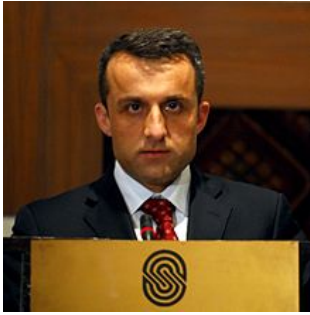


## Amrullah Saleh – CV



**Amrullah Saleh** is the former head of the National Security Directorate (NDS) of Afghanistan. In year 2004 at the age of 32 he became the youngest head of NDS. Previously under the leadership of the Northern Alliance Leader Ahmad Shah Massoud he worked on different capacities and by early 2000 Mr Saleh managed some of the intelligence affairs of Northern Alliance. After his appointment as head of NDS in 2004, Saleh helped rebuild the Afghan intelligence service and was considered as someone in the Afghan government with a clear understanding of the security challenges facing the country. The United States considered Mr Saleh one of the most effective ministers in Post Taliban Afghanistan. In 2006 during an official visit to Pakistan, Mr Saleh presented evidence to Gen. Pervez Musharaf, the then Pakistan's president, and claimed that Osama Bin Laden was in Mansehra, 10 miles from where Bin Laden was found in 2011. On June 6, 2010, Amrullah Saleh resigned from the NDS after a militant attack against the National Peace Jirga. His resignation was deep rooted in his disagreement with Mr Karzai over his approach towards the Taliban. In 2010 Saleh launched a peaceful campaign (Green Trend) to warn that Hamid Karzai had lost conviction in the fight against the Taliban and was pursuing a compromise that could come at the cost of democracy, stability and human rights especially women's rights. He criticized Karzai's policy, which he called a "fatal mistake and a recipe for civil war". Green Trend of Afghanistan - a grass root decentralised movement - is led by Mr Saleh. The aim of this movement which has received tremendous support from all across Afghanistan is to give a voice to those who oppose the appeasement policy of Mr Karzai.

Amrullah Saleh has taken part in more than 30 International conferences and he has been the key note speaker for more than 20 of them. He has led numerous regional, and international negotiations. He is praised for his clear vision, understanding and accurate intelligence.

## **Aziz Rafiee – CV**



**Aziz Rafiee** is the current Managing Director of the Afghanistan Civil Society Forum-organization (ACSFo), an organization with more than 350 members and partners. By profession he is an engineer. Rafiee graduated from the Faculty of Engineering of Kabul University in 1981 and is the chairperson of the Afghanistan Engineers Association (AEA). He has contributed to the development of Afghanistan's civil society in more than 15 years of his active work and engagement. He has worked with a wide range of civil society stakeholders, NGOs, social, human rights and cultural organizations and associations. Furthermore, he has been the founding member of more than 12 civil society organizations which are contributing to the democratic development processes of the country. He was one of the initiators and founding members of the Afghan Civil Society Organizations Network for Peace (ACSONP) and Free and Fair Elections Foundation (FEFA). Besides that, he currently is a board member of 8 civil society organizations (3 of them women organizations). Rafiee is the convening member of the Tokyo NGO Conference (December 2001), the Emergency Loya Jirga (early 2002) and the Constitution Loya Jirga (in 2004). He led the processes of the civic education for both presidential and parliamentary elections with a nation-wide outreach of 6.2 and 11 million people respectively and he was elected, by the Afghan civil society members, to represent the Afghan civil society in the Berlin (2004) and London (2006) conferences. In 2008, he represented the Afghan civil society in the Paris donor conference, too.

## **Bente Scheller – CV**



Bente Aika Scheller is the country director of the Heinrich-Boell-Foundation's (HBS) office in Afghanistan since October 2008. Before joining HBS, she spent two years working for the German foreign office at the German embassy in Damascus, Syria taking care of political affairs. Later on, she worked as senior program officer for Syria at the Aspen Institute Berlin. Ms Scheller specializes in foreign and security policy and holds a PhD in political science from Free

University of Berlin where she also did Arabic, Spanish and Latin American studies. Bente Scheller frequently comments on current affairs in the German media. In 2009 and 2011, she did a conflict portrait of Afghanistan for the Federal Center for Political Education (**Bundeszentrale** für politische Bildung) in Germany in 2009. She represented HBS Kabul in the World Economic Forum in Krynica in 2009 as moderator of the Afghanistan panel and she participated in the German Marshall Fund's prestigious Brussels Forum in March 2010 and 2011.

