



دٲاکنو خٲلواک کمیسیون  
کمیسیون مستقل انتخابات  
درسنیو کمیسیون  
کمیسیون رسائے ها



**WEEKLY NARRATIVE REPORT**  
**1-7 August 2010**

The Electoral Media Commission of IEC has been established in accordance with the ordinance of article (60) of the Electoral Law for the purpose of monitoring the reports and fair publications of media during the Electoral Campaign Period and the stated commission has already started its work; the commission, for this purpose, has been covering the media in three categories:

- 1. Television Coverage**
- 2. Radio Coverage**
- 3. Print coverage**

In the upcoming Parliamentary Elections, 2549 candidates throughout the country are engaged in their electoral campaigns (based on a decision of ECC, seven candidates out of the total were dropped from the Final Candidates' List); the Media Commission, for the purpose of fair and balanced coverage of the electoral campaigns by mass media, is monitoring and covering them. This is a weekly monitoring report from 1-7 August of 2010. It is to be stated that this weekly report is better and is covering more the electoral campaigns as compared to last week.

The one-week detailed report is as follows:

- A. Radio coverage
- B. Television coverage
- C. Print coverage
- D. Political advertisements
- E. Women's coverage
- F. Candidates' Negative Coverage

**A. Radio coverage**

Since the start of the monitoring period, coverage of the candidates on news bulletins has been very limited, and coverage on non-news programming is also generally limited.

During the reporting week, ARIANA FM's "Tanadi" program invited Kabul candidates Haji Shalizi Didar and Anar Kali Onaryar to speak on the elections. Both candidates called for a transparent election free of irregularities and violations. Ms. Hunaryar also stated that women candidates are restricted from campaigning in some provinces because of insecurity.

Security was also the main theme of the stories surrounding Mohammad Yousuf Ghazanfar (Balkh), who was featured on news bulletins on several stations following an unsuccessful assassination attempt against him.

KILLID FM (KABUL) featured Mohammad Daoud Sultanzoi (Ghazni) during the reporting week. He spoke as a guest on a roundtable program discussing the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq (Kabul) was quoted in a RAH FARDA FM news program calling for transparent and democratic elections.

DAWAT FM continued to feature Abdul Rabb Rasul Sayyaf (Kabul) discussing religious topics. This week the station also featured an interview with Mohammad Younus Qanuni (Kabul) about his life history. It should be noted that the radio programs on DAWAT are similar to the DAWAT TV programs.

In the provinces, AMO FM in Badakhshan is inviting Wolesi Jirga candidates to speak as guest on the station. As of July 23, the station had only broadcast advertisements from the campaign of Fauzia Kofi (Badakhshan).

ZOHRA FM in Kunduz continued to air advertisements for candidates Haji Sayyed Mukhtar Agha Sadat Saberi, Qari Rahmatullah and Mohammad Wali Azizi. Coverage through July 24 also included news stories on the death of Mawlawi Sayyedullah Sayyed (Khost).

In Khost, on DA SOLI PAIGHAM FM, coverage of the candidates has been relatively diverse through July 28. In a program entitled "Who's the Better Candidate" the station has featured a number of candidates, including Mawlawi Sultan Mahmud Majrohi, Alhaj Pacha Subhan, Nadia Bawari and Alhaj Mawlawi Sardar Zadrán. Other candidates covered to date include Sahira Sharif and Alhaj Daoud Khan Shahidzoi.

## **B. Television coverage**

Coverage of the candidates on non-news programs on television networks continues to steadily increase.

SAQI TV in Herat still leads in coverage of Wolesi Jirga candidates with its focus on Herat nominees. Between July 5 to July 29, coverage totaled 30 hours. Candidates appear on the program entitled "Farhang Entekhabat" where they interact with phone callers and speak about their candidacy. The candidates with the greatest coverage share to date are Sayyed Mohammad Shafiq and Dr. Mohammad Omar Samim at 7.66% and 7.34%, respectively.

In the Ghoryan district of Herat, SIMA GHORYAN TV predominantly featured Haji Nisar Ahmad Faizi Ghoryani. The base time of all programs on that station was 5 hours and 1 minute, and Mr. Ghoryani's coverage share was 89.01%. Coverage of Mr. Ghoryani was related to the candidate inaugurating a campaign office in a local district, and in a separate report he promised to assist local residents. Another candidate featured was Alhaj Dr. Ghulam Ahmad Danish whose coverage was also related to his opening of a campaign office and public endorsements for his candidacy.

The main topics of discussion on Kabul-based television networks, during the reporting week, was regional politics and the withdrawal of some Nato troops from Afghanistan. Similar to last week, the release of U.S. Afghan war documents on Wikileaks and the shooting of Kabul residents by bodyguards of the Kuchi nominee Alhaj Wakil Mullah Tarakhel Mohammadi continued to be much discussed during the reporting week. The disqualification of several candidates from the Wolesi Jirga also made the election news.

