

MP Attacked in Parliament for Denouncing Warlords!

This report was written by an Afghan journalist in Kabul, who—for security reasons—wishes to remain anonymous.

On May 7, 2006, Malalai Joya responded in parliament to a warlord who referred to the brutal and criminal atrocities of the mujahadeen regime as “mistakes.” Joya said: “There is a big difference between mistakes and crimes.” She then said:

“There were two types of mujahadeen, one who were really mujahadeen, and the second who killed tens of thousands of innocent people and used the holy war of Afghans against the Soviet Union as a motive to gain power and destroyed our country.”

When her speech finished, some MPs hurled bottles at her, including:

- Parwin Durrana, a woman MP who—with the help of Saudi Wahabis—was granted a seat in parliament to represent Afghan nomads.
- Qazi Nazir Ahmad, a commander of Rabbani’s Jamiat-e-Islami gang, an Islamic party in power (1992-1996).
- Saifoor Niaza, an executive member of Jamiat e Islami in Mazar e Sharif (a northern Afghan city).
- Malali Ishaqzai from Qandahar, the unofficial capital of the Taliban.

Some well-respected MPs quickly formed a human ring around Joya and called for security forces.

However, other warlords immediately began insulting her with foul language, calling her a prostitute and ordering their followers to rape her. Some warlords yelled at Joya, calling her a communist and accusing her of being a member of the Revolutionary Association of Women of Afghanistan.

Shukria Barakzai, a woman MP from Kabul, later confirmed during an interview with Tolo TV, that warlords had threatened to rape and kill Joya.

According to another MP, a famous warlord—Rasul Sayyaf—ordered someone to wait by the door and knife Joya as she walked out.

[Burhanuddin] Rabbani and Sayyaf, two gang leaders [warlords] who had committed atrocities under the name of Islam and jihad, unsuccessfully tried to use Joya’s speech as a reason to discuss her status in parliament.

When Malalai Joya dared say in parliament that some mujahadeen “had killed tens of thousands of innocent people,” several of the assembled warlord MPs cried out that she was prostitute and a communist and should be raped, stabbed and killed.



These four MPs were among those who then hurled bottles at her:



Those supporting Joya have also received death threats. Mr. Qazizada, an MP from Herat, told Joya that if he is killed, it would be by warlord Ismail Khan’s followers. A Kabul-based journalist’s association said they

received death threats because of the press conference they held for Joya after she was attacked by warlords.

Source: May 9, 2006. Malalai Joya website: www.malalaijoya.com

Some Women MPs Walk Out in Protest

By Jean MacKenzie and Wahidullah Amani.

The attack against Joya in parliament sparked a walkout of female members. On May 9, 2006, they boycotted the parliamentary session for several hours, until the speaker, Younis Qanooni, himself a prominent figure from the mujahedin era, apologised.

“There were about 30 or 40 of us,” said Shukria Paikan Ahmadi, a deputy from Kunduz. [Editor’s note: That is about half of the women MPs.]

“The mujahedin are always intimidating us and we can’t say what we want. When a women was speaking, a commander [warlord] from Herat told her to be quiet, otherwise they’d do to her what they did to Malalai [Joya].... The warlords are a majority in parliament. And even though they are all from different factions, in this they are together. They are all against us, against the women.”

Ahmadi described as “savage” the behaviour of those attacking Joya:



Shukria Paikan Ahmadi

“We cannot accept this... We just do not have the patience. It would be better to leave parliament forever.”

Source: “Afghanistan’s Buzkashi Parliament,” *Afghan Recovery Report*, May 17, 2006. Institute for War and Peace Reporting. www.afghanwomensmission.org/news/index.php?articleID=60