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Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

Add:

FES-Afghanistan Office
Share Naw, Chahar Rahi Ansari,
Yaftali Street.
Kabul, Afghanistan.

Contact:

info@fes.org.af

Editorial board

Sediq Sediqqi

Reza Haidari

Mina Hussaini

Reza Sharifi

Arezo Qanih



Named articles reflect the opinion of the authors only

www.fes.org.af



Note From Editor

Dear All Readers,

YLF Newsletter is all about the news and activities of Young Leaders Forum of Afghanistan, an initiative by FES Afghanistan (Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, based in Germany). It is the third spring of YLF Newsletter publication and you have the sixth continuous edition in hand. We have dedicated this edition exclusively to the new YLF Members who've joined us in 2009. We are pleased to have contributions made by YLF members to this edition and simply wish we'll have more colorful editions ahead in 2009 as well. We are reaching out to thousands of youth throughout the country who are not members of YLF Afghanistan, but feel somehow connected to YLF through reading this newsletter and by finding out about different other activities at YLF.

The year 2008 has been an active and fruitful year for YLF members; many workshops, trainings and seminars both in Kabul and provinces were held, which were extensively covered in earlier editions of this newsletter. The year 2009, is a turning point for YLF, young people from different walks of life, with different backgrounds have joined us as new members of YLF to share their ideas, to learn and improve their leadership skills, to simply know each other and actively participate in events and sessions that involve youth in their respective communities, their social and personal life and in the reconstruction and bringing peace to the country.



**Note From
FES Country Director, Tina Marie Blohm**

A new year, a new team of editors, a new youth coordinator, new journalistic ideas, a new YLF generation and a new country director. The change the FES Young Leaders Forum and Newsletter is witnessing these days might not quite reach the level of change brought into the White House by a new US-Administration. But it definitely brings about a new beginning. This beginning is deeply rooted in the tradition and foundations laid by highly committed predecessors over the past years, for which they cannot receive enough praise. 2009 is going to be a year with an

enormous amount of issues that are of direct concerns to young political thinkers in Afghanistan: new strategies by international actors, including a new focus on the region, upcoming elections for presidential and provincial council offices, debates about setbacks or successes "7 years after" in the area of women rights and freedom of expression - just to name a few. This newsletter and the debates amongst young leaders and beyond can foster an intense, but respectful and constructive dialogue on important issues for youth in Afghanistan. I am looking forward to see that dialogue unfold.



Being the new chief editor of this newsletter, I am pleased to announce that we have incorporated major events and activities of YLF which took place in the first quarter of the year in this issue. A report on the assessment centre for new YLF members is published in this edition which highlights the importance of having new members in YLF, and the

basis on which new members were selected. One of the biggest events in this quarter of the year was the grand gathering of YLF members - both old and new generations - which is covered in this edition as well. Our single objective of having this newsletter will remain the same for years to come which is to reach young people throughout the country to aware

them of the importance and activities of YLF, their moral obligations towards brining peace to the country, and to share their ideas and solutions for a better future. Thanks.

By Sediq Sediqqi
Chief Editor



By Asghar Karimi

Effective Leadership

Leadership is a function of knowing yourself, having a vision that is well communicated, building trust among colleagues, and taking effective action to realize your own leadership potential.

We all know that effective leaders pursue transformational type behaviors but what specifically do they need to do more and less of in terms of driving change through team work?

Leaders must be able to energize themselves. They must display a high degree of energy to demonstrate their resilience and their ability to contribute in a demanding business. Energy means being positive. Energy is what keeps people out of bed at night and at the same time gets them up early in the morning. It is no surprise that successful people generally tend to be early risers and achieve more with less.

Self confidence is a strong key to effective Leadership. If a leader fails to display self confidence and has a less than positive self esteem it is unlikely that they can inspire others to superlative performance. The major factor holding people back from achieving their potential is their personal beliefs about what they can and cannot do. People with low self-esteem will not wish to move as readily out of their comfort zone as those who generally believe life is going to turn out okay. Those who can energize self and work independently of others will only be partially successful. Energizing others demonstrates a strong way of behaving which acts as a role model or a template which others can emulate. The Leader who understands how important it is to get his team to express themselves confidently and with pride will probably commit to help them

improve their influencing and presentation skills.

