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Fourth Media Monitoring Report

**WEEKLY NARRATIVE REPORT
24-31 JULY 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**

The 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 24-31 July 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; during the reporting week, the IEC changed its mind regarding the appearance of the above mentioned persons based on its decision that the reporters of radio and TV, moderators of programs and owners of media were not able to participate during the specified Electoral Campaign Period; as a result, the IEC allowed them to appear as hosts/hostesses in the programs, but they are not allowed to turn the programs for their benefits as candidates in the Electoral Campaign Period.

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 radio news bulletins has been very limited, and coverage on non-news programming is also generally limited.

During the reporting week, EMROZ TV was shut down by the Minister's Council, which cited broadcasts that incited ethnic tensions for the station's closure. Another news topic was the shooting of Kabul residents by bodyguards of the candidate Alhaj Wakil Mullah Tarakhel Mohammadi (Kuchi).

During the reporting week the featured guest on ARIANA FM's "Tanadi" program was Mohammad Ali Setegh (Daikundi), who spoke on issues of security and politics and government.

On KILLID FM (Kabul), Abdul Kabir Ranjbar (Kabul) appeared as a guest on the program "Parliament Ayenda" speaking about topics of politics and government.

On RAH FARDA FM, station owner Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq (Kabul) dominated news coverage with comments he made during a religious celebration urging people to participate in the parliamentary election, stating that it is as important as voting in last year's presidential election.

DAWAT FM, meanwhile, featured an interview with candidate Mohammad Daoud Kalakani (Kabul), who introduced himself and asked listeners to vote for candidates who are aware of the problems facing the public.

In Kunduz, ZOHRA FM featured Mohammad Wali Azizi, Qari Rahmatullah and Fahima Farhad, who were featured on July 20 introducing themselves to listeners and speaking about election-related issues, such as campaign security and their plans if elected as Kunduz representatives.

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. Coverage on SAQI TV between July 5 to July 22 totaled 22 hours and 57 minutes, with at least 16 candidates appearing on that station. Herati candidates who appear on SAQI TV generally interact with phone callers and describe their campaign platforms. Sayyed Mohammad Shafiq (Herat) leads in coverage at 10.47% share. Coverage between the remaining candidates ranged from 2.44% to 8.80% coverage share. Most candidates featured on SAQI TV appeared for an average of 40 minutes.

The closure of EMROZ TV, and subsequent mention of station owner Haji Najibullah Kabuli (Kabul), was also a topic of discussion on some news and non-news programs on stations such as CHANNEL 1, where Sardar Mohamad Rahman Oghli (Faryab) spoke on the topic in a

program entitled “Amaj.” Mr. Oghli criticized the Minister’s Council decision to close EMROZ TV, citing its impact on media freedoms.

Prior to shutting down on July 27, EMROZ TV aired an extended documentary film advertisement for Haji Najibullah Kabuli (Kabul). Haji Najibullah Kabuli’s percentage share of coverage on EMROZ TV all programs except news bulletins was 79.17%, and he dominated advertisement coverage at 88.85%.

The other main topics of discussion on television during the reporting week included the leak of U.S. military documents related to Afghanistan on Wikileaks and the shooting of Kabul residents by bodyguards of the Kuchi nominee Alhaj Wakil Mullah Tarakhel Mohammadi.

The incident related to Mr. Mohammadi dominated news and non-news coverage on several stations, with much of that coverage negative. Mr. Mohammadi was angrily criticized by residents in news reports, and in some cases by TV hosts and program guests. On TOLO TV’s “Zange Khatar”, for example, the program’s hosts called him an enemy of the kuchi people, adding that he is not a good representative for the kuchis.

Other relevant coverage on TOLO TV saw the return of Kunduz candidate Moin Marastial to its “Election 89” program, along with Ghazni candidate Mohamad Daoud Sultanzoi, who spoke about security issues. Mohammad Harun Mir (Kabul) was another featured guest in a separate episode of “Election 89”, speaking about issues of politics and government. Meanwhile, on the “Goftoman” program Sardar Mohammad Rahman Oghli (Faryab) appeared, speaking about the leaking of classified documents on Wikileaks.

Meanwhile, RTA TV National launched an election-related program giving Kabul candidates a platform to introduce themselves to viewers. Candidates will receive eight minutes (5 minutes in radio and 3 minutes in television) of airtime to present their information. Coverage has been relatively balanced, with a few candidates speaking slightly longer than the allotted time and some candidates keeping their comments under the allotted time that up to now on the national radio, based on the repeated reports day and night, only 13 candidates out of 40 appeared to publish their messages and platforms and on national TV, only 14 candidates out of 40 appeared to publish their messages and platforms. It is worth mentioning that through news service, the names of ten candidates are regularly announced, but still their presence on national TV is lesser than expected. During the reporting week, Sayyed Daoud Hashimi (Kabul) also appeared on RTA TV’s “Mubahisa” program, where he spoke generally about the election, parliament and a parliamentarian’s role.

