

### (1) Abdullah Calls...

for committing crimes against the people of Afghanistan," Abdullah added.

On Monday Daesh militants carried out two suicide bombings in Kabul, where 29 people including nine journalists were killed and nearly 50 others wounded.

The Afghanistan Federation of Journalists (AFJ) and the country's media issued a joint statement condemning Monday's explosions - stating the terrorist attack was a war crime.

"This terrorist attack is a war crime and an organized attack on the Afghan media," the statement read.

"Despite today's attack and other threats against journalists, the Afghan media is committed to providing information.

"The attack in the heart of Kabul and in the Green Zone indicates a serious lack of security by the government.

"In a joint letter, the Afghan media has called on the International Court of Justice and the UN Security Council to investigate the incident.

"The media, which has lost colleagues and has colleagues that are wounded, is committed to supporting the families of those killed and wounded in the incident. We ask government to help the families of the victims.

April 30 will be remembered as the deadliest day in Afghan media history and the industry will mark the day in future in honor of its fallen colleagues, read the statement. Nine journalists and cameramen, including TOLONews cameraman Yar Mohammad Tokhi, were killed and wounded in Monday's bombing, which happened after first responders and journalists arrived at the scene of an earlier explosion.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, Abdullah referred to the AFJ's statement and said that all their suggestions and demands are accepted and supported by the NUG.

"All the recommendations are accepted by the leadership of the national unity government and you will see practical action," said Abdullah.

In addition, Abdullah said that when the Taliban launched their spring operations four days ago, there were probably 400 threats, but only 80 threats were launched and other Taliban's threats were foiled.

In conclusion, Abdullah asked the people of Afghanistan to stand united against the enemies of the country.

"If the people of Afghanistan all together do not convey united messages to the enemies of Afghanistan and do not condemn the enemy, then the enemy will be allowed to become open to crime. And unfortunately, we did not see this happen on a national level."

Monday's attack, claimed by Daesh, took place in a heavily-fortified area of the city and comes just nine days after the group claimed credit for a suicide bombing on an election-related facility in the capital killing at least 60 people and wounded scores others. (Tolo news)

### (2) Glowing Tributes...

Islamic State-claimed suicide attacks. RIUJ President Mubarak Zeb Khan called journalists in the region a family because they had to report under difficult circumstances from some of the most insecure zones in the world.

Pakistani journalists shared the pain of their Afghan brethren and would continue to stand with all journalists in hour of need, remarked NPC Secretary ShakeelAnjum. Separately, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) slammed Monday's suicide bombings as an unprecedented attack on press freedom. RSF secretary-general Christophe Deloire urged the UN to take steps to protect the lives of Afghan journalists.

"We know that the Afghan government is involved in protecting journalists, but it must continue its efforts to provide security and training," said Deloire. He also called on the UN to appoint a special representative for the protection of journalists.

Meanwhile, the Committee to Protect Journalists described the attack as one of deadliest for media in Afghanistan. "Today marks one of the deadliest days on record for the media in Afghanistan and indeed around the world."

CPJ's Asia Programme Coordinator Steven Butler said: "We salute the incredible bravery of these journalists, while noting the cynicism and cruelty of a suicide bomber pretending to be a media worker to target the press." (Pajhwok)

### (3) Parliament to Summon...

"A government which cannot ensure people's safety cannot be legitimate," said Sadiqzadani, an MP.

Meanwhile, a number of Kabul residents also blamed lawmakers for the lack of security in the country.

"All problems will be solved if they (MPs) exercise their authorities for just one day," said Khalilullah Shankar, a resident of Kabul.

"These problems will not exist if parliament has a proper plan and appoints eligible people for security organizations," said KhaterPardes, another resident. (Tolo news)

### (4) Atmar Orders...

committee stressed the need for providing security, protection to journalists and continued assistance to the families of slain reporters.

Termining their demands and suggestions as guine, Atmar directed the authorities con-

cerned to take immediate and prompt security measure for protection of journalists.

