Gender Amid Insecurity

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Palwasha L. Kakar,
Director of Women’s Empowerment and Development Programs in Afghanistan
Summary

- The Role of Transition in Women’s Security
  - Women are symbolically targeted in first line of attack

- Effects of Uncertainty on Women’s Security
  - Hysteria and Conservatism

- Impact of the EVAW law debate on Women’s Security
  - Politicizing the secular –religious divide
Transition and Women’s Security

First Tranche Transitioned Provinces, March 2011:
Bamyan, Kabul, Panjsher
Transition and Women’s Security (cont.)

Second Tranche Transitioned Provinces, November 2011:
Balkh, Hirat, Nimroz, Saripul, Samangan, Takhar
Transition and Women’s Security (cont.)

Third Tranche Transitioned Provinces, May 2012:
Daikundi, Helmand, Jawzjan, Nooristan, Parwan, Uruzgan

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Fourth Tranche Transitioned Provinces, December 2012 & Fifth Tranche Transitioned Provinces, June 2013

[Map of Afghanistan showing regions and tranches transitioned]
Data collected in 2012 before 4th and 5th Tranche Transitioned:

- Fear for personal safety
- Experienced violence
- Recorded cases of VAW

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Uncertainty and Women’s Security

- **Conservatism**
  - Anticipating Taliban/experiencing threat
    - Local Taliban versus External (Ramadhan initiative)
  - Reactionist behavior against women
    - eg. Men in parliament pressuring women
    - Laws—EVAW and Quota

- **Hysteria—Mental health (90% of population, MoPH est)**
  - Threats heard – parliament, women candidates, schools
    - eg. Girls schools-23 schools across the country, no poison
Conclusions

- Afghanistan is deeply religious (99% want Sharia, 74% think Religious leaders should be consulted)
- Trend towards Conservatism—making concessions anticipating Taliban
- Changing laws
- Threats and Attacks on women and girls persons & institutions as transition progresses

- Will security stabilize? At what cost to women?
Thank You