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Fahim's guards beat Senate official

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Meshrano Jirga Secretary Syed Farrukh Shah Jenab on Sunday alleged security guards of 1st Vice-President Qasim Fahim had severely beaten his advisor a day earlier at the parliament's gate, a claim confirmed by several lawmakers.

Fahim appeared before the *Wolesi Jirga*, lower house, on Saturday and introduced President Karzai's five Cabinet picks and two nominees for the Supreme Court High Council for a vote of confidence.

Lower house members said Fahim's guards unleashed dogs into the parliament to search for explosives ahead of the VP arrival. But Fahim later said security organs had used dogs to search the house, not by his guards.

Jenab told today's Senate session that Fahim's guards searched people at the parliament's main gate on Saturday.

"My advisor, Khalil Shankar, who is a well-educated and cultured young man, was severely beaten and his nose and mouth broken by Fahim's guards who did not allow him to enter the house despite showing his service card," Jenab said.

He said the beating incident amounted to a grave insult to the house by Fahim and his guards, asking the house administrative board to investigate the incident and refer to the Attorney General Office those involved in injuring his advisor.

Senator Hidayatullah Rehaee said Fahim's guards had violated parliamentary norms by beating the advisor. "It is true that yesterday Fahim's guards beat and broke the nose and mouth of the Meshrano Jirga advisor," he said.

Rehaee said Fahim proudly entered the lower house a day earlier and brought along dogs to search the august house.

Wolesi Jirga members on Saturday kicked up a ruckus over the use of sniffer dogs to search the lower house ahead of Fahim's arrival to introduce the ministers-designate, calling the move an insult to the parliament.

Rehaee said President Karzai had many times visited the parliament and he never used dogs to search the legislature.

MP Hafiz Abdul Qayum asked Fahim to refer his guards involved in beating the advisor to the AGO for investigation.

Several other upper house members called the beating of Shankar an insult to the parliament and asked the administrative board to investigate the incident.

Senate chairman Fazl Hadi Muslimyar called the incident as regrettable.