

(1) Civilian Casualties....

civilians from harm. When the conflict kills or maims a mother, child, sister or brother, the repercussions for families and communities are devastating and long-lasting."

According to the report, the vast majority - or 90 per cent - of civilian casualties resulted from ground engagements, improvised explosive devices, complex and suicide attacks and targeted killings, according to the report, which was prepared in coordination with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Head of UNAMA and the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan, Nicholas Haysom said: "Afghan civilians have suffered far too long from this destructive conflict. The devastating consequences of this violence against civilians as documented in this report should serve to strengthen the broad conviction that peace is urgently needed."

"Until peace is achieved, all parties to the conflict must fulfill their obligations under international humanitarian law to minimize the impact of the conflict on civilians and match their public statements on the protection of civilians with concrete actions," said Haysom.

Anti-government elements continued to cause the most harm despite a slight reduction in total civilian casualties. UNAMA attributed 70 per cent of civilian casualties to their activities.

Civilian deaths and injuries caused by pro-government forces caused 16 per cent of civilian casualties (15 percent from Afghan National Security Forces and pro-government militia and one percent from international military forces).

UNAMA said Wednesday it notes with concern that this is a 60 percent increase compared to the same period in 2014, mostly due to increased civilian casualties caused by pro-government forces during ground engagements.

Fighting between the parties to the conflict that could not be attributed to one specific party caused 10 per cent of civilian casualties while unattributed explosive remnants of war caused the remaining four per cent.

Ground engagements between parties to the conflict caused 1,577 civilian casualties (379 deaths and 1,198 injured) - a 19 percent decrease - yet remained the leading cause of civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

Similarly, improvised explosive devices (IEDs) caused 1,108 civilian casualties (385 deaths and 723 injured) - a 21 percent decrease - while remaining the second leading cause of civilian casualties in Afghanistan.

The slight rise in civilian harm recorded in the first half of 2015 is primarily a result of increased civilian casualties from suicide and complex attacks and targeted killings - the third and fourth leading causes of civilian casualties respectively. Suicide and complex attacks executed by anti-government elements caused 1,022 civilian casualties (183 deaths and 839 injured), a 78 percent increase compared to the first six months of 2014.

Civilian casualties from targeted killings increased by 57 percent, causing 699 civilian casualties (440 deaths and 259 injured) and became the leading cause of civilian deaths, despite being the fourth leading cause of overall civilian casualties (deaths and injured combined).

The report outlines key steps to be taken by parties to the conflict to mitigate casualties and protect civilians from harm, including the following:

Anti-Government Elements:
Cease the deliberate targeting of civilians and civilian locations, including places of worship and culture, civilian Government offices and aid workers. Cease carrying out indiscriminate and disproportionate attacks. (Tolnews)

(2) UN Upbeat

progress in the near future.

The first round of direct peace talks between Afghan government and Taliban representatives took place last month in Murree near the Pakistani capital Islamabad. The second round was supposed to take place last week, but was postponed indefinitely after Mullah Omar's death.

Omar reportedly died two years back and following the announcement of his death Mullah Akhtar Mansour was selected as his successor, but his nomination has been the subject of intense controversy. The envoy insisted UNAMA was supporting a process in which all Afghans could live peacefully.

According to the latest UN report, in the first six months of 2015, more than 1,600 civilians were killed and 3,300 others wounded. The report shows a one percent increase in civilian casualties, compared to last year's corresponding period.

"We tried to stay in touch with all warring factions. One of our main concerns that we have shared with Taliban has been whether the result of our discussions and suggestions reach the Taliban who are busy fighting. We have also tried to convince the warring sides to respect principles of war," Haysom remarked.

He added in their talks it had always been insisted that the Taliban needed to bring changes to their tactics and their definition of civilians should be in line with that of international humanitarian law.

The UN special representative said they also conduct similar discussions with Afghan military officials and international forces, drawing their attention to their duties in accordance with accepted laws.

