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Editorial

Persisting violence against women concerning

Afghanistan's Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) on Saturday released its yearly report on violence against women and said in the last year (1396 Solar Year) over 4,000 cases of violence against women were registered by the commission.

The report says that the number of cases has increased by 11.7 percent against the previous year, adding that the increase of kangaroo courts in the country is also worrying. According to the report, most cases of violence against women have remained unreported due to the lack of access for women to human rights institutions.

AIHRC officials said the culture of impunity and lack of law enforcement have been the main reasons behind the continued violence against women. The AIHRC report has been released at a time that the Afghan government has promised the world to work on eradication of violence against women and has also vowed the Afghan people to make efforts for improving of women's living conditions.

Meanwhile the findings of an organization show around 1.700 women currently working in different media outlets in Afghanistan. Head of Protection of Afghan Women, Journalism (CPAW), expressed shared the information during a press conference in Kabul on Saturday.

She said that the survey which was conducted in 14 provinces of Afghanistan and took four months to complete. The survey shows that women who work in media faced with many challenges, particularly with security, social and cultural restraints. Intensifying security problems in different parts of the country forced many women to leave their jobs in media too and six women who were working in media have been killed during the last two years.

The government has committed to improve women position make tangible efforts on their partnership in socio, economic, political and cultural fields and create administrative and social facilities to women.

The government has been implementing many programs with partnership of international community and the women status was expected accordingly to promote at different levels, and their partnership rate be increased in relevant issues of Afghan's national life and all concerning cases including violence against women be uprooted forever.

The government and its international partners have invested multi-million dollars for implementation of this goal and have undertaken numerous programs including creation of legal contexts, reforms in laws and making of essential laws including law on prohibition of violence against women. According to the latter law, and for tackling the crimes related to violence against women, special attorney general office was established.

But despite of all these measures, contrary to expectations every year, the rate of violence has been increasing that has caused increasing concern among people. Based on AIHRC report, unacceptable traditions, insecurity and weak rule of law in provinces and districts, lack of resolute approach with criminals, continuation of culture of impunity from punishment, corruption, abuse of political interference of powerful and influential individuals in prosecution of cases, women's limited access to justice (courts counter violence attorney offices, female detention houses and lawyers etc), poverty, unemployment, irresponsible armed men, lack of support of violence's victims illiteracy, addiction to drugs and low level of awareness were the main reasons behind increasing violence against women.

It is necessary that awareness among people specially rural population on their legal and Islamic rights and obligations on violence against women and avoiding of unacceptable traditions and wrong beliefs among people should be increased.

Restoration of nationwide security and stability and paving the way for women access to justice and improving of rule of law throughout the country and war on corruption, prevention of local influential in carrying out of kangaroo court and putting an end to immunity culture of punishment could be also a solution to end violence against women.

Meanwhile expansion of poverty scope should be prevented, employment opportunities should be created and families' income should be increased.

Senate supports government's proposed peace plan with opponent groups

The members of the senate who are considering Trump's strategy useful for the region and Afghanistan and emphasizing that they support the peace plan proposed by the government of Afghanistan. Speaking in the parliament, they say if we are independent for end of war and violence, you need to respond positively to the Afghan government's peace plan.

Senate First Deputy, Mohammad Hashemi, said that peace is proposed by the government of Afghanistan, and every time the government provides plan for peace, the opponents are trying to kill our people. Therefore, in order to achieve peace, more progress must be made on the Taliban and their supporters.

"We do not want that people to be dishonest for the Taliban, and the security forces are not demoralized, and our people of 'Nation should' specify its response positively to the peace plan, and to negotiate, Mediator should."

According to Meddham, attacks and the intensification of insecurity in various parts of the country indicate that other the Taliban are not committed to the peace, or other individuals through the war are making efforts to undermine the peace plan of the government.

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Parliamentary elections might be held in October, IEC

Officials from Independent Election Commission (IEC) of Afghanistan said that they can restore previous election system to hold in October.

"There is no concern over preparation of election in all provinces of Afghanistan as all preparations have been taken by IEC," the IEC's operational deputy chief Waziri Bahadur said.

Meanwhile, election experts and analysts expressed their concerns over the IEC for their work and progress said members of the election commission had not fulfilled their work in a way expected by the people.

"If the government decides and has honest support of the international community to hold the elections, parliamentary and district council elections will be held," said Naveen Arayandah, head of Transparency Election Foundation of Afghanistan (TEFA).

He stressed that international community should get ready for a big exam and coordinate their works in an effective way so that they can restore previous election system to hold in October.

TEFA suggested preparation of voters' list, modification in modality of work and change in structure of electoral commission as necessary procedures.

Members of parliament also expressed their concerns over the IEC for their work and progress said members of the election commission had not fulfilled their work in a way expected by the people.

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to help honestly Afghanistan in the peace process."

Meanwhile a number of experts stressed that although government and people are not getting ready to peace has become a dream.

All Rahmani, a political analyst expert said since four decades, the war has damaged Afghanistan towards destruction and every day taking lives of our innocent citizens, so national and international community is require to realize peace and end war in Afghanistan as well what is very important in this process is having a strong determination for a national consensus on Afghanistan's peace.

Level Kohistani, another expert in this regard said since 14 years the government of Afghanistan and the UN are trying to bring peace in the country, but unfortunately many issues have prevented the peace process in Afghanistan. He stressed that one of the reasons why these efforts did not come to a realization is the lack of cooperation of neighboring countries, especially Pakistan, this country has repeatedly pledged to aid steps to bring peace in Afghanistan, but unfortunately practical action has been taken in this regard.

"Therefore, it is necessary to increase political pressure on Pakistan by the international community, so that this country to take honest and practical steps to bring peace in Afghanistan," Kohistani went on to say. While the Afghan peace process has been trying since 15 years, to explore areas in order to achieve a lasting peace, but unfortunately, the foreign intervention and lack of strong will by the international community to bring peace in Afghanistan, has made this effort do not have fruitful results.

Surya Ratand



Civilians Massacre

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