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بنیاد انتخابات ازاد و عادلانه افغانستان

**Free & fair Election Foundation
of Afghanistan**

Press release 7/7/2009

Concerns of the Free and fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan about the increasing violations in the campaign process

Free and fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) is observing the campaign period through monitoring election laws, peaceful process of campaign period and availability of equal opportunities for all candidates. FEFA observers also monitors peaceful and safe campaign environment for all candidates.

Free and fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan (FEFA) considers the existence of regulatory bylaws for campaign period a condition for creating equal and fair opportunities for candidates and prevention of the election violations in this period to ensure transparency of the upcoming elections. FEFA appreciates the efforts of involved organizations such as Independent Elections Commission, Media Commission and Electoral Complaints Commission and all media for prevention of electoral violations. Unfortunately, despite existence of laws, regulations and implementing organizations, the electoral violations have not decreased since the earlier phases (voter registration, nomination).

As shown by the observation of FEFA observers in most provinces of the country, several cases of these violations have occurred. That includes:

- Misuse of public and government resources to influence the process
- Presence of the government employees/officials in campaign gatherings
- Tearing and destruction of candidates' posters
- Lack of impartiality of government officials in the process
- Discrimination
- Difficulties for women candidates during the campaign period
- Intimidation and lure

In addition, FEFA wanted to note its concerns about the current, on-going presidential debate programs on media. Holding presidential debates through mass media is one of the most common and important elements of campaign and public awareness. FEFA appreciates the role of free media in the campaign process and realizes the need for presidential debates. The only concern that FEFA has about the recent series of debates broadcasted through media is the occasional attacks on candidate/candidates' personality and personal life. If the debates are run with higher

standards and with more attention and care, not only the public will benefit from them but also private life and affairs of the candidates will be protected.

FEFA herewith encourages all the stakeholders to campaign within the rules provided to enhance the democratic process.

With thanks,
Jandad Spinghar