Managers who prevaricate and weigh up all options in minute detail before they are prepared to make a decision will never become Leaders. Leaders have to be decisive after taking in relevant data, comparing the pro and anti cases and then deciding and execution of the decision is the norm. People who fail to take decisions fail to learn from their experiences. If people examine their own lives they will find times when they made good decisions from those which they made poor choices. Leaders who are decisive have to be equally good at ensuring that others understand what is expected of them and the methods for implementing and sustaining changes from the decisions made.





A New Approach Is Needed for Elimination of Violence Against Women

By M. Aliase Hassany

More than two decades of civil war in Afghanistan have led to an environment, which is physically, socially, economically and politically insecure. War has fractured and strained the social fabric of the country. A whole generation has grown up amid pervasive tension and insecurity, and all dimensions of violence, whether physical, psychological, structural or cultural, are evident in Afghan society. At the same time, conflict has caused widespread poverty, having devastated the rural economy on which the majority of Afghans depend, and crippled local government infrastructure for the delivery of essential services and yet the civil society which plays a major role in promoting human rights in democratic countries is still not properly established in Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan an estimated 60% of the total populations are women that were the major victims of war, the tragic consequences of war left thousands of widow women as guardians of families who are daily on the streets for begging or doing oppressive work

and yet little has been done in bringing changes to their lives. Now it has been 7 years that Taliban regime collapsed which was the darkest period for Afghan women but still there isn't relative change in Afghan women lives. However, since then many international NGOs came in and together with governmental entities have been working massively for promoting women rights and empowerment. The work has been too much centralized at the capital centers that only benefit a small proportion of women population who are already living in a better condition, but outside the capital centers where there is real need for bringing change to the difficult situation exist. Civil society work has been so far fragmented and un-coordinated for the policy changes in Afghanistan.

According to the reports released from the Afghan women rights defence organizations, one from each three women is victim of violence in Afghanistan that is increasing annually. This is a major problem and chal-

lenge for civil society entities working for the elimination of violence against women; therefore, there is an urgent need for more support and attention from the international community and government of Afghanistan to bring change in women lives.

Violence against women is not something natural or something which has no solution. It can be solved through institutionalizing women rights in Afghanistan culture and gender issues should be mainstreamed in all development programs of Afghanistan and should become a cross cutting issue. So far, there hasn't been much attention given to gender issues in bigger programs; therefore, there is a real need for informing the policy makers on the real needs and there is a vital need for an advocacy program and campaign to flag-up un-heard voices, which have not been raised yet.

I believe solely national Afghani approaches can play a vital role in bringing changes to the lives of suffering Afghan women rather than supply driven campaigns and strategies.



ensure the transparency and fairness of the election, is a vital step toward development of democratic system in Afghanistan. Our people are not highly concerned about the delay, but are worried about the independence and transparency of the election and that it should be nation-wide and free. Therefore, the government and the international community should ensure to make good use of this opportunity and pave the way for a democratic election all over the country. They should improve the security situation all over the country in order to bring as many voters as possible to ballot boxes and civic education programs should be increased in particular in the remote areas.

Going to ballot boxes is our national obligation and voting for a good and suitable candidate is our biggest responsibility as we, the nation of this country, have the chance to decide about the future of our country. If our elected person is an independent and highly educated individual having respect for Afghan culture and Islamic values and is not involved in crimes such as drug trafficking or human rights violations and is a national figure, our beloved country will be on the right track and will gain the opportunity to overcome all challenges and problems existing today. Otherwise, we deliberately drive the country into once again in to the darkness. The choice is ours!

The Upcoming Presidential Election & Our Responsibility

By Aliase Hassani

The Independent Election Commission finally announced the date for the presidential election of 2009. According to the Afghan Constitution, the election should have been held by late May 2009, which due to logistical, technical and financial problems, it has been postponed to three months and the new date is set for 20th August 2009. However, the oppositions, a number of Parliamentarians and some political analysts see the delay unnecessary and

blame the Independent Election Commission for not fulfilling their responsibilities duly. The upcoming election is highly important for the better future of the country and it needs to be as transparent and fair as possible which can be ensured by the government's sincere efforts, international community's assistance and observation, and full participation of the citizens. The three months delay based on legal solutions to

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Arezo Qanih has BA degree in German Literature from Kabul University. Arezo is working as Program Manager of ECW-a local women organization for welfare of women and children. She joined the YLF in February of 2008 and as a dedicated member of this forum says "There was need to focus on youth mobilization and youth capacity building, I found this opportunity in YLF." She has participated in many workshops and contributed in different

socio-political discussion in YLF.

