIHRC, the advocacy committees achieved tangible results and continued to protect and promote human rights. For example, the advocacy committee in Daikundi held regular advocacy meetings with the governor, members of the provincial council, social councils and representative of political parties in that province. They also discussed the delivery of services to women, shortage of professional teachers, and assistance of the AIHRC on emergency situations in Daikundi. These organs promised to do their best to solve such problems in that province.
- Members of Human Rights Advocacy Committee in Badakhshan province, in its advocacy session, discussed issues of administrative corruption, employment of persons with disabilities, and work and education for women. The members concluded that serious measures should be taken for the protection of human rights, and launched a plan for the settlement of the problems.

### **Establishment of Advocacy Committees to Prevent Civilian Casualties**

The AIHRC helped to establish advocacy committees for prevention of civilian casualties in Kandahar, Nangarhar, Daikundi, Faryab, Paktia, Ghor, Baghlan and Uruzgan provinces. The committees played an effective advocacy role on prevention, recording, and investigation of civilian casualties in these provinces. As a result, the number of civilian casualties caused by pro-government forces has decreased compared to previous years. The committee also helped the AIHRC and other Organizations to track civilian casualties in a more systemic way. For example, as a result of the efforts made by AIHRC, such committees were established in Uruzgan with the participation of the UN, ICRC, Provincial Council and other civil society institutions to prevent civilian casualties. In the first session the representatives of PRT and the National Army made a commitment to attend the committee's sessions and protect civilians in their operation.

- The AIHRC in Nangarhar Province established an advocacy committee in cooperation with governmental and nongovernmental organizations. The committee discussed issues such as civilian casualties, coordination between national and international security forces, and night searches of houses.
- In coordination with partner organizations, the AIHRC established an advocacy committee for the prevention of civilian casualties in Kunduz province. The UN, tribal

elders, civil society representatives, international organizations active in the province, human rights activists, members of the Provincial Council and Public Health Department are members of this committee. As a result, assistance was given by the State of Germany to the victims of Char Darah incident and each victim received \$5,000 USD in cash.

- In addition the advocacy committee, which was established in Paktia, had a meeting with International Forces stationed in the province. During this session discussion was made on the decrease of civilian casualties and 21 people who were under the detention of international security forces. The International security forces promised to be more precise and careful during their operation.
- The committee in Faryab Province held a session which was attended by representatives of the AIHRC, UNAMA, National Security Directorate, ICRC, the Provincial Council, the National Army, provincial authorities, and the Military Attorney. During the session inquiries were made into a civilian vehicle that was targeted by the international air forces and it was emphasized that more attention should be paid to the protection of civilians, and arbitrary house searches should be stopped. As a result, the representative of PRT stated that this incident had occurred by mistake. The head of the PRT was informed in this regard, and the relevant report about the results of the investigation in this case will be provided in the next meeting. In addition, the military attorney reported on the arrest of two officers who had killed a pregnant woman in Qaisar district.

The AIHRC's recommendations on protection and observance of International Humanitarian Law by International Military Forces in Afghanistan were considered. As an example, the AIHRC in cooperation with the Working Committee of Prisons had a meeting with heads of the Canadian Embassy in Kabul. During this meeting the AIHRC, representing the members of this committee, proposed that Canadian forces in Afghanistan render legal services to Afghan prisoners who are arrested by them. As a result of the follow-up activities, the heads of the Canadian Embassy in Kabul made a commitment to provide legal services for the Afghan prisoners in the framework of a working plan in cooperation with the AIHRC and members of the committee in Kandahar.

### **Shadow Reports to the UN Committees in Geneva**

The AIHRC reports as an independent institution was referenced and cited by various UN human rights treaty bodies and committees. In 2010/1389, the AIHRC presented two shadow reports to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and the Child Rights Committee (CRC) in Geneva:

- Mr. Mohammad Musa Mahmodi, Executive Director, presented the AIHRC's shadow report on the implementation status in Afghanistan of the ICESCR to CESCR—the treaty body responsible to monitor the implementation of the

ICESCR globally. The CESCR repeatedly used the AIHRC's shadow report to peruse the GoIRA's report and repeatedly referred to the AIHRC's shadow report in its discussion session with the Afghan delegation<sup>41</sup> on May 21, 2010 (Saur 31, 1389). The GoIRA has a duty to submit its fifth report containing information about the implementation of the ICESCR in Afghanistan and the implementation of CESCR's recommendations on June 30, 2014 (Saratani 9, 1393).

*"The Committee [CESCR] notes with appreciation the contribution of the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission to the reporting process [of the GoIRA]."*

—Paragraph 3, Concluding Observations, CESCR, Forty-Fourth Meeting, May 21, 2010 (Saur 31, 1389)<sup>42</sup>

*"The Committee [CESCR] recommends that the state party [GoIRA] take the necessary steps to ensure that the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission receives adequate funds to perform all the functions set out in its mandates, in accordance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles, General Assembly resolution 48/134)."*

—Paragraph 44, Concluding Observations, CESCR, Forty-Fourth Meeting, May 21, 2010 (Saur 31, 1389)

### Shadow Report Submitted to UNCRC

The AIHRC presented its shadow report on the situation of children's rights in Afghanistan to UNCRC in September 2010 to assist the Committee in its assessment of the GoIRA's Report on CRC.

As a follow-up to the GoIRA's Report on CRC,<sup>43</sup> the Committee presented its List of Issues<sup>44</sup> to the GoIRA and requested that it provide answers to the issues raised by the Committee by November 19, 2010. An interactive meeting was held between the state and the committee in the office of High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva<sup>45</sup> on 18 January 2011. After reviewing the state report and comparing it with the AIHRC shadow report and the shadow report submitted by the civil society organizations, the

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<sup>41</sup>The Afghan delegation included the Deputies of MoJ, MoLSAMD, MoPH, and MoE; a representative from MoFA; and staff members of Afghanistan's diplomatic corps in Geneva.

<sup>42</sup> For more information, please see <http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/4c1732dc2.html> (English text).

<sup>43</sup>The GoIRA's Report to UNCRC available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/CRC.C.AFG.1.doc>

<sup>44</sup> List of Issues submitted by UNCRC to GoIRA available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/crc/docs/CRC-C-AFG-Q-1.doc>

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Committee sent specific recommendations to the state of Afghanistan regarding the protection and promotion of child rights. Recommendations include among others the need for the allocation of budget to the AIHRC, especially to its Child Rights Protection and Promotion unit. The State of Afghanistan is obliged to seek the ground for implementation of those recommendations and to report to the committee on the implementation of those recommendations in its report in 2016.

### **Information Provided to OHCHR on Reflection of Articles 19 and 20 of ICCPR in Afghan National Law**

Upon request by OHCHR, the AIHRC studied the reflection of Afghanistan's commitments under Articles 19 and 20 of ICCPR (right to freedom of opinion and expression and prohibition of propaganda and incitement of national, racial, and religious hatred) in the Afghan national law. The AIHRC's study found out that these provisions of ICCPR have been enshrined in the Afghan Constitution, APC, the Law on Labor, the Law on Mass Media, the Law on Police, the Law on Political Parties, the Law on Elections, and the Law on the Structure, Duties, and Mandate of the AIHRC. The information was provided for OHCHR.

### **Participation in Fifteenth Annual Meeting of APF and Provision of Information on Reproductive Rights in Afghanistan**

Commissioner Mr. Ahmad Zia Langari and Executive Director Mr. Mohammad Musa Mahmodi attended the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of APF in Bali, Indonesia, on August 3-5, 2010 (Asad 12-14, 1389) and briefed the meeting attendees on the AIHRC's performance in Afghanistan.<sup>46</sup> In this year's meeting, APF discussed its draft Strategic Plan (2011-2015), review of the International Coordinating Committee of National Human Rights Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) accreditation and General Observations, and thematic issues of common concern to APF members. All 17 APF member institutions, the newly established national human rights institutions of Bahrain, Bangladesh, and Oman, and representatives from OHCHR, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Inter-Governmental Commission on Human Rights, and Asian NGOs Network on National Human Rights Institutions attended this year's meeting.<sup>47</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> The AIHRC's report at APF15 available at <http://www.asiapacificforum.net/about/annual-meetings/15th-indonesia-2010/downloads/apf-member-reports/Afghanistan.doc> (English text)

<sup>47</sup> For more information, please see <http://www.asiapacificforum.net/about/annual-meetings/15th-indonesia-2010> (English text).

**Completing UNFPA questionnaire**

In addition, the AIHRC completed the questionnaire “Integration of Reproductive Rights into the Work of National Human Rights Institutions of APF”, and provided APF with information on the status of reproductive health rights in Afghanistan on August 15, 2010 (Asad 24, 1389). APF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) are implementing a project on reproductive rights in the Asia-Pacific region.

**Oral Statement to UNHRC**

The AIHRC made an oral statement in the Fifteenth Meeting of UNHRC on the report of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination.<sup>48</sup> In the oral statement, the AIHRC expressed its concern on the performance of PMSCs in Afghanistan and their involvement in cases of human rights violations. The AIHRC also urged UNHRC and the international community to further strengthen Afghan National Security Forces.

**Communication to the UNOHCHR on Human Rights of Afghans under Imprisonment or Detention in Iran**

In a communication, the AIHRC expressed its concern to Navanethem Pillay, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, about the discriminatory and degrading treatment of Afghan nationals by the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and about the lack of observance of fair trial standards. The AIHRC urged the High Commissioner for Human Rights to seriously follow up these cases of human rights abuses, prevent the continued and widespread violation of human rights of Afghans in Iran, and urgently employ the High Commissioner’s facilities and measures to effectively address these growing concerns.

**The Action Plan on Peace, Reconciliation and Justice is implemented.****Pressure is exerted and recommendations and support are provided to the Government to implement the Action Plan for Peace, Reconciliation and Justice.**

The AIHRC had an effective participation in the sessions of coordination group for transitional justice attended by 26 national and international institutions. One of the sessions of this group was held to prepare the charter of this group and build memorial

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<sup>48</sup>The AIHRC’s oral statement to UNHRC available at [http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010\\_eng/Eng\\_pages/Reports/Thematic/AIHRC%20Oral%20Statement%20delivered%20in%2015th%20Session%20of%20Human%20Rights%20Council,%20September%202010%20-%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.aihrc.org.af/2010_eng/Eng_pages/Reports/Thematic/AIHRC%20Oral%20Statement%20delivered%20in%2015th%20Session%20of%20Human%20Rights%20Council,%20September%202010%20-%20FINAL.pdf) (English text)

monuments. The representative of the AIHRC discussed the importance of memorials as a means of implementing the transitional justice process, and explained about the Action Plan for Peace, Reconciliation and Justice.

In close collaboration with TJCG, the AIHRC organized the first national gathering of war victims entitled “Victims Jirga for Justice” in order to stimulate discussion on issues related to peace, reconciliation, and justice. Over 100 victims and victim representatives from all periods of Afghanistan’s war and from different parts of the country participated in the gathering. On the second day of Victims’ Jirga for Justice, victims and victim representatives participated in a ceremony to commemorate war martyrs in Pul-e-Charkhi. The gathering was an opportunity for the victims and victim representatives to express their views and demands prior to the National Consultative Peace Jirga, which was extensively covered by the media.

The AIHRC held many awareness sessions with a number of civil society organizations, provincial councils and war victims and gave them necessary awareness in order to put pressure on the state to implement the Action Plan for Peace, Reconciliation and Justice.

The AIHRC held two separate sessions attended by members of Youth Department in Bamyan province (5 men, 10 women), religious scholars (ulama), teachers and influential figures (10 men and 10 women). During these two sessions the participants’ awareness was raised on Transitional Justice as well as on the State Action Plan for Peace, Reconciliation and Justice. As a result, the participants expressed their cooperation in implementation of this action plan and suggested that awareness raising programs should be launched regarding implementation of Translational Justice.

