PRESS RELEASE

ANA EVACUATES WOUNDED ELECTION WORKER

July 21, 2005

On Sunday July 17th at around 10.30am, a female Afghan election worker was shot and wounded in Agasi village, Kamdesh district of Nuristan. She was with a group of people including Afghan police, around three kilometres from a Voter Registration site, when they were fired on by three unidentified men. The woman was wounded in the leg and was treated by an Afghan aid group in a nearby village.

The Afghan National Army responded to the JEMB’s urgent request for evacuation and on the evening of July 18, flew in to Kamdesh and brought the woman by helicopter to Jalalabad. There, she underwent surgery at the city's Base hospital and is now in a stable condition.

“The Joint Electoral Management Body acknowledges the generous cooperation of the ANA in coming to the aid of one our election workers in a remote area,” said JEMB Chairman Bissmillah Bissmil.

While it remains unclear whether the woman was targeted because of her election work, the JEMB condemns any act of violence against Afghans and their international partners working to improve conditions for the Afghan people.

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