Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan

2006 Annual Report

Help others who fall as you stand!

"چو ایستاده ای دست افتاده گیر!"
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HAWCA founder & director’s message

It is a great pleasure and honors for me to state that a self-help, voluntary organization which started to work under the most severe and barbaric regime of Taliban is now reaching its seventh year of establishment with great achievements.

For those readers who do not know enough about the history of HAWCA, I would like to say that the honor of HAWCA’s achievements, success in the past seven years goes to ALL its committed members who did not recognize day and night working to make a difference in the life of those in need. From the guards and cooks of the organization up to its founder and director all the staffs have played a crucial role to make all this possible to provide assistance and take part in the development process of Afghanistan.

I believe it is indeed important to mention here the very important role of beneficiaries i.e. those who received HAWCA’s support in the past year in making us reach to this level of progress and success. It was always communities and the beneficiaries’ feedbacks, suggestions and evaluations which help us, the leadership of HAWCA to improve further its activities and works.

HAWCA’s financial partners are other important role players in all this success and I hereby would like to express my deep gratitude for their efforts to understand our values and principles and support us financially to meet our goals and objectives.

In addition to all this, I would like to state here that despite the great successes HAWCA had in the past seven years, there are still strong gaps within the organization’s administrative structure and here we would like to promise to all the partners of HAWCA family that we will fill these gaps with our non-stop efforts within the coming years.

Orzala Ashraf
Founder/Director of HAWCA
Acknowledgements

HAWCA’s Leadership Board would like to express warmest solidarity with all committed organizations and individual activists across the world who are struggling for human rights and tackling the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan. In particular we would like to thank HAWCA’s funding partners who with their financial assistance have made it possible for HAWCA to progress towards its goals. We are also grateful for the moral support from friends around the world whose interviews, emails, and encouraging letters kept us hopeful for a brightening and better future in Afghanistan. We are looking forward to continuing with you all hands in hand to bring an end to all injustices and violence in the world and foster a peaceful and sustainable life for women and children in Afghanistan. THANK YOU for your support!
Overview

The year 2007 is eighth year of HAWCA’s establishment. When an organisaiton reaches such a stage, it always have to look at its history and what the achievements as well as failures of the organisation has been and so far how did the work of HAWCA affected Afghanistan and its women and children?

Therefore, HAWCA is very pleased to share with its partners/friends and supporters the 2006 Annual report which will illustrate HAWCA’s activities and services provided during the year 2006.

Country Background in 2006:

Afghanistan has gone through very critical situation during the year 2006. After the fall of Taliban in 2001, this year is known as the bloodiest year for Afghanistan as well as for the international community in the country. According to the Human Rights organizations and institutions, several hundreds of people have been targeted by suicide bombers, remote control bomb explosion, rocket attacks and assassinations all over Afghanistan. South and south-eastern part have been through the worst kind of fighting’s since 2001, while North, central and western Afghanistan have not survived of such attacks and incidents. Such inhuman acts from one side and international forces’ air strike ‘mistakes’ from another side, did not pay any particular attention to safe the lives of innocent civilians, mostly women and children as well elders and as result thousands of people have lost their lives. The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission states that it could not spend nearly 50% of its annual funds to monitor the Human Rights situation in all over Afghanistan comparing to the year 2005.

This year was also the year that Afghanistan managed to have a parliament where 249 of members were elected to represent the population, monitor the state’s activities and improve the legislative system of the country. Women MPs are making over 25% of the whole lower house or Wolesi Jirgah. Afghanistan’s Parliament is an ironic display of all kind of Afghan representatives from Mullah Abdul Salam Rocketi a Taliban representative up to Abdul Haq Ulomi of the PDPA leader and independent and outspoken members such as Malalai Joya and Ramazan Bashardost. They all come together to speak on the Afghanistan situation and seek solutions to stabilize the country, while to one’s knowledge
the huge spread of corruption in all institution weakens the role of parliament and changes it into a place where pre-decided agendas are coming to get an apparent approvals.

2006 has also been the bloodiest year for Humanitarian Aid workers and journalists in Afghanistan. Humanitarian and development aid workers have lost their lives during the service due to insecurity and military attacks; some have been kidnapped and released while some were found dead in the most horrifying way. HAWCA believes that one of the reasons for vulnerability of humanitarian aid workers is the militarization of humanitarian assistance and mixing up the military services with humanitarian service. This fact has also ended up resulting in breaking the access of insecure and in-war areas from development and humanitarian services, while even during the Soviet occupation aid workers were not targeted directly by any part of warring factions for their humanitarian services.

