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Pajhwok

Students lock classrooms, smash windowpanes

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KABUL - A large number of students, opposing the naming of the Kabul Education University after ex-president Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani, locked up offices and classrooms on Monday.

In response to a Cabinet recommendation, President Hamid Karzai issued a decree last week,

renaming the university after Rabbani, the Jamiat-i-Islami party head and the government's chief negotiator who was killed in a suicide bomb attack in Kabul on Sept. 20, 2011

One of the protestors, Ahmadullah, told Pajhwok Afghan News that angry students locked up classrooms and smashed windowpanes of the university building.

About 250 students opposing the presidential decision and 200 others support it gathered in front of the university at 11 am. Police put in place tight security measures to prevent possible violence.

A student of the Literature Faculty, Ahmad Kamal Khurram said they had been protesting peacefully, but nobody had so far bothered to address their demand. He warned of locking the university entrance if their call was not answered.

Another student, Hamid Amin who supported the renaming of the university, hailed Prof. Rabbani as a martyr of peace. He urged opponents of the decision to renounce violence and convey their demands through peaceful protests.

Chancellor Amanullah Hamidi told Pajhwok over the telephone that a number of students had asked for the removal the university plaque. He verified the protestors had locked up classes and broken windowpanes.