Although civilian casualties as a result of insurgent attacks have decreased by three percent, still 70% of them resulted from them. Based on UNAMA's report, government forces were responsible for 15 percent of the civilian casualties and international troops for one percent. (Pajhwok)

(3) Violation of....

elders assured Atmar of their tribes' full support to the Afghan security forces in safeguarding the country's territorial integrity and maintaining security.

Atmar said in the long history of Afghanistan, the Afghan people had voluntarily participated in defending the country's sovereignty, soil and pride. He insisted the Afghan government would not allow any violation of the country's territorial integrity.

He thanked the residents of Barmal district for their cooperation with security forces in maintaining security and said people's cooperation with the security forces was prerequisite for durable peace.

The national security advisor also listened to problems shared with him by the visiting elders and promised to raise them with the ministries concerned and the president. (Pajhwok)

(4) 66 Taliban....

the province," he said. There were no civilians casualties during the operations, he added.

However, the Taliban and Daesh have not yet commented on the strikes. Haskamina and Sherzad are both considered insecure districts in the province - in which insurgents are active and frequently target local security forces and threaten residents, said officials. (Tolnews)

(5) Taliban can

absentees or soldiers leaving the forces and argued the need to take steps to retain soldiers in their armed forces. They just need the right leadership to stay in the army. There is no question about their patriotism, he said. "We are also trying to make them accountable," he said in response to a question on high casualty rate and retention.

The US forces, which now number around 10,000, is mostly engaged in advising and training the Afghan security forces. For the long haul, the focus needs to be on aviation, intelligence, maintenance and sustenance, he said.

Campbell said at the end of this fighting session, he would present his assessment about the future of US presence in Afghanistan to the American leadership.

Praising the national unity government leaders, he said they complemented each others, working in close association for the safety, security, development and peace of the country. "They understand the national unity government is the way to go."

Applauding President Ashraf Ghani for his peace initiatives, Campbell said reaching out to Pakistan was yielding results, as reflected in the peace talks in Murree. The death of Mullah Omar, he felt, would divide the Taliban. While some would join the peace process, others might join the IS.

When asked if the US could trust Pakistan, Campbell said there was an opportunity for both Afghanistan and Pakistan to move forward to facilitate the peace process. (Pajhwok)

(6) Pakistan Hopes....

security and economic development. He praised the role being played by UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. Tadamichi appreciated Pakistan's role in international efforts for peace and stability in Afghanistan. (Pajhwok)

(7) Ceasefire Needs

mission followed many challenges but the ability of Afghan forces in the country is understandable.

"I hope that an agreement made for a ceasefire because with ongoing war, Peace Talks would not have any positive result," Luciano Pezzotti, Italian ambassador to Afghanistan said. "I wish Peace Talks process continues in Afghanistan and peace achieves from

political way not military fighting." He also further added that in NATO's mission frame in Afghanistan, Italia will not abandon Afghanistan. (ATN)

(8) Taliban Lose

there is a good chance for peace and peace talks, otherwise the war against the insurgents will be further intensified," the official said.

He further warned the Taliban to renounce violence and join the peace process to avoid being killed by the Afghan forces.

He said the dead militants included a commander identified as Juma. He said the Afghan military also lost six personnel during the past 24 hours. (Pajhwok)

(9) Governor Asks....

the jail was a learning place for them and it was important that criminals should be brought here for punishment.

He was arrested said two and a half year ago over charges of crime and now he was very happy about his release.

Fahim, however, said the environment of jail was not good and 10 people stayed in a room where five people should have stayed.

A jail official said that 10 acres of land was allocated for the construction of new prison, but the non availability of funds halted the construction. (Pajhwok)

(10) Ghor Administration.

of a province where poppy cultivation is zero. The level of poppy cultivation in Ghor is not high, but most common in areas under Taliban or illegal armed men's control.

Currently 2,600 Taliban militants and 4,500 other illegal gunmen are active in the province. Counternarcotics Director Mohammad Yousuf Wakili says the poppy crop in Ghor was affected by a disease this year. But he blames the government for taking no action against the illegal crop.