Civil society and HAWCA's role as an NGO:

The civil society in Afghanistan is also growing up gradually and is making all its efforts to emerge transformative changes, but indeed due to the reality of this context, the changes are so far gradual. For instance, Human rights organizations are trying to come under a network to express their concerns regarding the violations of human rights, the public media have started to give further opportunities for youth and even children and the private media have started to conduct open discussions and debates on certain issues such as democracy, role of civil society in rebuilding Afghanistan and other daily issues. NGOs involved in the social development field have also played an important role in raising awareness on human rights, gender equity, peace and women’s rights. It is to mention that Afghanistan is still one of the top countries in having low literacy rate, particularly in regards to women. Women headed NGOs have also continue their struggle in promoting gender equity within the legislative systems of the country. HAWCA as a committed NGO have also played its role in defending the deprived Afghan women who have been victims of all kinds of violence or violence by powerful influential warlords in their regions. HAWCA participated in several debates discussing the importance of protecting women’s rights throughout Afghanistan.

In addition to its commitment to assist and empower women and children, HAWCA also invested in mobilizing and collaborating with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), governmental sectors such as the Ministry of Women’s Affairs, the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Public and Social Affairs, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission and many other institutions working in the fields in which HAWCA focuses. One of HAWCA’s primary principles is to coordinate and cooperate with other partners and concerned organizations to achieve its
aims in a more efficient way, and we had some success in 2005 in joint ventures and lobbying for women’s rights. Representatives of HAWCA also attended some regional and local training programs on different subjects related to women and human rights, leading to several opportunities for organizational improvement in 2005.

**HAWCA plans for future:**

Considering the fact that HAWCA as a committed organization would likes to carry on its work in the most professional way in the future, in consultation with its leadership members as well as its staff, it developed a Strategic Plan of Action for the coming three years. This plan includes HAWCA’s particular interventions in the up coming years. HAWCA will concentrate its efforts in the following areas in coming three years:

- Focus on capacity building of HAWCA leadership staff and project staff;
- Working on HAWCA policy and management;
- Keeping on 2006 projects on Protection and Counseling, Education, Peace Building and Sponsorship;
- Establishing women’s centers where they learn skills and learn about their rights and human rights;
- Extending The Peace Building initiative among children into further areas as the pilot project have been a great success;
- Establishing a Mobile Health Team and Midwives Training Program in Bamyan;
- HAWCA will keep on the lobbying and advocacy work in promoting Human Rights and women’s rights in Afghanistan;
- Establishing a Women and Children’s Cultural Centre in Kabul;
- Increasing HAWCA’s partnership with several partners in the area of Peace Building, Awareness raising and income-generation activities.

In conclusion as it is visible, HAWCA have had a very successful year full of achievements and have done a lot of work in reaching to its goal. Meanwhile it is also worth to mentioned that so far HAWCA will have a long way to reach the point it can be satisfied with. In other words, the gaps are still huge internally as well as externally to fulfill the aims of the organizations. In the internal level, staff with lower capacity and leaving of professional staff has been the most significant challenge, while externally there are challenges in deferent levels such as policy level, in which there is still no voice of women in the decision making level, executive level, whereas huge gaps in achieving women’s rights due to male dominant environment as well as due to deep corruption. HAWCA will keep on its efforts and works to meet the challenges and enhance its activities.
Education projects in Afghanistan

Literacy courses:

Most of HAWCA literacy centers such as Literacy center in Qala-e-Alimardan, Qalia Nazer in Kabul and one in Mazar-e-Sharif and one in Jalalabad and one in Farah provinces have been closed by May 2006 as it completed its durations. Only Qalia Nazer literacy center is kept running. HAWCA ran as mentioned above five literacy centers, two in Kabul, one in Mazar-e-Sharif and one in Jalalabad and one in Farah which were financed through ASDHA Spain. In each centre 200 female students aged 14 and over each year since 2002 were provided with education facilities. The literacy centers were registered with MoE literacy department. MoE literacy department curriculum plus women's rights and human right information were added and by passing of time the curriculum has been enriched by adding human/women/child/rights, violence against women and hygienic/health information and the duration of literacy courses extended from 18 months to three years. Literacy course according MoE literacy department has 3 level or grade 1-3 and after completion of 3rd grade the beneficiaries are entitled certificate of graduation of 3rd grade and for further education the beneficiaries can attend 4th to 6th grade of public schools.