He also directed the formation of a mechanism under which families of slain journalists could be provided continued support. Atmar said children of journalists who laid down their lives in the line of duty would be offered educational scholarships. (Pajhwok)

### (5) Around 500 People...

According to CPAG high number of civilian casualties resulted in the Kabul bombing during the month of April. Earlier the high number of civilian casualties resulted in security force airstrike in the Dasht-i-Archi district of Kunduz.

Statistics from the CPAG showed that 50 civilians, including 20 children were martyred and 70 others civilians were injured in the Kunduz airstrike.

The CPAG again asked the conflicting parties to stop harming civilians and demanded the government to think about the health, education and future of children whose elders or guardians had been lost due to terrorist incidents. (Pajhwok)

### (6) Paktia education...

want to encourage parents to send their daughters and sons to school. Problems exist in the girls education, I heard their problems and shared them with the provincial authorities. I will try to find other ways for their solution."

Amarkhila also met with some women and officials at the women's affairs department. She said she planned to implement some programs to improve women's economic situation in the province.

"Like a bird which cannot fly with one wing, a nation cannot achieve prosperity with their women staying aloof. I sat with elders of women and plead with them to allow their women to go should to shoulder with them in achieving development. Conserving their sincerity, I plan to implement some economic programs for women in this province."

Paktia governor Shamim Khan Katawazai thanked Amarkhila for her attention to the province and assured of providing land and other related facilities for her proposed science park.

"Education and peace are two fundamental and inter-related subjects, in Paktia the environment to do every kind of activity is paved, everyone can do work fearlessly. We are with you (Amarkhila) in your mission," said the governor. (Pajhwok)

### (7) Concerns as...

family members (father, mother, brother and others) are also checked before he/she can be issued ID card.

One government official and an ordinary person with their original ID cards can also guarantee an applicant for taking the card and a local representative should confirm the person's identity.

RohullahAhmadzai, spokesman of Population Registration Department (PRD), said the conditions for getting ID cards were still the same as in the normal process but with a difference that now local representative could also guarantee an applicant's identity.

He confirmed ID cards of family members of an applicant were also not checked in the new process. There are more than 400 organizational units in Afghanistan but base registration books (ID cards registration) are not available in all of them, he said.

Ahmadzai said 1,053 new centers for ID cards distribution were created across the country.

However, a PRD observer in a mobile ID cards distribution process in ArzanQimat area of capital Kabul, said an applicant required to have original or a copy of his family members (father, mother, brother, uncle or others) ID cards.

But some people say they are concerned about the possible use of fake ID cards as guarantee ID cards during the new registration process.

Concerns about forgery in ID cards distribution

HumayonHumayon, first deputy speaker of Wolesi Jirga, said that distribution of ID cards in new centers and by new officers was worth concerning.

He said foreign nationals might also misuse the process for taking Afghan citizen ID cards.

"A large number of internal and foreign criminals including those from neighboring countries who are banned from traveling abroad or under investigation may misuse this nontransparent process, they may flee after taking new ID cards," he said.

He said some people, who wanted to nominate for the Wolesi Jirga elections, could also misuse the process by taking multiple ID cards for one voter.

Without naming anyone, he said: "High ranking government officials who are facing security problems after having the attached stickers on their Tazkeras have ordered local representatives in Pashtun areas to persuade people to get the second Tazkera which is specific for casting vote, this practice itself has generated concerns."

Wolesi Jirga member GulaliAkbari acknowledged fraud in Tazkera and added her own bodyguard had obtained three Tazkeras.

Nazar Mohammad Faqiri, a Mesherano Jirga member, said massive fraud was underway in Tazkeras and he knew one individual who got five Tazkeras.

Earlier, the Reform and Change Network, a civil society organization, claimed that peo-

ple had made duplicate Tazkeras and some sold their Tazkeras with stickers attached. Individuals who want to contest the Wolesi-jirga polls need to submit 1,000 Tazkeras and those who want to contest the district council's polls should submit 100 copies of tazkeras to the Independent Election Commission (IEC).