Based on his information, the level of poppy cultivation in 2014 and this year remained the same at around 1,000 hectares of land. The outlawed crop has been cultivated in Chahardara, Dawlatyar and Pasaband districts and the outskirts of Ferozkoh, the provincial capital.

"Unfortunately, security forces failed to eradicate poppies even in the areas where they are fighting against rebels," Wakili deplors.

Ghor provincial council members believe the province would have seen more development projects if the level of poppy cultivation had been lowered to zero in the past three years. The council head Fazal Haq Ehsan says the money people received from their poppy products is less than a million dollars, an amount provided by the Ministry of Counternarcotics to each poppy-free province.

"Poppy growing just harms people, farmers should stop sowing it and thereby prevent their children walking into the trap laid by the enemy," Ehsan argues, estimating a farmer can collect only three kilograms of opium from his fields annually despite his hard work that does not let him grow legal crops.

He blames the government for paying no attention to development projects and providing job opportunities for the people. Most of youth travel to Iran and return addicted or join militants due to poverty, he explains, asking the authorities to address the problem on a priority basis.

A number of Ghor residents are ready stop growing poppies if the government implements reconstruction projects and provide job opportunities in their areas.

A dweller of Pasaband district, Mohammad Gul, told Pajhwok Afghan News: "The government has completely ignored his area, where no development project has been executed." The Taliban who took control of the district last year encouraged people to grow poppies.

Gul thinks people would no longer cultivate poppies if the government distributes improved seeds to farmers and help them set up orchards.

A woman wishing not to be named says: "My cousin had spent 13 years working in Iran but returned addicted to drugs. I was unaware about his addiction before my engagement to him."

She recalls her husband worked as architect with a good earning potential but most of the money he earned is spent on drugs. "I know my husband would not be able to continue working in the next few years and I would be responsible for looking after my six children," she comments.

Despite millions of dollars spent on rehabilitation efforts, only three percent of drug addicts are treated while the rest have to live in miserable condition, with some dying on roads.

However, the Ministry of Counter-

narcotics says hospitals could treat only one percent of drug addicts last year but after enforcement of a new counternarcotics policy, the percentage has increased to six.

Ministry officials say the capacity of domestic hospitals will increase to treat 30 percent of drug patients in the next five years. In the past, only 50 hospitals were operative in the country to rehabilitate addicts but now 160 facilities are functional.

Provincial police chief Col. Ghulam Mustafa Mohseni says police seized 195 kilograms of opium from four individuals in Ghor this year. Insecurity in the province is directly fuelled by poppy cultivation and smuggling, he admits. (Pajhwok)

(11) Atta Noor....

emphasized that the death of Mullah Omar is a perfect opportunity for the Afghan government to push the peace process.

He says that Kabul should "take control of the peace process" and urged the government to act quickly and call on neighboring countries, as well as the United States, Britain and the European Union, to push the peace talks process forward.

Pakistan hosted the first round of the peace talks with the Afghan government officials and the Taliban in early July, and holds the key to the peace process, Noor said.

"They [Pakistani officials] can bring the Taliban to the table," Noor said. "Their influence has been proven beyond doubt."

A number of analysts were however optimistic that the Afghan government should use the Taliban's current problems to the country's benefit.

"The government of Afghanistan must have a good use of this opportunity because most of the Taliban members who are not part of this project are in a state of suspicion and in this situation, we can make good hunts," former deputy at the Ministry of Interior, Mirza Mohammad Yarmand said.

The Ministry of Interior also hopes that with the confirmation of Mullah Omar's death the war will decrease in country.

"We hope the situation will change. The Afghans in particular hope the insurgents will renounce war [because] they [Taliban] cannot reach their objective through fighting," a spokesman for the Ministry of Interior, Sediq Sediqqi said.

Before this, Mullah Mansour vowed to continue the group's 14-year insurgency in country in a newly released audio message. Currently however, Afghan security forces are caught up in heavy battles with local and foreigners insurgents in the northern provinces. (Tolnews)

(12) 2 Journalists....

said they were attacked when residents of Malistan area, who had arrived to visit the provincial council office, were sharing documents with them about wrongdoings of some government officials.