Donor: ASDHA, Spain.

Women Centre in Qala-e-Nazir:

HAWCA's Qala-e-Nazir literacy centre remained open that a new partner (ICCO) Netherland is underway to finance this project which will be changed into HAWCA's Women Centre where in addition to literacy, women will be able to learn about their rights, human rights hygienic/health information and counseling will be received by the beneficiaries. A number of 200 women and girl beneficiaries and 10 teachers are involved in this project. They are being supervised by an experienced supervisor in order to improve their methods of learning. HAWCA's educational team continues to provide the centre with
update teaching material and informative and useful material. For the year 2006, ASDHA continued to support Qala-e-Nazir Literacy Centre till May 2006.

Donor: ASDHA, Spain till May 2006
Donor: Kerkinactie/ ICCO Netherlands is expected to finance the project.

Literacy classes in Samangan:

HAWCA started a new gender balance approach to literacy education in Samangan province. With the suggestion of residents of five villages in Posht-e-Band area of Khuram wa Sarbagh district of Samangan province, HAWCA has established four literacy classes for women and four for men where both are attending the classes to learn how to read and write and receive further information and awareness on human rights and women’s rights. Each male or female course has number of 25 trainees. The project has started in September 2006 and so far it is going on in excellent way. The project is being supervised by HAWCA staff based in Nowbolaq village where HAWCA also runs a school since four years. The aim of this project is to contribute in decreasing illiteracy rate in the area and to raise awareness on human rights values in remote areas. So far the project has been strongly supported by the villagers and the local project staff are coordinating their activities with the local/village councils related to NSP (National Solidarity Program).

The project duration is eighteen months.

Donor: ASDHA, Spain (Gava local Gov, Barcelona local Gov).

Primary Education

Providing access to primary education for girls and boys in remote and marginalized areas remained as one of HAWCA priorities. This will help women and children (girls and boys) to access education and having awareness on
child rights, human rights and their right to education. HAWCA supports two primary school projects in two provinces namely Nuristan and Samangan. Both projects are considered as an entry point to mobilize communities in encouraging their girls to attend school and in a later step to empower young generations of these communities through education.

**Dara-i-Titeen Primary school (Nuristan):**

Dara-e-Titeen Primary school is located in western Nuristan, Norgaram district in a green and mountainous valley called Titin Dara. This district is neighbor with Laghman province. Titien Dara is the only village among 11 villages that there is a school building which is build by HAWCA. In this building two schools are running in two shift. One is Titien Dara girls primary school which is grown till 4th grade and has 240 trainees. And the second schools is called Tieten Dara secondary school for boys. During the year 2006, HAWCA with a limited fund could manage to support the school financially, but rather continued to facilitate school’s registration process with the Ministry of Education, provided the school staff with certain trainings on methods of teaching and assisted the school with purchase of books and some stationeries. The secondary school for boys is grown now till 8th grade with 244 trainees. The building of the school which has been built by HAWCA is being used in two shifts a day. One shift is primary school for girls and the second shift is for boys. The village school is now a facility for 484 trainees.

HAWCA is seeking partners for possibilities of extra studies and rights awareness for teachers as well as students of the school for the upcoming year.

*Donor: Peace Association and Municipality of Rome (Italy)*

**Now Bolaq Primary School (Samangan):**

Now Bolaq Primary School is one of HAWCA’s school which was basically established in refugee communities in Pakistan, it’s aim was to establish a school for carpet weaving children of the area. But in the year 2002 when the refugees stated to repatriate and return to their villages, the elders of the community as well as a number of family members of the students suggested HAWCA to also move the school in their village. HAWCA accepted and we are very pleased to the concerned donors who also were kind enough supporting this project inside Afghanistan.
The school was restarted in Now Bolaq right two months after the refugees returned to the village in 2002. But, the school building in this village was bombed during Soviet occupation and the only possible place for the school in the village was the local masque of the village. Again with support and agreement of the community leaders the school was started within the mosque of the village. However, one of the conditions of the community was to use this religious school for temporary time. Therefore, they suggested for building a school.