### **Britta Petersen – CV**



Since July 2010, Britta Petersen is the Country Director of the Heinrich-Boell-Foundations office in Lahore, Pakistan. Prior to this she worked as author and journalist in New Delhi, India. 2009 she was awarded the “Gisela Bonn Prize” by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) for her outstanding contribution to Indo-German dialogue. She is founder of the initiative “Freie Presse e.V.” (IFP) where she worked in Kabul from 2003 to 2005. For her work with young Afghan journalists she was awarded the prize for Freedom and Future of Media in Leipzig in 2005. She still travels to Afghanistan on a regular basis for the training of journalists.

### **Darcy Burner -CV**



**Darcy Burner** is the President and Executive Director of ProgressiveCongress.org and the Progressive Congress Action Fund. A candidate for Congress in 2006 and 2008, she was the principal author and organizer of the *Responsible Plan to End the War in Iraq*, endorsed by more than sixty candidates for the U.S. House and U.S.

Senate. She is also a member of the Afghanistan Study Group. From 1995 until 2004, she worked in technology at companies including Lotus Development Corporation and Microsoft. She has been a guest featured on MSNBC's Hardball with Chris Matthews, the Ed Show, C-SPAN, ABC, NPR, Pacifica Radio, and a host of local programs, and featured in *Roll Call*, *Politico*, *The Hill*, *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *DailyKos.com*, *The Nation*, *Mother Jones*, and as a keynote speaker at Netroots Nation alongside Bill Clinton and Howard Dean. She is a regular front page contributor to *OpenLeft.com* discussing matters pertaining to Congress, and writes occasionally for *DailyKos*, *Crooks & Liars*, and *Huffington Post* as well. She's a member of the board of Council for a Livable World's PeacePAC, the SNAP PAC Advisory Board, the Progressive Ideas Network Advisory Board, the Center for International Policy board, and chairs the Netroots Foundation board. She is a former board member of NARAL Pro-Choice America. In her spare time, she runs the Congressional Progressive Caucus PAC. Burner holds a BA from Harvard College in computer science with a special field of economics.

### **Dr. Almut Wieland-Karimi – CV**



**Dr. Almut Wieland- Karimi** is a German specialist in Middle Eastern and Oriental Studies. As chief executive and director of the Center for International Peace Operations (zif) in Berlin she trains professionals and management personnel for peace missions and sends observers to monitor the elections in different countries around the world, including to Afghanistan. After she gained her doctoral degree in Middle Eastern Studies at the Zentrum Moderner Orient (ZMO) in Berlin she worked as a project assistant at the Friedrich-Ebert Foundation (FES) in Buenos Aires, Argentina (1998-1999). From 2000 to 2002 she was desk officer for development cooperation and conflict transformation at the FES offices in Berlin and Bonn. Subsequently, from 2003- 2005 she acted as founding director of the FES regional office in Kabul, Afghanistan and the country director of the FES Canada and USA in Washington D.C.

## **Ejaz Haider -CV**



Ejaz Haider is Contributing Editor of The Friday Times and also writes weekly op-eds for Express Tribune and Pakistan Today. He also contributes to The Indian Express. He has been a newspaperman for two decades and has held various editorial positions, the last being executive editor of Daily Times. Haider has also hosted current affairs programmes on television, anchoring first a programme for Dawn News and later for Samaa TV. He has been a Ford Scholar at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (1997) and a visiting fellow at the Foreign Policy Studies Programme at the Brookings Institution in Washington D.C (2002-03). His areas of interest include defence and foreign policy, nuclear strategy, theories and concepts of war, international relations, statecraft, literature, and satire. Haider has written extensively for Pakistani and foreign publications and has lectured at various universities, think tanks and civil and military institutions.