The AIHRC held two awareness raising session with the members of Provincial Council in Sar-e-Pul (5 people) and Samangan provinces (5 people). The awareness of participants on Peace, Reconciliation and Justice Action Plan as well as on Transitional Justice was increased. The Chairman of Provincial Council in Sar-e-Pul province demanded the establishment of advocacy committee in that province and stated that the government should not allow the culture of impunity to continue. The Chairman and members of the provincial council in Samangan province emphasized on annulment of any incentives and concession paid to anti-government forces.

In addition, the AIHRC held another session with civil society institutions in Jauzjan province which was attended by 6 men and 4 women. Information was presented on historical background of transitional justice in other countries and its need and mechanisms in Afghanistan. The participants demanded the AIHRC to conduct more awareness programs, especially for war victims.

Similarly, the AIHRC held a session with 14 members (13 men, 1 woman) of War Victims Association, civil society organizations and provincial council in Ningarhar province. During this session it was decided that continual efforts should be made for implementation of the Sate Action Plan.

### **Strategic Objective 5: Monitoring and Investigation:**

Making individual, national and international institutions in the country as well as the state accountable for protection and observation of Human Rights

<b>(Action Plan (1389) (2009/2010)</b>	
<p><b>Outcomes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Afghan people have increased enjoyment of human rights, in particular civil, political, socio-economic and cultural rights.</li> <li>• Increased public awareness and information about Government compliance with its national and international human rights obligations.</li> <li>• The treatment and conditions of prisoners, detainees and suspects has improved in prisons, detention centers, child correction centers, police custody centers and detention centers run by international security forces.</li> <li>• Increased public awareness and sensitization about the level and degree of corruption and its adverse and direct effect on the realization of human rights.</li> <li>• Increased access to justice, particularly by vulnerable persons including women, children and persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• Civilian casualties in armed conflict are decreased to the maximum extent possible.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Indicators</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Level of public awareness and number of reports about the Government's compliance with its national and international human rights obligations.</li> <li>• Degree to which AIHRC's recommended improvements in prisons, detentions, child correction centres, police custody centres and child/women's shelters have been implemented.</li> <li>• Percentage change in the number of torture cases in prisons and places of detention.</li> <li>• Number of illegally arrested, detained or imprisoned persons who are released.</li> <li>• Level of access, especially by vulnerable persons, including IDPs and disaster-affected persons to healthcare, schools, social assistance and other basic services.</li> <li>• Extent of measures to ensure equitable access to basic social services particularly by vulnerable persons and low-income groups.</li> <li>• Level and number of civil, political, socio-economic and cultural rights violations</li> <li>• Level of awareness about corruption and its adverse and direct effects on the realization of human rights.</li> <li>• Number of vulnerable persons consulting courts and having their cases resolved.</li> <li>• Extent of measures and facilities in judicial departments that support increased access of vulnerable persons to justice.</li> <li>• Degree to which civilian casualties have decreased</li> </ul>

#### **5.1 Afghan people have increased enjoyment of human rights, in particular civil, political, socio-economic and cultural rights.**



**5.1.1 Shadow, monitoring, research, situational and thematic reports are published and presented/disseminated nationally and internationally.**

**5.1.3 Field monitoring activities are conducted in order to assess and publicly report on the realization of civil and political rights during the electoral process.**

During 2010/1389, the AIHRC increased the awareness level of various segments of society on human rights by publishing research and thematic and monitoring reports. To this end, the AIHRC produced and published 16 thematic and research reports. The work on three research reports (violence against women, the situation of children, and the status of adequate housing) was started. The reports that were published included four research reports (on the corporal punishment of children in schools, the situation of child addicts in Afghanistan, the situation of widows in Afghanistan, and the situation of education in Afghanistan,) three reports on verification of political rights, the situation of prisons and detention centers in Afghanistan in 2009/1388, a report on the situation of human rights in 2009/1388, reports on the situation of courts, reports on children's rights situation (within the first six months), reports on the situation of women (within the first seven months), reports on the conflict between *kuchis* and rural dwellers, a joint AIHRC and UNAMA report on civilian casualties, and reports on Operation Mushtarak in Marja and Nadali. The majority of these reports were extensively covered by national and international media. Likewise the AIHRC's authority participated in press discussions and expressed the AIHRC's concerns regarding the findings of the reports.

### **The AIHRC monitored the second round of the election of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly**

The AIHRC started its monitoring of the Wolesi Jirga election from the first day of the campaign (Saratan 2) and continued until election day (27 of Sunbula). The Commission was fully prepared for the monitoring of political rights in the election process and all stages of the parliamentary election (registration, campaign and voting) entirely through 14 regional and provincial offices covering 28 provinces. AIHRC's observers monitored the 4 rights (the right to freedom of speech, the freedom of peaceful assembly, association, and freedom of movement) and the three principles (the principles of non-intimidation, non-discrimination and neutrality) were also monitored. And the AIHRC in the first month of the election campaign released its first report and then its second report prior to polling day and its third report was released after the election day. During the previous election the AIHRC monitored the exercise of political rights in close coordination and cooperation with UNAMA, but this time the AIHRC did it independently.

**Main Findings Based on Third Political Rights Reports**

In the first hours of the day (Sunbula 27, 1389) the AIHRC received numerous reports of attacks by armed opponents of the government. Polling centers were shelled and mine explosions took place in the areas close to these sites in different provinces, such as Nangarhar, Kunar, Kandahar, Kunduz, Baghlan, and Paktika.

Events of this type continued to occur on polling day in most parts of the country. According to the reports released later, insecurity resulted in less than 5% of the polling centers remaining closed across the country.

Unlike previous elections, in this year's parliamentary elections, there was more unrest in the north of the country. Information published by security forces responsible for the north indicate that on election day in nine northern provinces (Balkh, Jawzjan, Faryab, Kunduz, Sar-e Pul, Takhar, Baghlan, Badakhshan and Samangan) 103 attacks took place by the armed opposition of the government, as a result of which 22 civilians were killed and 49 others were injured.

Despite security concerns and threats across the country, Afghan citizens turned out for election in different parts of the country and went out to vote for their favorite candidates. But it goes without saying that security threats and the chaotic security situation reduced the level of turnout and caused a large number of citizens to be deprived of their right to vote. This on one side led to human rights violations and the denial of citizens right to participate in public events, and on the other side it followed by other negative impacts on legality of the election.

The level of female participation in the 2010/1389 parliamentary elections in the country has been different in different areas. In some provinces such as Uruzgan and Nuristan, women's participation level was very low. For example, observers of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission in Uruzgan province reported that during the first the half of election day, only 20 women participated in elections and voted. It has been reported that in some polling centers in Nuristan Province, no woman at all participated. But in some other parts of the country, the numbers of women voters have been remarkably high. For example, in the district center of Yakawlang and Chahardehi shool of Yakawlang District of Bamyān Province in the early hours of polling day, long

queues of women were formed. But in these two centers, because of a lack of polling stations, a number of women could not vote.

The AIHRC monitored 34 demonstrations and gatherings in Paktia, Badakhshan, Bamyan, Balkh, Qunduz, Nangarhar, Daikundi, Kabul, Takhar, Faryab, Ghor and Uruzgan provinces. These demonstrations have covered issues such as the killing of civilians and house searches by the international security forces, the conflict between the nomads and rural dwellers, protests against the authorities of Bamyan province, protests against the university problem in Takhar province, protests against the execution of Afghans in Iran, teachers' problems in Ghor province, protests against the practices of local authorities, election, administrative boundaries, citizenship cards and other local problems. All these events ended peacefully. The number, geographical spread and peacefulness of the events (demonstrations and protests) showed that civil and political rights of Afghans are relatively improved.

**The treatment and conditions of prisoners, detainees and suspects has improved in prisons, detention centers, child correction centers, police custody centers and detention centers run by international security forces.**

**Prisons, detention, police custody and child correction centers, women's/children's centers and judicial institutions are regularly monitored in order to assess human rights observance and protection.**

As a result of the AIHRC's monitoring, treatment of prisoners, detainees, suspects and those under police custody, detention centers, correction centers as well as detention centers run by the international security forces has improved and conditions in these areas have become better than before.

As a result of the AIHRC's monitoring, the living conditions of 60% of prisoners, detainees and people under custody has improved. The use of handcuffs and shackles has been reduced in detention centers, and the behavior of the prisons' officials, wardens and guards has also improved.

As a result of the the AIHRC's monitoring follow up meetings with numerous international organizations and government officials in order to solve identified problems in detention centers and prisons, the provision of access for inmates and those deprived of their freedom to adequate space, health facilities, education, food, drinking water, health, heating facilities, sports, library and other facilities has improved. These facilities were provided in the detention centers of Uruzgan, Badakhshan, Bamyan, Balkh, Maidan Wardak, Baghlan, Ghor, Nangarhar, Laghman, Herat, Daikundi, Sar-e Pul, Paktia, and Khost provinces.

Through regular monitoring of detention centers, prisons and police custody, the AIHRC freed 434 people (55 females, 379 males) who were illegally deprived of their freedom. Out of these 434 people, 142 people (30 females, 112 males) who were released had either completed their term of sentence or their legal status was compatible with the Presidential Decree on Pardon, but had not yet been released. 129 people (20 females, 109 males) who were released were detainees and 163 people (5 females and 158 males) were under police custody, that most of them were arrested and detained without any legal reason. Compared with previous year's report of 2009/1388, the present findings indicate a 43% rise in the number of monitoring missions conducted by the AIHRC, and a 60% rise in the release of persons (12% women, 48% men) who were illegally deprived of their freedom and detained.

The result was achieved by conducting 1661 monitoring missions to detention centers all over the country. Out of these 1661 missions, 374 missions were made to female detention centers (224 to prisons, 70 to detention centers, and 80 to police custody centers), and 1287 mission were made to male detention centers (264 to prisons, 518 to detention centers, 505 to police custody centers).

- During the AIHRC's monitoring of Nimroz prison, 10 inmates claimed their legal status was compatible with the Presidential Decree on Pardon and Commutation of Sentence, but have not been freed. The AIHRC's monitors followed up their cases in appeal courts and found out that their claims were valid. As a result of the AIHRC's follow-up 9 people were released on April 15, 2010 (Hamal 26, 1389), and one inmate was found to be entitled to a commutation of sentence.
- As a result of the AIHRC's follow-up for a new prison in Uruzgan, a new building was built by the Netherlands PRT. The building was made of three parts (men, women and children). Construction is 95% complete, and it will soon be inaugurated. With the inauguration of this prison the fundamental problems of detainees, such as adequate space and other facilities, will be resolved.
- In Bamyán Prison, a lack of training programs was a problem. This was resolved as a result of the AIHRC's efforts. The Ministry of Education launched literacy programs in this jail in Saratan (Jun/July). Also, as a result of efforts made by the AIHRC, vocational training is now provided in the Laghman Province prison.
- In Maidan Wardak province, the situation of prison and detention centers has improved. Now prisoners between the ages of 18-25 years are kept separately, whereas previously they had been held together with adults.
- As a result of efforts made by the AIHRC, the prisoners in the female jail of Badakhshan province are doing handicraft works like tailoring and sewing beads. Also, as a result of the efforts of the AIHRC, the Spanish PRT has built two new rooms along with a bathroom and toilet for female prisoners in Badghis province.

