



CONSTITUENCY RELATIONS MANUAL

A GUIDE FOR AFGHANISTAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY MEMBERS



USAID / APAP

FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

OCTOBER 2010

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Constituency Relations Manual

A guide for Members of the Afghanistan National Assembly

October 2010

The author's views expressed in this manual do not necessarily reflect the views of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) or the United States Government

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Introduction

Members of Parliament serve three important functions: lawmaking, oversight and representation. This manual will help members of parliament carry out their representative function. This important job is a two-way street and helps MPs and citizens. People in your district may need food and clean water, roads and electricity, jobs, schools, health care, and they often think that you can bring help from the national government and international organizations. Constituency relations work will help you understand what people want, and how you can meet their needs.

Being an MP gives you important powers. You can question government Ministers about their activities in your district. You have information and resources that most people do not have. You can bring help from government agencies and donors. You can help people understand confusing government regulations. Using your power for the benefit of your people in your district will bring you their support and will ensure that projects are effectively and efficiently complete.

This manual gives you basic tools and principles learned from both the Afghanistan National Assembly and parliaments throughout the world. Your use of these tools and principles will differ based on local needs and resources available, and this will be addressed in the discussion below. This manual is part of new member orientation program for Members of the Meshrano Jirga, and is designed by Counterpart International's Civil Society division for the Afghanistan Parliament Assistance Project (APAP) implemented by The State University of New York's Center for International Development (SUNY/CID). The manual is based on Counterpart and SUNY's outreach and parliamentary work in Central Asia, Armenia, Egypt and Afghanistan as well as input from members of the Meshrano Jirga during the constituency relations workshop in April 2010. Staff of the Departments of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) was also helpful in writing this manual.

Since 2004, the Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Project (APAP) has provided technical assistance that has strengthened the

Afghan government's capacity to establish a Parliament that is able to operate as a strong, independent, and effective deliberative body. APAP's Outreach Support Team helps Parliament communicate with citizens and provides assistance to the National Assembly's Department of Information and Public Relations. APAP holds trainings for Assembly staff, MPs, and citizens on media and journalism skills to increase communication between MPs and constituents. APAP also writes a weekly newsletter for the international community with news of the National Assembly. In addition, important links are being created between the MPs and constituents through radio programs and documentaries.

Importance of working with constituents



The Constitution of Afghanistan says that every Member of the Assembly shall judge according to the *general interest as well as supreme benefit* of Afghanistan people (Article 81 of the Afghanistan Constitution). But what is the general interest and which policies benefit the people? Input from constituents is necessary to answer these important questions.

Different regions have different interests and needs. The role of MPs is more than to simply represent a geographic area. MPs must talk to people to find out what they need and then make hard decisions about meeting those needs with limited resources. Good relationships with local and provincial councils, shuras and jirgas, and local organizations can help the MP to carry out his or her representative role.

In a presidential system like Afghanistan, the representative role of is particularly important for citizens to have a voice in the national government. According to a May 2010 survey, the most important thing that an MP can do is to link people with the executive branch to represent their interests and oversee the executive.

Benefits of Constituency Outreach

Members of Parliament and constituents both benefit from talking to each other.

Benefits for members of parliament include:

- Members emerge as leaders who make things happen (new projects, new legislation, better living conditions, etc)
- Members have a higher profile and greater visibility
- Members get ideas for new legislation through public hearings and meetings with constituents
- Members learn what people need
- Members gain support for their legislative work

Benefits for constituents include:

- People can tell representatives what they need
- People can participate in decision making at the national level
- People get access to important information
- People learn about new programs and services they can access

- People get more accountable representatives
- People can have personal and community problems solved

Challenges Faced by MPs in Constituency Work

Even though this work is important, it can be challenging. Some challenges that MPs face include:

- Security risks associated with travel
- Bad roads and lack of reliable communication
- Difficulty meeting high expectations
- Lack of resources
- Misperceptions about constituents

Travel to home districts can be difficult because of poor security conditions, roads and reliable communication. But the main problems MPs have are high expectations and not enough resources.