For the year 2003-4 HAWCA proposed the construction of the school to concerned donors and it was approved. During the year 2004 in the month of November the construction work was finished and it became ready for use for academic year 2005. Now the students are enjoying having a school building with six rooms and 6 local toilettes, drinking water and play ground.

Last winter due to heavy raining and snowing the building was partially damaged, HAWCA financed the material and the community contributed the labor work and the school was repaired.

Meanwhile the school studies were continuing during whole these years since started inside Afghanistan.

The school has grown to 7th grade in the year 2006, and now registered with provincial educational department of MoE.

The school has an extension section in neighboring village called Qaradung. Since the small children cannot cover the way to come to Nowbolaq Village for attending the school. The villager has granted a room of the mosque for classes of the village children. The first grade and third grade is attending in this village and receiving all the support as Now Bolaq school.

In June 2006 ASDHA director Monica Bernabe has visited the project and the school building and the extension section of the school together with HAWCA delegations. The school has 230 students and number of 13 staff. The students are being provided by books, uniforms, stationeries and food items.

Donor: Basc local government and our local partner in the Basc Foru Feminista and Generalitat De Catalunya through ASDHA Spain.
**Information Technology for Youth:**

HAWCA’s Computer centre which is a project running for the last three years, has had a year pause in its funding, as HAWCA’s partners ASDHA could not find a funding partner for it only small support was provided by ASDHA. HAWCA used some grants received by PAOUC and some funds available through general funding, HAWCA have used them to keep the project active and thus, HAWCA IT centre for youth, had managed to graduate a number of 200 girls and boys with an average good knowledge about computer’s ms-office package. The students followed learning about Hardware/Software and net meeting as well. There has been three teachers and the class have continued for the whole 12 months during the year 2006.

*Donor:Donations from ASDHA, HAWCA, Donations from PAOUC, Spain.*

**Peace building Project:**

HAWCA’s Peace Building Project in Qala-e-Zaman Khan, district 9 of Kabul city, is an initiative which aims to raise awareness among children about their rights; create a safe and healthy environment for children through entertainment such as plays, music etc; and provide them with further help to improve their school lessons. The project started on March 2005 and for the whole year 2005, 2006 was running smoothly. There are 200 children (70 girls and 130 boys) aged between 7 and 14 who attend primary schools some subjects beside peace education. After school they attend peace building classes where they do different activities. The staff of these projects are trained on providing peace education, lessons on conflict resolution, and work on the Universal Deceleration of Children’s Rights. By using local material and entertaining programs, they managed to change the project into a popular centre for children in the area, who are all very enthusiastic to attend their classes.

The local community is very supportive towards this project as it was their request that HAWCA continue this initiative for children to have a safe environment to study, play and, learn many important issues related to their future such as their basic rights and information on behavioral attitudes.
During the first three months of the year 2006, Caritas and HAWCA delegations have visited the centre and HAWCA’s education team did an evaluation of the project implementation since March 2005. As a result, HAWCA find out that the program has been very successful and it is on the process to meet its target i.e. raise awareness among children (girls and boys) about their rights and also create a safe environment for children to express themselves. The girls and boys in the centre have made a significant progress and also their parents are very keen to have this project in order to give a good chance for their children to have a good future.

*Donor: Caritas Italy since April 2005*

**Education projects in Pakistan**

**Mahjoba-e-Harawee Primary School:**

*Project Location:* Arbab Road, Peshawar, Pakistan.

This year a total number of 260 students, 146 girls and 114 boys, were studying in this primary school. Due to lack of accommodation the classes were conducted in two shifts where the first shift used to start at 07:30 and finish at 10:45, and then the second shift start at 11:00 and finish at 14:15. As most of the charity-based schools had moved to Afghanistan and only private schools that charges fee were existing in the surrounding area and almost all of Afghan refugees can’t afford to send their kids to private schools. So the number of students in the school increased. This year teachers and students celebrated Teacher’s day. Students had drawn pictures on chart papers and had written their feeling about their teacher and give as gift for their teacher. The final exams were conducted in May 2006 and with the end of academic year, we had to close down the school due to lack of fund.