- As a result of continuous follow-ups by the AIHRC, female prisons in Nangarhar Province are now sprayed with insecticides, and its windows are sealed with fly screens to prevent insects from entering the rooms.
- Based on the recommendations presented by the AIHRC's monitors, blankets and heating facilities were provided for persons in custody in Baghlan Province detention centers, and female prisons in Ghor Province. The prison in Badakhshan Province has also been provided with 20 beds by the ICRC.
- Herat and Paktia female prisons were faced with a water shortage, and bathing and toilet hygiene problems. These problems were solved due to follow-ups by the AIHRC's monitors. Likewise, based on the AIHRC's monitors recommendations, work was begun on toilet and ceiling repairs in Balkh Province's female prison. This work continues.
- As a result of the efforts of the AIHRC, the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Badakhshan province provided one generator (22 KW) and one sewer cleaning machine for the general prison of this province.
- As a result of the regular follow-up and suggestions made by AIHRC's monitors to government and non-government organs, one equipped clinic was built for Kandahar Prison. Facilities and medicine for the clinic were provided by Wadan Institution. This clinic is now active in two sections - the general internal unit and the addiction treatment unit.
- In Nangarhar and Laghman women's prison, complaint was made about the shortcoming of heating stuffs and facilities. The problem was solved as a result of the follow-up of the AIHRC's monitors. Now both prisons are equipped with heating facilities. Also, as a result of the continuous monitoring of the AIHRC, sanitation, hygiene in Nangarhar women's prison is improved then before.
- As a result of the meetings conducted by the AIHRC's monitors with the head of the education department of Badakhshan. a literacy course was established at the prison in Badakhshan province.
- As a result of the AIHRC's activity, health status in prisons in Nangarhar, Ghor, Daikundi and Sar-e Pul provinces has improved (doors and windows were sealed with fly screens to prevent insects from entering the rooms).
- Paktia Prison was lacking sports and recreational equipment, but as a result of AIHRC's monitoring, a volleyball field and a library was built in the prison.
- The female prison in Khost province faced with the problem of lacking access to drinking water. As a result of AIHRC's monitoring, water tankers with covered tops were installed and the detainees are using this water. In the female prison of

Paktia Province, water well have been dug in the prison yard, a water pump has been installed in the well, and water is distributed for detainees in all rooms.

- In the female prison of Daikundi Province, one man was previously responsible for guarding the prison and detention center. Now, as a result of the AIHRC's monitoring, four women are employed to guard this prison.

The AIHRC monitoring showed that improvements in the situation of prisons and detention center buildings have been made in most provinces of Afghanistan. Nonetheless, it does not completely meet minimum standards. The number of rooms, in particular, is insufficient in prisons and detention centers. Therefore, the high level of crowding indicates that detention centers were not complying with imprisonment regulations. The following statistics indicate some improvement compared to the previous year. However, a large gap still exists. According to statistics obtained, 39.6% of floor space is proportional to the number of inmates, 18.6% of detainees are separated from other prisoners, 3.7% of men and women are kept in separate premises, 13.3% of prisoners between the ages of 18 and 25 years are kept separate from adults, 9.1% of those deprived of their freedom are kept in solitary confinement, 4.4% of detainees are divided according to category of committed crimes, 17.4% of those women deprived of their freedom are guarded by women, only 0.6% of women in detention centers are sexually abused.

During 2010/1389 new prison buildings were built in Daikundi, Uruzgan and Bamiyan provinces. The construction work on Daikundi prison has been completed, and the work on Bamyán and Uruzgan prisons are ongoing. With the construction of these prisons, most of the prisoners' problems will be solved in terms of sufficient space and other facilities.

The findings obtained as a result of the frequent monitoring made to the detention centers (prisons and detention centers), and interviews conducted with officials, indicate that 62% of prisons and detention centers have been state buildings and another 38% are non-state buildings (9.5% are non-state buildings, 28.5% are rented buildings).

The detention and police custody centers that were monitored by the AIHRC indicate that (34% belonged to the Ministry of Interior, 54.9% to the Ministry of Justice, 10.8% to NDS and 0.3% to the Ministry of Defense and other authorities). The percentage of people in confinement and those deprived of their freedom is as such: 2.8% in custody, 21% under detention, and 76.2% in prisons (5% women and 94.8% men).

The AIHRC monitoring observed that the use of handcuffs and shackles had reduced to 52.1% in detention centers and prisons. This is a reduction compared to last year, but is

still high. Water shortage and lack of portable water, a lack of heating facilities, and a lack of toilets and bathrooms were the main problems reported in most detention centers. Likewise, some prisons lacked clinics, educational programs, sports facilities, and a lack of professional training programs.

The AIHRC conducted 337 monitoring missions to child correction centers all over the country. As a result, 114 children (102 boys 12 girls) who had been illegally detained were identified and freed from detention centers.

- During two monitoring missions to child correction centers in Kunduz Province 10 children of different ages (10, 11, and 12) who had been illegally detained were freed as a result of the follow-up by the AIHRC, and were handed over to their parents and relatives.
- During a monitoring mission to child correction centers in Balkh province, two of the children complained about being threatened and even beaten by one of the officials. The head of the children's complaint center confirmed the childrens allegations, and promised to draw the responsible person's attention to the point and make him committed to correct his behavior. As a result, the commander of the unit came to AIHRC's regional office in Balkh and expressed his remorse and promised not to use violence against children. He insisted that one of the children should marry one of his soldiers. After intervention by the AIHRC, the said commander along with his men were removed from the post in that child correction center.
- A child in the Badakhshan Province child correction centre was suffering from stomach and eye problems, and the center lacked a health service. As a result of the AIHRC's follow-up, and with the cooperation of Child Protection Action Network, the child was treated. Also, based on the recommendations of the AIHRC's monitors, CPAN bought 700 kg (100 Ser) of firewood from his own budget to heat children's rooms in the said center.
- Five children who were under detention in the Paktia Province child correction center complained about not having a defense lawyer. As a result of the efforts of the AIHRC's regional office in Paktia and with the cooperation of the International Legal Foundation in Afghanistan (ILFA), a lawyer was appointed for them.
- In the Herat Province child correction center, some children complained of abuse by older children above 18 years of age. As a result of efforts made by a committee composed of representatives of the AIHRC, forensic medicine, public health, a children 's attorney lawsuit, UNAMA, and the Child Protection Action Network, a decision was made to transfer the older children to another prison. As a result, about 23 children were transferred to the prison. Similarly, children under detention in the Herat child correction center previously complained of

inappropriate behavior of the officials, a lack of facilities, and the poor quality of food. The AIHRC's monitors followed up the problem and after several meetings the problem was resolved. The officials' behavior with children and the food quality was improved. Also, in meetings with CPAN, some firewood, blankets, and food products were provided by Zafar Corps.

- In the child correction center of Faryab Province, a girl was illegally sentenced to three years detention. This case was followed up and was raised in the meetings with Children Protection Action Network. After the investigation, a qualified court declared her innocent and freed her.
- In the child correction center in Nangarhar and Daikundi Provinces, the children under detention complained that their beds were too old. So the problem was followed up by the AIHRC's monitors during several meetings with the relevant officials and other organizations. As a result, new beds were bought and distributed for 60 children by the ICRC

During 2010/1389, the AIHRC advocated for improvement and increased care within orphanages. Some of the problems and deficiencies in the orphanages were resolved as a result of the follow up by AIHRC' monitors. Similarly, 331 monitoring missions were conducted to orphanages across the country.

- A Laghman Province orphanage faces a space problem, due to the lack of a specific orphanage building. The AIHRC's monitors raised this issue with the provincial authorities and followed it up. As a result, the governor allocated a piece of land for the orphanage building.
- Children in a Kunduz province orphanage were complaining of not having mosquitoes nets. As a result of the follow-up of the AIHRC, this problem was solved and now the children are equipped with mosquito nets.
- Children in Alawuddin Orphanage in Kabul complained of the poor quality of food and some children complained of the inappropriate behavior by orphanage officials. As a result of the AIHRC's follow-up, the behavior of orphanage officials has improved and the problem of food has also been solved.
- In Khwaja Abdullah Ansari Orphanage in Herat City, children complained of inappropriate treatment by officials. As a result of the AIHRC's follow-up this problem was solved and the officials' behavior has improved. Likewise, during monitoring, it was found that the orphanage canal system was destroyed and its tabs had gone out of order. The AIHRC's monitors raised the problem with the head of Herat Department of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled. As a result of continued follow-up this problem was successfully solved. Now all the pipes have water and bathrooms are clean in the orphanage.



- As a result of the meetings conducted with the head of Jawzjan Department of Labor, Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled and other officials in Jawzjan province, a computer training course was held in the orphanage. Now the orphanage children are engaged with computer lessons.
- A Badakhshan province orphanage is located in a rented house. The members of Child Protection Action Network have held several meetings to get a piece of land for the orphanage. Eventually, the governor of the province allocated a piece of land for the construction of an orphanage building.
- The sanitation and hygiene condition of a Farah Province orphanage was poor. The AIHRC's monitors raised this issue with the official of the orphanage and the Department of Labor and Social Affairs. As a result, immediate action was taken on the same day and detergents were distributed. Likewise, a Herat Orphanage was faced with a shortage of fuel for keeping the rooms warm. The AIHRC's monitors raised this question with the Department of Labor and Social Affairs and fuel was purchased immediately and the problem was solved.
- As a result of the AIHRC's follow-up and efforts, and with the cooperation of Child Protection Action Network and Department of Labor and Social Affairs of Balkh province, Balkh Orphanage transportation problems were solved. ISAF forces bought a vehicle for this orphanage.
- As a result of continuous follow-up by AIHRC's monitors, construction work of an orphanage building in Ghor Province began in mid 2010/1389 with a financial donation by the PRT. It is hoped that the building will be utilized in 2011/1390

During 2010/1389, the AIHRC conducted 136 monitoring missions to women's shelters. As a result of efforts by the AIHRC, living conditions, health conditions, and the behavior of guards and staff of the shelters are improved for the affected and vulnerable women, compared to the past.

- A number of women in Nangarhar and Faryab women's shelters had no lawyers. They asked the AIHRC to help them in this regard. The AIHRC, with the cooperation of other legal institutions, introduced defense lawyers for them.
- The women's shelter in Faryab Province had no female guards. As a result of the efforts by the AIHRC, a female police officer from the Faryab Province Police Department was introduced and assigned as a guard.
- In a Nangarhar Province women's shelter, a woman had no lawyer to follow up on her case. The AIHRC made contact with the Qanoon Ghoshtonkai Institution

(Legalists), discussed the matter over, and consequently a person was appointed as a defense lawyer for the woman.

- As a result of the AIHRC's efforts the behavior of guards and staff of the women's shelter in Nangarhar Province with the affected women living in this center has improved.

### **Increased public awareness and sensitization about the level and degree of corruption and its adverse and direct effect on the realization of human rights**

During 2011/1390, the AIHRC identified and recorded 140 cases of human rights violations caused by corruption in the judiciary system and law enforcement, out of which 29 cases were resolved successfully as a result of the monitoring and follow up of the AIHRC.