People think that MPs can give them direct financial help and support policies that benefit them. At the constituency relations workshop held in April 2010, an MP told a story of a constituent that asked for the road in front of his house to be fixed. The MP was able to fix the road but he remained unsatisfied because he said “the new road is for everybody but not for me only.”

Another challenge is the gap between promises made and resources available. During an election, candidates make a lot of promises to win votes. People have many needs and opponents will often promise anything to secure a vote. Some Members of Parliament have confessed that during a campaign they made many promises, but once in office they could not deliver on those promises because of limited resources. Candidates and members need to be careful about promising too much. They should do their best to listen to people’s needs and be realistic about what can be done to solve problems.

MPs can use local leaders to help them when other resources are limited. Leaders available to help include tribal leaders, religious leaders and local government leaders. These leaders make it easier to communicate with people in your district and carry out other duties. However these groups have their own interests and MPs should be aware of them. In order to be effective an MP must take into consideration local norms, values, traditions, needs and concerns of all constituency groups.

In wealthy countries MPs have a large staff to help them. This staff can provide information to MPs, help organize calls and letters, and advise MPs on legislation. In developing country legislatures it is more difficult, but there are resources an MP can use. Talking to ministries, embassies and other government officials is an important thing that MPs can do. When asked about their MP's work, many people cite examples of MPs securing passports, certificates of refugee status and other government documents. Good connections in government agencies can allow MPs to serve people with less staff and money.

Sometimes MPs misunderstand how people in their district can participate. This includes:

- Fear that people will know too much and will get too involved with Parliament's affairs
- Fear that people will require too much from legislators
- The perception that lack of education and skills means that constituents don't have anything to offer

As you will see below, constituents can help MPs almost as much as MPs can help constituents.

Planning your communications strategy, and using the tools and strategies in this manual will help you in your representative role. You will find more tools and strategies in the appendices of this manual.

Who are Your Constituents?

Because districts are made up of many different groups, MPs must use different strategies to communicate well. For example, communicating with the elderly will be different than communicating with young people. Elders are important because they have different needs and have a major say in local Shuras. It is also important to target the youth because Afghanistan has one of the youngest populations in the world. Identifying the main groups you represent will help you communicate with them. Some ways to do this are presented below.

Stakeholder Analysis

Stakeholder analysis is one of the tools you can use to group your constituents and plan how to communicate with them. First divide your district into groups according to the best means of communication. There are many ways to reach people including radio, television, internet, newspaper, face-to-face meetings, etc. The internet and newspapers can be used to communicate with people in the city and people who have more money and education. People with less education can be reached with radio and television.

Interviews and surveys are often used to help make these decisions, but talking to people who know your district is an easy way to get a lot of information. This can also help to plan which personal connections you should make. For example in a province where the local government is very strong, you should make connections in those local governments. In a province, where tribal structures are strong you should work closely with the tribal leaders.

Here is a form that can help organize the information:

COMMUNITY/VILLAGE PROFILE FORM	
Name of Community: Province:	
Community Leadership: (Names & Position of Local Gov. Officials, Tribal Leaders, Religious leaders)	
Population by age:	
Population by gender:	
Population by religion:	
Level of Education:	
Communication Available: (TV, radio, phone, etc.)	
Active community organizations	

Community Assessments

Outside organizations can be a good source of information about communities. Surveys can help identify people's needs and opinions. Organizations like The Asia Foundation and the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) conduct surveys about the quality of government services and programs. These surveys can help MPs understand what people think and what they want.

Meeting with Elected and Traditional Representatives

When you cannot meet with people one-on-one because of security or travel problems, you can meet with representatives to help you communicate. Representatives can be from Provincial Councils, Provincial Development Committees, Sectoral Councils, District Development Assemblies, and Community Development Councils. You can also attend Jirgas and Shuras in your district. Regular meetings let you tell people about your activities. You can also learn about local programs and needs.