## **Fahim Ahmad Hakim – CV**



**Fahim Ahmad Hakim** currently is the Deputy Chair of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). He is a qualified social, development and human rights advocate who enjoys over 12 years of experience of working as a grass-root peace builder and advocate for community empowerment and human rights. As an architecture graduate from Kabul University, he put his skills to direct use by coordinating relief and reconstruction efforts with the United Nations High Commission on Structure (UNHCS) (Habitat) Afghanistan program. After seven years of work in the field, he studied a Masters degree in post-war recovery at the University of York, UK, which he completed in 1998 before returning to Afghanistan inspired by the goal of building “human infrastructure” and supporting community-led

peace initiatives. Before joining the AIHRC, he was director and founding member of Cooperation for Peace and Unity (CPAU), an Afghan non-profit organization network for peace. In 2009, he was a commissioner and member of the Electoral Complaints Commission (ECC) to deal with challenges and complaints related to presidential and provincial council's elections. As an active member of the Afghan civil society, he attended the Bonn Conference in 2001.

### **Francesc Vendrell –CV**



**Ambassador Francesc Vendrell**, currently a Senior Consultant to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, Senior Fellow at the LSE and Adjunct Professor at John Hopkins University, Bologna, spent the academic year 2008-09 as Visiting Professor at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs in Princeton University. Between July 2002 and the end of August 2008 he served as the EU Special Representative for Afghanistan, having served previously in 2000 and 2001 as the UN Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Afghanistan. A career UN official, Mr. Vendrell served for seven years (1993-99) as Director of the Asia and the Pacific Division, UN Department of Political Affairs, serving concurrently as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Cambodia (1995-99) Papua New Guinea (1995-98) and as either Envoy or Senior Adviser for Myanmar (1993-99) and East Timor (1993-99). More recently in 2008-09 Francesc Vendrell was Head of the UN High Level Team charged with playing a good offices role in connection with the parliamentary elections in Bangladesh. Between 1986 and 1992 Francesc Vendrell was Director for Europe and the Americas in the Office of the Secretary-General, serving concurrently in 1987-92 as his Deputy Special Representative for the Central America Peace Processes (Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala). Mr Vendrell served in 1992-93 as the Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Armenia, Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and subsequently as Senior Political Adviser to the UN Envoy for Haiti. Mr Vendrell is an MA from Cambridge and holds an LLB from King's College, London and a bachelor's degree from Barcelona University.



## Frithjof Schmidt – CV



**Frithjof Schmidt** became a member of the German Bundestag (Lower House of German Parliament) in October 2009; his constituency is Bochum. He was elected as deputy Parliamentary Party Leader by the Alliance 90/The Greens (Bündnis 90/Die Grünen) faction in the German Bundestag and is a member of the Permanent Committee on Foreign Affairs. In North-Rhine Westphalia he has acted as head of the state's Green Party from 2000 to 2006. He also supported the European Green Party during this period. Here, he focused on development politics and the globalization of economy and trade. As Vice President of the Committee in Development (DEVE) of the European Parliament he successfully managed to promote fair trade.

Besides his party political commitment he also works as a journalist. For many years he has now been a coeditor of the "World Economy and Development in Brief" published in Luxembourg. Since 2006 he is coeditor of the leftist weekly "Der Freitag". Furthermore, Frithjof Schmidt works as political coordinator of the working group "International Politics and Human Rights" in the German Bundestag's faction of Alliance 90/The Greens which deals with international relations, peace and development policies and human rights. At the local level he represents the interests of his hometown Bochum and the Ruhr region.

## Jamila Omar - CV



**Jamila Omar** is the current Director of the Human Rights Research and Advocacy Consortium (HRRAC) of Afghanistan, an Afghan NGO registered with the Ministry of Economy, located in Kabul. She holds a bachelor degree in journalism from Kabul University. After working as a lecturer at the Journalism Faculty of Kabul University, she has worked with several international organizations based in Kabul in the last 7 years. She has experience in media management, public affairs, communications, social research, elections, and women's affairs. She has attended different international conferences abroad including post- conflict reporting, media and elections, journalism and multiculturalism, business and publication, journalism and harassment, standard journalism, poverty & democracy and recently the critical media in Afghanistan. She has also written many research and analytical articles in several domestic print media papers in Dari and English. She had a lot of readers while working with *Kabul Weekly* paper, *Rah-e-Naw* and *Roz Magazine*. She is amongst the few lady journalists that launched several print media outlets focusing on women's issues and human rights concerns after the collapse of the Taliban regime. She has been a member of the Advisory Group of Women's Rights in Islam and is an expert on women's rights in Islam. Ms. Omar's role in the research studies *Domestic Violence against Women* by Global Rights and *Women's Rights in Islam* by International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) are remarkable.



