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Editorial

Everyone has the right to access justice

The Council of Ministers (CM) of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), during its last meeting, discussed various issues among them personal file of an ex-commander who was tortured by some security personel, prior to be taken to court.

The CM meeting urged the related organs to seriously investigate into his case and legally deal with the perpetrators.

The truth is that the decision made by the IEA cabinet members was not only about the said commander's file, nor it is the first ever incident discussed by the cabent, but anyone violating other rights should be taken to justice and those violated should be supported and their rights defended.

Few rank and file, belonging to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan may have made some mistakes to do something wrong against some certain individuals and violated their rights in some parts of the country; perhaps for their unfamiliarity with law as the situation changed swiftly, but it doesn't represent the main goal of the Islamic Emirate.

Meantime, all security personnel of the IEA are not experienced enough to treat with the people in accordance with their rights, and some of their misconducts shouldn't be interpreted as their intentionally breaching of the law.

The officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) continue working for the people based on their main missions and dealing with them transparently, while hearing their problems and reading their petitions and do their best to help the people of different strata get access to justice.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan believes in all countrymen's legal rights and is committed to defend them as it is obvious that justice is now ensured better than the previous systems.

The main principles of justice and equality should fully be regarded by the entire IEA related administrations.

All government administrations including security, justice and judicial organs should be notified that they have only the responsibility of serving the country and the nation without any types tribal, linguistic and racial discriminations and this will be the only way to win the people trust and bridge any gap between the people and the responsible administrations.

Troika meeting discusses Afghanistan

A 20-member delegation of Emirate Islamic Afghanistan led by acting Minister of Foreign Affairs Amir Khan Mutaqi in an official visit to Islamabad met with Pakistani officials.

Abdul Qahar Balkhi, a spokesperson to Foreign Affairs Ministry, in a tweet has said that ministers of foreign affairs and finance and a working group were part of the Afghan delegation.

Expansion of bilateral relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, economic development, trade, Afghan refugees and facilities in commuting of Afghan refugees were discussed between the two sides.

Besides the respective issues, both sides discussed regional connectivity, air and ground corridors for trade between the two countries.

Participants of the Troika Plus meeting on Afghanistan held in Islamabad on Friday urged the world countries to provide Afghanistan with humanitarian assistance and economic support to Afghans. The meeting was attended by representatives from Pakistan, China, Russia and the United States discussed the latest situation in Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, other issues relevant to human rights, women rights and how to save Afghanistan from a humanitarian crisis were part of the meeting's agenda.

The meeting was attended by newly-appointed US special representative for Afghanistan Thomas West, Russian special representative for Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov and Chinese representative for Afghanistan.

Pakistan minister for foreign affairs Shah Mahmoud Quraishi in his speech in the Troika meeting said that it was better for the world countries to deal with the newly-established government of the Taliban as they were working to do so.

According to Quraishi, nobody wants Afghanistan to return to civil war and nobody wants economically collapsing of the country.

"All countries of the world have common concern and interests in Afghanistan and maintaining peace and stability in the country is the responsibly of all," Quraishi said, asking the U.S. to help the Taliban get access to the blocked money of Afghanistan as it could help Afghanistan revive its economic situation.

With the Taliban takeover in mid-August of the current year, US has blocked nearly $9.5 billion of Afghanistan's banks reservoir.

On the other hand, participants of the Troika Plus meeting in a statement expressed concern over increasing severe economic situation in Afghanistan and stressed on strongly supporting the people of Afghanistan.

According to the joint statement, the participants "called on the Taliban to work with fellow Afghans to take steps to form an inclusive and representative government that respects the rights of all Afghans and provides for the equal rights of women and girls to participate in all aspects of Afghan society."

The participants welcomed the Islamic Emirate's move to allow for the safe passage of all who wish to travel to and from Afghanistan, expressing that with the onset of winter, arrangements should be made to "establish airports countrywide that can accept commercial air traffic, which are essential to enable the uninterrupted flow of humanitarian assistance."

Participants at the meeting agreed for continued engagement with the Islamic Emirate to "encourage the implementation of moderate and prudent policies" that can help in achieving a stable and prosperous Afghanistan.

Since the Taliban takeover in mid-August, regional and neighboring countries have held various meetings on Afghanistan. New Delhi was also hosting a regional meeting titled 'Regional Security', the participants of which asked for humanitarian support to Afghanistan.

The Kabul Times

Afghans happy for restoring bilateral trade with Pakistan

KABUL: The joint Afghanistan and Pakistan Chamber of Commerce has recently said that the two sides have agreed on a mechanism to increase trading between the two countries.

