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AFGHAN **TRANSPORTERS** CONTINUE **STRIKE** AGAINST ILLEGAL TAXES

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PESHAWAR, May 3: Afghan **Transporters** Association (ATA) Thursday reiterated that their **strike** against 'illegal taxes' of certain Afghan commanders in Afghanistan would continue, until their genuine demands were accepted by Friday (today). The Pak-Afghan **transporters** have stopped goods supply to NATO troops in Afghanistan.

Addressing a press conference at Peshawar Press Club here, the president of ATA Haji

Abdul Rehman alleged that a number of so-called commanders had levied illegal taxes, which was extremely injustice with them. The out dated traffic system of the USSR period had been operating in Afghanistan, which, he claimed, had multiplied their problems. Other Afghan transporters were also present on this occasion.

He said that the traffic system of a former Afghan ruler Daud Khan must be adopted. Apart from, only Rs100 would have been charged per ton during the era of late Daud Khan and king Zahir Shah, but unfortunately now they had to pay Rs1400 for the same.

Commander Daud Panjsheray based in Kabul and Rogh Lewanay based in Jalalabad were so cruel and have become a serious threat to transporters lives that even they were not following directives of the Afghan President Hamid Karzai in this regard.

The Afghan transporter claimed that the commanders were collecting huge amount from at gunpoint as soon as they crossed the border. He alleged that if the drivers and owners of trailers refused to pay the amount, the commanders physically tortured them. "We have, time and again brought it into notice of Afghan government, but to no avail," he claimed.

Different types of taxes Rs 4000 at Qulbore, Rs170 at Torkham border and another tax of Rs10000 being collected at Saroobi must be stopped. He said that the highway being used for the transportation from Pakistan to Afghanistan was rapidly ruining as over loaded trucks were allowed to ply on the highway, which was against the rules.

Rehman alleged that Sultan Mohammad Zaz, an Afghan parliamentarian, had obtained Pakistani identity card and other useful documents, had been receiving facilities and privileges from both sides- Pakistan and Afghanistan, while the real transporters were ignored.

----- INDEX REFERENCES -----

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