## Najiba Ayubi - CV



Najiba Ayubi is a writer, journalist, media manager and press freedom activist who campaigns for female empowerment. As director of *Radio Killid* in Kabul, Herat and Jalalabad, Afghanistan, she oversees stations known for their public service programming. The Killid Group (TKG) is an Afghan public media group made of eight local radio stations and two weekly nation-wide magazines, The *Killid Magazine* and *Mursal*, exclusive women's weekly, established by the Development and Humanitarian Services for Afghanistan (DHSA) in 2002. Also, Ayubi is on the steering committee of the National Association of Journalists and is a member of the Media Law Working Group. She has published a collection of short stories about Afghan women.

## Saghar Chopan – CV



Saghar Chopan holds an MA in Political Sciences from the University of York and specializes in issues of conflict, development and governance. From January 2010 until April 2011 she has been working as an international consultant at the Transition Coordination Commission in Kabul, Afghanistan. She has also been engaged as a Specialist in organisational development and management SMN Investment Group, ICA Insurance Corporation and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Kabul.

## **Sanjar Sohail – CV**



Sanjar Sohail is the owner and publisher of 8 Sobh Daily (Daily 8 am). He was born in Takhar, a northeast province in Afghanistan. He has finished his high school there and holds a Bachelor degree from the faculty of Language and Literature of Kabul University. He studied Human Rights at the Danish Institute for Human Rights in Copenhagen and as well attended short term training courses of Human Rights in Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). Besides, Mr. Sanjar attended radio journalism briefing training courses which were conducted by the Afghanistan branch of BBC and Inter News. Mr. Sanjar formerly served as news and current affairs manager at Saba TV station in Kabul and senior advisor and news chief editor in National Radio & Television of Afghanistan (RTA). He also worked as deputy chief editor in many publications (Watandar weekly and Kunduz Magazine) and as chief editor of Cinematic monthly.

He was director of the Afghan Student movement and also one of the active members of the Young Leader Forum at Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES). The establishment of 8 Sobh Daily, a unique and leading media organization, is one of his major achievements. He believes that 8 Sobh Daily can play an important role in promoting democracy and educating people about the principles of democracy through publishing democratic ideas in wide range. Also, the newspaper can be a tribute for people to raise their voices and to exercise and implement freedom of speech by enhancing public morality to raise their voices against poor performance of the central and local government and councils.

## **Shinkai Karokhail– CV**



**Shinkai Karokhail** was born in Kabul, in Afghanistan, where she serves today as a parliamentarian in the National Assembly of the Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. She was elected into parliament in 2005 and works towards conflict prevention and promotes women's rights. She has a Diploma in English from the National Institute of Modern Languages of Islamabad, Pakistan. She also studied to become a medical doctor from the Medical College of the Kabul University between 1979 and 1984, and is currently studying political science. Karokhail was one of the founding members of the Afghan Women Educational Center ([www.awec.info](http://www.awec.info)) in 1991, where she acted as a teacher in the first years, holding various positions as program coordinator or communication officer throughout the development of the NGO. She was also involved in other social work activities with other NGOs in Afghanistan. Since 2002 she has been an acting director of the AWEC, where she is responsible for programs development and management.

## **Dr. Soraya Rahim Sobhrang - CV**



**Dr. Soraya Rahim Sobhrang**, born in Herat, is a well known women's and human rights advocate and activist. Currently she is a Commissioner in the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) where she is in charge of women's rights protection and development and is making an effort to give particular emphasis to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, the facilitation of access to justice and judicial organs and the building of institutions and networks that advocate women's rights. After her secondary education, she completed her higher education in the faculty of medicines, Kabul University. She worked with the Aliabad and

Malalai Zezhanton hospital and then migrated to Germany. Here Dr. Sobhrang completed training courses in the fields of management, women's rights development, gender and psychology in Hamburg. After her return she became Technical and Political Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Women's Affairs and in 2005 started working as an advisor for the women's rights protection and development unit of AIHRC, where later on, in Jan 2007 she was selected as a Commissioner. Besides having membership in different national and international societies, Dr. Sobhrang has participated in several regional and international conferences. In 2010 she received the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Front Line Award for Human Rights Defenders At Risk that was established to highlight the work of outstanding individuals who on a daily basis put their security and lives at risk defending the human rights of others.