ShahlaFarid, law and political science teacher at the Kabul University, said if the process of obtaining Tazkera continued the way it was, there was threat foreigners might obtain the Afghan nationality.

She said these people [foreigners] might act in elections as per directives of their countries and it would be dangerous.

She also feared some lawmakers might use the opportunity in their interest and conduct massive fraud in their favor.

She asked the government to stop the current Tazkera distribution because it may give birth to further problems. (Pajhwok)

### (8) Ambassador of...

of Afghanistan, including supply of wheat, construction of mills, mining industry, electric power, railway projects. Afghan side, in turn, is ready to import fruit, nuts and other products to Kazakhstan," reads the message. (Agencies)

### (9) White House...

York, the Security Council also condemned the "heinous and cowardly" terrorist attacks that took place both in Kabul and Kandahar.

In a statement, the council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constituted one of the most serious threats to international peace and security.

Members of the Security Council underlined the need to hold perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts of terrorism accountable and bring them to justice. (Pajhwok)

### (10) Former Afghan...

very thrilled this has happened," Kimberley Motley, Rahmani's lawyer told ABC.

"Because of the changes in immigration in the US and, frankly, a lot less people are being granted asylum in the US than back under the Obama Administration - so it has been very stressful for her."

Rahmani heard the good news on Monday - the same day that two suicide bombers detonated explosives in Kabul, killing 29 people - including nine journalists.

"She is always concerned about her family. She just wants to make sure her family remains to be safe because they are in Afghanistan but overall she is happy she has been granted asylum," Motley said.

After being unable to find work while awaiting her asylum application, Rahmani is now looking forward to getting a job flying in the US, according to Motley.

"She is focused on her dream - she is a young lady, very intelligent, very motivated and very ambitious and so she is going to try to continue her dream of being a pilot," Motley told ABC.

"I think she is definitely a wonderful role model to Afghan women ... a wonderful role model to women around the world and frankly to pilots around the world.

"She wants to continue to encourage other Afghan women to go into the field of aviation, she wants to support her government where she can and she wants to continue to fly.

"Knowing her as I do, she will make her dreams come true," said Motley. (Tolo news)

### (11) Taliban Control...

dropped in the first quarter of 2018 is the highest number recorded for this period since reporting began in 2013, and is over two and a half times the amount dropped in the first quarter of 2017.

According to the SIGAR report, the Afghan government controls or influences 229 of Afghanistan's 407 districts (56.3 percent). The Taliban controls or influences 59 districts (14.5 percent). The remaining 119 districts (29.2 percent) are contested.

There is little change between this quarter and last, when a US military spokesman noted that "approximately 56 percent of the country's 407 districts are under Afghan government control or influence, 30 percent remain contested, and approximately 14 percent are now under insurgent control or influence."

The report also noted the record high security incidents in 2017.

The Secretary-General of the United Nations (UN) reported in late February that the security situation in Afghanistan remained highly unstable as conflict between government and insurgents continued throughout the country and high-profile attacks in urban centers increased.

The UN reported 23,744 security incidents during 2017, the most ever recorded, but only a negligible increase from 2016. Armed clashes continued to cause the most security incidents (63 percent of incidents), roughly on par with 2016, followed by improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and air strikes.

The UN said that the 950 air strikes recorded in 2017 represented a nearly 68 percent increase compared with the same period in 2016, though the US Air Force's figure (4,361 strikes during 1,248 missions) is significantly higher. Notably, suicide attacks increased by 50 percent, and targeted killings and abductions increased by 6 percent compared with 2016.

The eastern and southern regions of Afghanistan continued to experience the

highest number of security incidents in 2017, comprising 55 percent of the total.

Civilian Casualties in Early 2018

The report mentioned that UNAMA also reported a very slight increase in civilian casualties recorded from January 1 through March 31, 2018, compared to the same period in 2017.