ARIANA TV announced on July 29 the launch of a similar program, inviting Kabul nominees to appear on the station to present their biography and campaign platform to its viewers. As of July 31, no candidate had appeared yet. Meanwhile, during the reporting week, ARIANA TV featured Ahmad Behzad (Herat) in its “Election 1389” program, where Mr. Behzad spoke about security issues. ARIANA TV also featured candidate Nasrullah Partow Naderi (Badakhshan) in a cultural program where he spoke about the poet Rumi.

On NOORIN TV, Sardar Mohammad Rahman Oghli (Faryab) and Ahmad Sayyedi (Kabul) appeared on the talk show “Salam Sar Zamin Man”, where they spoke about Turkey, Junbish Party leader Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum and other topics of politics and government. In a separate episode of the program, NOORIN TV featured Nasto Naderi (Kabul) as a guest. Mr. Naderi is a candidate and a NOORIN TV reporter. The MMPA counted this coverage of Mr. Naderi as he appeared on the program as a guest and not as a host.

The issue of Turkey’s relationship with Gen. Dostum was also a topic of discussion on the “Guftgo Wizha” program on “Yak TV CHANNEL” where Jowjzan nominee Sayyed Noorullah Sadat spoke on the topic. In a satire program entitled “Pechkari”, CHANNEL 1 featured an actor acting as Alhaj Wakil Mullah Tarakhel Mohammadi, mocking him and stating that “he” won’t allow his bodyguards to be punished related to a shooting incident. This contributed to negative coverage of Mr. Mohammadi on this station.

NOOR TV’s “Akher Khat” program during the week featured Moin Marastial (Kunduz) and Mohamad Harun Mir (Kabul), who spoke about issues of security and politics and government. In a separate episode, “Akher Khat” featured Ahmad Sayyedi (Kabul), who spoke about political issues related to Afghanistan, the U.S. and Pakistan. In that same program, Mr. Sayyedi questioned why Alhaj Wakil Mullah Tarakhel Mohammadi (Kuchi) had not been arrested, and he expressed disappointment with members of Parliament like Mr. Mohammadi, leading to negative coverage of Mr. Mohammadi. In its program Baztab, NOOR TV also featured Mohammad Asim (Baghlan) speaking about the Afghan National Army and similar security issues.

In a roundtable program, NEGAH TV featured Haji Mohammad Daoud Kalakani (Kabul), where he spoke about politics and government. In a separate roundtable program, Sayyed Daoud Hashimi (Kabul) and Mohammad Musa Noor (Kabul) appeared speaking about the election and issues of politics and government. Mr. Hashimi, for example, spoke about the Electoral Law and the prerequisites for running for Parliament. Other program guests during the week included Abdul Kabir Ranjbar, who spoke about Pakistan and other issues of politics and government.

SHAMSHAD TV featured Moin Marastial (Kunduz), who spoke about the Wikileaks documents related to Afghanistan and their impact on issues of politics and government. In another episode of the program, SHAMSHAD TV featured Nader Khan Katawzai (Paktika) and Esmat Qane (Kabul), who spoke about issues of politics and government, such as the political opposition to Hamid Karzai. The station also featured Ahmad Sayyedi (Kabul) who spoke about the topic of the Taliban and the U.N. blacklist.

Ahmad Sayyedi (Kabul) also appeared on RAH FARDA TV in a special program where he spoke about the Wikileaks documents. During the reporting week, the station broadcast a special speech by Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq (Kabul) at a religious event, where Kabul candidate Dr. Jafar Mahdawi was also pictured. Mr. Mohaqiq is the owner of RAH FARDA TV.

DAWAT TV, owned by candidate Abdul Rabb Rasul Sayyaf, is focused on religious programs, and during the reporting week it featured Mr. Sayyaf giving religious sermons related to youth issues.

Similarly, religious topics dominated the appeared of candidates on TAMADON TV, such as Abdul Qayum Sajadi (Ghazni), Sayyed Hussain Alemi Balkhi (Kabul) and Qurban Ali Orfani (Kabul). Kabul candidate Mohamamd Zahir Abbasi also appeared in a program entitled “Aksariat Khamush” speaking about religious and social issues. During the reporting week, Mr. Sajadi also appeared on the TAMADON program “Saat Seyasi” where he spoke about Wikileaks documents and Pakistan.

AFGHAN TV on its program “Hushdar” featured Bashir Ahmad Bezhan (Kabul), who spoke about topics related to politics and government and security. During the week, the station also featured Ahmad Behzad (Herat) and Kabul candidates Abdul Hafiz Mansur, Esmat Qane and Mohammad Ibrahim Bari, who spoke about security and issues of politics and government.

C. Print coverage

Generally speaking coverage of the candidates was limited in newspapers and weeklies. The newspaper with the most coverage to date is ARMAN MILLIE.

During the reporting week, new coverage of the candidates was related to news stories, such as reports about the shutting down of EMROZ TV owned by Haji Najibullah Kabuli (Kabul), the Wikileaks documents and the shooting of Kabul residents by bodyguards of Alhaj Wakil Mullah Tarakhel Mohammadi (Kuchi).