### **Thomas Ruttig – CV**



**Thomas Ruttig** is Co-director and Co-founder of the Afghanistan Analysts Network. He studied Afghanistics at Humboldt University in Berlin, Germany, and has spent almost 10 years working in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Thomas worked for the German Democratic Republic's Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the 1980s; for the UN as respectively United Nations Special Mission Afghanistan (UNSMA) head of office in Kabul, Adviser to the Afghan Independent Emergency Loya Jirga Commission, and United Nations Assisted Mission Afghanistan's (UNAMA) head of office in Islamabad and Gardez (2000-2003); as the Deputy to the EU Special Representative for Afghanistan (2003-2004); and Political Adviser to the German Embassy in Kabul (2004-2006). In 2006-2008 he was a visiting fellow at the German think-tank Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP). From 2008 he has been working as an author and independent political analyst.

## **Toiko Tõnisson Kleppe – CV**



**Toiko Tõnisson Kleppe** is a gender and security expert. From 2010 to 2011 she worked as Development Advisor at the Royal Norwegian Embassy to Afghanistan in Kabul. From 2008 to 2009 she was Advisor in Analysis and Assessment at the Forum for Women and Development (FOKUS), a Norwegian knowledge and resource center for international women's issues with an emphasis on the spreading of information and women-centered development cooperation. She has also worked as Project Assistant and Associate Expert for Gender, Peace and Security at the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW) in the Dominican Republic and Italy. She holds a BA in Political Science and International relations from the University of Padua, Italy and an MSc in Violence, Conflict and Development from the the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and the University of London, UK.

## **Tom Koenigs – CV**



**Tom Koenigs** is a German politician and member of the Green Party faction of the German Parliament. He is the chairman of the Committee on Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid and a regular member of the Defence Committee. He studied business economics at the Free University of Berlin where he later worked as a tutor for political economy and philosophy of

science. From 1993 to 1997 Koenigs was Treasurer of the city of Frankfurt on the Main and from 1989 to 1999 Head of the city's Environmental Protection Department. Thereafter he started working for the United Nations. As Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Kosovo (1999-2002) he was responsible for the construction of the local civic administration. In 2002 he became the UN Special Representative in Guatemala, where he worked till 2004. In 2005 he acted as Human Rights Envoy of the Federal Government of Germany for Human Rights Policy and Humanitarian Aid in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and from 2006 to 2007 as Special Representative of the UN Secretary General in Afghanistan. Since 2008 Koenigs is a Member of the Board of UNICEF Germany and since 2009 a Member of Parliament of the Federal Republic of Germany.

### **Uday Bhaskar –CV**



**C. Uday Bhaskar**, currently Senior Fellow at the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi, retired from the Indian Navy in early 2007 after 37 years of service. He is a regular contributor to the print and audio-visual media and is a columnist for *Reuters*, *Economic Times* and *Dainik Jagran* - India's largest circulating Hindi daily. He was till recently Director NMF (2009 - 2011) and earlier associated with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) from 1989 where he served as the Deputy Director (1996-2004) and later headed the institute till late 2005. Subsequently he was appointed as Member-Secretary of the GOI Task Force on 'Global Strategic Developments' - a report submitted to the PM of India. Moreover, Bhaskar was the Editor of *Maritime Affairs* and *Strategic Analysis*; and is on the Editorial Board of *Contemporary Security Policy*. He has edited books on nuclear, naval/maritime and international security related issues and has contributed over 60 research articles to journals in India and abroad. He is a guest lecturer at the Indian National Defense College (NDC) and other military colleges. Also, he is a life member of the United Service Institution of India (USI); and on the Governing Council of the Institute of Cost and Works Accountants of India (ICWA) and the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) as well as



on the Advisory Panel of the India Habitat Centre (IHC) in New Delhi. Bhaskar is also the Chairman of the Middle East Institute, New Delhi.