UNAMA remarked that civilian casualties remain at the high levels recorded during the first quarter of the last two years: there were 2,258 casualties (763 deaths and 1,495 injuries) in the first quarter of this year, 2,255 over the same period in 2017, and 2,268 in 2016.

In a change from previous years, suicide IEDs and complex attacks were the leading cause of civilian casualties thus far in 2018 (33 percent of casualties), followed by ground engagements (30 percent) and non-suicide IEDs (12 percent).

During the first quarter of 2018, UNAMA "note[d] with concern" that the number of civilian casualties caused by anti-government elements had increased significantly.

Anti-government elements caused 67 percent of civilian casualties, a 6 percent increase from the same period last year. Of these, 50 percent were attributed to Taliban, 11 percent to IS-K, 4 percent to unidentified anti-government elements (including self-proclaimed Daesh), and 2 percent to fighting between antigovernment groups.

Anti-government attacks which deliberately targeted civilians accounted for 39 percent of all civilian casualties, more than double last year's recorded amount.

Pro-government forces caused 18 percent of all civilian casualties in the first three months of 2018, a 13 percent reduction when compared to the same period in 2017. Of these, 11 percent were attributed to the ANDSF, 2 percent to international military forces, 4 percent to undetermined pro-government forces, and 1 percent to pro-government armed groups.

Also notable was that civilian casualties from ground engagements decreased by 15 percent, and child casualties (583, including 155 deaths and 428 injuries) decreased by 23 percent compared to last year. (Tolo news)

### (12) Statement by...

Keeping Power in Check: Media, Justice and the Rule of Law - gives special attention to the role of the judiciary in ensuring legal guarantees for media freedom and for the prosecution of crimes against journalists. At the same time, the theme addresses the role of the media in sustainable development, especially during elections and in eliminating corruption, as a watchdog that fosters transparency, accountability and rule of law.

As we celebrate the many successes of the Afghan press corps on World Press Freedom Day, we must also remember the many journalists who have lost their lives while pursuing their noble objectives in Afghanistan. UNAMA documented 14 journalists killed in conflict-related incidents in 2017, and already has verified 11 killed and six injured during the first four months of 2018. Many others have suffered harassment, intimidation and beatings while carrying out their duties.

World Press Freedom Day is a time for us all to reflect on what we can do to safeguard journalists and to recognize our collective obligations to take practical steps to address those forces that menace the media.

The United Nations is actively engaged in supporting free media in Afghanistan. Our human rights colleagues track crimes against media that are related to the armed conflict, and UNESCO, as the lead United Nations agency working on protecting journalist and battling impunity, is collaborating with Afghan partners on a credible database registering crimes against reporters, as well as pushing for more measures to bring perpetrators to justice.

The United Nations has a commitment to defend Afghanistan's free press, and we will do all in our power to support free media so all journalists - Afghan media and foreign correspondents alike - can operate without fear of being harassed, intimidated or attacked, and so the media can operate safely in an environment where crimes against them will be addressed swiftly and effectively.

On World Press Freedom Day, the United Nations stands in solidarity with journalists. We will continue to support the Afghan government in its efforts to implement measures that improve journalist safety and that foster an open media where no voice is silenced through fear. (pr)

### (13) Mujeeb 'Benefits'...

one makes him aware about the various processes without making it complicated. "Communication is one issue, but we have very capable assistant coaches, who would pass any specific message that needs to be conveyed to him," he added.

Mujeeb has become the youngest ever cricketer to play in IPL. At only 17 years, Zadrán became the youngest player to take to the field in an IPL match on April 9 when his team took on Delhi Daredevils.

Zadrán was snapped up at the 2018 auction for \$630,000 USD by Kings XI Punjab in January. (Tolo news)

### (14) Mail to Build...

invested \$25 million USD in dairy production.

"Government should invest in capacity building and production and the private sector should invest in farming to increase

Afghanistan's dairy production," said Alokozay.

