

Page 1 of 8

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FROM: KOENIGS, UNAMA, KABUL *for Koenigs*

DATE: 7 November 2007

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SUBJECT: UNAMA Weekly Summary Report for the period
31 October - 6 November 2007

Herewith, please find the above-mentioned UNAMA weekly report

Best regards,

CFN-209

Page 2 of 8

I. Security

1. The reporting period saw significantly higher incident levels than the previous weeks, with only the NER and CR reporting a decrease in activity. Military operations remain ongoing in much of the SR, SER, and ER, and an operation commenced in Badghis Province during the week. The types of incidents reported during the week remained consistent, with insurgents focusing primarily on small scale armed clashes and ambushes, standoff attacks and IED attacks.
2. Significant numbers of armed clashes occurred in both the SR and the ER, with insurgents operating in both regions in slightly larger numbers than seen in recent weeks. The week also saw renewed insurgent attacks on district centres, including well coordinated and executed temporary takeovers of Gulistan and Bakwa Districts of Farah Province believed to be perpetrated by insurgents moving out of Helmand Province. These two incidents, combined with attacks on police check points and security forces along the ring road in the SR and WR as well as high levels of criminal activity in these areas, continue to impede the delivery of humanitarian supplies throughout much of the south and west of the country. Incidents in the districts surrounding Kandahar City, especially Arghandab, resulted in a significant amount of attention during the week. The tensions in the district, the result of both local power struggles and AGE interference, significantly heightened the perception of insecurity in Kandahar City. Additionally, the SER and ER saw an increase in IED incidents, including the discovery of over 14 IEDs in Khost Province during the course of a single day. The increase in activity throughout the country appears to be the result of both Security Force operations and a notable increase in insurgent initiated actions, supporting the indications reported last week that both sides of the Afghan conflict intend to continue operations into the winter.
3. Two rockets were fired into Bamiyan city on the morning of 29 October, with one impacting near the ANBP/DIAG compound and the second on the north side of the air strip. While the exact perpetrators and motives have not been confirmed, it is believed the attack was carried out by local factions who consider themselves to have been marginalized by the current political leadership in the area. While not believed to have specifically targeted the UN, this incident is similar to the incidents in August against the UN MAC in Hirat and highlights that although this attack is again linked to factional issues and not AGE, the potential for injury and damage to UN staff and facilities remains present.
4. Criminal activity continues to directly affect the greater humanitarian and development community, with three incidents occurring during the week. In two cases, one in the ER and one in the WR, INGO vehicles were forcibly stopped and their occupants robbed. Additionally, in the NR, two armed men attempted to murder an INGO national staff member. The exact motives for this attack remain unclear and investigations continue.

CFN-209

5. There were three suicide attacks over the reporting period, and one potential suicide bomber arrested. These three attacks fit into known trends of number, type, targeting and location as two of three incidents were BBIEDs, two of three targeted Security Forces, and the incidents occurred in the SR and SER.
6. Also during the reporting period, UNAMA and WFP spearheaded a request for an increase in humanitarian access throughout the country. The Taliban have again responded positively in both formal and informal statements to a UN call for unhindered access. Additionally, a convoy of WFP goods stolen by AGE during the week was returned and a polio vaccination campaign in the SR and SER occurred without incident.
7. The next reporting period will likely see relatively consistent numbers of incidents with a continued use of armed clashes, intimidation, stand-off attacks, IEDs and suicide attacks by insurgents throughout the country as well as continued criminal and factional activity in the north and west. Abduction for political or criminal motives remains the highest threat to UN staff followed by attacks against UN programmes and facilities for localized factional reasons and thirdly, collateral damage due to IED and suicide attacks.

II. Political Developments

3. On 4 November, President Karzai attended a ceremony at the Ministry of Public Health to celebrate improvements in public health in Afghanistan. The number of children dying before the age of five has dropped from an estimated 257 per 1,000 in 2001 to 191 in 2006.
9. On 3 November, President Musharraf suspended Pakistan's constitution, explaining that rising Islamic extremism and terrorism had forced him to take emergency measures. He also replaced the chief justice and blacked out independent media. Although Musharraf's speech did not refer to the internationally sensitive issue of elections, Foreign Minister Kasuri subsequently addressed the diplomatic corps, stating that the period of emergency rule would be short and that elections would be held in 2008. It is not yet clear how the state of emergency will affect the Afghanistan-Pakistan mini Jirgas that were due to be held in early November.
10. The Afghan media misrepresented Minister Aiman's plans to provide separate language schooling for Pashto and Dari speakers. The Education Minister had considered alternative options for a small group of children who spoke only Pashto and the proposal for separate schooling was designed to ensure that all Afghan children could benefit from state schooling in their first language.
11. WI Speaker Qanooni returned from Washington, stating that the US was in agreement that there should be no negotiations with blacklisted Taliban. It remains unclear exactly what this means in practice.
12. Mullah Abdul Salam and a number of members of his Alizai tribe have been involved in discussions on working with the Government. He has also been in

CAV-209

direct contact with Raisi Baghran and Sher Mohammed Akhundzada. Mullah Salam had been fighting alongside the Taliban in Helmand province.