*Donor: Principado de Asturias and ASDHA.*
HAWCA Computer Course:

**Project Location:** Refugee camp in Peshawar, Pakistan.

A total number of 80 youth girls and boys were taking advantage of this project. In this computer course students were learning how to use office automation programs, Adobe Photoshop and some basic knowledge about network and database administration. This project had been very helpful for the students as they get aware of the new technology which is widely used in every field. Besides this they can easily find job that helps them to support their family and continue with their further education. After they complete the course in this computer institution center then HAWCA provides them with an honor certificate. As the period for this project was for two years and most of the refugees are going back to Afghanistan so at the end March 2006, HAWCA closed this project. There is a plan to reopen this project in Afghanistan with support of the partners.

*Donor: Manos Unidas, Spain.*

Scholarship for Youth Professionals:

**Project Location:** Islamabad and Peshawar, Pakistan

Five students are studying in this project; almost all of them are their last year. After they finish they will get their bachelor degree in different fields like computer science, business and social development. One of the students finished this year and for the other students will finish their study in year 2007. Here is the detail about each student.

Fareeda: She is taking her bachelor degree from Portsmouth University in computer sciences. It is an online study system where the teacher is conducting the class in Singapore and students are logged on to the site through their username and password that has been provided to them by university and then they can interact with their teacher in chat sessions and email. She will finish her degree in August 2007.

Andeisha: She is also taking her degree in computer science from Portsmouth University. She is class fellow of Fareeda and will finish her degree at the same time with her, August 2007.

Ahmad Ubaid (Shafi): He is studying in Beaconhouse Informatics, Islamabad. This institution gives the degree in Bachelor in Business and Information Technology from Curtin University of Australia. He is in his last semester that will finish in July 2007. To get his degree, he doesn't need to write any thesis
because for every subject, he has to do a project and this to replace the final thesis.

Zala: She is studying in Iqra University, Islamabad. She will get her bachelor degree in Social Development Sciences at the end of December 2007. In summer semester she will not study any subject as all of the subjects that have been offered, has been taken by Zala. But the fall semester will be her last semester and she will complete her degree. She will write a final thesis in development in rural areas during this period and then she will finish her bachelor degree.

Selay: She was studying in Iqra University, Peshawar. Currently she is writing her final thesis in Human Resource; she will get her bachelor degree in Business Administration. She has joined HAWCA and now she is working in a cultural project that has been funded by Foreign Ministry of Italy.

Donor: AIDOS, Italy

Scholarship for Afghan children in Pakistani schools:

Location: Peshawar, Pakistan
Details: In this project we have provided the opportunity for Afghan students to study in Pakistani schools. As the level of education in Pakistani schools is better than Afghani schools but due to expensive fee it is not affordable for most of the Afghan refugees, so they can’t join these schools. This year the total number of students that were studying in this project was 10. HAWCA will seek the possibilities of continuation of sponsorship to those students who will stay in Pakistan for the coming year.

Donor: AIDOS, Italy

Protection and Counseling

HAWCA’s Safe House (Khana-e-Amen):

HAWCA’s Safe House for women at risk project has been established in February 2004 in closed collaboration with MoWA, Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and by financial support of Foundation Belessario (an
Italian Foundation) in the first year, UNHCR and Rights and Democracy for the second year and for the year 2006 UNHCR has been the only donor for HAWCA’s Safe House, while there has been in kind support from European Commission’s Kabul Office as well as some small donations of HAWCA supporters. The project started to work, while different categories of women and girls were in a real need of finding a protection. HAWCA after negotiating with different stakeholders decided to work on this very highly sensitive area and defend the rights of victims of violence.

The Safe House, although in the Afghan context it is new, but based on President Karzai’s Decree no. 104 dated 9/11/1282 MoWA was given the task to look for a safe place to protect those women at risk and female prisoners who finish their punishment time and do not have a place to stay.

HAWCA defines Safe House for women at risk as a temporary housing/protection for those women or girls who have been abuse physically, psychologically or mentally by family members, powerful communities members, warlords, officials or any, and has not committed crime and need protection and those women who have no house to live (a temporary protection solution).

The women and girls at risk are being introduced to the safe house through MoWA and Independent Human Right Commission and UNHCR.

Once under protection, HAWCA consider the women and girls at risk as its project beneficiaries. The beneficiaries are provided in the safe house accommodation, three times meal a day, cloths, medical assistance, education, vocational training and awareness about their rights, civilian rights and violence against women as well as counseling on legal rights.