Statistics show that Afghanistan produces over two million liters of milk a year and imports over three million liters annually. The total amount spent each year on imported milk is about \$100 million USD. (Tolo news)

### (15) RSF Calls on...

the international community and to local protagonists by appointing a Special Representative for the protection of journalists," added Deloir.

The RSF has also hailed the courage and determination of the Afghan journalists who dare to work in difficult circumstances.

The RSF termed Monday's deadly attack in Kabul the second major attack on journalists in Afghanistan since 2016.

"Today's bombing killed more journalists than any other single attack since the fall of the Taliban government in December 2001. A suicide car bombing in January 2016 targeting a Tolo TV minibus killed seven of the privately-owned TV channel's employees," said RSF in a statement.

According to RSF's tally, a total of 34 journalists and media workers have been killed since the start of 2016 in attacks by Daesh and the Taliban, which are both on RSF's list of press freedom predators.

Meanwhile, officials from the Committee to Protect Journalists described Monday's attack on journalists in Kabul as one of deadliest attacks for media in Afghanistan.

"Today marks one of the deadliest days on record for the media in Afghanistan and indeed around the world," said CPJ Asia Program Coordinator Steven Butler in Washington, D.C. "We salute the incredible bravery of these journalists, while noting the cynicism and cruelty of a suicide bomber pretending to be a media worker to target the press."

Before today's attacks, at least 35 journalists were killed in direct relation to their work in Afghanistan since 1992, according to CPJ research. An additional eight media workers have been killed since 2003, when CPJ began formally tracking the deaths of translators, drivers, security guards, and others who play a vital role in newsgathering.

Afghanistan Ranked Second Worst Country For Journalists in 2018.

Afghan Journalist Safety Committee (AJSC) last year announced that Afghanistan is the second worst country in the world for journalists. (Tolo news)

### (16) NATO's Afghan...

he said, adding many of the personnel were special forces, advised, assisted and accompanied by NATO mentors.

"So the expansion there is why the enemy has been unable to take any district centres, provincial centres or make any advances there," Mattis said in response to a question.

The US would stand by the Afghan people and government and the NATO mission would continue as the Taliban were being driven to a political settlement, Mattis continued.

A day earlier he said the Taliban and affiliated groups were conducting major attacks inside Kabul to grab international media attention. "We anticipated that they would do their best to try to bring bombs right into Kabul. They want them reported."

A number of such attacks had been stopped, he asserted, regretting the terrorist groups were targeting voter registration centres. The Taliban realised the danger of the people being allowed to vote, he said. (Pajhwok)

### (17) 35 Emergency...

technologies to identify and handle bodies with respect and dignity, minimising the trauma of the bereaved families.

It included the challenges that usually hamper communications and coordination in the aftermath of an emergency. (Pajhwok)

### (18) Rabbani Calls...

the IEC has said that the equipment for the voter database system has been delivered to the IEC and that officials are currently the testing of the equipment.

Reports say that the IEC so far has not hired technical staff to tackle the process.

Last week the IEC announced that it had finalized the voter database system.

"This system shows who registered at which center...it shows how many people really registered there. This system is now due to become operational, staff for this system should be hired by the end of next week and then start their work," said Sadat.

Twenty provinces, which are connected via the internet, send their statistics to the center, but the input of names of registered voters into the database has not yet started, said Sadat.

According to Sadat, the IEC gathers statistics of voters through email and over the telephone and then log the details on Excel. But election observers and monitoring groups have raised doubts over the accuracy of this process.

"This system scans the booklets along with its data and then sends it to the center, this helps us get information about the statistics and to know how many people have registered. Scanners were delivered to our Kabul office yesterday and we are testing them now and then we will dispatch at least two scanners to every province," added Sadat.

"Currently we can not confirm the credibility of the statistics which are shared by the commission with the public, because the system has not become operational," said Naeem Asghari, a member of FEFA.

Based on IEC statistics, over the past seventeen days, 875,993 people have registered across the country to vote. Of these, 200,000 are women. (Tolo news)