



Independent Joint Anti-Corruption
Monitoring & Evaluation Committee

BACKGROUND

MEC asks SIGAR to review \$39 million worth of US funded pharmaceuticals that cannot be accounted for

A review is required to determine whether millions of dollars of pharmaceuticals have been embezzled

- MEC has asked SIGAR to review \$39 million worth of US funded pharmaceuticals related to national military hospitals, which currently cannot be accounted for by the international forces.
- The mission of the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) is to enhance oversight of programs for the reconstruction of Afghanistan by conducting independent and objective audits, inspections, and investigations on the use of taxpayer dollars and related funds.

The case of the national military hospitals became public in September 2010 after the media highlighted the findings of an American research group that reviewed the hospital

- Several allegations of patient neglect, corruption, unethical behavior in terms of procurement of medicine, furniture, mammography machines, and failing to ensure that soldiers and police received basic medical care and other crimes were revealed, including an allegation of millions being embezzled.
- Following the publication of this report, the former Ministry of Defense (MoD) and Health Director was removed from his position due to allegations of being involved in the disappearance of US donated medicine and pharmaceutical supplies.
- Although the President of Afghanistan issued a decree replacing the Health Director in December 2010, the Health Director is still receiving his salary and appears in his military uniform.

In 2011 MEC has issued two recommendations related to the case of the national military hospitals

- MEC asked the Attorney General Office, the Ministry of Defense, the Higher Office of Oversight, and the Audit and Control Office to collect all existing information on the case and form a Joint Investigation Team composed of domestic and international (Shafafiyat) investigators to conduct a thorough analysis of events.
- MEC further recommended that the results of the investigation should be used by the team as a basis for prosecution of responsible persons and that all assets be immediately seized and/or frozen.



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The Government followed MEC's recommendation and established a Joint Investigation Team

- The Joint Investigation Team composed of representatives from Attorney General Office, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Defense, National Directorate of Security, Supreme Audit Office, Higher Office of Oversight and two representatives from International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF)/ Shafafiyat was established.

However the indictment which the AGO developed was weak

- The Court raised serious technical and administrative issues with the indictment citing many ambiguities, deficiencies and mistakes which hinders the court to ensure justice.
- The defense lawyers criticized the legal procedure alleging that the prosecutor did not perform the investigation properly and did not collect and evaluate evidence based on the *Interim Criminal Procedure Code*. Moreover, the defense lawyer was not asked to be present during investigation, searches and confrontations.

MEC was established to independently monitor national and international efforts to fight corruption in Afghanistan

- MEC develops anti-corruption recommendations and benchmarks, which are monitored to ensure that they are effectively implemented.
- MEC monitors and evaluates national and international anti-corruption efforts.
- MEC is comprised of three national and three international senior anti-corruption experts.
- MEC reports to the public, parliament, the president and the international community every six months.

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