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Lawmakers Call for Ismail Khan's Impeachment

By Saleha Sodat

11/12/2012

Lawmakers on Saturday called for the impeachment of Energy and Water Minister Mohammad Ismail Khan over his claim that the Jihadi Council, which he leads, is forming an army.

The MPs said the former mujahedeen commander's plans to form a special militia unit to fight insurgents was directly against the national interests of Afghanistan and will feed civil war.

MP Mohammad Nor Akbari said: "The house has the jurisdiction to take action on an issue and make it clear that no such grouping will be allowed to take Afghanistan towards civil war once again. If the issue is correct [that the militia is being formed], then parliament should call up the Minister."

Speaker of the House Abdul Raouf Ibrahimy said that any military group outside of the Afghan National Security Forces goes against the good of the country.

"The creation of any group outside the security forces and security organs is against Afghanistan's national interests. We have to work towards the improvement of the national army and national police," he said.

Members of the Jihadi Council last week confirmed that military units were being formed, with one leader saying around 30 to 40 units already existed and had commanders appointed to each.

However, they denied claims by the Herat provincial spokesman that weapons were also being

distributed.

MP Nazifa Zaki said Ismail Khan's plan abused the name of the mujahedeen who had defended the country from previous invaders.

"At present, there is no need for Jihad because there is the legal presence of foreign forces in the country. There was need for Jihad when Afghanistan was attacked by strangers. They should not abuse name of the Mujahedeen," she said.

Meanwhile, Ismail Khan said in a press conference said that the Jihadi Council's efforts are being made to help the government respond to likely security concerns after 2014.

"We did not come from the US or Europe, we came to power from the blood of this nation and we have to defend the nations honor and bring it security. We must not allow the enemies to rule in Afghanistan. This does not mean to reinforce against the government, it means to support the government and the result of our three decades of Jihad," he said.