PRESS RELEASE

PROVISIONAL CANDIDATE LISTS

June 30, 2005

The Joint Electoral Management Body will publish Provisional Candidate Lists in each provincial office on Saturday July 2, following a three week period in which the Electoral Complaints Commission considered over 800 challenges against candidates’ eligibility to run for office.

The lists will display all candidates who have nominated themselves to contest the September 18 Wolesi Jirga and Provincial Council elections, minus those who have either withdrawn or have been provisionally excluded for not meeting eligibility criteria.

Candidates whose names have been provisionally taken off the list will receive a letter outlining the reason. The reasons include failing to supply the requisite number of legitimate supporters’ signatures, commanding or belonging to an armed group, or failure to resign from a senior government post.

These candidates will have until July 7 to respond. The Electoral Complaints Commission will consider all responses before the Final Candidate List is certified by the Joint Electoral Management Body on July 12.

“We are now just days away from finalizing a list of candidates who meet the criteria outlined by the Electoral Law,” said JEMB Chairman Bissmillah Bissmil.

“I would like to remind candidates who are not on the Provisional List that they still have a chance to prove that they can meet the eligibility criteria. If they take remedial action to meet the criteria by July 7, their names can be included on the Final Candidate List.”

Remedial action may include complying with disarmament, resigning senior government posts or providing the required list of legitimate signatures of supporters.

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