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Tolo News

Attorney General Unable to Sue Powerful Officials

April 3, 2011

The Afghan Attorney General's Office is unable to sue some deputy ministers accused of graft, Deputy Attorney General said on Sunday.

Deputy Attorney General Rahmatullah Nazari and Head of the High Office of Oversight and Anti-Corruption Azizullah Ludin were summoned by the Afghan parliament's central oversight commission on Sunday.

Mr Nazari told lawmakers that some deputy ministers accused of corruption have been sentenced to 5 years in prison, but the Attorney Office cannot get them arrested because they are powerful.

Mr Azizullah Ludin said there are graft cases of 136 million dollars in which high-ranking government officials and cabinet ministers are involved.

Meanwhile, some parliamentarians accuse the Attorney General's Office of ignoring some of the cases they receive.

"We wanted to make sure what the Attorney General's Office is doing is based on the Afghan constitution," an Afghan MP, Mohammad Ali Alizada, said.

The Attorney General's Office said the cases filed are related to ministers, deputy ministers, ambassadors and directors.

It has dealt with 220 cases of graft, the Deputy Attorney General added.

According to Mr Ludin, corruption has increased in the national population statistics department, passport office and traffic police.

He said if the governmental institutions are not cleared of corruption, then it would be difficult to succeed in the fight against corruption in Afghanistan.