13. The German Chancellor's visit to Afghanistan emphasised continued and strong German commitment to Afghanistan. In a move that defied public opinion, Germany's parliament voted last month to renew the mandate of their troops in Afghanistan for a year with a surprisingly strong majority of almost 80%.
14. On 4 November, Ghaws Zalmi, spokesperson of the Attorney General, was arrested while crossing the border at Torkham. He was accused by the Ministry of Hajj and the Wolesi Jirga of blasphemy for distributing a translation of the Quran without the accompanying Arabic text. UNAMA is seeking clarification of the grounds upon which he is being detained and his position vis-à-vis the constitution and Shari'a.
15. On 28 October, in Herat, the UK and US governments announced that they would allocate US\$12.5 million for development projects to districts which did not cultivate poppy. The amount allocated last year under the good performance initiative to districts was only US\$500,000.

Human Rights

16. The practice of honour killings remains a serious concern. In the Eastern Region, on 28 October UNAMA received reports of two separate honour killings in Laghman province. Although ANP Laghman arrested perpetrators in both cases, UNAMA will monitor the cases due to fears that police can refer the perpetrators to a Jirga. Honour killings were also reported in Khoyghani and Dari Noor Districts, Nangarhar. In the Eastern Region, UNAMA has documented 31 cases of honour killings since January 2007. Most of them remain unsolved.
17. UNAMA continues to support the work of the Department of the Ministry of Women's Affairs (DoWA). In the Western region, UNAMA conducted a one-day training for Badghis DoWA on the UNIFEM database on cases of violence against women (VAW). UNAMA also cooperated with the AIHRC women's rights section with training on women's rights provisions contained in Afghan laws and VAW. In Farah, the Head of the DoWA informed UNAMA that for the last 6 months, she has been receiving telephone threats to stop working for DoWA or defending women's rights and to not report the threats to any security official. In a similar incident, a hand-grenade was thrown into the DoWA office in Ghor Province on 24 October, causing structural damage to the building. No clear motivation for the latter incident has yet been established.
18. Afghan NGO CHA launched a pilot project titled 'Legal Education Training,' funded by UNDP and CHA in close collaboration from the Ministry of Education. In Herat province, the project aims to provide the training of trainers for 8 school teachers who will in turn be responsible for training 160 school teachers in Herat city, Enjil and Guzara districts on basic human rights.

Page 5 of 8

CFM-209

including Islamic perspective and human rights provisions in the Afghan Constitution.

RRR

19. On 1 November, UNAMA met the Programme Department of the Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) to discuss topics including information-sharing and emergency coordination. MRRD appreciated UNAMA's participation in the National Emergency Response Commission (NERC) at the national level and emphasized similar participation at the regional and provincial level.
20. On 1 November, UNAMA organized and facilitated a coordination meeting for programme staff from UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP and IOM. The purpose of the meeting was to rationalize and simplify the contingency plan for the immediate response that the agencies will mount collectively to forthcoming potential mass deportations of Afghan refugees and economic migrants from Iran. The UN contingency plan will now be brought in line with the Government's (Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation) plan. It will then be submitted to the relevant Agency Heads for their agreement and commitment of the necessary resources, and it will also be presented to the Government at high level.

III. Regional Developments

North

21. Kunduz authorities expressed their concerns over rampant corruption, increased smuggling and unauthorised crossings at the Sher Khan Bandar border crossing point. Reportedly, most of the border police personnel are relatives of Border Commissioner Salam, who is from a tribe from Takhar. The Governor proposed to completely change the staff and establish a commission to assess the real status of affairs there. Representative of the US State Department in turn promised to organize a meeting of US Embassies in Afghanistan and Tajikistan to prevent violations on the border. The Chief of NDS proposed to weigh all trucks crossing the border to avoid uncontrolled smuggling. Recently a delegation of businessmen from Tajikistan visited Kunduz and Takhar and with the opening of the bridge over the Amu River, inter-regional trade between the two countries is expected to increase.
22. On 2 November, in Mazar-i-Sharif, Hezbi Wahdati Mardom Afghanistan Party elected members of its central council as well as Balkh provincial representatives. Around 1,000 supporters of the party turned up and elected 13 persons as members of the central council and 60 persons as representatives to attend the upcoming congress of the party in Kabul. The leader of Hezbi Wahdati Mardom Afghanistan, Haji Mohammad Mohaqiq, urged the elected representatives to be active in the forthcoming congress. Similar meetings/elections will be held in the 15 provinces throughout the country.
23. The Property Dispute Working Group, consisting of UNAMA, UNHCR, NRC and AIHRC, met to discuss a key land dispute in Saripul province. Discussions were fruitful as members identified information needed to clarify

Page 6 of 8 CFN-209

the complaint, identify relevant authorities responsible and determine joint action to address the complaint. More importantly, this meeting marks a move towards greater cooperation between the four organisations.