"As I attempted to take photos of the documents, a member of the provincial council, Tawhidi, said don't take photos and asked who had invited us there."

"I told him that we had been invited and we had not come here on our own," said Jalalzai, who added the provincial council member first verbally abused him and then started beating him.

Marjankhel said when he tried to protect Jalalzai, a secretary of Ghulam Hussain Changiz, another provincial council member, ran towards him and started hitting him.

Other members of the provincial council present at the time also threatened the journalists, he added.

The council deputy head, Abdul Jami Jami, confirmed the incident and called it an illegal act that he said should not have taken place.

Jami said a number of illiterate people had been elected to the provincial council and they even included illegal gunmen.

On behalf of the provincial council, Jami apologised to the journalist community and said he stood by them. He asked the provincial council members, who beat the journalists, to formally apologise to them and not repeat such violent acts.

Ghulam Hussain Changiz also apologised to the journalists and said he would grill his secretary about the incident.

But there was no word from Tawhidi. The incident comes amid increasing violence against journalists in many provinces of the country, including Ghazni. (Pajhwok)

(13) Govt. Urged....

"We have conducted this study to find a way out of this problem."

Her organisation in a statement said

the country's laws did not forbid street harassment and asked the government to criminalise the matter. It also urged judicial organs to deal sternly with the issue.

Zahra Hussaini, a civil society activist in Bamyán, told Pajhwok Afghan News airing movies and serials from different cultures on television networks were a major reason behind the spike.

Tayeba Khawari, the Bamyán provincial council head, said the problem of street harassment had reached the level where it had created problems among families.

In one of such street brawls, she said, more than 10 people were injured and the case was still pending with the attorney's office.

Khawari was of the opinion that awareness among people could play a key role in tackling the problem. (Pajhwok)

(14) Daesh Constructing....

killed several fighters in the area. But local departments had not reported about Daesh fighters' movement to other provinces. (Pajhwok)

(15) Azizi Seeks

taking place during the past three years.

Richard Danziger said he wanted to assess the situation of refugees who had returned from Pakistan and Iran to the southern zone, particularly to Kandahar. His organisation would work jointly with the international community to assist the returnees.

Governor Azizi briefed the visiting officials about the security situation of the province and the overall security situation had improved because people were tired of the war and wanted peace. (Pajhwok)

(16) Civilian Casualties....

last month the death of Daesh chief in Afghanistan, Hafiz Saeed, along with his deputy and several others in Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar.

The report, however, found civilian casualties rose to 201 as a result of suicide bombings, armed attacks, roadside mines and other insurgent-related incidents.

The insurgents, according to the report, suffered the highest casualty toll during the month. A total of 2,924 insurgents, of which 204 were Daesh members, were killed by security forces - a 13 percent decline against last month.

Meanwhile, the report stated 307 Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) members lost their lives in battling insurgent groups.

About 1,972 people were injured in July, of which, 1,472 were insurgents and 322 others were civilians, it added. North-western Faryab province recorded 91 insecurity incidents in July - proving to be the most insecure

of provinces, followed by Uruzgan, Nangarhar, Herat, Helmand and Kandahar.

"The insurgents in July had their focus on the North and all the anti-insurgent operations were reactive," TOLONews researcher Abbas Hussaini said. But unlike previous months, north-western Badghis, reporting only one insecurity incident, was considered the safest province in the month.

According to the report, 961 insecurity incidents occurred throughout the country, showing a decrease of about 10 percent in insecurity occurrences against June. (Tolnews)

(17) Military Operation....

the operation.

On Tuesday, the First Vice-President Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostum said the Taliban and other insurgent groups have sold out and are puppets to foreigners. He also reiterated his previous statement that if insurgents fight security forces they will be eliminated.

Dostum, who is currently visiting battle-weary Faryab province which borders Sar-e-Pul, drove home the fact that unless the Taliban drops their weapons, they will be taken down by the security forces.

