

DROPS

ORGANIZATION FOR POLICY RESEARCH
& DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

نهاد پژوہش و توسعه

Newsletter

December

2019

Our Activities:

- Deputy Minister of Culture and Information, H.E. Syeda Mozghan Mostafavi delivered a lecture on "The Challenges and Role of Women in policymaking" at the DROPS.
- DROPS Executive Director participated at the "UK-China-Afghan Cooperation" forum held at RUSI.
- DROPS conducted 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

Organization for Policy Research and Development Studies (DROPS) is an independent and multidisciplinary policy-oriented research organization based in Kabul, Afghanistan.

DROPS NEWS

DROPS “Interact with a Policy-Maker” Session with H.E. Syeda Mozhgan Mostafavi

On December 12, 2019 Deputy Minister of Culture and Information, H.E. Syeda Mozhgan Mostafavi delivered a lecture on the “Challenges and Role of Afghan Women in Policymaking” at DROPS. In her lecture she highlighted the importance of women’s participation in policymaking and stressed that cultural dogmas and practices still prevent Afghan women from actively participating in decision and policymaking. She said: “Still there are segments of the Afghan society that doubts women as rational decision makers, and are reluctant to provide opportunity for women to participate in policymaking.” [Read more...](#)



Activism Against Gender based Violence

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that kicks off on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and runs until 10 December, Human Rights Day.

On 25th November, DROPS initiated a campaign to highlight the importance of women’s involvement in policy through research and its impact on curbing

DAY 13

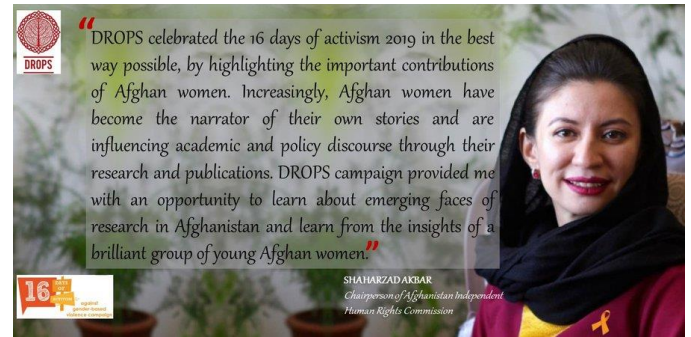
Afghan women face violence on a daily basis, but most of such incidents is being tolerated and never get reported. It is the Afghan women researchers who can play a significant role in order to help to record violence and demonstrate that violence is illegal and inhuman.

Gulsom Mirzada
GIS Research Assistant, AREU

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
against gender-based violence campaign

violence against women in Afghanistan. DROPS campaign included info-graphic designs reflecting the key policy findings of 15 female authors who contributed to DROPS Women and Public Policy Journal.

The Campaign gained momentum and attracted women activists to join its cause. Shaharzad Acbar head of AIHRC noted the campaign stating “DROPS celebrated the 16 days of activism 2019 in the best way possible.” While Orzala Nemat Head of AREU said “the Excellent 16 days of activism marked by DROPS provided a space for everyone to think about these matters [ways to EVAW].”



UK-China-Afghan Cooperation

On December 18, 2019 Mariam Safi the Executive Director of DROPS participated in the “UK-China-Afghan Cooperation” conference organized by the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) in London. Ms. Safi talked about the importance of Afghanistan in facilitating regional connectivity and regional initiatives that could pave the way for mutual economic growth. [Read More...](#)



DEVELOPMENTS ON AFGHAN PEACE-PROCESS

US-Taliban Afghan peace talks at 'important stage': Khalilzad

Zalmay Khalilzad, US envoy for reconciliation in Afghanistan, has said the peace talks have reached an "important stage" amid a renewed push to reach an agreement with the Taliban to end the 18-year-old war in the country. In a series of tweets on Wednesday, Khalilzad said he has wrapped up his two-day trip to Kabul, calling it a "productive trip", where he met President Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah. [Read more...](#)