Ms. Qanih, recently joined the editorial board of YLF newsletter. She is optimistic about the future of Afghan youth as the most dynamic segment of Afghan society and future of Afghanistan.



Throughout the ages, people have given different meanings to freedom. Every scholar has defined it in their own way according to their thinking. At times concept of freedom was served as a tool to justify some particular causes and some shameful actions. Today many strong representatives of freedom and democracy see the western world. How has freedom been understood and was accepted in the history of west? To answer this



question, we have to go to a journey through the history of the west. Here we define freedom as being free from suppression or obstacles. In the Middle Ages freedom was not relevant to the masses in Europe. Most of the people did not even dream of it since the inequalities in the society were the norm. A person could not attain freedom but some were born free, freedom was a privilege inherited from the class your family belonged too. Being born in to a lower class family was a fact that one had to accept. Christian clergy "keep silent and obey the orders of the feudal lord hope you will be rewarded in your next life." become the common prescription that kept the subjugated to and suppressed by the political authority. In other words, if one was not of the upper class one could "freely" make a choice between despotic order of the feudal lords and the injustice of the clergies abusing the social role assigned to them as unquestionable judges.

A breaking point in the stable intellectual line of the middle ages was

In a Search for Freedom

Nargis Azaryun

certainly the Renaissance and the Reformation. This current propelled by this newly educated people, nurtured the idea of freedom of "thought" and "belief." These changes reduced the importance of skilled cavalry in warfare that were supplied by the feudal

a key role in introducing a concept at state a concept of state that meant greater freedom for citizens. With new discoveries and inventions that were needed to lead industrialization, bourgeoisies demanded more freedom. Their power was "wealth" their weapon was "reason" by which they used to challenge and abolish the monopoly of the church on ideas.

Their flag was freedom was "freedom for all." The answers of bourgeoisies were affirmative. For the freedom was two-fold: freedom of economy, through the idea of freely operating market. Demanding a market free of all kinds of controls was a fundamental idea of liberalism although not everyone was supporting this idea of freedom the poorer classes ally with bourgeoisies against one common enemy the royalty.

As the power of bourgeoisies reached to the critical point the united with the lower class to throw king or have a revolution. However, it was not a revolution for all of the society, in fact for some people all that bourgeoisies had done was to present the old ideas in a new suit. The bourgeoisies set at the bottom line of freedom at the possession of property. This was quite apparent in the constitution of France. For example, only those who were able to pay a certain amount of tax were allowed voting, in fact freedom for all meant freedom. For those who could afford it. If you had not enough money, you had no right to be represented. Certainly, the liberal understanding of freedom was for pleasing to everyone. The lower class slowly become a war of Marxist teachings who claimed that the "evil capitalism system" was falling Marx also preached that he history was history of struggle between classes. We are in final round we must win and start a new life in a new world. Thus the socialist /communist nation of: social justice "grew stronger .

lords to the kings and in turn reduced the importance in the lords. Even well fortified cities fell when they faced by this immensely destructive force. Therefore, small feudalities had to unite or else be erased .The strength of state king increased, while the lord's sovereignty was reduced to smaller locations. Centralized authority becomes a dogma. Everything was belonged to monarch, including the authority to decide who would passes the freedom to do what or to what extent and the concept of sovereign state was fortified through stronger and able monarchies which later produced the nation state.

