PRESS RELEASE

JEMB URGES RESPECT OF CANDIDATES' CAMPAIGN RIGHTS

August 3, 2005

The Joint Electoral Management Body urges all Afghans to uphold and respect the rights of all candidates, men and women, to campaign for election to the Wolesi Jirga or Provincial Councils on September 18.

“Every candidate has the right to promote his or her policy platform, without obstruction,” said JEMB Chairman Bissmillah Bissmil.

“Any attempt to obstruct the campaign activities of any candidate, man or woman, is a violation of the democratic electoral process, and could lead to sanction by the Electoral Complaints Commission.”

The JEMB is concerned at reports of intimidation and harassment of some candidates.

All candidates have committed to “respect the right and freedom of other accredited political parties, independent candidates, and the public to participate in the registration, political campaign and election processes with out fear or obstruction,” when they signed the Code of Conduct for Political Parties, Candidates and their Agents.

Government officials are prohibited from interfering in the electoral process, attempting to influence voters, supporting or criticizing candidates, or using state assets either for or against candidates, under Presidential Decree no. 1056 issued June 8, 2005.

Any candidate who is experiencing intimidation or harassment may lodge a written complaint with the Electoral Complaints Commission through the Provincial Election Commission in their province, or directly with the ECC in Kabul, or by emailing:  info@ecc.org

For more information please contact:

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