24. The Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, together with the Minister of Border and Tribal Affairs and some members of parliament, inaugurated a 3-day Agriculture Fair in Mazar on 1 November. Representatives of United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Uzbekistan and Tajikistan Embassies, regional and international traders, UN, NGOs, Balkh authorities, Balkh PC members as well as the heads of agriculture departments of the five Northern provinces all attended the Agriculture Fair. The purpose of the fair was to provide opportunities for Afghanistan and international business sector, NGOs, and farmers to learn about new agriculture organisations and to meet with potential buyers and sellers.

South

25. On 1 November, a large meeting took place at the district centre in Arghandab (Kandahar). The District Commissioner reported that 250 people were present, including the Provincial Governor and representatives of the PC and MJ, local elders, ANSF and ISAF. In addition to discussing the heavy fighting that has taken place in the district and visiting the site of fighting, the Governor encouraged displaced persons to return home. There were also discussions on the need to ensure the establishment of security posts on routes to/from Khakrez and Shah Wali Kot districts, so as to minimize the risk of future incursions.

West

26. On October 28, a Presidential Decree to recruit 500 auxiliary police forces was submitted to the local Shuras of Shindand by General Gharibshah Mol Chief of Recruitment, Herat Governor's representative and some PC members. The delegation and local Shura of Shindand district agreed that the exercise to take place on the following week. Local Shuras in Shindand insisted on recruiting ANAP from the area, as they believe that forces from the area will be responsible and able to maintain stability to the area.
27. Joint efforts have widely been mobilized by UNAMA and ANDMA to encourage all potential actors, including the NGO community operating in the region, to take part in winterization planning and ultimate response. The R-CDMT, in which the UNRT plays a substantial role every year, anticipates serious shortcomings in terms of humanitarian response in the impending winter. This takes into account the emerging internal displacement of families in Badghis, Herat and Ghor coupled with the ongoing deportation of Afghan families, who mostly settle in the western provinces.
28. The deportation of Afghans through the Islamqala crossing point has continued with 1,872 persons deported. The Government of Iran has also started deporting documented Afghan families from Golestan province, one of the 19 provinces declared as no-go areas. According to the credible sources,

Page 7 of 8

CFN-209

35 families – all documented – were deported through Islamqala crossing point.

East

29. The Civil Service Commission continues with the recruitment of staff through the PAR process. During previous week, interviews were completed for education directors in 14 districts in Nangarhar while, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture in Laghman province, tests and interviews were completed for a total of 22 out of 70 vacant posts in the Department of Agriculture in Laghman.
30. In support of the local governance sector, UNAMA held a series of meetings with DAI representatives for local governance in order to increase their activities towards capacity building programmes for civil servants and increased attention on Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission and Afghan National Disaster Management Authority. DAI will hire three consultants for the period of one year in all provinces in the eastern region to support the governor's office, provincial development committee and the line department directors.

Central

31. UNAMA organised a meeting between the Panjshir and Kapisa NDS during which the issues of security, as well as measures for preventing weapons smuggling and movement of Taliban between those two provinces were discussed. A similar meeting between the ANP of Tagab and Sorobi (Kabul Province) will take place next week. The NDS heads of the provinces will develop a joint plan action that would address the aforementioned security issues.
32. AIHRC conducted a six day pilot workshop on conflict resolution and mediation that covered a range of topics including conflict and violence, conflict analysis, peace making, conflict resolution, and mediation. The main aim of this workshop was to strengthen the capacity of AIHRC staff in Bamyan in terms of conflict resolution mechanisms and other institutions, such as UN agencies, the Ulema Council, the judiciary and local NGOs, also attended the sessions. Participants of the workshop proposed the establishment of a network in Bamyan to teach and implement learned methodologies at the district level as a complementary way to deal with conflicts among communities or individuals beside the current formal and informal justice systems in place in the region.
33. In Dai Kundi province, Bakhtar Development Network (BDN), the BPHS implementing partner for the Ministry of Public Health, has activated additional health facilities throughout the province. These planned health facilities (HFs) include one provincial hospital, 14 basic health centers, 3 comprehensive health centers, 4 comprehensive health centers, 5 sub centers and 300 health posts throughout the province. Currently there are a total of 28 health facilities operating in the province. This is a significant improvement when compared to the 9 health facilities in the province in the recent past. All the 28 health facilities have been supplied with medicines and basic

Page 8 of 8

CFN-209

equipment that would meet the emergency needs during the harsh winter months ahead.

[Drafted by Suh - OSRSG]