In the age of monarchy, everything was controlled under the flag of national sovereignty. The idea of individuals with basic freedom such as freedom of thought and speech would have been freedom a threat to authority. Therefore, the main component of society was still overlooked while the feudal lords become a history with an alliance between the king and rising bourgeoisie in the town and cities. In turn, bourgeoisies played

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Countinue from page 5

The Marxist thinker gathered working class around one goal that was get rid a common enemy "the capitalism system." This kind of new idea was very attractive for some. The Marxist theory dealt primarily with economic justice and distribution of wealth it spoke of not the freedom of human being but of the economic independency of lower class. As a solution, people's future was closely tied to the domains of the proletarians who were seen to be the true owners of the wealth produced in the society. In this kind of thought, individualism freedoms were of a secondary importance to the well being of society. After ages of ideologies, freedom today is understood more properly as a personal dimension of being human, a quality that is directly related to individuality. Despite many violation of justice at least fundamental freedoms such as freedom of thought, and assembly, speech and travel are protected by most democratic governments. The demands placed by political authorities on people personal lives seem to be less controlling in democratic as compared to authoritarian one s. perhaps camped freedom is never attainable all of as are connected somehow to each other and with the rest of creation.



ضرورت به رژیم عادلانه مالیات بر عایدات در افغانستان

ک خوشحال دوست

طرف کشور های کمک دهنده به مصرف میرسد که این خود از موثریت بودیجه میکاهد. بلند بردن عواید یکی از بهترین راه های است برای کاستن بستگی افغانستان به کمک های خارجی، یعنی افغانستان نمیتواند از نظر اقتصادی به طور کلی به پای خود ایستاد شود اما میتواند که با بلند بردن عواید داخلی کمک های اقتصادی مطابق به میل خود از کشور های کمک دهنده درخواست کند که این روند باعث موثر بودن کمک ها و همچنان بودیجه ملی افغانستان خواهد شد.

ضرورت مبرم به وضع یک قانون مالیات بر عواید که همه جانبه و مطابق به حقایق امروزی جامعه افغانستان باشد موجود است و ادارات مسوول دولت که در ساختار و تطبیق قوانین نقشی فعال دارند باید با نظر داشت خواص تساوی افراد در برابر قانون و استطاعت اشخاص در برابر تعرفه های مالیاتی عمل کنند تا باشد که اکثریت افراد جامعه بتوانند مایه بپردازند و بتوانند در انکشاف و استقلال اقتصادی افغانستان نقشی مهمی بازی کنند.

وضع کردن قوانین پیشرفته و عادلانه در این راستا دارد. مالیات بر عایدات به آنگونه مالیاتی میگویند که بالای عواید اشخاص، شرکت های شخصی، شرکت های بزرگ سهامی و نهاد های حقوقی وضع میگردد. میزان مایه بر عایدات مطابق به عاید کسی که مایه میپردازد تعیین میگردد و به طور عموم کسانی که عاید کم و ناچیز دارند مایه بسیار ناچیز و کسانی که عاید زیادتر دارند مایه بیشتر می پردازند.

اگر یک نظر به میزان مایه در کشور های انکشاف یافته و رو به انکشاف جهان بیاندازیم دیده میتوانیم که اندازه مایه بر عواید در این کشور ها بسیار بالا بوده که این خود دلیلی خوبی برای انکشاف و خود کفایی این کشور ها می باشد.

افغانستان کشوری است با عواید بسیار کم، اقتصاد ضعیف و بستگی مطلق به کمک های خارجی که این روند باعث شده که افغانستان آزادی و استقلال محدودی در تعیین استراتژی های انکشافی و ساختار بودیجه داشته باشد. مطابق به آمار وزارت مایه افغانستان بیشتر از ۷۰٪ بودیجه ملی بیرون از خزانه دولت و از

حکومت ها برای عرضه خدمات اجتماعی مالیاتی مختلفی را بر مردم وضع میکنند تا بتوانند از طریق جمع آوری مالیات قادر به عرضه هر چه بهتر خدمات به افراد جامعه شوند. در تمام کشور های جهان وظیفه جمع آوری مالیات بر عهده ی وزارت های مایه و یا اداره های مشخص مالی می باشد که این ارگان ها مسوول تدارک و تمام کردن بودیجه سالانه دولت هم میباشد که مصارف و عواید در آن پیش بینی میشوند.