HAWCA as a committed women headed organization did its best in supporting women at risk. The safe house receives beneficiaries from different provinces and sometimes from Iran and Pakistan as well, HAWCA policy is to promote tolerance among the beneficiaries and tries to assist them to learn about the basic values of democracy and human rights while living in the same environment. The beneficiaries are related to different tribes, families and religious, but the management staff of safe house are behaving them equally and empower them with the sense of cooperation with each other at all time.

Safe house for women at risk is newly implemented during the last years, after establishment of interim government in Afghanistan. The number of safe houses are growing and there are one safe house in Heart province, 2 in Kabul supported by UNHCR and one in Mazar province is newly going to be established in 2007.
The project implementation is carried out with collaboration of MoWA, donor organizations, UN agencies, civil society, security authorities, and legal authorities.

In the start of the project and years after there was not a mechanism for safe houses. After implementation of the project it was felt that a mechanism is needed and HAWCA raise this issue with its partners such as UNHCR and MoWA and finally HAWCA and AWSDC was given the task to draft a protocol for the safe houses and collect and enrich the protocol with the comments and then submitted to UNIFEM to work together with MoWA. The protocol is still not signed by MoWA and different local authorities and actors. By signing of the protocol for safe houses there will be more legal support for its present in Afghanistan.

*Donor: United Nation’s High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR – Afghanistan), ASDHA Spain, partial funding started from Nov 06.*

**Sponsorship**

During the year 2006 HAWCA with the help of individuals and supporters managed to sponsor several girls and boys.

**Nadia**

HAWCA continued to support Nadia and her family on monthly basis, while her education is being financed in the university of ACCA-UK by a 17 years old girl Margox from the United State. For the year 2006 Nadia worked part time in HAWCA office besides attending the university. In HAWCA office, she worked on collecting data and information on Afghan well-known women in the history. And she also attended some trainings on human rights and project writing.

HAWCA continued seeking possible ways for Nadia’s plastic surgery. As result thanks to our partner ASDHA, Monica Bernabe (director of ASDHA) had found a hospital and sponsoring organization in Barcelona, Spain for her treatment. Nadia traveled to Spain, Barcelona to attend a series of conferences on Violence Against Women in Afghanistan in November 2006 and she continued to stay in Barcelona for her treatment. HAWCA is supporting Nadia's family in her absence as she is the only breadwinner of her family.
Qadeer

Qadeer is a young boy who was taken by HAWCA to Spain for treatment of a medical treatment. He is being sponsored for regular medical check ups and education expenses. Merce from Spain is his sponsor. HAWCA is also seeking possible ways to encourage Qadeer to learn a skill and start his own small business.

Nazaneen

During 2006, thanks to HAWCA’s Italian friends, Nazaneen was accompanied by her father in traveling to Milan for the second time. In order to continue her medical treatment. After in-depth analysis of her medical case, the doctors who treated Nazanin wrote the following report on diagnosis of her illness:

Report written by doctors treating Nazanin in Italy:

Nazaneen has an inflammation of the small blood vessels of her hands and this causes part of this disaster. What the doctors of Genoa Hospital (Gaslini) cannot understand is the origin of this inflammation. This inflammation is getting better, but even if the recovery is on the way is leaving her hands with a serious retraction of the skin. They said that we must wait for the complete stop of this retraction and than it will be possible to think at some operation to “rebuild” the skin of her hands. In the mean time she must continue to use the creams she was given at the Hospital and do some movements with her hands because this will help to stop the retraction.

As far as it is concerned the diagnosis of radiodhermitis this is not secure and it is been given in lack of alternatives explanations and because this type of lesions have been seen by a doctor that saw something similar in Iraq. But they cannot say anything precise about the possible source: not even if it is a matter of beta or gamma rays.

They also said that this hypothesis is supported by the story that her father told to the doctors, that she touched something that provoked an immediate blister on her hand that grew a lot without healing and probably got infected. Also, maybe she’s been seen by many doctors that treated her who knows how and this could possibly have confused the clinic picture.

Doctor Eduardo says that the sources can be 2:
Depleted uranium (which he know that American have used, but probably the Russians too); but he also says that it is a weak radioactive source, so it is strange.

Radioactive waste which maybe the Russian or Americans or even the Taliban could have hidden in some places (it happens that rich countries pay poor ones to keep their dangerous waste, this happens always with Africa, for example).

