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## Call to put war criminals on trial

By Abdul Mueed Hashimi

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JALALABAD - Political activists in eastern Nangarhar province on Monday asked President Hamid Karzai to try internationally recognised Afghan war criminals.

The call came at a gathering organised by the Wolesi Jabha, a coalition of five small political groups in Jalalabad city, the provincial capital.

Shah Mahmood Popal, a coalition member and head of his own faction “Peace Party”, told Pajhwok Afghan News the gathering was attended by hundreds of coalition’s members from four eastern provinces. He said the meeting was aimed at discussing political situation of the country.

He claimed thousands of officials and warlords became rich overnight by violating human rights in the country. “This is the time to punish the individuals responsible for killing countless Afghans,” he said, asking President Karzai to take action against the human rights violators.

He said the war criminals were known to everyone as they had been internationally known.

Leaders of other groups in the alliance, including Wolesi Taron, Milli Party, Falah and others on the occasion said they wanted corrupt and war criminals tried in the court of law.

They issued a resolution that said all internal and external war criminals who had killed and jailed innocent Afghans over the past decade should be put on trial in public.

President Karzai should take practical action instead of making false promises in this regard, the resolution said, adding administrative corruption had reached its peak.

The gathering in Nangahar was the first of its kind seeking trials for war criminals.