Insurgent Bureaucracy: How the Taliban Makes Policy

By Lara Seligman, Robbie Gramer

Both the Taliban and the Afghan government appeared caught off guard by U.S. President Donald Trump's announcement during a Thanksgiving Day visit to Afghanistan—his first since taking office—that the Taliban was ready to agree to a cease-fire deal. But the insurgent group responded quickly, with a spokesman saying on Friday that they were "ready to restart the talks." [Read more...](#)



Afghanistan: Where the road to peace is harder than war

By Secunder Kermani

"Peace is more difficult than war," the Taliban's lead negotiator, Abbas Stanikzai, told me during an interview back in February. By then, representatives of the militant group had already held a number of rounds of discussions with US officials in Qatar, aimed at bringing an end to the 18 year-long conflict. Those talks were seemingly brought to an abrupt and unexpected end in September by US President Donald Trump, just as an agreement was about to be signed. [Read more...](#)



Taliban Council Agrees to Ceasefire in Afghanistan

By Kathy Gannon and Rahim Faiez

The Taliban's ruling council agreed Sunday to a temporary ceasefire in Afghanistan, providing a window in which a peace agreement with the United States can be signed, officials from the insurgent group said. They didn't say when it would begin.

A ceasefire had been demanded by Washington before any peace agreement could be signed. A peace deal would allow the U.S. to bring home its troops from Afghanistan and end its 18-year military engagement there, America's longest. [Read more...](#)



US resumes Taliban talks in Doha

US talks with the Taliban were resurrected in the Qatari capital on Saturday, according to reports. "The US rejoined talks today in Doha. The focus of discussion will be reduction of violence that leads to intra-Afghan negotiations and a ceasefire," a US source told the AFP news agency on Saturday. The statement comes after the US special envoy for Afghanistan, Zalmay Khalilzad, made a two-day visit to Kabul to launch an "accelerated effort" to get Afghans on both sides of the conflict to the negotiating table to plot a road map to a post-war Afghanistan.

[Read more...](#)



Taliban Attack U.S. Base in Afghanistan as Negotiators Talk Peace

By Fahim Abed and Mujib Mashal

As their negotiators resumed peace talks with American diplomats, Taliban militants on Wednesday set off a car bomb and penetrated a medical facility attached to Bagram Air Base, the largest United States military base in Afghanistan, killing at least two people and wounding at least 73, officials said.

The daring attack on the base — which President Trump visited recently — lasted nearly 12 hours after the initial explosion, and it was bound to complicate the negotiations. [Read more...](#)



Afghanistan Needs Billions in Aid Even After a Peace Deal, World Bank Says

By Mujib Mashal

Eighteen years of expensive American and NATO military presence marked by inefficient funneling of billions of dollars has shaped an economy almost entirely dependent on foreign aid. The country's \$11 billion in public expenditure each year is a far cry from its modest revenues, which even after recent improvements barely reach \$2.5 billion, officials and analysts say. The difference, about 75 percent of expenses, is footed by grants from international partners, particularly the United States. [Read more...](#)



In Afghanistan, jailed Taliban await peace, their freedom

By Kathy Gannon

Thousands of Taliban prisoners jailed in Afghanistan as insurgents see a peace deal being hammered out between the United States and the Taliban as their ticket to freedom. They know a prisoner release is a key pillar of any agreement that brings an end to Afghanistan's 18-year war, Washington's longest military engagement. A list of about 5,000 Taliban prisoners has been given to the Americans and their release has been written into the agreement under discussion, said a Taliban official. [Read more...](#)