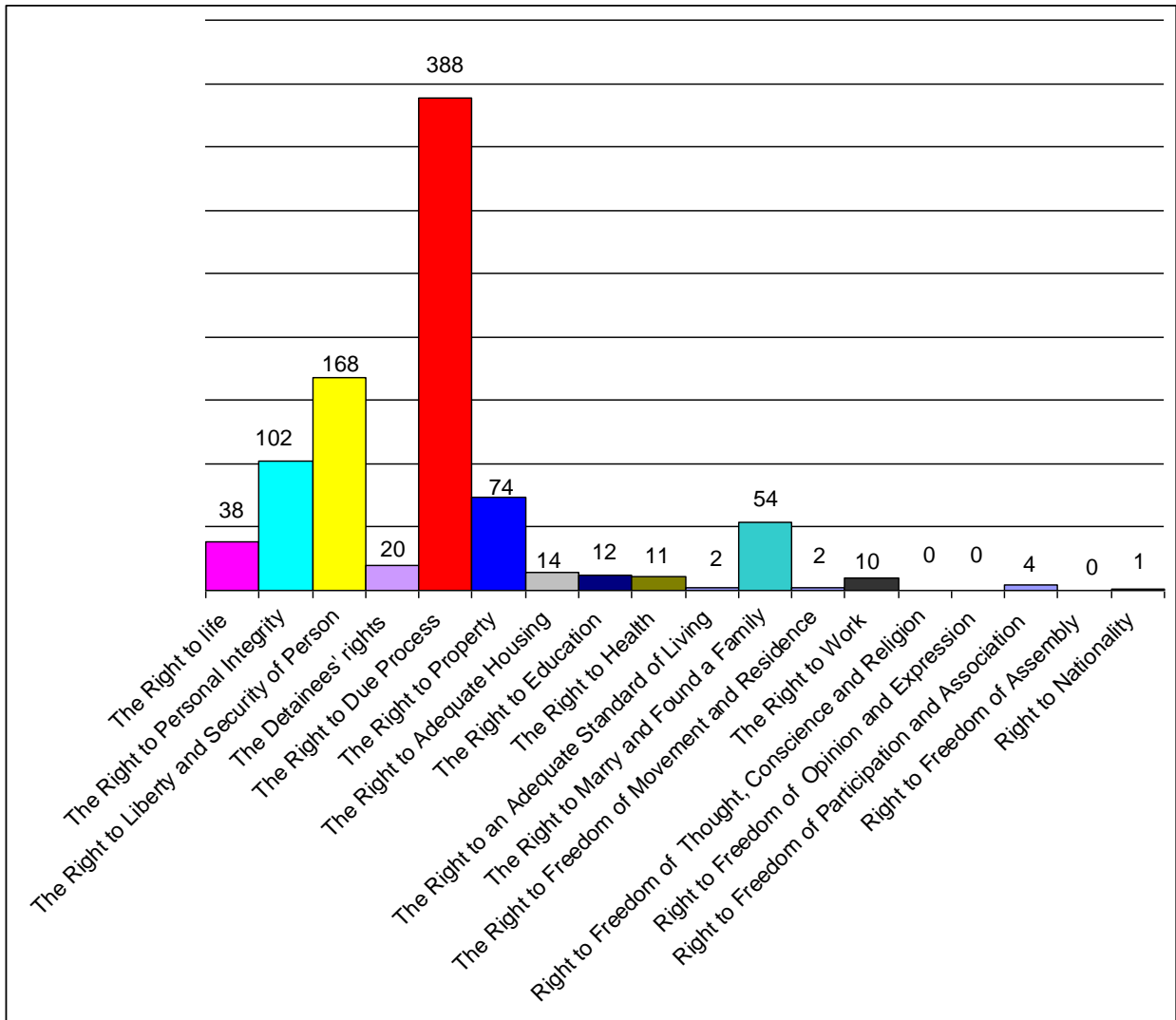
The AIHRC closely worked with the Presidential Special Advisory Board for Senior Appointments (PSABSA). In this regard the AIHRC sent about 37 letters providing information about the human rights background of about 27 persons who were about to be appointed to high-level government positions. Mol sent 14 letters to AIHRC about private security companies, and the AIHRC sent seven letters to Mol containing information about private security companies and human rights records of different individuals. This helped the government to make an informed decision on appointing or issuing licenses to the applicants of high ranking positions at the government or operating in the field that would affect the promotion and protection of human rights.

The AIHRC, with the assistance of the European Union Police Mission (EUPOL) and GTZ began making preparations for the establishment of a Police Ombudsman Office in the structure of the AIHRC to address citizens' complaints against the National Police. To this end, with the employment of an expert, legal documents for the complaint office and oversight of police were provided. These legal documents have discussed and assessed the existing mechanisms of oversight of police, ToR, legal status and the establishment of a complaint office and oversight of police. This office will be officially opened in the near future and its practical work will begin soon. It will play a fundamental role in the reduction of human rights violations stemming from corruption in the police organs.

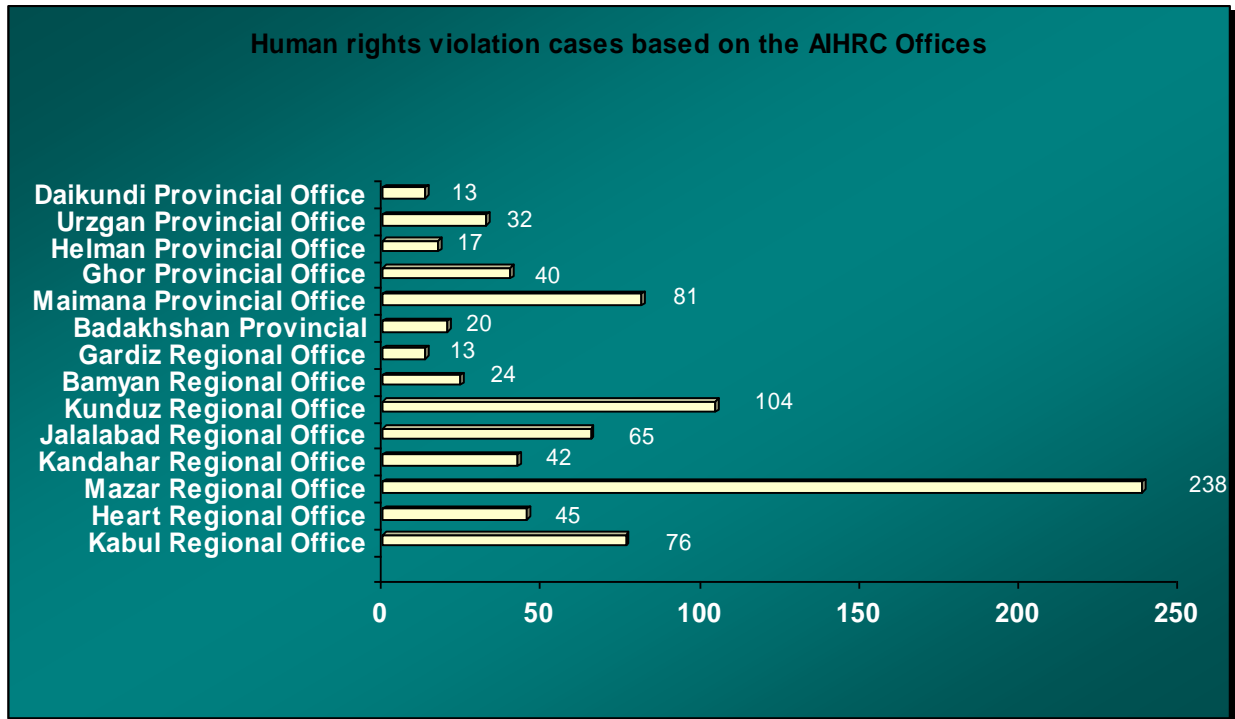
### **Increased access to justice, particularly by vulnerable persons including women, children and persons with disabilities.**

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC received and recorded 2,551 complaints (961 by women and 1,590 by men) involving 900 cases of human rights violations. The AIHRC, despite many challenges, successfully investigated 761 cases of human rights violations (761

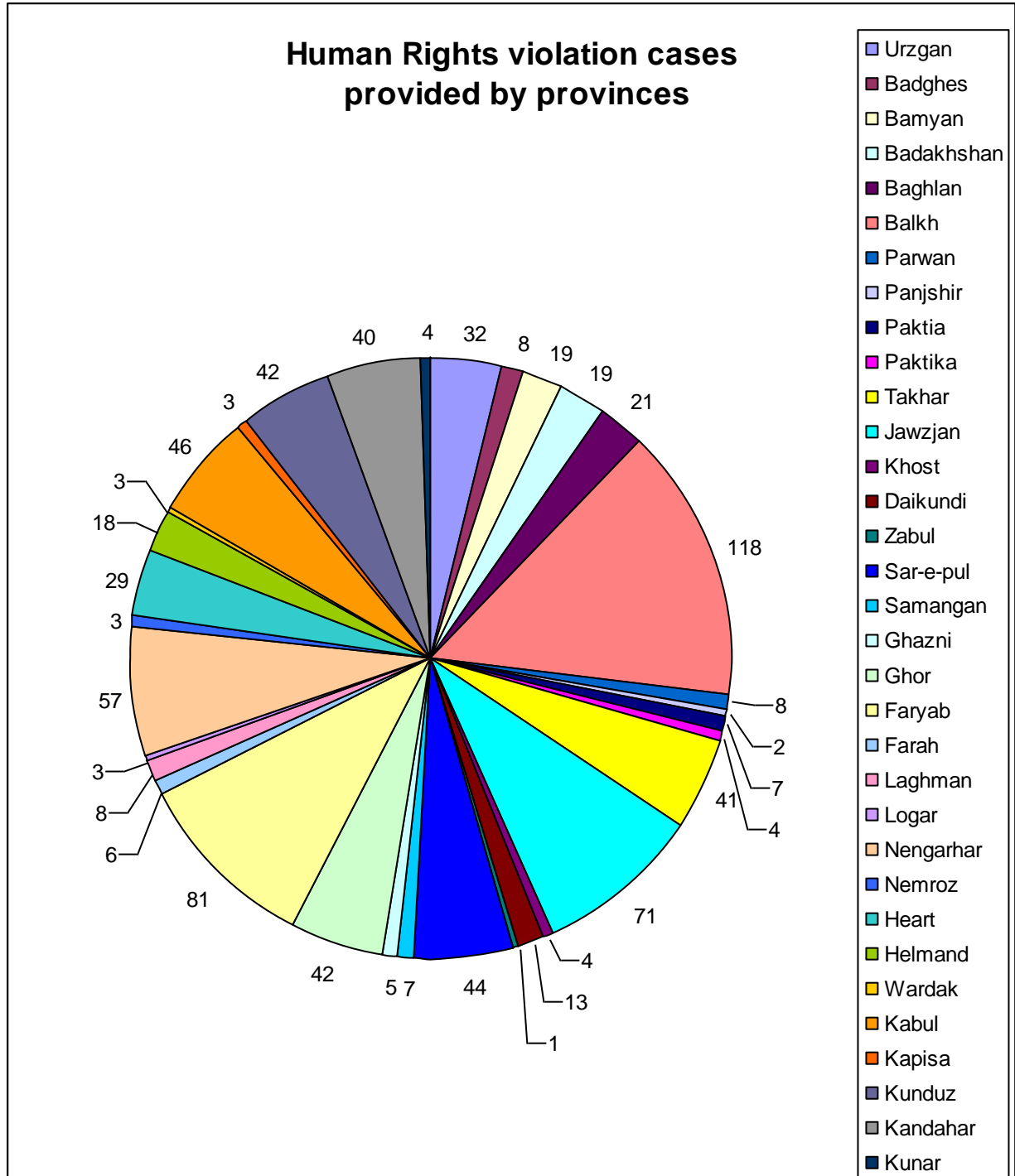
out of 900) and resolved 42% of them (355 cases). The rest, 95 cases (11.7% ) were closed, and the remaining 44.3% (344) were being followed.



The reports received from the regional and provincial offices indicate that during 2010/1389, 38 cases of violation of the right to life, 102 cases of violation of the right to person dignity, 168 cases of the right to personal security, 388 cases of the right to fair trial, 74 cases of violation of the right to property and 54 cases of the right to marriage were repeatedly violated. Among them, violation of the right to due process with 388 cases is the highest and violation of the right to citizenship with 1 case is the lowest violation of rights reported to the AIHRC.



During 2010/1389, the AIHRC recorded 2,765 cases of violence against women through its regional and provincial offices which showed a 22% increase compared to 2009/1388. The increase in the figure of violence against women indicates that women are becoming more aware of their rights and more determined to seek protection. The cases include other types of violence, such as beating (538), running away from home (292), refusal to pay alimony (276), suicide (261), self-immolation (237) and forced marriage (144). The AIHRC recorded, investigated and followed cases of violence against women, in which 50% resulted in mediation, 20% resulted in sentences to perpetrators, 5% resulted in annulations of any legal consequences and the remainder are being followed.



