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Two top foreign officials asked to leave within hrs  
KABUL, Dec 25 (Pajhwok Afghan News): United Nation Assistance Mission in Afghanistan Tuesday confirmed two high ranking foreign officials have been declared persona non grata by Afghan government.

Talking to Pajhwok Afghan News UNAMA spokesman Nazifullah Salarzai said an official of European Union and an UNAMA staffer have been asked to leave the country within 48 hours.

He said these people worked with the local people for bringing peace and stability in the country to strengthen the Afghan government

He however maintained it was a misunderstanding that these officials were declared persona non grata.

Nilab Mobariz, another spokesman of UNAMA said these persons never gone beyond their mandate or assigned task and acted within their parameters.

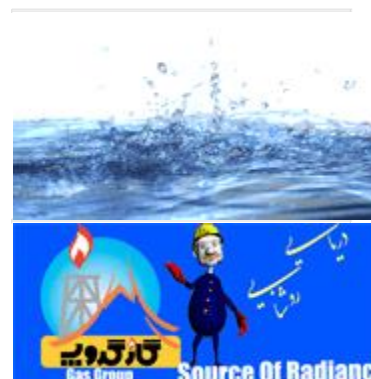
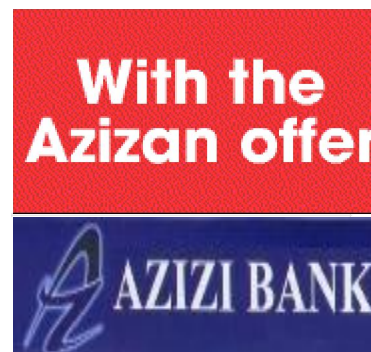
She however hoped that the misunderstanding would be cleared before 48 hours as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Afghanistan, Tom Koenigs is negotiating the issue with Afghan government.

She however said UNAMA respected the law of the land and if the misunderstanding was not removed these two persons would have to leave the country as directed by the authorities.

A security source said one person was Michael Semple, Deputy to European Union special representative for Afghanistan while the other one is a UNAMA staffer.

Foreign Affairs Ministry on Tuesday rejected the arrest of two foreign diplomats in Kabul for posing threat to

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Pajhwok Survery	security in Afghanistan by security officials, foreign ministry spokesman said Tuesday evening.
Most Afghans favour govt control over foreign aid	In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Sultan Ahmad Baheen said: "In the recent days, no foreign national working in international NGOs or a diplomatic mission has been arrested by government."
Job Announcement <b>Ope</b>	<p>The foreign ministry statement comes after president office spokesman Hamayun Hamidzadeh told at a conference that the Afghan government on Tuesday arrested two foreign high-ranking officials for allegedly posing threats to the national security department. Hamidzadeh said the two foreign nationals were recently arrested by the security forces.</p> <p>Without specifying the exact crimes of the twin alleged, Hamidzadeh said, the pair was involved in tasks which were not really related to their actual business.</p> <p>Hamidzadeh did not disclose the nationality of the pair and nor he explained where the alleged criminals were arrested.</p> <p>Saeed Ansari spokesman of the National Security Department had also confirmed the arrest but stopped short of giving details, saying information would be released after the investigations were completed.</p> <p>A security source told Pajhwok Afghan News on condition of anonymity the two suspects were staffers of European Union and United Nations in Afghanistan.</p> <p>When Pajhwok Afghan News tried to contact Michael Semple, Deputy to European Union special representative for Afghanistan, who was one of the two persons his Afghan secretary said he was in a meeting. However when PAN informed the secretary about the arrest, she replied she could not speak on the matter.</p> <p>Akm/mam/ajr</p>

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