Meetings with local leadership

Local leaders can help you get information and meet people's needs. Regularly meeting with these leaders is a good way to build important relationships that will help you do your job. Leaders to talk to can include Provincial Governors, Heads of Ministry Departments, Chiefs of Police, District Governors (Woluswal), Mayors, Malik/Arbab, Mirabs, Khans and Nawabs, Ulemas. You should also meet with religious leaders in your community. You can meet with them in your district, at the national assembly, or make phone calls and internet contact. You should have a list of local leaders and their contact information and should talk to them often.

Information Posters

You can use posters to inform people about your activities in Parliament. You can put these posters in markets, government buildings and public places in your district. Be sure to use the language people speak in this area, and use a photo of yourself to help reach people who can't read. It is also important to keep the information updated. Most importantly, make sure you talk to local leaders to get their help keeping your posters up. Otherwise, people may take your posters down when you are not around.

Written Questions and Comments

You can put feedback Boxes in government buildings, offices and other public places. People can ask questions and talk about their concerns. Then you can answer them on information boards and through radio and TV shows.

Participation in Social Rituals

People expect to see their representatives at weddings, funerals and other religious and social ceremonies. You should consider security and travel concerns when deciding whether to attend, but these events can be good places to meet with people and share information about your work and their concerns.

Telephone Hot Lines

Telephone hot lines are a good way for people to contact you. Hotline numbers should be posted with a photo in public places. This is another place for people to ask questions and make suggestions. If you set up a hotline be sure to regularly return calls or respond publically to the concerns you are hearing.

According to a recent report on Afghanistan there are 13.6 million people with cell phones, almost half the population.

Following is a sample call log you can use to keep track of calls and responses.

Call Log (for your electoral district)
Name:
Profession:
Village or District
Question or Comment:
MP Response:
Name:
Profession:
Village or District:
Question or Comment:
MP Response:
Name:
Profession:
Village or District:
Question or Comment:
MP Response:

Civil Society Organizations

CSOs work on lots of issues including humanitarian assistance, economic development, and education, and they can help members of parliament with their work in many ways. They are a good way to connect with people in your district, and they often have good relationships with the public. Working with a CSO project is a good way can help solve a problem. This can help increase your visibility at the district and national level.

CSOs can also provide information including expert opinion, surveys and research. And they can also help mobilize volunteers to work on projects. Though they are a great resource, CSOs should be chosen carefully to ensure that they have a good reputation.

Here is a sample form that can help organize information about the CSOs in your district:

Organizational Profile Form

ORGANIZATION INFORMATION	
Organization Name (Name and abbreviation)	
Organization Address	
Type of Organization (Business, nonprofit, intergovernmental, etc)	
Beneficiaries (Members, Target groups, Constituents)	
Geographic coverage	
CONTACT INFORMATION	
Contact Person (Name and position)	
Phone, email, fax	
PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES	
Areas of concentration	
Previous business with Parliament	

International Organizations

People expect you to bring help from international organizations, so having contacts with these organizations can help. You should know which organizations are working in your district and on issues that are important to your constituents. You should also find out how to get money from these organizations and make contacts with representatives from the organizations active in your district.

Using Internet for Communication

The internet is a good way to communicate with people. The first thing to do is start a website that gives information about you and your activities in Parliament. You can have your own website through free of charge online services. You could have a biography, a list of the bills that you have worked on, and a place where people can ask questions and leave comments.

The screenshot shows a website for a member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly of Iran. The header features the title "دلی جرگه شومای بی جوموری اسلامی افغانستان" (Daly Jirga Shomay Bi Jomuri Islami Afghanistan) and the Parliament logo. The main content includes a portrait of a man, his name "زنگلی نامه محمد یونس خانونی" (Zangali Nameh Mohammad Younis Khanoni), and his title "رئیس ونسی جرگه" (Chairman of the Jirga). A section titled "شهرت فردی" (Personal Reputation) lists his education (M.A. in Law, 1336), profession (Lawyer), and various roles in the National Consultative Assembly and the National Jirga. It also mentions his work on bills and his role as a member of the National Jirga.

