

## Post op IO message

On the night of 22 Aug an Operation was carried out by security forces of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan supported by International troops in TIRIGAN village, TALA WA BARFEK District, BAGHLAN province. The aim of this Operation was to continue to prove the commitment of the Government to improving security in your area by preventing the criminal activities of those who threaten the peace that you and your families richly deserve.

This was a well planned mission that demonstrated the professionalism and capability of the Afghanistan Security Forces as they seek to provide the long term protection of the families of the good and honest people of Afghanistan. The aim was to arrest members of a criminal group that are known to have carried out attacks against the Afghanistan National Police and against International troops in the beautiful and peaceful Bamian area, a place that shines like a jewel in the Afghan crown.

As the Operation went on, the houses of those accused of these terrible actions were successfully searched and a large amount of weaponry, ammunition and explosives were found. Thankfully, the security forces were able to destroy this deadly material before further lives were taken. There was enough equipment to bring death and injury to a great many people, both those of the security forces and the innocent civilians in these areas.

Sadly, during the course of the operation, the security forces were threatened by a number of criminal suspects. The aim of the Security Forces was to arrest these people so they could stand trial and the Afghanistan legal system could decide on their fate. Unfortunately, these people were afraid to answer to the courts and they lost their lives through conduct and actions.

The role of the Afghanistan security forces is to protect the innocent people of Afghanistan using professional methods and minimal force. It is known that during the course of this Operation, a number of personnel fled the scene and, even though there were thought to be some criminals amongst these, the Security Forces did not give chase or fire on them, as there was no immediate threat from these people and it was possible that there were some innocents amongst them. Only those that showed a direct threat to the lives of others, including the lives of the innocent people of TIRIGAN were fired upon.

The criminals have no regard for the innocent people that they kill, they claim to represent Taliban but they are proven to be nothing more than common criminals who are known to have taken the lives of innocent civilians from both Afghanistan and other countries. Despite the fact that the murdered innocent victims of these criminals have left behind families and children of their own, it is never the wish of the security forces to take a life in return and the only hope is to bring the criminals to face the justice of the Afghanistan courts who represent the true Afghan people.

This Operation was planned against criminals in the area including the men known as <sup>PSR(sen)</sup>1 and NEMATULLAH, who are accused, amongst other things, of conducting attacks against security forces and innocent Afghan people. Despite these attacks, the reconstruction team has and will continue to provide much needed

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relief and support to the locals in the area. NEMATULLAH is also accused of the murder of an Afghanistan National Police Officer.

A peaceful and prosperous Afghanistan is the goal of all Afghans and the Security forces representing the people will do all that is required to ensure that all Afghans are given every opportunity to live in a peaceful environment where they too can assist in the further development of their own country. The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan wish to thank all the people of these areas for their continued and invaluable support in the fight against criminals and apologise for any distress or disturbance that has been caused during their efforts to bring peace to your area.

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