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The Fall of Rashidan District

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According to some local newspapers, the Rashidan district of Ghazni province has fallen to hand of Taliban militants. Zabihullah Mojahed, the Taliban spokesman has said Taliban could capture the district through severe fighting with Afghan security forces. On the other hand, deputy to Ghazni provincial governor, Mr. Mohammad Ali Ahmadi, claimed the district has not fallen to hands of Taliban but its administration was shifted to a safer area. The reason is said to be the rocket firings of Taliban.

Ghazni province is one of the most restive provinces. Except some, Taliban militants have presence in the rest of districts. Districts which are completely safe due to their ethnic complexion are also affected by insecurity. For example, Jaghori district which is one of the safest districts of Ghazni; meanwhile its residents are often harassed on the way to the center of the province or capital Kabul. It should be noticed that the traffic between the mentioned district to center of the province as well as Kabul and other provinces is too large in comparison to rest of districts considering the population. It is estimated that around two three hundred vehicles daily come in and go out of the district.

There are two major ways connecting the district to center and the rest of provinces. On both ways Taliban maintain relative control. They are able to stop vehicles and check if passengers are the employee of any foreign NGOs or public servants. If they find such individuals, they easily take them away and cut their necks.

Recently, a group of people who came from the district told that six militants were arrested by police in the district but Taliban called and warned them of handing over to provincial security

forces. Taliban obviously warned that if anything happened to their arrested cadets, they will close both ways connecting the district to the rest of country and will punish whoever is from the district. According to him, district officials were forced to release.

Officials clearly understood that militants are not actually kidding. They are serious, considering their past activities. Because often passengers were severely beaten by Taliban over what they called as cooperation of people with government.

The dominance of such situation has made the people to report presence of militants because such action clearly will cost people too much. Perhaps, major part of the people hate Taliban but weakness of the government to protect them has left them to remain silent and do not cooperate with security forces. Even people fear that if they report the presence then culprits from within the government officials introduce him/her to Taliban; such a suspicion has largely affected the security situation.