

Kabul Zoo after war



"I have been in the market and some of the shopkeepers have given us credit for food for the animals. The 12 of us who work here have not been paid for three months but since the Taliban fell we have had no money for food for the animals. I hope we will get money from this government. I have just been to see Yonus Qanuni, the new Minister of the Interior, and he has promised to give us money. You see this bear with its raw and bloody nose? Some Taliban did that with a stick and it has not healed even after six months. They hit the other bear as well and it died. I have been director here for 10 years. That is the ruin of the elephant house which was rocketed eight years ago when the Mujahideen were fighting each other.

The elephant, which was a present from India, was killed. All the other ruins are from that period. Those ones are where the restaurant used to be along with the museum and the aquarium. The ruins over there are where the monkeys used to live.

During the bombings some were killed and some got away. The guards sleep in here with the canaries. When it gets dark the canaries stop singing but at dawn they start again and wake up the guards. Of course, we have no electricity. We have 19 different species including five monkeys, two porcupines, a lion, two wolves, some eagles, a lynx and 40 rabbits."

