KABUL - A number of protesting Wolesi Jirga candidates from 12 constituencies on Thursday called for creation of a special court to address election-related cases, saying they did not let police remove their sit-in last night.

Dozens of the protesting candidates have erected a tent in Charubi Zehra Square leading to the Presidential Palace. They wanted to go on hunger strike and come to the Presidential Palace if their legitimate demands are not accepted.

These candidates belong to Helmand, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Wardak, Kapisa, Logar, Baghlan, Takhar, Badakhshan, Samangan and Jiloy provinces. Arat Sulai, a protesting Wolesi Jirga candidate from Kandahar province, said no government organs had some far come forward to address their demands.

She said police at Qam last night tried to remove their tent but the protesting candidates resisted and stopped police from doing so.

She said they had referred to many relevant organs but none provided them a positive response. “The Attorney General Office also addressed the final Wolesi Jirga election results of all provinces but they have not been announced and they cannot create a special court for addressing election-related cases now,” she said.

“If our demands are not addressed, we will go on hunger strike and remain our sit-in,” she threatened.

Dozens of the protesting candidates from Nangarhar province, said they had lodged complaints with all relevant organs. She also warned to torch themselves in front of the Presidential Palace if their protest was ignored.

She also said a special court should be created for separating fraudulent votes from genuine votes. Nangarhar’s police said they would not leave the tent until their demands were addressed.

Wolesi Jirga elections were held on October 21 and 21 in all provinces, barring Kandahar and Ghanzai provinces. The polls were conducted in Kandahar a week later but the election in Ghazni is expected to be held together with presidential election in 2019.

A statement from the Presidential Palace received by Pajhwok Afghan News said President Ashraf Ghani met with Germany’s special envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Matthias Pitsch in his office today.

Pitsch said his country was ready to address Afghan talks for peace and said Germany was ready for any type of support regarding peace in Afghanistan.

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KABUL - The election was initially slated for April 20, but as the date drew close it grew obvious that overwhelmed poll officials were unprepared – owing to them still tallying results from a nationwide parliamentary ballot in October.

Amid the push to finalize these results, officials first delayed the presidential election until July 20, and then again to September 20. Final results were only announced this week.

In a statement, the US embassy urged the Independent Election Commission and Afghan authorities “do their part to take the decisions and actions necessary to give the Afghan people their voice at the ballot box this year.”

Among its recommendations, the embassy said the election commission should present a clear plan and budget request, as well as hire and train sufficient staff to complete voter registration and preparations.

“The Afghan people deserve the opportunity to choose their next leadership through...”(More on P4)