According to human rights violations chart provided by provinces, Balkh province, with 118 violations of human rights was the highest, and Panjshir province, with two recorded violations of human rights, was the lowest.

**Increased public awareness and information about the government's compliance with its national and international human rights obligations**

**Increased public awareness and sensitization about the level and degree of corruption and its adverse and direct effect on the realization of human rights.**

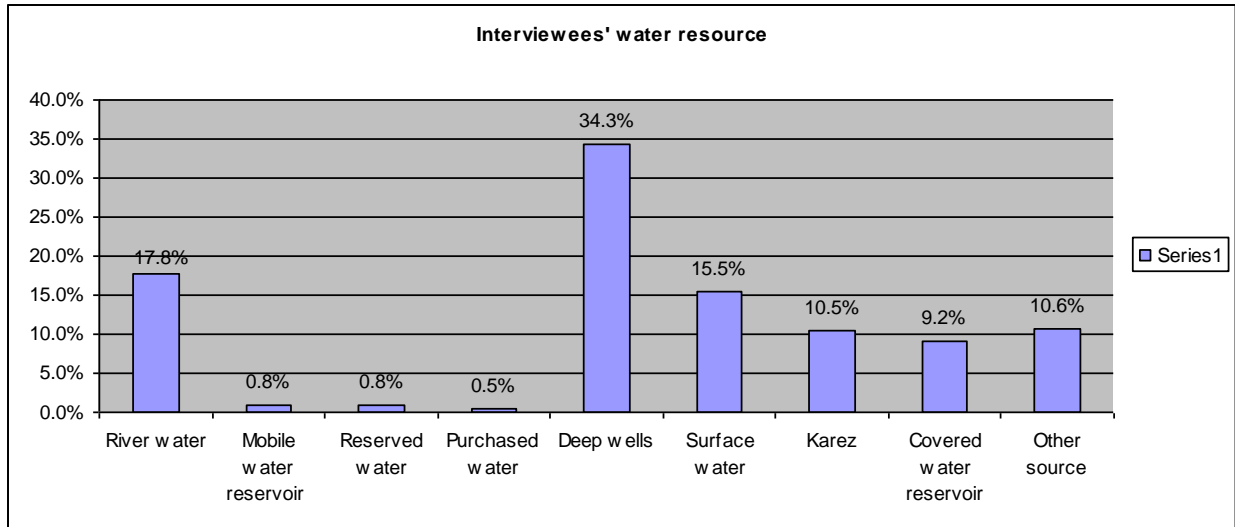
**Field monitoring of socio-economic and cultural rights including provision of basic rights such as the right to education, health and food and implementation of Afghanistan's Millennium Development Goals is regularly conducted in order to assess and publicly report on the Government's implementation of its national and international obligations and commitments.**

### **Assessment of Economic, Social, Cultural, Civil and Political Rights Situation**

The AIHRC's field monitoring team conducted 432 field monitoring missions in 124 districts and 27 provinces. In these monitoring missions 7,505 persons including 3,685 women (49.1%) and 3,820 men (50.9%) were individually interviewed. 97.5% of the total interviewees had families. Field monitoring findings across the country indicate that 59.8% of the interviewees who have families, also owe debts. The reasons for their indebtedness are stated as follows: 64.8% for food items and clothing, 3.3% for the burial and prayer ceremonies of the their relatives, 3.6% investment for work and business, 14.0% for wedding costs, 8.9% for building or buying houses, and 5.3% for other reasons. Overall, the finding shows that the numbers of indebted families were decreased by around 3.5% compared to the previous year's data.

37% of the primary income of families was stated by the interviewees to be earned from agriculture, 2.1% financial assistance from abroad, and 60.4% from other sources. Similarly, among those whose main incomes are earned from the sources other than agriculture are as follows: 18.2% fixed duty, 19.3% private self-employed works, 8.4% vocational daily laborers, 46.9% non-vocational daily workers, and 7.2% ensured from other sources.

In terms of access to health services, 19.2% of people had access to hospitals, 69.4% to government clinics and institutes, 5.9% to private health services, 0.8% to the midwives/trained nurses, 4.0% to local midwives, and 0.6% to other health services. In addition, 8.1% of children and 4.8% of mothers in the families that were interviewed by the AIHRC during the previous year died due to complications while giving birth.

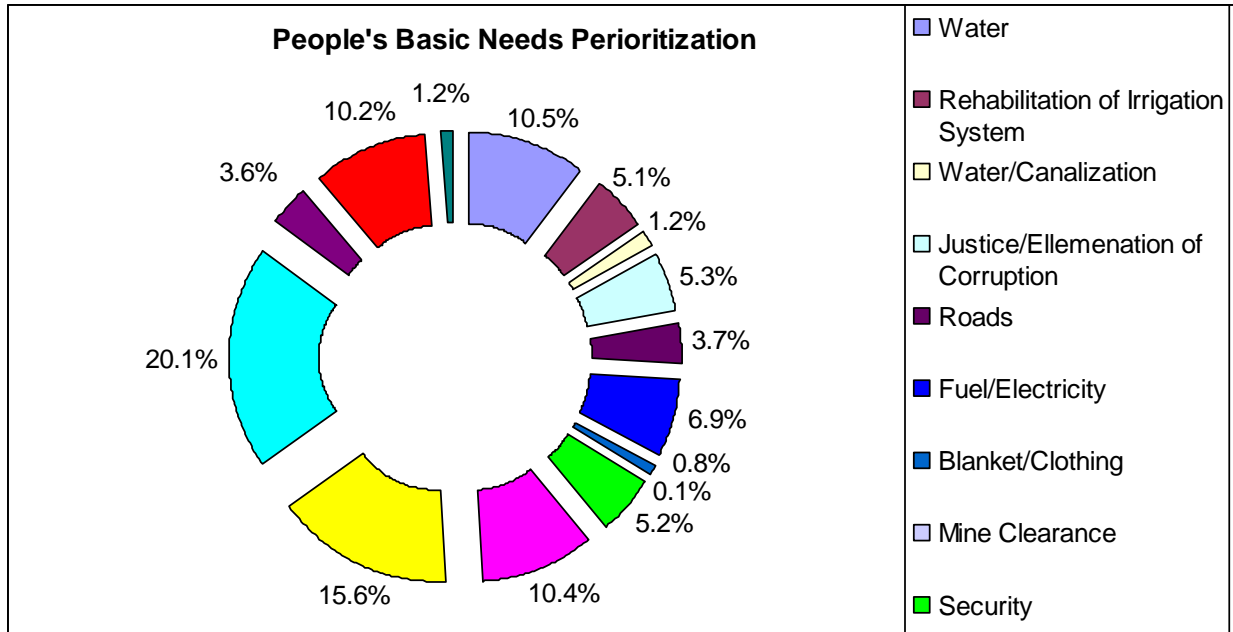


Furthermore, the AIHRC conducted 394 child rights field-monitoring missions, based on which, 4,868 children (2,429 girls, 2,439 boys) were interviewed. The findings show that children's access to education had improved. Of the children who were interviewed, 97.6% of children had access to public schools, 1.0% to private schools, 0.6% to Madrasas, and 0.8% home schools.

307 of the interviewed children (4.01%) were forced into underage marriages, of which 24.3% were exchanged for another bride/groom, 1.3% were married to resolve conflict, 67.3% to resolve economic problems, and 7.0% for other reasons.

Field monitoring findings indicated that 72.8% of people live in inherited houses, 4.2% in rented houses, 13.2% purchased houses, 7.6% in friends' and relatives' houses, 1.7% in houses that are occupied without permission, 0.4% remain in tents, and the rest have lived in other places.

Of all interviewees, 24.3% were returnees, 6.2% internal displaced persons (IDPs) and the remaining 69.5% of them were inhabitants of their own localities. Types of returnees to the country include 24.5% whose return is supported, 17.5% deported, and the remaining 58% returned willingly to the country. Host countries from where Afghan refugees had returned include 70.9% from Pakistan, 26.6% from Iran and 2.5% from other countries.



The HRFM findings showed that children faced problems such as hard labor, lack of sufficient access to quality education, lack of school or long distances to school, poor quality of education, lack of teaching materials, forced marriages (especially underage marriages), hostile customs and traditions, lack of health services, lack of access to national identification cards, and different ty[es of violence. According to findings obtained by the observers of child rights, 14 human rights violations (12 cases from child rights field monitoring, and two cases from correction centers) were received and investigated in coordination meetings, and referred to judiciary organs.

The AIHRC, in addition to conducting field monitoring missions, monitored the situation of deportees from Iran in the Islam Qala border (Herat) and the Silk Port (Nimruz Province). The AIHRC’s findings indicate that in 2010/1389, 88,554 persons were deported through the Silk Port border in Zaranj. This included 5,960 families (5,459 from the Silk Port and 501 from Islam Qala border) Of the total number of individuals deported, 17,409 were men, and 1,912 were women, and 7,145 were children. The remaining 234,828 persons had no dependents, and had entered Iran illegally but were deported.

The AIHRC interviewed 3,686 deportees in 2010/1389. This included 2,539 in Silk Port, and 1,147 at the Islam Qala border. 1,361 women and 2.325 men were interviewed at the Zaranj Border.

Of the total deportees who were deported in 2010/1389, 33,266 people (29,409 from Silk Port and 3875 from Islam Qala border), received financial, and in kind service and assistance including health services provided by partner institutions such as UNHCR, IOM, and DoRR. Out of the total interviewees made by the AIHRC, 73 cases of human



rights abuses of human rights by the Islamic Republic of Iran were recorded. The cases were submitted to the relevant authorities after the completion of NFF.

The following are some examples:

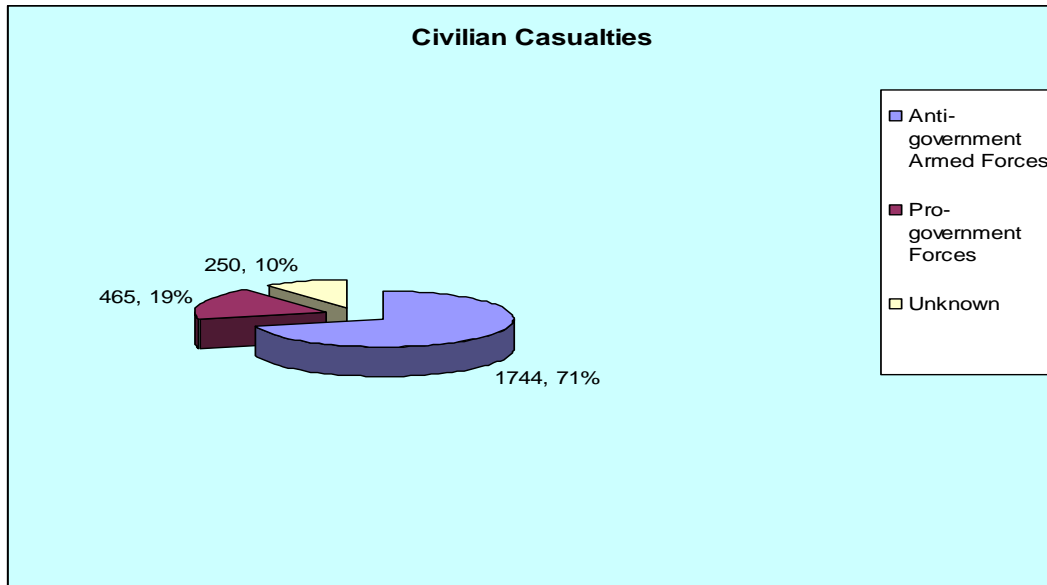
- Expulsion of men without their families (and their families are left in Iran).
- Expulsion of people with legal residency cards.
- Expulsion of families without their household belongings
- Expulsion of individuals and families without allowing them to settle their accounts and financial issues
- Expulsion of the injured while necessary treatment was needed and had not been provided for them.
- Expulsion of families without previous notice.
- Afghans are injured during the journey and on the way to Afghanistan, for example being shot by the police and expelled when injured.
- Beating and torture of Afghans in detention by the police and in detention centers by the officials, without any reason.
- Arrest and detention of Afghan citizens in poor and inappropriate places such as containers and narrow, dark and small rooms.
- Withholding the basic and necessary food and water from Afghan detainees in the camps and in police custody centers.
- Lack of detainee's access to basic health services in detention centers.
- Lack of detainee's access to family contacts.
- Forced and unpaid works over a number of Afghans in detention centers and police check points.
- Insulting and humiliation of Afghan citizens by the police and staff of the camps.
- Physical punishment of Afghan detainees in the camps by the staff of the camps without any reason.