At least 40 Kabul candidates have appeared on a program dedicated to candidate presentations on state RTA TV NATIONAL. Candidates are invited to speak for three minutes. The program features only the candidates' speech; there is no moderator or program host. The candidate who spoke the longest to date at 3 minutes and 50 seconds was Mohammad Hashim Sangar Niazaei (Kabul), who is also an RTA TV journalist. During the reporting week, RTA TV NATIONAL also featured Dr. Jafar Mahdawi (Kabul) in its "Enekas" program, where he spoke on the topic of partition. In the program "Negah", Kabul candidates Dr. Asgharkhel Mangal and Azizullah Aziz were featured briefly speaking about security issues and the Kabul Conference. Candidate Alhaj Lal Pacha Azmun (Nangarhar) was featured in the "Da Darwazo Tarsha" program speaking about voter registration challenges in his province.

Similar to RTA TV, ARIANA TV launched a similar candidate presentation program inviting Kabul nominees to introduce themselves to viewers. As of August 7, the following Kabul candidates appeared, speaking between one to two minutes: Abdul Hamid Islamko, Nazar Mohammad Popal, Noor Ahmad Chardiwal, Sayyed Yousuf Qadis, Alhaj Khadim Hussain Khodayar, Mohammad Ismail Babakarhel, Mohamamd Jafar Rahimi, Mohammad Hakim Torsan, Mohammad Zarif Nasiri and Malim Abid. Meanwhile, during the reporting week ARIANA TV featured Dr. Asgharkhel Mangal (Kabul) in its "Lid Lur" program, where he spoke about the withdrawal of Dutch troops from Afghanistan and Pakistan's role in the regional conflict. The station also featured Abdul Qayum Sajadi (Ghazni) in its "Election 1389" program, where he spoke about issues of politics and government, such as American policy vis-a-vis Afghanistan and Pakistan, as well as domestic problems.

On TOLO TV, "Election 89" guests in the week included new faces, such as Sayyed Yaqub Hushmand Fararudi (Kabul), Hawa Alam Nuristani (Kabul), as well as Fazlullah Mujaddedi (Kabul) who spoke about why they're running for office, their plans, if elected, and issues related to the current Wolesi Jirga. In a separate episode during the week, recurring guest Mohammad Harun Mir (Kabul) spoke about issues of politics and government. Other guests included Shukria Barekzai (Kabul), Musa Fariwar (Kabul),

Sayyed Hussain Alemi Balkhi (Kabul) and Mohammad Daoud Sultanzoi (Ghazni), who appeared together discussing a regional conference in Iran. Guests on the “Guftoman” program during the week included Saleh Mohammad Registani (Kabul) and Abdul Qayum Sajadi (Ghazni), where they spoke about political issues related to Pakistan and the Durand Line. The program hosts of the satire “Zange Khatar” once again focused on Alhaj Wakil Mullah Tarakhel Mohammadi (Kuchi), calling for his arrest, lending to further negative coverage of the candidate on this station. TOLO TV’s “6.30” program featured Kabul candidates Abdul Kabir Ranjbar, Anar Kali Hunaryar and Partpal Sangapal, who spoke about the rights of the Sikh minority in Afghanistan.

CHANNEL 1(Yak TV) TV during the week featured a representative of Alhaj Wakil Mullah Tarakhel Mohammadi (Kuchi) on its program “Amaj.” The representative spoke about Mr. Mohammadi extensively and defended him, claiming that he was not at the scene of the shooting by his bodyguards. In a separate episode of “Amaj”, Esmat Qane (Kabul) spoke about Pakistani policy towards Afghanistan.

NOORIN TV’s program “Talak” this week once again targeted several Kabul candidates with satire, including Jamil Karzai, Ahmad Samir Mayal, Ramazan Jumazada and Mohammad Nasir Fayaz, making fun of their campaign slogans and posters, leading to negative coverage of them. Meanwhile, the “Faraso” program featured Mohammad Harun Mir (Kabul), who spoke about the Wikileaks documents and America’s future role in Afghanistan.

NOOR TV’s “Akher Khat” program during the week featured Abbas Nawyan (Kabul), who spoke about the withdrawal of Dutch troops from Afghanistan. In a separate episode of the program, Abdul Qayum Sajadi (Ghazni) spoke on the same topic. Like last week, Ahmad Sayyedi (Kabul) was featured on “Akher Khat” during the reporting week, speaking about Pakistan and Afghan policies. In a separate episode, Mohammad Harun Mir (Kabul) also returned, this time speaking alongside Ahmad Ali Jibraili (Herat) about the Taliban and related security issues. Also featured during the week on the program was Sayyed Daoud Hashimi (Kabul) who spoke also on topics of politics and government, and Mir Ahmad Joyenda (Kabul), who spoke about the regional conference between Iran, Afghanistan and Tajikistan. In its program “Goftgo Baz” NOOR TV covered the disqualification of several candidates from the election because they did not resign from their government position. This program featured several candidates including Mohammad Jafar Kohistani (Kabul), Nazari Paryani (Kabul) and Musa Fariwar (Kabul).