رایزنی طالبان روی چیست؛ آتش‌بس موقت یا کاهش خشونت‌ها؟

خلیل اسیر

رهبران طالبان در اوج خشونت‌های مسلحانه در کشور سرگرم رایزنی درون‌گروهی روی کاهش این خشونت‌ها اند. ذبیح‌الله مجاهد از سخنگویان طالبان می‌گوید که این رایزنی با درخواست امریکا در حال انجام است. مجاهد روز دوشنبه، نهم جدی، در پیامی به رسانه‌ها گفت که امریکایی‌ها از طالبان درخواست کرده‌اند تا از حجم جنگ‌ها و عملیات‌های‌شان بکاهند. در این پیام، مشخص نشده است که این درخواست کی و در کجا مطرح شده است. اما پیش از این زلمی خلیل‌زاد، مذاکره‌کننده ارشد امریکا در گفت‌وگو با طالبان، گفته است که او در آخرین دیدارش با نمایندگان طالبان از آن‌ها خواسته است تا خشونت‌ها را کاهش بدهند. این دیدار اواسط ماه قوس در قطر انجام شده است. [بیشتر بخوانید...](#)



لزوم ایجاد سازوکار نظارتی بر آتش‌بس احتمالی

نقیب‌الله مشفق

بدون تردید افغانستان در آستانه‌ی یک تحول بزرگ قرار گرفته است. اهمیت این تحول برای همه‌ی کشورهای منطقه و به خصوص برای مردم افغانستان که همانا آتش‌بس و سرآغاز یک توافق سیاسی خواهد بود، از اهمیت ویژه‌ای برخوردار است. یعنی این‌که افغان‌ها برای اولین بار، پس از ۴۰ سال جنگ و خشونت به یک توافق سیاسی که زمینه‌ی صلح و آرامش احتمالی را مهیا کند، دست خواهند یافت. با وجودی که افغانستان تجربه یک آتش‌بس سه روزه را نیز با خود دارد، اما مبنای این آتش‌بس سرآغاز یک توافق احتمالی صلح همیشه‌گی و آشتی میان مردم افغانستان خواهد بود که از دیدی استراتژیک نسبت با آتش‌بس قبلی متفاوت است.

[بیشتر بخوانید...](#)



گفت‌وگو در قطر، جنگ در افغانستان؛ چرا درگیری‌ها دوباره شدت گرفته است؟

لطف‌علی سلطانی

درحالی‌که گفت‌وگوهای صلح میان طالبان و ایالات متحده در دوحه پس از آن‌که امریکا حدود چهار ماه پیش آن را متوقف کرد، دوباره از سر گرفته شده و احتمال رسیدن به یک توافق و برقراری آتش‌بس مطرح است، این‌جا در افغانستان، درگیری‌ها میان نیروهای دولتی و جنگ‌جویان طالب شدت گرفته است.

تنها در چهار روز گذشته ۴۱ سرباز ارتش و نیروهای خیزش مردمی در ولایت‌های هلمند، جوزجان و تخار کشته شده‌اند.

جنگ‌جویان طالب روز شنبه هفته‌ی جاری بر یک پاسگاه ارتش در ولسوالی سنگین هلمند و یک پاسگاه نیروهای خیزش مردمی در ولسوالی خواجه بهوالدین تخار حمله کردند. در نتیجه‌ی این حملات ۱۷ نیروی خیزش مردم در تخار و ۱۰ سرباز ارتش در هلمند کشته شدند.

[بیشتر بخوانید...](#)



مذاکره‌ی دولت‌محور نه بین‌افغانی

فردوس کاوش

ام‌الله صالح، معاون اول دسته‌ی انتخاباتی محمدآشرف غنی که در حال حاضر به صورت بالقوه معاون اول ریاست جمهوری است، در نشست خبری‌اش موقف خودش و رییس‌جمهور کنونی را در مذاکره با طالبان به طور فشرده بیان کرد که نشان‌دهنده‌ی عدم تغییر در پالیسی ارگ است. آقای صالح گفت که از نظر آنان مذاکره‌ی میان‌افغانی معنا ندارد.

او گفت، گفت‌وگو با طالبان به معنای آن است که یک طرف میز گفت‌وگو دشمن/طالب‌ها قرار داشته باشد و طرف دیگر آن نمایندگان دولت.

[بیشتر بخوانید...](#)