**Civilian casualties in armed conflict are decreased to the maximum extent possible.**

The AIHRC monitored and investigated cases involving conflict-related civilian casualties. In this reporting period, 2,459 civilians lost their lives as a result of armed conflicts, and 3,396 others were injured. The number of casualties indicates a 68.9% rise compared to that of 2009, in which 1,456 deaths were confirmed. In terms of perpetrators, the AIHRC's findings represent a 7.7% (1,744 people, 71% of total) increase in the level of civilian casualties caused by anti-government forces and a 6.9% (465 people, 19%) decrease in civilian casualties caused by the pro-government forces and 250 (10%) by unknown individuals in 2010/1389.

Among the total civilian deaths, 1,475 were men, 222 were women, 408 were children and 354 others were unknown. Similarly, of 339 injured, 1,832 were men, 205 were women, 563 were children and 796 others were unknown. In this reporting period,

civilian casualties in the month of Asad (July/August) rose to its highest level with 363 deaths, and in the months of Hoot (February/March) with 128 deaths, it rests at the lowest level.



During 2010/1389 the Special Investigation Unit of the AIHRC, investigated 6 cases of civilian casualties. Of these, 3 cases were linked to aerial bombardments carried out by Coalition Forces in (Sarkani district of Kunar province, Khvgyany district of Nangarhar, Higal village of Ghazi Abad district of Kunar province), which resulted in the documentation and follow up with the international forces.

Similarly the SIT unit investigated 2 cases of search and seizure/night raid carried out in Kondolan village of Shah Wali Kot district of Kandahar province and Kooshkak village of Sorkh Road district of Nangarhar province, and one case of suicide and killing of innocent people in Kabul Bank.

After four years of continued efforts, including discussions with senior military officials of the United States and the working committee of conflict-related prisoners, with the cooperation of civil society organizations to put pressure on the United States of America, the AIHRC succeeded in signing an agreement with Joint Task Force 435 (JTF) of US in April 2011, concerning visits and monitoring of Parwan detention facility in Parwan (DFIP), run by the U.S. forces. Dr. Samar and fellow Commissioners had their first monitoring visit to DFIP and the AIHRC staff conducted the second round of monitoring based on the agreement made between the AIHRC and JTF-435. As a result, the AIHRC produced two reports on the condition of prisoners in DFIP and shared and followed this up with the Coalition forces.

## **Challenges and lessons learned**

### **Challenges:**

Despite all achievements, the AIHRC faced numerous challenges in pursuing its objectives in 1389. During the year, the security situation deteriorated more than previous year. Increased insecurity had a negative and somewhat direct impact on the AIHRC's programs and activities, as well as inflicting painful harm to the staff of AIHRC. During the year, the AIHRC lost its child rights Commissioner Hamida Barmaki, her children, and husband as a result of a suicide attack.

The AIHRC also encountered a substantial budget deficit in 2010/1389, a major challenge hampering realization of AIHRC goals. The budget deficit the AIHRC faced construed about half of the annual budget. The impact was two-fold. First, it caused postponement in the payment of staff salary. Second, it forced the AIHRC to suspend some of its programs. In 2010/1389 other external challenges, for example, the government's lack of interest and political will in the promotion of human rights, rampant and wide spread corruption, especially in judicial organs, and abuse of power, lack of rule of law and continuation of a culture of impunity remained as major obstacles the AIHRC had to face.

During this year, due to the deteriorating state of security, expansion of conflict, culture of impunity and lack of rule of law, human rights abuses of women and children continued. Horrifying cases of violence against women such as rape and trafficking of children continued to rise. Women and children were killed as a result of attacks on civilian areas. In addition, 2010/1389 was the deadliest year for the civilians in the country. This year, more than 2,459 Civilians were killed, 70 percent of which were caused by the armed opposition of the government, and 20 percent to the international forces.

Weak governance and prolonged political crises and disputes over the result of the Wolesi Jirga Election contributed to an over all situation of human rights protection and promotion of human rights. Uncertainties in this regard had a negative impact on the operation of local and central government to provide public services to the people.

### **Lessons learned:**

In 2010/1389, the AIHRC learned many lessons. In relation to the budget, the AIHRC demonstrated a better and effective planning to implement its monitoring, protection and promotion programs. Better and effective planning by identifying areas of programs that would not be affected by the budget limitations helped the AIHRC to diminish the serious effects on the AIHRC's programs. This has helped the AIHRC to have better

planning in place for the next year and to avoid financial problems if the donors commitment to provide financial support to the AIHRC slows.

Flexibility, communication, participatory planning, sharing and flow of information among and within the AIHRC's units and offices were crucial in doing so. Another important lesson learned by the AIHRC was its result-based programming approach that helped the AIHRC to be more focused, efficient, and effective in implementing its program.

Other important lessons which would be repeated was the AIHRC's approach to reach out to various categories and different groups of people, civil society, and various advocacy networks in order to achieve its five goals. The AIHRC will maintain this approach in formulating and carrying out its programs next year.

The AIHRC received and placed a number of intern students in the commission, who had good interaction with staff members. Tapping on the skills and talent of interns, the AIHRC utilized these resources very effectively and efficiently. The AIHRC, in assigning international consultants to its program, learned that provision of a designated team would increase the efficiency and transfer of knowledge to the AIHRC.

The AIHRC noticed that its advocacy efforts, at a national and international level, were very effective in drawing the attention of the Government authorities, CSOs and international stakeholders in the areas of human rights in Afghanistan.

## APPENDIX 1: List of Publications

**Four-Year Strategic Plan and Action Plan (1392-1389):** Pashto 500 copies, Dari 500 copies, English 200 copies.

### Magazines, pamphlets and books:

- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Hamal 1389 (March/April, 2010), 25,000 copies
- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Sawr 1389 (April/May, 2010), 25,000 copies
- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Jawza 1389 (May/June, 2010), 20,000
- Human Rights Commission monthly, Saratan 1389, Dari and Pashto (June/July, 2010), 20,000
- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Asad 1389 (July/August, 2010), Dari and Pashto, 20,000
- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Sunbula 1389 (September/October, 2010), Dari and Pashto, 20,000
- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Mizan 1389 (October/November, 2010), Dari and Pashto, 20,000
- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Aqrab 1389 (November/December), Dari and Pashto, 20,000
- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Qaws 1389 (December/January, 2011), Dari and Pashto, 20,000
- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Jadi, 1389 (January/February, 2011), Dari and Pashto, 20,000
- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Dalw 1389 (February/March, 2011), Dari and Pashto, 20,000
- Human Rights Commission's monthly magazine, Hoot 1389 (March/April, 2011), Dari and Pashto, 20,000
- Mojda (Good news), children's magazine, number III, 8000 Edition
- Mojda (Good news), children's magazine, (No 4 - 10) Dari and Pashto, 42,000 copies
- Mojda (Good news), children's magazine, (No 11-12), Dari and Pashto, 12,000 copies
- The Constitution and Law on the Structure, Duties and Mandate of the AIHRC, pamphlet, Uzbek, 4000 copies
- Human rights of persons with disabilities, pamphlets, Dari, 30,000 copies
- Man in Dari Literature, books, Dari, 1000

**Reports:**

- Annual Report 1389 (2009/2010), English 1000 copies
- Situation of Education in 1387 (2007/2008), Dari 2000 copies
- Situation of Children in 2007 and 2008 (2008/2009), Dari 2000 copies
- Report on Human Rights Situation in 1388 (2008/2009), Dari and Pashto, 1200 copies
- Research Report on the Situation of Widows in 1388 (2008/2009), Dari, 1500 copies
- Research Report on the Situation of Education in 1388 (2008/2009), Dari, 1000 copies
- Research Report on the Situation of Young Women in the Family in 1388 (2008/2009), Dari, 1000 copies
- Investigation Report on the Situation of Child addict in Afghanistan in 1388, Dari, 1000 copies

**International Human Rights Documents:**

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Islam, Pashtu, 4000 copies
- Declaration of Human Rights pamphlets, 10000 copies
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in Pasha-e 3000 copies
- All Universal and Islamic Declaration of Human Rights 10,000 copies

**Posters and Brochures:**

- Persons with disabilities can actively participate in all areas, Dari, 3000 Edition
- Why do we vote, posters, Dari and Pashto, 5600 copies
- The right to vote, brochures, Dari, 10,000 copies

**Billboards:**

- Election an appropriate opportunity to access civil and political rights, 10 pieces, Dari and Pashto
- Election an appropriate bed for national understanding, public participation and providing ground for the removal of discrimination, prejudice, and respecting public's rights in society, 10 pieces, Dari and Pashto
- Choosing competent and efficient representatives may only be possible with your participation in the elections, 10 pieces, Dari and Pashto
- Be careful! Vote only those who respect justice and human rights, 10 pieces, Dari and Pashto

**Information Handout:**

- Information Handout about the AIHRC, Dari, 500 copies

**APPENDIX 2: List of participation in regional and international sessions and meetings**

1-11 Hamal 1389 (March/April, 2010), America: Mr. Ahmad Nader Naderi, the spokesman of the AIHRC and Commissioner for Transitional Justice, participated in "Global Leadership and Public Policy in the twenty-first century,". It was held by Harvard University.

3-5 Hamal 1389 (March/April/2010), Switzerland: Dr Sima Samar, head of the AIHRC, attended "the twenty-third meeting of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions to promote and protect human rights," United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights held this meeting

17 -17 Hamal1389 (March/April, 2010), Denmark: Mr. Shokrollah Danish, Financial Officer of the AIHRC, the "training course on Financial Management and Good Governance,". Scholarship Center Dnyda related to Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark held this training course.

18 Hamal, 1389 (March/April, 2010), Canada: Dr. Sima Samar, head of the AIHRC, the "Ceremony for granting of the National Assembly of Canada," he shared. The ceremony was held in Canada.

22-26 Hamal 1389 (March/April, 2010), Jordan: Mr. Mohamed Moussa Mahmoud, Executive Director, Mr. Abdul Qader Rahimi, head of regional office in Herat, Mr. Hussain Ali Moin, Legal Analyst and a Member of the Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting Board; Mrs. Latifa Soltani, Head of Women Rights Unit in Bamyán regional offices, Mrs. Parasto Yari responsible of Resource Center in regional office of Faryab provincial participated in the "regional training workshop on National Research,". Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and the National Center for Human Rights in Jordan held this workshop.

30 Hamal- 1 Sawr, 1389 (April/May, 2010), Mexico: Dr. Sima Samar, head of the AIHRC participated in the "International Dialogue on Gender Justice," Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice and the Nobel Women's Initiative held this Dialogue

7-9 Sawr, 1389 (April/May, 2010), Australia: Mr. Ahmad Nader Naderi, the spokesman for the AIHRC and Commissioner for Transitional Justice, attended the "Third International Assembly on the Challenges of Peace Operations," Center for Civil - Military Asia - Pacific Australia held this Assembly.