کشور های پیشرفته جهان رژیم های مالیاتی پیشرفته ای دارند که آنها را قادر به عرضه هر چه بهتر خدمات اجتماعی مانند امنیت، صحت، تعلیم، ترانسپورت و غیره خدمات اجتماعی میگردانند. البته اندازه مالیات و عرضه خدمات در مقابل جمع آوری مالیات به طور یکسان نمی باشد و در هر کشور فرق میکند.

مالیات انواع مختلف دارد مانند مالیات بر عواید، مالیات بر جابداد ها، مالیات بر فروشات، مالیات بر اشیای قیمتی و دیگر انواع بی شمار مالیات که ما از آنها اینجا یاد نمیکنیم. ما فواید مالیات بر عایدات را به بحث میگیریم و ملاحظه میکنیم که افغانستان ضرورت مبرمی برای

څنگه کولای شو د ښځو په وړاندې تبعیض له منځه یوسو:
د تاوتریخوالي د له منځه وړلو د کنوانسیون له
خوا، ځینې لارښوونې

چطور تبعیض علیه زنان را از بین ببریم
رهنمودهایی از کنوانسیون رفع تبعیض
علیه زنان

دریمه برخه

ماده ۱۰

غړي هيوادونه به د ميرمنو په وړاندې د توپير په لرې کولو کورې هر ډول اقدام ترسره کوي، خو دا خبره يقيني کړي چې د زده کړې په ډگر کې ښځې له نارينه وو سره د يوډول حقوقو څخه برخمنې دي. او په ځانگړي ډول د ښځې او نر برابري په لاندې مواردو کې تضمين کړي:

(الف) د کار او فن د لارښوونو په ټاکنه کې برابر شرايط، د ښاري او اطرافي سيمو په هر ډول موسسو کې زده کړې او تصديق پانو ته لاس رسې، دغه برابري به له ښوونځي مخکې په زده کړو، عمومي زده کړو، فني، تخصصي او په لوړو فني زده کړو او همدا ډول د ټولو حرفوي زده کړو په ټولو پړاونو کې تضمين شي؛

(ب) درسي پروگرامونو ته يو ډول لاس رسې، يوشان ازموينې، د يو ډول مهارتونو او صلاحيتونو درلودونکي ښوونکي او همدا ډول د زده کړې يوشان باکيفيته ځايونه او امکانات.

(پ) په هره کچه او بڼه د گلدې زده کړې د تشويق اود ټولو هغو لارو له مخې چې دغه هدف ته رسيدل شوني کوي دښځې او نر د کليشه اي نقش له منځه وړل، په ځانگړي ډول په درسي کتابونو، او دښوونځيو د زده کړې په پروگرامونو کې بيا کتنه او دزده کړو د روشونو يو ډول کول؛

(ت) تحصيل ته د دوام ورکولو اړوند پروگرامونو او فرصتونو ته يو ډول لاس رسې، چې له هغې جملې څخه د لويانو سواد زده کړې او د عملي سواد زده کړې پروگرامونه، په ځانگړي ډول هغه پروگرامونه چې دنارينه او ښځينه ترمنځ په گړندي ډول د زده کړو د تشيال (خلا) را کموي؛

(ج) د نجونو د تحصيل پريښودنې دکچې را کمول او هغو نجونو او ښځو ته چې له وخت مخکې يې ښوونځي پريښي د پروگرامونو جوړول؛

(چ) په بدني روزنه او ورزش کې ښځو ته دگډون يو ډول اسانتياوې؛

(ح) د کورنۍ سنبالونې په اړه د لارښوونو او معلوماتو له لارې د کورنيو د روغتيا او سلامتي په اړه ځانگړو معلوماتي زده کړو ته لاس رسې درلودل؛

بخش سوم

ماده ۱۰

دول عضو هر گونه اقدامی را برای رفع تبعیض از زنان انجام خواهند داد تا تضمین کنند که زنان در آموزش از حقوق برابر با مردان برخوردار خواهند بود، و به ویژه برای زن و مرد را در موارد زیر تضمین خواهند کرد:

(الف) شرایط یکسان در زمینه راهنمایی انتخاب حرفه و فن، دسترسی به آموزش و دریافت شهادتنامه در همه انواع موسسات آموزشی در مناطق شهری و روستایی، این تساوی باید در آموزش قبل از مکتب، آموزش عمومی، فنی، تخصصی و آموزش عالی فنی، و نیز در همه دوره های آموزش حرفه ای تضمین شود؛

