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Wolesi Jirga Sends another Five MPs Home

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KABUL - The Wolesi Jirga or lower house of parliament on Saturday suspended membership of its five more members over not attending sessions for 20 days in a row.

Wolesi Jirga secretary, Abdul Qader Zazai, told today's session that Amanullah Guzar, Pir Bakhsh Gardiwal, Alam Khan Azadi, Ezatullah Atif and Mohammad Ehsaq Rahguzar were the lawmakers whose membership had been suspended.

He said Guzar, a lawmaker from Kabul, had been absent for 27 days, Pir Bakhsh Gardiwal from Nangarhar for 21 days, Alam Khan Azad from Balkh for 27 days, Ezatullah Atif from Kabul for 24 days and Mohammad Eshaq Rahguzar from Nangarhar for 22 days.

First deputy speaker Hamayon Hamayon said suspension of a number of other lawmakers was also under consideration.

He gave absent lawmakers a three-day deadline to appear in the house, otherwise their membership of the lower house would be suspended.

MP Farida Hamidi from Nimroz province said some colleagues had been absent for a long period of time without providing any reasons.

She said today's house session should serve as a warning to those who had been absent from the house.

"Most of the lawmakers do not attend sessions due to security threats, but we have to brave the same and attend the house because people have trusted us and it is our responsibility to hear and resolve people's problems," she said.

Two weeks back, the Wolesi Jirga suspended membership of Ahmad Behzad, a lawmaker from Herat, Parwin Durani, a Kuchi tribe representative, Bashir Ahmad Tayanj from Faryab and Fareshta Anwari from Nangarhar province due to their long absence.

Some days back, lawmakers complained about prolonged absence of some colleagues. Then the Administrative Board decided to suspend those staying absent for 20 days in a row under Articles 73 and 119 of the internal regulations.