13-24 Sawr, 1389 (April/May, 2010), Switzerland: Mr. Musa Mohammed Mahmoud, Executive Director of the AIHRC, attended International Workshop on "enhanced cooperation among regional and international mechanisms to promote and protect human rights" and "forty fourth public meeting of the Supervisory Committee on economic, social and cultural rights ".

25 Sawr, 1389 (April/May, 2010), Holland: Mr. Ahmad Nader Naderi, the spokesman of the AIHRC and Commissioner for Transitional Justice, attended the "International Conference on Transitional Justice and Good Governance", Federation of the Afghan refugees in Europe (Faro) held this conference.

30-31 Sawr, 1389 (April/May, 2010), France: Ms. Hamideh Barmaki, Commissioner of Children's Rights attended a special meeting of the Supervisory Committee on the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, French Foreign Ministry and European Affairs of the Republic held this meeting.

10-16 Jawza, 1389 (May/June, 2010), Yvganda: Dallas Mazoori, Conflict mapping Coordinator / National Head of Transitional Justice attended International Criminal Court Rome Statute review conference. She was able to present a seminar on transitional justice in Afghanistan; she was the only Afghan representative among the approximately 4,000 conference participants.

13-15 Jawza 1389(May/June, 2010), Germany: Mr. Homayoun Hashemi, Head of Special Investigation Team, attended the international conference "International forces in Afghanistan - occupation or liberation?" Theology and Peace Institute of Hamburg held this meeting in Germany.

9 Saratan, 1389, Germany: Mr. Ahmad Fahim Hakim, Deputy Chairman of the AIHRC attended the discussion meeting of Human Rights Committee and Bundestag (Parliament) of Germany humanitarian relief, regarding the situation in Afghanistan. Germany's parliament held this session.

11-13 Saratan 1389 (June/July, 2010), Poland: Dr Sima Samar, Chairperson of the AIHRC, participated in the meeting of "senior democracy in Poland". Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland hosted the meeting.



27 Saratan, 1389 (June/July, 2010), Canada: Dr. Sima Samar, Chairperson of the AIHRC, attended the annual meeting of the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW). Dr. Sima Samar was awarded the honorary doctorates by Carleton University in recognition of her leadership and courage in defending and promoting human rights, especially women, human rights, and democracy.

12-14 Asad 1389 (July/August, 2010), Indonesia: Mr. Ahmad Zia Langari, Commissioner, and Mr. Mohammed Mousa Mahmoudi, the Executive Director of the AIHRC, participated in the Fifteenth Annual Meeting of the Asia - Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions in Bali, Indonesia,. The meeting was hosted by the Indonesian National Human Rights Commission.

21-24 Asad 1389 (Julay/August, 2010), Germany: Ms. Hamideh Barmaki, Commissioner of the AIHRC attended the “Administrative Law Conference on Afghanistan “ in Germany. Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law held this conference.

18 Sunbula, 1389 (August/September, 2010), Belgium: Dr. Sima Samar, Chairperson of the AIHRC, attended the Assembly of the tenth anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Empowerment of women participation in peace and security in Brussels, Belgium. This ceremony was hosted by Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for foreign affairs and security policy in Europe, and Steven Vanakry Deputy Prime Minister Belgium,

1-19 Sunbula, 1389 (August/September, 2010), Kyrgyzstan: Mr. Seyed Reza Kazemi, coordinator of the monitoring, evaluation and reporting participated in the program of project management, human rights and conflict resolution in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. Europe OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Conflict Resolution and Peace Institute, Research Institute for Human Rights and Social Justice, London Metropolitan University held this training program.

27 Sunbula 1389 (August/September, 2010), America: Dr. Sima Samar, Chairperson of the AIHRC attended meetings with Congress, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Religious Liberty Commission of America to discuss issues related to freedom of opinion and expression.

30 Sunbula, 1389 (August/September, 2010), Egypt: Dr. Soraya Rahim Sbhrng, Commissioner of the AIHRC attended “Health and Human Rights workshop” in Cairo, Egypt,. World Health Organization Regional Office for the Middle East held thiss workshop.

1-2 Mizan, 1389 (Sept/Oct, 2010), America: Dr. Sima Samar, Chairperson of the AIHRC attended at the meeting of the Law Faculty of Pennsylvania University about legal reform in Afghanistan and Iraq.

7-8 Mizan, 1389 (Sep/Oct, 2010), Qatar: Mr. Abdul Karim Azizi, Commissioner of the AIHRC attended the workshop of the future prospects of Human Rights Documentation and Education Center of the United Nations in South West Asia and Arab region. United Nations Centre for Human Rights Education in South-West Asia and the Arab region related to the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, held this workshop.

24 Sunbula -23 Mizan, 1389 (Aug/Sep, Sep/Oct, 2010), Bangladesh: Ms. Shazia Rasouli, Assistant of Kabul Human Rights Education Regional Office, Mrs Arefeh Nawid, the Officer of Women's Rights Unit of Badakhshan provincial office, Mrs. Farrokh Lqa Aunchy Zadah, Officer of Women's Rights Unit in Faryab province participated in the Fifteenth capacity building course on gender, sustainable livelihoods, human rights and peace in Bangladesh. Sanget, South Asian feminist networks, held this course.

24-25 Sunbula 1389 (Aug/Sep, 2010), Ethiopia: Mr. Mohammed Mousa Mahmoudi, the Executive Director of the AIHRC, attended the International Conference on Exploring the Relationship between Secular and Democratic Governance in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance held this Conference.

29 Sunbula -9 Mizan, 1389 (Aug/Sep, Sep/Oct, 2010, Azerbaijan: Mr. Syed Hafizullah Fetrat, Head of provincial office of Faryab province, Mr. Whidudin Arghoon, Head of provincial office of Badakhshan province, and Mr. Abdul Ahad Farzam, Head of Bamyan Regional Office, participated the professional training course on the rule of law and governance in Baku , Azerbaijan. Genva Center for Security Policy and Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy held this training course.

5-9 Mizan, 1389 (Sep/Oct, 2010), Bangladesh: Mohammad Bilal Siddiqui, Assistant of children's rights in Kabul regional office, participated in teacher training workshop on combating trafficking of children, in Dhaka, Bangladesh. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) organized this workshop.

17-21 Mizan 1389(Sep/Oct, 2010), Tajikistan: Ms. Latifa Soltani, coordinator of women's rights in Afghanistan attended the conflict management workshop in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. ICCO's had held this workshop.

3-16 Aqrab 1389 (Oct/Nov, 2010), Australia: Mr. Ahmad Fahim Hakim, Deputy Chairman of the AIHRC, participated in the Discourse of Peace and Human Rights Education.

26 Aqrab – 3 Qaws 1389 (Nov/Dec, 2010) , Nepal: Mr. Mohammad Farid Hamidi, Commissioner of the AIHRC attended the Seventeenth Educational Session of South Asia on International Humanitarian Law, which was organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

3-4 Qaws, 1389 (Nov/Dec,2010), Switzerland: Mr. Ahmad Zia Langari Commissioner of the AIHRC attended a Conference on Violence Against Women. The Conference was held by the UNHCHR.

13-15 Qaws 1389 (Nov/Dec, 2010), Indonesia: Mr. Ahmad Nader Naderi, the spokesman and Commissioner of AIHRC attended the twenty-first meeting of young leaders from Asia. The conference was held by the Asia Society.

25-27 Qaws, 1389 (Nov/Dec, 2010), Netherlands: Mr. Ahmad Nader Naderi, the spokesman and Commissioner of AIHRC received Prince Clause Award from the Netherlands.

16-26 Qaws, 1389 (Nov/Dec, 2010), Nepal: Mr. Abdul Hadi Bashardost secretary of the Executive Director of the AIHRC participated in a training workshop on Peace Building and Conflict Resolution. SIT Institute had organized the training.

15-16 Jadi, 1389 (Dec/Jan, 2010/2011), India: Mr. Mohammed Mousa Mahmoudi, the Executive Director of the AIHRC participated in the Conference on Problems and Obstacles Facing Democracy in South Asia. The Conference was organized by the Institute for Higher Education in India.

2-11 Dalw, 1389 (Jan/Feb, 2011), Egypt: Mr. Ali Reza Rohani senior adviser of the AIHRC traveled to Egypt for scientific tour and study of judicial system

## **APPENDIX 3: List of the main partners with the AIHRC**

### **Government and Civil Society**

- Ministry of National Defense
- MOI
- Ministry of Justice
- Ministry of Women Affairs
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Pilgrimage and Endowment
- Ministry of Public Health
- Ministry of Information and Culture
- Ministry of Social Affairs, Martyrs and Disabled
- Ministry of Finance
- Supreme Court
- General Attorney

- Afghan Red Crescent Society
- Children Correction Center
- Information and Communications Centers for Youth
- Child Protection Action Network (CPAN)
- Civil Society and Human Rights Network
- Shohada Organization (Martyrs)
- Advocacy Committee for Persons with Disabilities
- National Union of Journalists in Afghanistan
- Foundation for Culture and Civil Society
- Office of Women for Afghan Women
- Free and Fair Elections Foundation of Afghanistan (FIFA)
- Afghan Civil Society Association (ACSA)
- Human Rights and Democracy in Afghanistan
- National Youth Federation
- Maton Madani Tolana
- Community Center on Disabilities
- Oroj Training Center
- Institute of Higher Education for Women
- Institute of legal services in Afghanistan
- Institute for mine-affected Afghan
- Institute of Human Resource Development
- Institution of Development and Capability
- Marwah Culture Development Institute
- Institute for Family Welfare
- Institute for Improvement of Destitute Women's Skills
- Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan
- Research Institution for the rights of Women and Children
- Hajar Shelter
- Ashian Shelter
- Youth Association of Takhar
- Community support for the rights of children and women
- Fatima Zahra Private orphanage
- Arya Mehr Office
- Legal and Civil Association for Afghanistan
- Afghanistan National Association for the Blind
- Afghanistan National Association for the Deaf
- Paktia Islamic civil society
- Herat Literary Association
- De Qanoon Ghoshonky
- Council of Ulama

**International partner institutions:**

- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- International Organization for Migration
- International Committee of the Red Cross
- Human Rights Watch
- National Democratic Institute
- Medica Mondiale
- Save the Children Foundation in Afghanistan
- United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
- United Nations Office in Resettlement
- Max Planck Institute
- Handicap International
- Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
- Institute of Save the Children U.S.
- Swedish Committee for Afghanistan
- Institute of Save the Children Sweden – Norway
- Save the Children Institute of Great Britain
- United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)
- International Development Law Organization (IDLO)
- The International Legal Foundation In Afghanistan (ILF-A)
- WFP
- Institute of TDH
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
- World Vision
- Provincial Reconstruction Teams
- GTZ
- Refugee Council, Norway

**Media:**

- Aena TV
- Badakhshan state TV
- Harry TV
- Sima-e Ghoryan TV
- Awaz News Agency
- Radio I-Khanom
- Radio Rawshani
- Radio Baharestan
- De Helo Karawan Radio
- Radio Zohra
- Radio Takharistan
- Radio Arzo
- Radio Azadi

- Radio Voice of Afghan Women
- Radio-Karabagh
- National Radio and Television
- Radio Hamsad
- Radio Baran
- Radio Rabia Balkhi
- Qandahar Radio and Television
- Faryab Radio and Television
- Badghis Radio and TV
- Radio Zohal
- Radio Farda
- Radio Amu
- Paktia Ghaj
- Radio Kishm
- Radio Wolos Ghaj
- Radio Good Morning Afghanistan
- De Soli Paigham Radio
- Nashria-e Motakhasesan (publication of experts)
- Two weekly of Hope for Coexistence
- Jarida-e Bostan (Gazette)
- Jarida-e Rowzana Sulkh
- Jarida-e Dawlati Badakhshan
- Kabul Weekly
- Rozna 8 Sobh (The Daily 8 am)
- Nashria-e Khat-e Sabz (Green Line Publication)

## AIHRC Staff Statistic


AIHRC Staff Statistics (July 2011)

No of Staff in regional/provincial offices		Admin	Program	Temporary	UNICEF	Support Staff	Security Staff	Drivers	Female	Male	Ethnicity		
1	HQ	152	98	54	5	12	26	23	16	136	166	Tajik	
2	Badakhshan	24	13	9	1	2	7	3	4	20	158	Pash-ton	
3	Daikundi	21	12	6	1	2	6	3	5	16	162	Hazara	
4	Ghor	20	10	7	1	2	6	1	3	17	45	Sadat	
5	Heart	50	22	22	2	4	4	5	14	36	27	Uzbek	
6	Kabul	58	23	30	3	5	7	7	12	46	7	Qezelbash	
7	kunduz	41	21	17	1	4	8	5	8	33	8	Bayat	
8	Mazar	44	21	22	1	3	7	6	12	32	3	Turkman	
9	Bamyan	40	21	16	1	3	7	6	8	32	2	Nooristani	
10	Gardiz	35	19	15	1	3	6	5	5	30	4	Balooch	
11	Helmand	13	8	5		1	4	2	3	10	1	Pashayee	
12	Kandahar	36	20	15	1	3	8	4	7	29	1	Arab	
13	Maimana	23	12	9	1	2	6	3	7	16	0	Hindu	
14	Urozgan	13	6	6		1	3	1	1	12	21	Other	
15	Jalalabad	35	17	15	3	3	5	5	7	27			
		605	323	248	8	19	50	113	79	112	492		

## APPENDEX 4: Financial Report

The AIHRC planned a core budget of US\$13,236,052 for the implementation of its 1389 Action Plan. As per our quarterly financial review, AIHRC shows its Budget Utilization Table as below.

