KARUL - A top United Nations rights official has welcomed the Afghan government's "undertaking commitment" to improving their human rights record.

UN Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Andrew Gilmour, has noted rising civilian casualties, due mainly to terrorist attacks, and also highlighted continuing discrimination against women at many levels of society.

Speaking at the end of a four-day visit to Afghanistan, he said: "The government has made significant progress in ending violence against women, but the use of 'media-

President Ashraf Ghani has approved the appointment and replacement of police chiefs for 14 provinces and sent another 10 officers to the waiting list, a statement from Presidential Palace said on Saturday.

According to presidential order, a copy of which obtained by Pajhwok Afghan News, the replacement of police chiefs for provinces approved by the president.

Brig. Gen. Khalilullah Ziai, commander of the 808th Spin Zai Military Corps, was transferred to the 50th zone. Brig. Gen. Ruz Mohammad has been appointed as commander of 808th.

Brig. Gen. Abdul Baqi replaced Kunduz Police Chief Brig. Gen. Aminullah Amarkhel replaced Herat Police Chief Brig. Gen. Mohammad Ayub Amarkhel replaced Faryab Police Chief Fazal Rahman, another resident of Ghbargoli district in southern Ghazni province, told Pajhwok Afghan News, "The road to the bazaar has been closed, the Ghazni-Paktika highway has been shut for traffic besides creating numerous other problems for local residents.

Fazal Rahman, a resident of Ghbargoli area of Andar district, told Pajhwok Afghan News that they could not go out of their homes since nearly two weeks due to the armed battle.

The road to the bazaar has been closed, clashes happen every other hour, airstrikes also occur, we are stuck inside our homes since nine days and the food items are also finished," he said.

Nazaruddin, another resident of Andar district, said clashes erupted this morning as well and people were unable to go out of their homes.

Taliban have threatened residents to help them if they want to go out of their homes, he added.

While speaking to reporters on Thursday, he said: "Taliban have turned people's homes into trenches, the militants fire at Afghan forces from civilian houses, this is a problem for us," he said.

Aref Khudir, another resident, said the Taliban had planted bombs on roads and people remained locked in their homes.

People have been trapped inside their homes and they are facing severe violence and harmful traditional practices, is to be regretted.

"What would send a strong signal to those who commit the crime of humiliating women with impunity, would be to start seriously prosecuting them," he added.

The United States Ambassador to Afghanistan John R. Bass said Washington supports any efforts and anyone who helps for development of Afghanistan.

"This is a great day for this university, for all of the graduates and for Afghanistan. The United States is committed to helping Afghanistan succeed. It is committed to helping everyone in the country," Bass said.

The State Department has welcomed the planned inauguration of the new air corridor as he was updating the government's ongoing efforts to expand the exports.

Rasa said that the first flight as part of the air corridor agreement between Afghanistan and Turkey will take off next week.

He said around 15 tons of goods will be transported to Turkey during the first flight which will include fruits, carpets, and other trade commodities.

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