AGAH WEEKLY in an article criticized Mr. Mohammadi (Kuchi), stating that Kuchi members will not vote for him and that the electoral agencies should drop him from the ballot for committing a crime, which contributed to negative coverage of him in this weekly paper.

Moreover, the public awareness and participation in elections related adverts decreased as compared to last week that most of the discussions in relevance to elections and political analysis. For example, the IRADA Daily published an article in its publication no 937, under the topic “Election Result is the Reflection of the Majority of Votes of the People of Afghanistan” or the MANDIGAR Daily published a political analysis in its publication no 377, under the topic “Elections and the Multi-aspect Problems of the Upcoming House”. Additionally, the ISLAH, IRADA, HIWAD, ANEES and MANDIGAR dailies published news and political analysis in relevance to the importance of Parliamentary Election Process. Again, it is important to be stated that ARMAN MILLIE had the most extended coverage, which was indeed a survey done among the people of Kabul indicating 40 candidates who are highly expected to be the winners among Kabul Wolesi Jirga candidates for the upcoming parliament, the survey was published in publication no 104 on July 28; the daily had the photos and names of the candidates, which was an indication that the daily could give most of its part to candidates’ introductions as compared to others and the daily HIWAD stood in the second position that did the same task. The adverts for female candidates increased as compared to last week.

IQTEDAR MILLIE WEEKLY, meanwhile, featured Mohammad Asim (Baghlan) and Malali Ishaqzai (Kabul) in a report about the Wikileaks documents.

D. Advertisements

The station featuring the highest number of candidate advertisements is still RAH FARDA TV, which has featured ads for more than 35 candidates who are part of the Hizb Wahdat political party.

The comparative total base time of advertisements from 24 July to 31 July breaks down as follows:

Station	Base Time of Advertisements
NOORIN TV	1 hour and 54 minutes
YAK TV (CHANNEL 1 TV)	36 minute
RAH FARDA TV	2 hours and 50 minutes
AINA TV	1 hour and 7 minutes
TOLO TV	39 minutes
ARIANA TV	8 minutes

The newspapers that have been publishing candidate advertisements include SOROSH MELAT, ARMAN MILLIE, RAH NEJAT, AFGHANISTAN and CHERAGH. The weekly papers that have been publishing advertisements are PAYAM MUJAHID, AGAH and IQTEDAR MILLIE.

E. Womens' coverage

Notable coverage of the women candidates this week was related to a NOORIN TV satire program, "Talak" which made fun of several female Kabul candidates, Shukria Sirat Walizada, Nafisa Hanif Khoshnasib, Gen. Nazifa Zaki, Fahima Sarfaraz, Fariba Charkhi, Shahla Rashid and Rubina Jalalai. The satire criticized the candidates for being concerned with cosmetics and fashion, alluding to their images in campaign posters and billboards.

In a program entitled "Hawa" SALAM WATANDAR SERVICE featured Khalida Alokzai (Kabul), Nadia Bawari (Khost) and Torpekai Patman (Kabul), who spoke about election issues. Ms. Patman said it was not good for women candidates to post their photos everywhere, and she suggested that women candidates should meet with potential voters.

Furthermore, HIWAD, ANEES and ISLAH published the adverts of Khalida Alkozai, Ustad Golalay Yaqobi, Master Zohra Shafee Haseeb, Eng. Razia Naemee, Farishta Hashimzada, Nafeesa Seeli Wardak and Parveen Sofi Wolessi Jirga Candidates of 2010.

Candidates' Negative Coverage

In a satire program of "YAK TV", the actor, who played the role of Ilhaj Mullah Tarakhil Muhammadi, made fun of him and said that he will never let anyone arrest his bodyguards for committing the wrong doing, so this is considered to be a negative coverage.

In a separate program by the name of AKHIRI KHAT of NOOR TV, Ahmed Sayedi, who spoke regarding the political challenges related to Afghanistan, USA and Pakistan. At the same

program, Sayedi questioned that why Ilhaj Mullah Tarakhil was not arrested for his wrong doing and regretted that the parliament has such representative, which is also a negative coverage of Mullah Tarakhil.

On 31st of July, Ilhaj Mullah Tarakhil Muhammadi, the Wolesi Jirga candidate appeared in an advert on Noor TV who said about the negative coverage of mass media concerning him that he was not present at the place of event when his bodyguards fired at citizens.

AGAH Daily published an article in which they criticized Tarakhil for his committing the crime and wrote that Kuchis will not vote for him and the electoral organs must drop his name from the candidates' list due to his illegal and cruel action.

In conclusion, the ARMAN MILLIE published a political news about throwing tomatoes and spraying ink and mud on the pictures of female candidates; this report according to Kabul residents adds that Taliban or the policies against women of Taliban having influence among people causing to commit this action; the report adds that Farida Tarana, Fariba Charki, Horia Arzo and Robina Jalali are the ones, on whose faces were thrown tomatoes and sprayed inks.