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MoI orders arrest of Zari district police chief

12/20/2016



The Ministry of Interior has ordered the arrest of the Zari district police chief of northern Balkh province and one of his bodyguards after an investigation into allegations of kidnappings and sexual assaults against them.

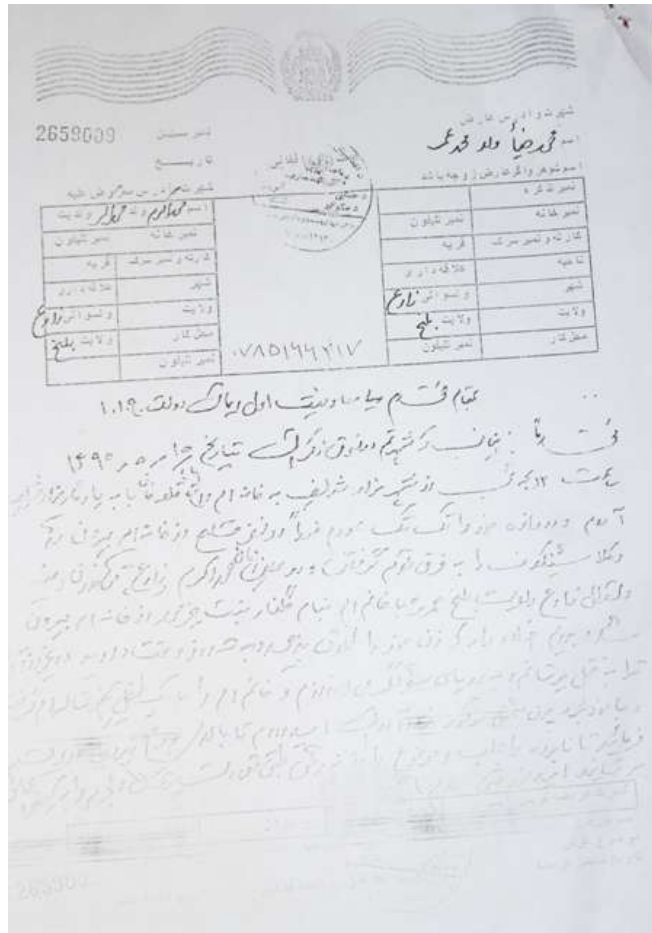
Mohammad Zia, a resident of Zari district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that he along with two other people had complained to the Balkh police headquarters against Zari police chief, Mohammad Akram, one of his bodyguards and some other individuals linked to him, but their complain went unaddressed.



He then traveled to capital Kabul and shared the issue with the Presidential Palace, the Wolesi Jirga and the MoI, he said.

“It was August 6 and midnight when Mohammad Akram Zari, the Zari police chief and a number of his companions broke into my house in Mazar-i-Sharif and took away my wife and my son who is one and a half years old and threatened me with elimination if I did not divorce my wife,” he said.

Maryam, 19, another resident of Zari district, said, “It was June 4 when a bodyguard of the district police chief named Dadmir, entered our house at night and took me to another house and then sexually assaulted me, my father was in hospital for treatment of my brother in Mazar-i-Sharif when the incident happened.”



Then she reached the district police headquarters to register her complaint, but the district police chief was there and he again raped her. “So I left my house in Zari and came to Kabul to share my complaint with the government,” she added

Mohammad Yaqob, another resident of the district, said his son was killed by a friend of the police chief and they threatened with death if he complained.

According to information received by Pajhwok Afghan News, the MoI on November 21 had sent a delegation to Zari district to investigate about allegations against the police chief.

In its investigation report, the delegation says “despite direct complains shared with the Balkh police chief about sexual assaults, death threats, kidnapping and a murdering case against the Zari police chief and his bodyguards, the police chief did not take a proper action or totally ignored the complaints.”

The report says the delegation consumed much time and launched an inappropriate and unprofessional investigation into the cases. The MoI and judiciary organs should have taken action long before, it added.

The delegation said, “Balkh police chief must arrest the Zari police chief and others complicit in the cases and hand them over to relevant organs to address the issue.”

Balkh police chief, Col. Sayed Kamal Sadat, said, “Despite Zari district chief, Mohammad Akram Zari, retirement and replacement, he returned to his duty again without our coordination, we don’t know why it happened. There might be some political games behind the move.”

However, Balkh governor’s spokesman, Munir Farhad, rejected accusations against Zari district chief and said a rival of Akram Zari was trying to defame him.

He said Akram Zari rejoined duty after requested by 500 elders and people of Zari district to do so.

Meanwhile, a document from the interior minister received by Pajhwok Afghan News orders the officials concerned to arrest the Zari district chief and other individuals involved in crimes and bring them to justice.