

Hajji Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi Governor, Kunar Province



Hajji Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi is the former chairman of the Afghan NGOs' Coordination Bureau (ANCB), a non-profit, apolitical, umbrella organization of over 270 local NGOs. Wahidi served as General Director and Chairman of ANCB Kabul, Afghanistan, and Peshawar, Pakistan, respectively. Wahidi was also the Director of the Afghan-German Help Coordination Office (AGHCO). He continues to represent Afghan NGOs internationally as an elected executive committee member of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies (IVCA), which meets twice annually in Geneva, Switzerland.

Wahidi describes himself as a social worker, not a politician, with a background in inter-agency and inter-organizational coordination. Wahidi has worked in the humanitarian relief and assistance fields in Afghanistan for over 25 years.

Wahidi studied either literature or Pedagogy at Kabul University (1972). He also completed a short course at a German University in 1992. Although his first language is Dari, Wahidi speaks both Pashto and English fluently. He assumed office as Governor of Kunar Province on November 18, 2007.

Governor Wahidi is affiliated with the Afghan Mellat (Afghan Social Democratic) Party. During the jihad period, Wahidi was associated with Mahaz-i Milli, the party of Pir Ahmad Gailani. He reportedly maintains close ties to Pir Gailani's son and Deputy Speaker of the Meshrano Jirga (Upper House/Senate) Hamid Gailani. Wahidi is also close to Jelani Popal, head of the Independent Directorate of Local Governance, the body responsible for all appointments of governors and district administrators country-wide. Wahidi also has ties to Member of Wolesi Jirga (Lower House) Farooq Mehran, a fellow "Sayed" from Nangarhar province. The Governor's brother, Dr. Shukrullah Wahidi, is the Director General of Policy & Planning at the Ministry of Public Health, but as of November 2007, took a 2-month leave of absence to serve as Afghanistan Country Director of WHO (Dr. Shukrullah is expected to return to MoPH after his short contract).

During initial public meetings, Governor Wahidi came across as an idealist who intends to stem corruption, "cleaning the waters of the springs." He expressed concern about Kunar's timber industry and emphasized that he will need the help of local communities to interdict smuggling – otherwise, the industry could bring infamy to both the province and the office of the Governor. His stated goals included security, strengthening institutions of democracy, and enforcing the rights of women and children. Wahidi said he intends to liaise frequently with the media to reach Kunar's population and spread a positive, quick impact message about the provincial government. Wahidi is a colorful speaker whose use of vivid metaphors seemed to resonate with his audience.¹

¹ US Department of State, Provincial Reconstruction Team Officer Reporting, 2007.

Age:	About 55 years / DOB circa 1951
Native Language:	Dari; speaks fluent Pashto; speaks fluent English
Political Affiliation:	Afghan Millati
Tribe:	Claims to be “Sayed,” of the descendant line of the Prophet
Place of Birth:	Nangarhar Province, Surkhrod (Surkh Rod) District
Education Level:	Graduate of Kabul University (BA in either Pedagogy-Education or Literature, 1972); completed a short course at Christian Albert University in Germany (1992).
Assumed Office	Governor of Kunar Province, November 18, 2007.

Former Positions:

- Member of Organizing Committee, World Civil Society Forum (WCSF), Geneva, 2001-2004
- Member of Executive Board, International Council of Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), Geneva, 2003-present
- Chairman, Afghanistan NGOs' Coordination Bureau (ANCB), Peshawar and Kabul, 2000-2007
- General Director, Afghan-German Help Coordination Office (AGHCO), 1993-2007
- Director of Afghan Nothilf of Germany, Peshawar and Kunar, 1991-1993
- Vice Director of Afghan Nothilf of Germany, Peshawar and Kunar, 1987-1991
- Administrator, Afghan Mujaheddin Doctors' Union, Peshawar, 1984-1987
- Administrator, Society of Afghan Doctors Outside Afghanistan, Peshawar, 1980-1983
- Administrator, Banayee Construction Unit, Nangarhar, 1976-1979
- Director General and Accountant, Nangarhar Water and Agriculture Development Project, Nangarhar, 1973-1975



Photo 1: Governor Wahidi with Deputy Governor Noor Mohammad and Wahidi's Security Secretary - US State Department Photo.



Photo 2: (L-R) General Jalal {Provincial Chief of Police}, Governor Sayed Fazlullah Wahidi - US State Department Photo.