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### Editorial

## SIGAR corruption reports should seriously be investigated

A report released by the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) on Sunday, accusing U.S. militaries and the allied forces to have been involved in purchasing fuel from Iran, and making up to \$154 million in fuel theft. It said the stolen fuel had been said to have funded terrorists and destabilized the government of Afghanistan, where "much of it was lost due to corruption at virtually every level in the Afghanistan government, including a case where the "police chief, the mayor and the provincial governor to have shared the profits."

Corruption, as the SIGAR said in its report, had been the most formidable obstacle to the stability of Afghanistan.

"Vendors may have obtained fuel that was of poor quality or from prohibited sources, such as Iran, due to the fact the contract did not require the vendors to submit country-of-origin documentation for the fuel they delivered," the report added.

The report went on as saying that \$2.6 million of fuel was stolen in a scam in which corrupt Afghans, who had previously been banned from military bases, would drive trucks up to the gates, siphon fuel, then swap drivers and have non-banned drivers take the trucks inside and that another Afghan company stole fuel by fraudulently obtaining U.S. government fuel credit cards.

The report didn't spare to blame the U.S. soldiers for being involved in corruption inside Afghanistan, as it said U.S. army slacking on their duties, as in 2012, three U.S. Army service members stole 180,000 gallons of jet fuel, which they loaded onto trucks an Afghan trucking contractor owned.

"While in another case, an Army sergeant was bribed to create false documentation facilitating the theft of \$10 million in fuel. Two co-conspirators hid nearly \$500,000 in a pair of stereos."

Separately, an Afghan official paid bribes to fuel depot personnel to overfill trucks, including a \$5,000 bribe for \$150,000 of fuel, SIGAR said.

This is the most concerning and critical event to hear from SIGAR about widespread corruption in the country, involving both Afghans and foreign forces, apart from accusing the second country for benefiting the phenomena.

The Government of National Unity, particularly the presidential office should fully investigate into the case and if the report was true and accurate, the culprits should be brought to justice and if inaccurate, the SIGAR should be asked for not releasing such a false report, as it destroys the public minds of the Afghan people.

The main effort of the National Unity government (NUG) and its key priority is to uproot corruption alongside implementation of other priorities including fighting terrorism and restoring good governance.

## Voters' registration process officially started



Registration process for parliamentary and district council elections was officially started throughout Afghanistan.

Ultimately after long discussions between government and electoral bodies, registration process, presidential and provincial government leaders consider them. While the Afghan government leaders consider them. Ghani asked opponents especially Taliban to register available opportunity and take part in election.

President added, election is an instrument that ensures mental and political reform based on people transparent vote and the IEC asks people to take part in this national process.

Mr. IEC member Mammad said, IEC tries to include a series of reforms in registration process as preparing list of voters is one of these steps and will get rid of falsified data and provide eligible voters will appear.

Law maker Hamid said, insecurity in a number of provinces is one of the basic

challenges ahead of registration process. So the government should use all available resources to provide security of polling centers. The government should not interfere in the work of electoral commission and the IEC should officially announce voters' list of every province to people and prevent fraudulent data on election day.

A number of experts consider election as the only solution for current crisis in Afghanistan.

Political expert Jawed Kohistan believes that non-interference of government authorities, political parties and groups in election process and increasing supervision on electoral bodies could help ensuring trust and transparency of the process. Parliamentarianism

## Special court needed to tackle violence against reporters: ARC

Due to increasing violence against reporters, the Afghan Republic of Afghanistan Reporters' Center (ARC) asks the government to create a special court to prosecute forces of violence against reporters and media.

ARC authorities said that media work is a special business and it is needed that media experts should prosecute and trial violators on violence against reporters.

Addressing a celebration ceremony of reporters' day, chief executive of ARC Ahmad Shamsi said, the government should seriously support media, transparent and fair mechanism for judgment of media should be arranged and special court for trial of perpetrators of violence against reporters should be setup on arbitrary manner and decision of reporters should be stopped.

Based on ARC reports, since 1383 U.S. military 91 reporters and media workers have been killed and 17 reporters and media workers were injured.

The report adds that in attack on Sharmah TV, organized was killed and about 20 others injured by celebration ceremony of a political figure, a commander of Radio Farda was killed and its reporter was injured, in a "SHED" attack in Zabul province, 4 reporters were killed and at least 13 were injured.

In separate attack on RTV in Jalalabad, 4 technical employees were killed and a director was seriously injured, in an attack of communication on the back of RTV in Herat district, Nangarhar province, reporter and cameraman were injured and a police driver was killed.

In separate attack in Badkhan province, director of Lawar TV and his background injured and his driver was killed. One Iranian reporter was killed in an attack on Iraq embassy.

Overall, next to us, in 1381, over 13 reporters were

arrested and the officials of ARC have recorded 27 cases of physical violence, 23 cases of intimidation and 16 cases of criticism of government. IEC has claimed responsibility of 16 cases in Taliban claimed 2 cases of murders, out of 72 cases of injuries, IEC claimed 66 cases and Taliban claimed responsibility of 13 cases. The ARC report shows that 23 types of media have taken place by presidential bodyguards. One of 16 incidents, 10 cases took place by security forces and police, 4 by Taliban. One of 12 cases of arrests, 6 cases by government, 3 cases by NUG, 2 cases by police, 2 cases by ANA, 2 cases by NIS, no one employee of Radio Khost is still in detention.

He added, other challenges ahead of reporters and media include lack of health insurance.

Abdul Akhtar Noorani



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