In addition he said anti-government armed oppositions were fleeing Faryab.

Dostum however praised the Afghan special forces in Faryab for their commitment to fighting insurgency in a bid to restore peace. (Tolnews)

(18) Projects....

According to the ministry, the uplift projects would benefit thousands of residents in the two areas.

Mahboobullah, a tribal elder in Khost province, said the residents of his area suffered the most because of unavailability of bridge between Khost and Frang districts.

He said crossing the river was very difficult particularly for children and women. He underlined to expedite work on the construction of vital bridge to felicitate the residents. (Pajhwok)

(19) Dadullah Confirms....

Helmand province in 2007.

The Afghan Intelligence - National Directorate of Security (NDS) said Monday that the Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad was mysteriously killed in a hospital in Karachi city of Pakistan.

A statement was issued by NDS on Monday tonight stating that Mullah Omar was killed in the month of April 2013 in a hospital in Karachi city. (KP)

(20) Unknown Gunmen....

and other religious books were also burned in the incidents.

He warned of devastating consequences if the government failed to take measures to stop the practice.

"These mosques were torched in the areas under control of the Taliban," he said. "If government doesn't prevent it, it may turn into a culture." The residents of Baghlan, meanwhile, called the act un-Islamic and demanded the government act to arrest the perpetrators and for justice to be served.

"Mosque is a sacred place for worshipping Allah. It is obligatory on all Muslims to respect mosques. Those who are setting these mosques on fire have no knowledge of Islam," a resident of Baghlan said.

The incidents have taken place in the areas currently under Taliban control. (Tolnews)

(21) Brother Kills....

sisters because they had participated in a wedding party. No further details were given regarding the identity of the man who has reportedly escaped from the area following the attack. (KP)

(22) 6 Rebels....

The official said that four militants were killed and 19 others wounded in retaliatory attacks by Afghan forces in the district. An Afghan National Army (ANA) soldier was also killed in the incident, the official said.

Taliban on their website claimed controlling a large area from security forces but they did not clear which areas were captured by them.

Separately, officials in Jawzjan province claimed inflicting heavy casualties on militants.

Provincial police chief Abdul Hafiz Khashe said two militants were killed and three others wounded when they stormed security posts in Turaghli village of Qush Tapa district last night. (Pajhwok)

(23) Helmand Mines....

been constructed having 16 class rooms and administrative offices. The building, he said cost 14 million Afghanis funded by the UK. Reconstruction of 17 schools had been on-going while construction of 13 other schools had been approved, he said.

He urged local elders to send their children to schools.

Jamal-u-Din, director education in Nad Ali district, said almost all 31 schools had been opened where around 16,000 students including 4,000 girls were studying. At least 14 schools had buildings, reconstruction of four schools had been ongoing, he added.

At least 277 schools, out of 385 schools have been closed due to insecurity in Helmand. The officials estimate that nearly 100,000 students were deprived of education due to closure of schools. (Pajhwok)

(24) Obama Warns....

Hezbollah rockets falling on Tel Aviv.' This is what he said would happen if the U.S. had a military strike on Iran," Rosenbaum said, referring to the Iranian-backed Lebanese guerrilla group and its long-range missile arsenal.

Netanyahu, in the webcast organized by Jewish groups in North America, reiterated Israel's arguments that the nuclear deal was not enough to curb Iranian nuclear projects with bomb-making potential. (Reuters)

"(25) Diplomacy Key.... institutions in the country and help the growth of terrorism and insecurity," he added. The recent diplomatic efforts to settle Iran's nuclear issue can also inspire the political attempts to solve the regional issues, Shamkhani stressed.

Al Moualem arrived in Tehran on Tuesday to attend trilateral talks with the Iranian officials and Russian President Vladimir Putin's visiting special envoy Mikhail Bogdanov. (Xinhua)

(26) U.S. Aircrafts....

24 Turkish air forces will also join the military operations, the statement said. (Xinhua)

(27) China Willing....

United Nations as its core was built by China and the United States, together with other countries; (Xinhua)