The website can link to Parliament and CSOs that are active in your district. In addition to creating a website, you can use things like Facebook, Youtube, and blogs to communicate with people. The internet is an especially good way to communicate with people in districts that you cannot travel to.

Websites can also help you communicate with international organizations and CSOs. It can help them learn about you and your work. Emails can link back to your website and links with CSOs and other government offices and create a community.



It is also important to update your information on the National Assembly website including your contact information. You can also have press releases, newsletters, and interviews. There are more than 1,000,000 internet users in Afghanistan and this number will continue to increase. The internet is an important way to reach them.

Here are some tips for creating a good website

1. Your website should be an important source of information about you and your issues for constituents, the media, and CSOs
2. Your website should provide useful information about conducting government business such as securing visas.
3. Your website should have information about issues important to people in your district such as road building, electricity, and jobs.
4. You should regularly update your website.
5. Avoid a large introduction it does not usually contain useful information and makes it more difficult to find things that people are looking for.
6. The website should contain a section for question and answers.
7. Avoid using complicated language. Your website should simply and effectively present information. The more complicate the language and the design, the less useful your site will be to the public.

Budget Process and Constituency Relations

You can use the budget process to help your district. When you are familiar with this process you can make sure your district's interests are reflected. You can secure money and projects for your district and make sure that those projects are run well. Citizens and civil society organizations can provide useful information about the budget process, government spending, and economic forecasting. This information can allow you to have more influence over the budget process.

Using Media in Constituency Work

The media is one of the main ways that you will communicate with people in your district. When visits to the district are difficult radio and TV programs are a good alternative. The Afghanistan Parliamentary Assistance Program (APAP) has a number of radio outreach programs that you could use to talk with people in your district.

To facilitate MPs work with the media organizations, **Appendix 1** presents an example of a Media Directory.

Tips for work with the media

Below you will find tips for working well with various types of media.

Basic tips to remember when working with the media:

- Pick the media you will use based on the audience you want to reach.
- Develop a list of contacts in the chosen media outlets and keep it current (see Appendix 1 for a media directory template). Let them know when you are available, what your role is, what kind of information you can provide, and how to contact you.
- When events happen that are relevant to your topics use them for publicity. For example if you want to talk about education, choose June 1 –International children’s day to get more media coverage.
- You should always be ready to talk to journalists about your topics: be concise, accurate, and honest.

Nine things to remember during the interview:

1. Use simple language. Avoid jargon; explain special terms if you must use them, but remember who your audience is.
2. Be brief. Television and radio stories may use only a 10-30 second cut.
3. Stick to your main points and don't go off topic. Most people make the mistake of talking too much.
4. Don't overestimate a reporter's knowledge of your subject. When a reporter bases a question on information you believe is incorrect, do not hesitate to set the record straight. Offer background information where necessary.
5. If a question is unclear, ask for clarification.
6. Never say, "No comment." Instead, if you cannot or do not choose to answer, explain briefly. For example, "It is our policy not to discuss lawsuits currently in litigation" or "I can't answer that because I haven't seen the research you are referring to."
7. Avoid saying things "off the record." Reporters may or may not honor this, and it annoys them. If you don't want to hear it on the evening news, it is better not to say it.
8. Be honest. Don't try to conceal negative information; instead, let your interviewer know what you are doing to solve a problem.

Advice for TV and Radio programs:

- For television programs, wear solid-color clothing. Stripes and other designs can cause problems with color TV pictures.
- Look in a mirror just before going on camera. The reporter may not tell you that your collar is folded over or your hair is out of place.
- Choose a location where you can screen out background noises. Hold your calls and turn off your computer. Avoid

rooms with loud background hums from air conditioning or heating units.

