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|  | **541 HR violation cases registerd in northeastern zone: IHRC**  KUNDUZ CITY, August 1 (Pajhwok Afghan News): Expressing grave concern over mounting violations of human rights, the Independent Human Rights Committee (IHRC) said 541 such cases had been registered in the northeastern zone over the past two years. Speaking at a news conference here on Monday, IHRC's regional director Shamsud Din Hamidi pointed out majority of cases were related to forceful occupation of land and torturing people by the local commanders. Of the 541 cases, he said, 204 had been registered with the committee while 61 were referred to the government for further necessary action. He said most of the complaints were about seizure of land and torture of people by local commanders. He said they had referred 338 cases to relevant organizations or departments as those had no link with HR violations. Regarding the IHRC's performance over the past two years, Hamidi said they had released 46 prisoners languishing in various jails in Kunduz, Takhar, Baghlan and Badakhshan. "Although the IHRC have no power to interfere in government's functions, but it support civil and political rights and refer such cases to concerned departments for further action," he added. The rights committee report appeared at a time when the number of public gripes regarding high-handedness of the local commanders in the northeastern provinces is on the rise. Jan Mohammad (45), a local, complained a commander had forcefully occupied his 5 acres of land for the last two years. "I lodged several requests with the concerned quarters but nothing has been done thus far," said the aggrieved man. Contacted by Pajhwok Afghan News, Kunduz police chief Colonel Matlab Baig confirmed some commanders were involved in illegal land grabbing. However, he added, drive had been initiated to disarm and evict the irresponsible commanders from the land they had forcefully occupied. |
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