



## Press Release

Monday 03.14. 2016

### EWA Viewpoint on Issuance of Second Legislative Decree on Electoral Reform

The Election Watch Organization of Afghanistan (EWA) welcomes issuance of second legislative decree of the president on electoral reform. EWA believes the decree though restarted the electoral reform process; some concerns are also available in this context.

First, the state rather to support draft proposal of SERC about selection committee, has incorporated its desired changes in the new decree, raising concerns that other draft proposal of SERC might also affected by state intervention. Secondly, two new members were added to the current combination of selection committee under the decree, with both represents state organs.

In Return, one member of the committee, who represented Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), has been removed from the committee. Number of government representatives in the committee has increased as compared to CSOs which furthered concerns about government influence on the process of appointing commissioners.

Therefore, EWA suggests the committee to consider below items:

- The committee should let its meetings open to media outlets and representatives of CSO in order to ensure transparency and inform people of its work procedure.
- The committee should take into consideration certain criteria during the appointment process to ensure professional capabilities, impartiality and independence of election bodies' commissioners.
- The committee must release names and biographies of all eligible applicants during various stages of appointment process so the people become assured of the selection of competent individuals.
- The committee should release applicant's evaluation criteria through its website ahead of conduct of the process.

Contacts: 0706706720—0708293045

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