(ب) دسترسی به برنامه درسی یکسان، امتحانات یکسان، معلمین دارای مهارت ها و صلاحیت های یکسان و محل ها و امکانات آموزشی با کیفیت یکسان؛

(پ) از بین بردن هر گونه مفهوم کلیشه ای نقش زن و مرد در همه سطوح و همه اشکال از طریق تشويق آموزش مختلط و ساير روش های آموزشی که رسيدن به اين هدف را ممکن می سازند، و به ويژه با تجديدنظر در کتاب های درسی و برنامه های آموزشی مدارس و متناسب ساختن روش های آموزشی؛

(ت) فرصت های یکسان برای دستیابی به برنامه های مربوط به ادامه تحصیل، از جمله برنامه های سوادآموزی بزرگسالان و سوادآموزی عملی، به ویژه برنامه هایی با هدف کاهش هر چه سریعتر خلاء آموزشی موجود بین زنان و مردان؛

(ج) کاهش میزان ترک تحصیل دختران و تنظیم برنامه هایی برای دختران و زنانی که پیش از وقت مکتب را ترک کرده اند؛

(چ) امکانات یکسان برای شرکت فعال زنان در ورزش و تربیت بدنی؛

(ح) دسترسی به اطلاعات آموزشی مشخص برای تضمین سلامتی و تندرستی خانواده، از جمله اطلاعات و راهنمایی در مورد تنظیم خانواده.





Grand Gathering of Members of the Young Leaders Forum

By Sediq Sediqqi

FES Kabul office initiated grand reunion and gathering of members of Young Leaders Forum on 19th February 2009, members of YLF from 2004 to 2008 with new members of 2009 came together to know each other and to officially close the programs and activities of YLF 2008, and give a start to the programs and activities of YLF for 2009.

The program had two aspects, first an introduction of FES and YLF to the new members of YLF year 2009 and second, integration with senior members of YLF.

It was amazing to listen to everyone and get to know them; all of them were having strong working backgrounds with hearts and minds full of new ideas and thoughts to contribute to YLF and to actively participate in the sessions and future YLF programs. Each member expected to learn a great deal of knowledge through their participation and expressed their willing to fully participate in their communities and become leaders of tomorrow through sharing their knowledge to each other and receiving trainings by FES.

Later, Reza Haidari YLF freelancer delivered speech about the main activities of YLF to the new members of YLF, which followed by Sediq Sediqqi, chief editor of YLF newsletter with background information on YLF Newsletter. The atmosphere was great and thanks to FES for such endeavor to bring all the members together. This was a time to see young Afghans joining the family of YLF with passion and courage for betterment of Afghanistan.

The second part of the program begun with the speech delivered by Arezo Qanib. She shared her experience during this time and told the audience about their trip with youths in Pakistan. She also shared her thoughts and understanding of YLF, and the changes it has brought to her life and way of intervening in society.

Sanjar Sohail a senior member of YLF also shared his thought in the program. He expressed his experience about the YLF and the amount that YLF helped him to start his own newspaper "8 am daily." He mentioned that in YLF I learned how to tolerate each other and respect each other's

ideas on different issues important for each of us.

Later in the session, Ms. Najla Sabri shared her experience of being in YLF since 2006. She said that It was a wonderful experience being among the talented youth of the country and listen to their ideas and share knowledge for better future for Afghanistan. She encouraged the new members to participate at the programs and sessions of YLF actively. She also emphasized about the importance of YLF as a learning and equal opportunity for all, and a place where members can openly express their thoughts for better understanding of their respected communities. She was followed by Waheed Omer who explained how YLF came into existence, and what was the main idea behind having such a forum in the country after a period of war and lawlessness. He also shared his experience to be among the members of YLF and the place where the member are able to learn.

It was a single day for us as one family of YLF that will be remembered for years to come.

هر افغان
يوه نهال

راځی چی خپل هیواد
سمسور کوو



هر افغان
یک نهال

بیا بید وطن خود را
سرسبز کنیم