Enriched uranium, or plutonium, used for military purposes; Edoardo says that it is strange, but as the area where she lived was a war zone, it can always be possible.

To end he says that it would be useful to verify if somebody else, besides Nazaneen, has got the same disease in the same area, and go there with a Geiger meter (which is not expensive and it is easy to use).

Nazaneen will need continues observation and HAWCA is very pleased for all support of our great and kindhearted friends in Milan and Genova who looked after Nazanin during all her stay time in Italy.

*Donors: PAOUC - Spain, ASDHA-Spain, CISDA-Italy.*

### Lobbying for Women Human Rights

Since HAWCA’s establishment in the year 1999, HAWCA carried on Lobbying and advocacy for women’s rights and human rights in the national and international level. Although the first three years of HAWCA was not easy years in terms of lobbying and advocacy in the national level, due to the presence of a dark-minded regime which refused to even allow women NGOs work. But since the year 2002, HAWCA carried on participating in several meetings, conferences, debates, gatherings and has organized on certain occasions some gatherings in collaboration with other women NGOs. Lobbying for women’s rights and human rights is one of HAWCA’s main strategies and thus during the year 2006, HAWCA’s main office staff have participated in the following seminars and workshops organized by different local and international organizations.

It is worth to add that HAWCA currently holds the membership in the following local, national and regions networks:
Humanitarian Assistance for the Women and Children of Afghanistan

- Member at Afghan Women’s Network (AWN).
- Member at Civil Society and Human Rights Network (CSHRN)
- Member at Persian Speaking Women’s Network, which previously known as Persian Gender Network.
- Member at Elimination of Violence Against Women Group, organized by UNIFEM
- Member at Coordination Cooperation Committee and National Shelter Network.

Participating in National seminars and conferences:

HAWCA representative participated in the following national seminars, workshops and conferences:

Finance, leadership and Organization Development Workshop. Organized by Afghan Women’s Network from 16th to 18th January 2007

Accounting System for UNHCR Partners. A training held from 25th to 28th of December, 2006.

Training of Trainers Workshop on teaching Human Rights, a training held from 18th to 24th of February 2006 by Civil Society and Human Rights Network.

Training of Trainers a workshop on teaching the methods of teaching. Organized by CSHRN from 24th to 27th April, 2006.

Workshop on Structure of Human Rights, held on 31st of July, 2006 by CSHRN. In this workshop, all HAWCA education centre’s teachers participated.

Organizing Human Rights organizations, a seminar held on 17th – 19th July, 2006.

Capacity Building from Human Rights perspective from 10th to 12th July, 2006.

Violence, Poverty and its causes in the war-torn countries, a seminar held byAWN on 14th to 16th February.

Gender and Justice in Afghanistan, a seminar by IDLO from 15-16th May, 2006.

Social Working Methodology and assisting case workers and social workers, a four day workshop 4-7th June, 2006 organized by Medical Mondiale.

Workshop on CEDAW by AWN on the 9-11th of May, 2006.
A workshop on Child Rights Convention (CRC) by Save the Children, a two day workshop 25-26 of June, 2006.

Access to information, a workshop organized by CSHRN on the 14-16, November, 2006.

Finding ways to eliminate Violence Against Women, a conference organized by UNIFEM on the 27 June, 2006.

Study on Family Dynamics and Family Violence a methodology workshop organized by AREU on the 15th of June, 2006.

Strategic Planning for NGOs, organized by AWN on 17-18th May, 2006.

In addition to above mentioned seminars and workshops, HAWCA’s lobbying team has taken active part in advocacy for women and child rights. For instance HAWCA was part of the: Age discrimination deceleration by NGOs; Condemnation of Safia Ama Jan’s Assassination Deceleration; and several other decelerations related to human rights and women’s rights.

**Participating in the International conferences and seminars:**

**Conference in Ibiza-Spain:**
**4th April, 2006** – Attend a lobbying seminar in Ibiza of Spain in order to raise awareness on the current Afghanistan. My presentation title was: ‘Human Rights and Humanitarian Crisis and challenges for women in Today’s Afghanistan’.

**Conference in Barcelona:**
**21st of October, 2006** – Attended as a representative of Afghan women in a seminar ‘Women and Human Rights in Islamic countries’, my presentation title was: ‘Afghanistan: Women’s contribution to development’

**Conference In Italy:**

END.