NEGAH TV was relatively quiet on the candidates this week. Its “Khabar Bartar” program featured Kabul candidates Abdul Hafiz Mansur and Saleh Mohammad Registani, who spoke about American involvement in Afghanistan and the war.

SHAMSHAD TV aired a press conference by Alhaj Wakil Mullah Tarakhel Mohammadi (Kuchi) this week, wherein he defended himself from allegations that he’s responsible for the murder of two residents. Esmat Qane (Kabul) and Abdul Kabir Ranjbar (Kabul) appeared on the “Tawde Bahsuna” program speaking about comments by retired Russian and American generals, who said that President Karzai should be replaced. In a separate episode, the station featured Gen. Haigul Sulaimankhel (Paktia), who spoke

about security issues, including the presence of international troops. In another episode, Fahim Kohdamani (Kabul) spoke about the regional conference between Iran, Tajikistan and Afghanistan. The station also featured Nangarhar candidate Alhaj Lal Pacha Azmun, who called on candidates to spend some campaign funds to help victims in flood-hit areas in his province.

DAWAT TV, owned by candidate Abdul Rabb Rasul Sayyaf (Kabul), is focused on religious programs; during the reporting week it featured Mr. Sayyaf giving religious sermons. Another candidate who spoke on a religious topic was Mawlawi Habibullah Hesam (Kabul). Meanwhile, in a program entitled “Sobhat Ba Buzorgan” DAWAT TV featured Mohammad Younis Qanuni (Kabul), who spoke about his personal history, including his experiences during the anti-Soviet jihad.

TAMADON TV featured Mohammad Daoud Sultanzoi (Ghazni), who spoke about Wikileaks documents and Pakistan’s role in Afghanistan. In an episode of “Saat Seyasi” the station featured Sayyed Hussain Alemi Balkhi (Kabul) and Musa Fariwar (Kabul), who spoke about security issues, including civilian casualties. In a separate episode, the station featured Abdul Qayum Sajadi (Ghazni), who spoke about the topic of partition.

AFGHAN TV on its program “Hushdar” featured Esmat Qane (Kabul) who spoke about the Wikileaks documents and the current war. Also featured in a separate episode of the program were Mohammad Hakim Torsan (Kabul), Mohammad Yasin Habib (Kabul) and Mohammad Alim Amini (Kabul) who spoke about the withdrawal of Dutch troops and Nato presence in Afghanistan. AFGHAN TV has frequently featured candidates speaking on the topic counter narcotics and the country’s drug trade. This week it featured Musa Fariwar (Kabul) speaking about drug trafficking in its “Mosalas Seya” program.

### **C. Print coverage**

Generally speaking coverage of the candidates is somewhat limited in newspapers and weeklies.

SOROSH MELAT newspaper regularly publishes articles about Dr. Jafar Mahdawi (Kabul) that feature his direct speech. The articles generally review Dr. Mahdawi’s electoral activities and his position on topics, such as the partition of Afghanistan, featuring direct quotes by him. Combined with print adverts, he is the most frequently featured candidate in the newspaper.

Meanwhile, RAH NEJAT regularly publishes a column written by Sayyed Hussain Alemi Balkhi (Kabul) related to his analysis of the Afghan Constitution. Combined with his adverts, Mr. Balkhi is the most frequently covered candidate in this newspaper.

### **D. Women’s Coverage**

AINA TV in its regular program “Negah Sewom” featured Kabul candidates Fatima Nazari and Anar Kali Onaryar, who spoke about women’s rights and the role of women

candidates in the Parliament. Ms. Onaryar called for more seats to be dedicated to women legislators, while Ms. Nazari said she hoped that women will play a greater role in the new parliament.

Domestic violence was the topic of a special discussion on NAWA FM that featured Mohammad Alim Amini (Kabul). Mr. Amini said national laws need to be reformed and police and other judicial authorities need to be trained how to deal domestic violence issues from a legal perspective. NAWA FM in its roundtable “Hamnawa ba Mardon” featured Nasrin Hamid (Kabul), who spoke about increasing the number of polling and voter registration sites in order to increase the number of female voters. She also suggested that men who are elected as members of Parliament work with women legislators to defend women’s rights.

Meanwhile, in ARMAN MILLIE newspaper, Malalai Sufi Towhid (Kabul) noted that women’s participation in the election is a sign itself of social justice.

### **Candidates’ Negative Coverage**

During the reporting week, the newspaper featured a story wherein Badakhshan candidates Hafizullah Kofi and Noor Ahmad Dildari accused their rival Fauzia Kofi of using government resources to travel and campaign in Badakhshan. Ms. Kofi defended herself in the article.

A similar story appeared in the English-language OUTLOOK, where Haji Gen. Akbar Rohgar (Badakhshan) accused Fauzia Kofi of having government employees campaign on her behalf. Ms. Kofi was featured in the story defending herself.