

RELEASE IN PART B6

From: Sullivan, Jacob J <SullivanJJ@state.gov>
Sent: Saturday, September 18, 2010 3:14 PM
To: H
Subject: Fw: election update

Election update

From: Ruggiero, Frank J
To: 'Lute_D [redacted]'; 'John_K._Tien [redacted]
 Sullivan, Jacob J
Cc: Amiri, Rina 03
Sent: Sat Sep 18 14:47:25 2010
Subject: Fw: election update

B6

FYI. Will have fuller read-out after 1700 conference call. Thanks Rinal!

From: Rina Amiri [redacted]
To: Holbrooke, Richard; Ruggiero, Frank J; Feldman, Daniel F; Singh, Vikram J; Dempsey, John R; Simon, Jessica L; Haq, Nayyera; DeHart, James P
Cc: SSRAP Staff Assistants
Sent: Sat Sep 18 07:21:29 2010
Subject: election update

According to a number of Afghans and international observer that I have spoken to this morning, this year's elections are thus far better than last year. Key highlights from these anecdotal observations are noted below:

Security

-While there have been a number of security attacks throughout the country, including Kandahar, Nangarhar, Kunduz, Baghlan, Logar, Wardak, Kapisa, and Kabul thus far the number of incidents are lower than last year (according to the [redacted]). In Kandahar, where there were at least seven rocket attacks, Governor Wesa's convoy struck an IED on the way to a polling center (no one was hurt).

- Pajwok News, One of Afghanistan's main paper, has cited that there are 15 dead (including 6 ANSF) and 40 injured so far. In a number of cases the incidents the cases involve candidates targeting other candidates.

Operations

- Election operations are also seen as improved over last year. IEC Manawi reported that 92% of the polling stations were opened.

There were a few reports of complaints about the ink (claims that they were being washed off) and faulty hole punchers.

-There were a few demonstrations in Ghazni and Kabul over lack of polling centers

Fraud

-There are many attempts at fraud but it is not systematic. The IEC also seems to be responsive and making more of an efforts to prevent fraud. A number of people have been arrested for attempting to use fake registration cards. In Herat over 150 fake registration cards were confiscated. In Kapisa, the governor's son was

attempting to prevent poll workers from putting ink on voter's fingers. There are a number of reports of men being turned away for using women's registration cards.

Turnout

-Turnout is currently low throughout the country.