- Find out in advance whether the interview is edited or live. If you agree to a live interview, be sure you are comfortable thinking on your feet.
- In edited interviews, it is normal to stop and start over again if you don't like the way you worded your answer.
- In a TV interview, look at the reporter and not the camera.
- Be still in front of radio or TV microphones and avoid sitting in a chair that rocks or spins.

Tools for Communicating with and Through the Media

The following tools can be used to help you communicate with the media:

- News releases (including press release, video and radio news releases)
- Media alerts about specific events
- Public information packets
- Letters to the newspaper editor
- Press conferences and individual meetings with reporters or editors
- Appearances on radio and television programs
- Internet access--from Web sites to online forums and newsgroups

News Releases:

A news release is a good way to quickly and easily let the media know about something you are working on. When writing a news release, consider the audience. While you may think that the matter is important, you must show the media that it is important.

The news release should:

- Present you as an important spokesperson for the issue.
- Get the editors attention so they will run the release and follow up with more coverage.
- Fit with the media outlet's style and focus.
- Reach the editor while it is still new.

The main point should always be clear and up front. The release should always look professional. The goal is to get the paper to follow-up on the news release, but it should be written so it can be published as is. It should be no longer than two pages.

The best way to deliver a news release is a hand delivery with a follow-up phone call. You can also ask the DIPR to help you disseminate your news release to the media.

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Telephone:

Fax:

Email:

HEADLINE

Headline — should grab attention and summarize the News.

Date line — contains the release date and usually the originating city of the press release.

Introduction — first paragraph that gives basic answers to the questions of who, what, when, where and why.

Body — further explanation of the story.

Biographical Information — a short section explaining who you are and why you are an expert on the topic

Contact information — name, phone number, email address, mailing address, or other contact information for the PR or other media relations contact person.

END - indicate that this is the end of press release

Media Alerts:

When you don't have time for a full press release you can issue a media alert. Similar in style and virtually identical in intent to a news release, the alert is limited to a bulleted presentation of the - who, what when, where, and why of your event.

Sample Media Alert

For Immediate Release

[Insert date]

[Education for All] TO HOST [A Roundtable] DURING National Education Conference

WHAT: [Education for All] will host [a roundtable] during the National Education Association's Conference, November 15–21, 2009 with the Chairman of Education Committee of NA].

WHO: [Chairman of NA Education Committee NAME].

WHEN: [November 20 at 14:00].

WHERE: [Conference Room of the State University].

WHY: National Education Association presents all students with an opportunity to honor individuals who are making a difference in ensuring that every child receives a quality education. The weeklong celebration spotlights the different people who are critical in building great public schools.

Regardless of the form your news release or media alert takes, be sure all information is accurate.

Press conference:

You can use a press conference to get reporters to listen to statement and ask questions. A press conference should present new information. To hold a press conference, choose time and place, invite members of the media, make a presentation on the topic of the press conference, and leave time to answer questions.

Letters to Newspaper Editors:

Letters to the editor are a good way for you to publically state your opinions on issues. These letters are usually a reaction to a recent news story. You can agree or disagree with the story or add new information. They should be short and focused, and be sure to stick to the style required by the paper.

Radio Programs:

Radio is the cheapest and most practical method of mass communication in Afghanistan. 70% of people in Afghanistan cannot read. Very few households have access to electricity, but most have access to a radio. It is important to know how best to use the radio to reach people.



Call-In Shows:

Radio call-in programs are a good way to reach constituents. This type of program is a conversation between people and their representative and it lets people talk about their concerns. They can be used to reach people in remote or dangerous locations or simply to interact on a more regular basis than you can with face-to-face meetings.

Radio Interviews:

You should practice your message before you go on the radio. If you are a featured guest on a call-in program, listen carefully to callers and use their names when responding to their questions.

Role of Public Hearings in Constituency Work

The public hearing is another good way to communicate with people. These hearings can educate people about the work you do. Public hearings are more formal and you can use your official status to act as a direct result of presentations and discussions. It allows people in your district to see your work first hand and establishes you as an expert for international organizations and CSOs.