**Table A.**

Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission Core Fund Financial Activities For the Period from Hamal 01 to Hoot 29, 1389									
Activity ID	Total Budget for 1389	QUARTER EXPENDITURES REPORT				Expenditures for the Year 1389	Remaining Balance		
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Last Month				
		Hamal 01 to Jawza 31	Saratan 01 to Meezan 30	Aqrab 01 to Dalwa 29	Hoot 01 to Hoot 29				
101	Leadership	917,008	137,929	156,540	82,795	48,390	425,655	491,353	
102	Education	3,120,209	292,520	384,426	214,478	122,753	1,014,178	2,106,031	
103	Empowerment	839,160	251,415	223,986	114,540	52,875	642,817	196,343	
104	Advocacy	911,863	142,639	160,094	94,968	52,238	449,938	461,924	
105	Monitoring & Investigation	2,782,970	175,193	133,294	108,367	38,502	455,356	2,327,614	
106	Management Cost	3,685,123	1,113,964	1,478,127	761,819	319,957	3,673,867	11,256	
107	Governance cost	417,220	104,993	134,209	98,817	34,092	372,110	45,110	
108	Construction New Building	562,500	91,772	31,909	20,237	198,820	342,739	219,761	
<b>Total:</b>		<b>13,236,052</b>	<b>2,310,425</b>	<b>2,702,585</b>	<b>1,496,022</b>	<b>867,627</b>	<b>7,376,659</b>	<b>5,859,393</b>	

As mentioned in table A, AIHRC Utilized USD 2,310,425/- in first quarter which was 17.46 % of the total budget. In second quarter the Utilization of Budget is more than first quarter and AIHRC utilized USD 2,702,585/- which was 20.42% of the total budget. In the first seven months of the year 1389, AIHRC utilized an amount of USD 5,013,010/- which was 37.87% of the total budget.

Utilization of budget in the third and fourth quarters was USD 1,496,022/- & USD 867,627/- which was 11.30% & 6.56% of total budget.

In the last five months the amount which was utilized by AIHRC was USD 2,363,649/- and which was 17.86% of the total budget.

Moreover, AIHRC utilized USD 7,376,659/- which was 55.73% of the total budgeted amount for the year 1389.

Table B shows the Funding Status of AIHRC's Core Action Plan for the year 1389. In the below mentioned table, Column of total Funds received for the year 1389 contains



the Closing Balances carried forward from the transitional period March 20, 2010 along with Funds received during the year 1389.

Therefore, the remaining balance from the transitional period March 20, 2010 was USD 2,060,397/- and AIHRC received an amount of USD 5,638,188/- from its reputed donors during the year 1389

**Table B.**

<b>Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission</b>								
<b><i>Core Donors Funding Status</i></b>								
<b>For the Period from Hamal 01 to Hoot 29, 1389</b>								
<b>Donors</b>	<b>Total Fund Received for 1389</b>	<b>QUARTER CONTRIBUTION REPORT</b>				<b>Total Funds Contribution in Expenditures</b>	<b>Remaining Balance</b>	
		<b>Q1</b>	<b>Q2</b>	<b>Q3</b>	<b>Last Month</b>			
		<b>Hamal 01 to Jawza 31</b>	<b>Saratan 01 to Meezan 30</b>	<b>Aqrab 01 to Dalwa 29</b>	<b>Hoot 01 to Hoot 29</b>			
1002	CANADA	477,737	432,056	45,681		477,737		
1003	Denmark	1,163,779	586,543	577,236		1,163,779		
1004	Finland	1,382,830	392,056	458,824	505,891	1,356,771	26,059	
1005	Norway	843,120	-	435,187	407,933	843,120		
1006	New-Zealand	219,804	98,765	121,039		219,804		
1007	United Kingdom	311,249	311,249	-		311,249		
1011	SDC- Switzerland	1,000,000	195,439	374,561	68,264	361,736	1,000,000	
1014	Netherland	999,872	-	-	999,872	999,872		
1015	Australia	924,550	277,040	647,510		924,550		
1018	French Embassy	62,500	-	42,547	19,953	62,500		
5000	AIHRC Income	17,277	17,277	-		17,277		
<b>Total:</b>		<b>7,402,719</b>	<b>2,310,425</b>	<b>2,702,585</b>	<b>1,496,022</b>	<b>867,627</b>	<b>7,376,659</b>	<b>26,059</b>

The fund provided by Canada was an amount of USD 477,737/- for the year 1389, which was 6.45 % of the total fund received for the year 1389. Furthermore, Denmark (15.72 %), Finland (18.68 %), Norway (11.39%), New Zealand (2.97%), United Kingdom (4.20%), SDC-Switzerland (13.51%), Netherlands (13.51%), Australia (12.49%) and French Embassy (0.84%) for the year 1389.

AIHRC has utilized the respected donor contributions for the implementation of planned activities for the year 1389 as below.

An amount of USD 477,7378/- was utilized by AIHRC from Canadian Funds which was 6.48 % of total contribution for the expenditures. Furthermore, fund contribution for expenditures, Denmark (15.78%), Finland (18.39%), Norway (11.43%), New Zealand (2.98%), United Kingdom (4.22%), Switzerland (13.56%), Netherlands (13.55%), Australia (12.53 %) and French Embassy (0.85%) for the year 1389.

The above percentages are based on the total available fund for the year 1389, which also include the carried forward balances from the transition period March 20, 2010.

AIHRC has received other donor's contributions during the year 2010 (See Table C). Such Fund was utilized to achieve the objectives which has link to the main activities, but not a part of action plan's budget. AIHRC treated such other grants as separate projects.

For further best achievements, UNHCR provided fund for "Human Rights Field Monitoring" which is also a part of AIHRC main activities.

Furthermore, SCS-N already in 2008 provided fund for "Capacity Building of Child Rights Unit of AIHRC" and "International Conference on Violence against Children Exploitation and Abuse" Therefore, AIHRC has expensed an amount of USD 61,855/- during the Year 2010.

UNICEF has provided fund for its two projects "Child Rights Field Monitoring" & "Border Based Child Rights Monitoring". DED provided funds for the Conference on Women Rights and Conference on culture center. Sweden had a remaining balance from the Year 2008 for "Conflict Mapping in Afghanistan". Therefore, AIHRC expensed an amount of USD 84,372/- during the Year 2010.

Table C.

<b>Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission</b>						
<b><i>Other Donors Funding Status</i></b>						
<b><u>For the Period from Jan 01, 2010 to March 20, 2011</u></b>						
<b>Donor</b>		Balance from Year 2009 & Funds Received during Year 1389	Total Funds Contribution in Expenditures	Amount Refunded	Remaining Balance	VARIANCE %
2001	<b>UNHCR</b>	325,500	321,264		4,236	1.30%
2003	<b>SCS-N</b>	62,891	61,855		1,036	1.65%
2009	<b>UNICEF</b>	341,315	319,585		(43,494)	-12.74%
2011	<b>DED</b>	19,675	14,136		5,539	28.15%
2013	<b>SWEDEN</b>	84,372	84,372		(0)	0.00%
2014	<b>Open Society</b>	31,925	-		31,925	100.00%
2016	<b>German Embassy</b>	46,995	41,899		5,096	10.84%
<b>Total:</b>		<b>912,672</b>	<b>843,112</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4,337</b>	<b>0.48%</b>



Table D shows the Fund charged as Expenditures per-location & Activity wise during the Year 1389

Table D.

### Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission

*Expenditures Detail for All Offices & Activities*

For the Period from Hamal 01 to Hoot 29, 1389



OFFICES		ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR 1389								TOTAL
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
		<u>Leadership</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Empowerment</u>	<u>Advocacy</u>	<u>Monitoring &amp; Investigation</u>	<u>Management</u>	<u>Governance</u>	<u>Construction</u>	
1	Head Office	129,573.63	407,898.13	290,975.77	114,639.51	44,515.65	1,759,534.75	370,980.46	339,402.32	3,457,520.22
2	Kabul Regional Office	57,942.21	90,939.12	57,361.99	61,144.95	61,964.71	213,328.82			542,681.80
3	Mazar Regional Office	31,583.30	58,453.42	38,355.14	33,384.39	42,154.32	200,155.65			404,086.22
4	Herat Regional Office	29,252.60	85,362.87	33,774.06	30,883.83	48,163.65	202,444.81	1,130.00		431,011.82
5	Kandahar Regional Office	23,605.51	34,604.65	31,566.04	24,969.37	25,282.63	172,867.67			312,895.87
6	Jalalabad Regional Office	20,245.05	46,170.67	23,434.77	19,701.03	28,203.80	148,561.35			286,316.67
7	Gardez Regional Office	22,969.00	37,821.40	25,953.36	23,439.00	30,499.35	154,496.22		110.01	295,288.34
8	Bamyan Regional Office	28,290.57	49,358.07	32,152.32	29,487.83	31,411.58	164,041.43		3,225.89	337,967.69
9	Kunduz Regional Office	21,031.66	41,665.68	24,013.22	20,697.49	36,672.31	162,069.73			306,150.09
10	Badakhshan Provincial Office	15,938.91	34,788.87	20,712.06	17,209.72	19,473.96	111,451.34			219,574.86
11	Maimana Provincial Office	15,471.92	25,721.52	20,620.71	15,281.97	18,651.89	89,376.23			185,124.24
12	Daikundi Provincial Office	16,272.34	40,539.83	14,405.31	35,401.30	32,575.37	103,437.72			242,631.87
13	Ghore Provincial Office	6,133.21	22,978.55	11,692.16	11,497.83	11,578.00	95,728.75			159,608.50
14	Helmand Provincial Office	888.10	19,704.35	1,258.25	790.00	13,816.33	54,982.50			91,439.53
15	Uruzgan Provincial Office	6,456.65	18,716.04	12,227.10	11,409.57	12,396.51	43,156.10			104,361.97
<b>Total Expense</b>		425,654.66	1,014,723.17	638,502.26	449,937.79	457,360.06	3,675,633.07	372,110.46	342,738.22	7,376,659.69

### Contact Information

If you have any comments or questions with regard to this report, please feel free to share with us by contacting:

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