Both sides have signed an agreement to ease trade and movements between the two countries through Torkham ports.

In the recent week, commerce between the two countries have declined with the Afghanistan and Pakistan delegations making effort to normalize the bilateral trade and transit.

Head of Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Chamber of Commerce Naqibullah Safi has reportedly said that they were working on the capacity of the ports, and this is a good step for Afghanistan-Pakistan trade and that the move will lead to the growth of trade between the two neighbors in the future. Also, trading problems at both Torkham and Spinboldak crossings have reportedly been resolved and the two countries traders have resumed exports and imports. The Afghan people, mostly, those have to take their patients to the neighboring Pakistan for treatment, are happy for the reopening of the borders.

"I believe if the two crossings do not close again, they can easily move between the two countries and take our patients for treatment there," Mirajuddin a Kabul resident who has multiple times been forced to return from the Torkham crossing due to the long border blockage.

"I had to return to Kabul with my ailing mother from the Torkham port, where thousands of people have been stranded, some trampled by the rushing crowds," he added.

A trader who wanted to transport three of his fresh fruits and vegetable laden trucks to Pakistan said he waited for days and his goods were nearly to spoil.

"The Torkham border has now reopened, but I hope it was not temporary. Now traveling conditions across the two key borders including that of Spin Boldak are going very well," said Mahmood Khan, a trader from Mazar-e-Sharif.

He added that the prices will decrease if the borders remain open and this would be in the interest of the ordinary people.

Both Torkham and Spin Boldak borders are the shortest way for transportation of the two countries commercial goods.

This should also be noted that Pakistan has time and again made promises to keep its borders open with Afghanistan but the they often remained close to the Afghan people and traders.

Remaining the two countries borders open would be in the interest of both countries and creating any obstacle before commercial goods would harm both nations' economies.

The Kabul Times

Afghans concerned about worse economic situation, seeking assets unfrozen

KABUL: Afghan citizens are worried about what they said a growing economic crisis as billions of dollars of the country are still remained frozen.

The Kabul Times correspondent have launched a series of interviews with a number of Kabul citizens as follows:

Ghulam Sakhi who is now residing in Kabul called that the reason behind most of the people flee from the country lack of work and poor economic conditions.

"Even in Kabul, I could'nt find a job to save my family from poverty and misery. If the country's wealth was unfrozen, uplift projects resume running, the people will find work," Sakhil who is also an educated person and came from the country's northern Takhar province told The Kabul Times.

He asked the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to work hard to convince the international community to not keep drying aids to the destitute Afghans so that they could be provided with job opportunities.

According to him, it was good news, if he could find a work of only five days a month, but unfortunately, he fails.

He said a large number of people are seen along the roads everyday waiting for work, but most of them fail and return home empty handed.

Another Kabul resident Husna said she has been washing clothes in the neighbors houses in the past to earn some cash for her four member families, but cannot continue the work now.

"When I go door to door to ask the neighbors for washing clothes, they said they will wash their clothes themselves, because they have no enough money to pay for others," she, who has completed high school but couldn't join university, in the wake of poverty, complained.

Some people, including government employees have now to use handcarts to vend along the roads and sidewalks, as their salaries are yet to be paid.

Concerns about unemployment, poverty and the poor economic situation of the country rises after Afghanistan's biggest financial supporters, including the World Bank stopped direct financial aids to Afghanistan.

Although, the World Bank (WB) has assured that it will keep continue providing assistance to Afghans through the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the United Nations (UN), but this is not a good news for the country's fragile economy.

The WB, as the major economic backer of Afghanistan, has funded dozens of projects in Afghanistan, including development, reconstruction, health and some entrepreneurship for the Afghan people, should resume the flow of direct aids to the poverty-battered nation.

Meanwhile, officials of the Afghan-Japan hospital and some other health workers said that not only they have not been paid for four months, but that health services of the hospital had dropped to a low level.

In the meantime, spokesman of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan and Deputy Minister of Information and Culture Zabihullah Mujahid, recently assured that efforts were underway to resolve the problems.

"This is a matter of US policy and efforts are being made to overcome the problems as soon as possible," said Mujahid.

In addition, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), another major financial supporter of Afghanistan, has already suspended aids, in the pretext of insecurity, while economic experts see the suspension a sign of economic downturn, because it would directly harm the ordinary people, increase joblessness and most importantly fuel militancy.

The Afghan people hope the government of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan to pave the ground for the aid flow in order to create jobs and save the people from the ongoing poor economic situation. **The Kabul Times**