Here is a sample you can use to help you and the NA staff organize a public hearing:

Steps for Organizing a Public Hearing

Step	Activity description	Responsible person/institution	Status
1	Hearing date and time	Committee decides on organizing the hearing, sets topic, date and time	
2	Hearing Participants	Committee Chairman approves the list of invitees	
3	Hearing setup	Committee staff arrange room and equipment needs	
4	Invitations	Committee staff prepares and send invitations to participants	
5	Background materials	Committee staff collects materials on the topic from Parliamentary Institute, Library, CSOs, etc. and prepares packages for Committee MPs	
6	Informing Media	Committee staff sends out information on the hearing to Media with the help of DIPR	
7	Logistics	Committee staff: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. prepares the agenda, 2. gets confirmation from the invitees and 3. sends their names to NA Security Service to issue entrance passes, 4. follow up with Secretariat on the room and equipment, 5. collects any information that invitees want to share with MPs 	
8	The day of the hearing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Send early reminders to MPs, media and invitees 2. Review room setup 3. Distribute agenda and any handouts available 4. Check the equipment 5. Transcribe the hearing 	
9	Follow up	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare the report of the hearing based on transcripts for MPs 2. With DIPR help review the media coverage and prepare briefing for Committee members 3. Finalize recommendations and prepare action plan for the issue under consideration 	

Appendix 1: Media Directory

Radio

Azadi Radio					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	M. Amin Modaqeq	Radio Azadi	Ceif	700 295 871	mudaqiga@rferl.org
2	Mojahed Jawad	Radio Azadi	Reporter	700 263 280	mujahidjawad@yahoo.com
BBC World Service					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	Babrak Ihsas	BBC Radio	News Officer	700 27 44 70	ismael.saadat@bbc.co.uk
2	Sayed Anwar	BBC Radio	Reporter	799568357	sayedanwar@gmail.com
3	Kargar Noor Oughli	BBC Radio	Reporter	799104790	kargar.noroughli@bbc.co.uk
Klid Radio					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	Nazir Ahmad Afzali	Klid Radio	News In charge	700 160 658	nazir_nazirafzali@yahoo.com/ Nazir.88@gmail.com
2	Malyar sadeq Azad	Klid Radio	Reporter	774 038 762	malyar@kilid.com
VOA Radio					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail

1	Nesar Hares	VOA Radio	Reporter	700224845	haresvoa@hotmail.com
2	Rahimgul Sarwan	VOA Radio	Reporter	700262877	rgsarwan@yahoo.com
3	M. Ekram Shinwari	VOA Radio	Reporter	700224845	eshinwari@yahoo.com
Good Morning Afghanistan Radio					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	Bari Salam	Radio Goodmorning	Chief	700 224 434	barrysalam@hotmail.com
2	Zakia	Radio Goodmorning	Reporter	706008185	hamednori@gmail.com
3	M. Fahim Abed	Radio Goodmorning	Reporter	700436865	fahimabed@yahoo.com
RTA Radio					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	Abdul Ghani Modaqiq	RTA Radio	News Officer	7000 80000	mudaqiq_q@yahoo.com
2	Jamal Kotwal	RTA Radio	Reporter	700275543	-
3	Abasin	RTA Radio	Reporter	788206921	z.abasin@yahoo.com
Radio DW					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	Sayed Amin	Radio DW	Reporter	772273501	mudaqiq_q@yahoo.com
National Public Radio (NPR - America)					

No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	Karim Sharify	NPR Radio	Producer	700218558	karim300_sharifi@yahoo.com
ISAF Radio					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	Shokrullah Faqirzada	ISAF Radio	Journalist	700212983	mudaqiq_q@yahoo.com
2	Arif Sahak	ISAF Radio	Reporter	700251125	arifsahak@yahoo.com
3	Latifa Lalahand	ISAF Radio	Reporter	700774141	llalahand@yahoo.com
AIR Radio (All India Radio)					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	Santosh Kumar	AIR Radio	Reporter	799343902	kabulrsd@gmail.com
Salam Watandar Radio					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	Masoud Fariwar	S.W. Radio	Chief	797253846	kabulrsd@gmail.com
2	M. Omar Mohammadi	S.W. Radio	Reporter	708293232	omer.mohammadi@yahoo.com
3	Nasratullah Shajieh	S.W. Radio	News Editor	700150048	

