

KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA INVENTORY ON THE INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Name of the Element: Kundurik: The process of making and significance of wooden effigies erected at the entrance of villages in the remembrance of deceased ancestors.

Community/ies: Kalasha Community of Kalash Valleys (Bumburet, Rumbur, and Birir)

Brief Description: Built in conjunction with the Gand'aw, currently placed in the Broun village Mandaw'jaw (graveyard), Kundurik are statues placed at the entrance of villages to commemorate the lives of deceased ancestors from a particular clan. They are made by a member of the particular family of the deceased, and offerings of food are frequently left close to the statues for community members to eat. It is believed that through this process blessings are bestowed upon the deceased for whom the statues have been constructed. The reason for placing these statues at the entrance of villages is that any offerings left near them be easy for any passerby to eat. A specific ritual is carried out to carve the Kundurik. A dry cedar tree is chosen from a nearby forest and offerings of cheese (panir/chasa), wheat bread/pancakes (Gum tasili) are placed in front of the chosen tree. It is stated that the tree makes a crackling noise to signify its consent to be carved into the Kundurik. The statue is completed in its entirety before being brought back to the village. The entire process of making the statue is known as Gand'aw Karik. Although effigies are made on a voluntary basis, the craftspersons are given a *Chappan* (a robe made from brocade), *Kashung*, *Kirmich* (shoes), *chiw baw* (clothes). The craftspersons have to go through an *ishtongas* (purification ritual) through which they are purified by sprinkling blood of one goat each per person on the head.