International Media

International Media					
No	Name	Organization	Position	Mobile	E-mail
1	Vicent Brossel	RWB	Head of the asia Public desk	4779669510	asia@rsf.org
2	Ben Farmer	Telegraph	Correspondent (stringer)	795115890	benfarmer1@gmail.com
3	Jon Boone	Guardian	Correspondent (ex FT staffer)	797325588	jonathan.boone@gmail.com
4	Jerome Starkey	Freelancer	Reporter	797336717	jeromestarkey@gmail.com
5	Tom Coughlin	Tmies	Correspondent(ex Telegraph	799758757	thomascoghlan@yahoo.com
6	Carlotta Gall	New York Times	Correspondent	700279339	carlottagall@yahoo.com
7	Ian Pannell	BBC	Senior BBC Correspondent	799341917	ianpannell@bbc.co.uk
8	Julius cavendish	occasional Times	Freelancer	772714328	juliuscavendish@gmail.com
9	Jason Straziuso	AP	Correspondent	700084716	jstraziso@ap.org
10	Atia Abawi	CNN	correspondent	795554467	atia.abawi@cnn.com
11	Bronwen Roberts	AFP	Bureau Chief	799215027	Bornwen.Robert@afp.com
12	Jonathan Burch	Reuters	Correspondent	794354074	-
13	Martin Patience	BBC	Correspondent	797472174	Martin.Patience@bbc.co.uk
14	Nick Schifrin	ABC	Correspondent Afg/PK	796630380	nicholas.s.schifrin@yahoo.com

15	Sabrina Tavernise	New York Times	Correspondent	706285854	
16	Stephen Farrell	New York Times	Foreign Correspondent	798309732	sfarrell@nytimes.com
17	Anand Gopal	The Wall Street Journal	Reporter	787881500	
18	Alan Cullison	The Wall Street Journal	Correspondent	793893811	alan.cullison@wsj.com
19	Line	Denmark News Agency	Correspondent	794063748	wstkabul@gmail.com
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Appendix 2: Sample Press Release



Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Independent Election Commission Secretariat

Information & External Relations Department
ریاست اریه کو به پرنه یو د خارجه روابه طریاست

IEC Press Release

On Launch of Candidate Nomination for Wolesi Jirga Election April 12, 2010

The Independent Election Commission is in the process of preparations for the Wolesi Jirga Elections and has prepared the operational plan for 2010 WJ election, and in the pre made plan IEC has done its best effort to provide required facilities for all eligible Afghans to participate in the election and to operate and conduct all electoral process transparently.

Based on the IEC announced timeline for 2010 Wolesi Jirga Elections, Tuesday 13th April 2010 is the starting date for launch of candidate nomination which will provide information for all applicants. All those Afghan citizens interested to stand as a candidate for 2010 WJ election are requested to refer to IEC provincial offices at their provinces and to receive the prepared information packages for nomination in 2010 WJ elections.

It is very important to be stated that the process of providing information for eventual candidates of 2010 WJ elections starts **from 13th April and will continue up to 19th April 2010**. Based on the WJ election timeline the candidate nomination process will commence **on 20th April 2010 and will continue till 4th May**. Therefore it is very important that all

eventual candidates for WJ election must analyze all the conditions mentioned in the constitution, electoral law and IEC procedures.

The Independent Election Commission recognizes the particular challenges women have and for improvement of their participation level in the electoral process, would like to particularly encourage women to nominate themselves for WJ election, and communities to support these nominations.

It is worth mentioning that all national and international media, political parties, national and international observer organizations, interested to observe and prepared report from WJ election, are requested to apply for Accreditation and to have the opportunity to observe the WJ election process.

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