

Interview with Iqbal Barzgar, peace and war journalist is SALAMWATANDAR

**How long have you been working in the field of peace and war journalism and what motivated you to cover these events?**

I have been covering the war and peace related events in Afghanistan for three years. Due to the volatile security situation in Afghanistan and problems and challenges that people faced in this country, I was motivated to make efforts and do more work for peace and prosperity.

**Have you ever had fears at your work?**

Of course, it is difficult and somewhat challenging for those who provides the war and peace related reports, in our country [Afghanistan] this fear has almost changed to a habit. Still we have to ignore such kind of fear/threats and reflect the voices of people by providing reports and media programs it means we are committed to share the facts with people.

**How do you assess the current state of war and peace in Afghanistan?**

From my point of view, the current situation is so brittle, although the Taliban has stopped fighting with foreign troops but they continue to their war with the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. On the flipside, so far the peace talks has not been reached to a remarkable conclusion and it seems that these negotiations has recently stalled. The Taliban's political delegation is currently in Iran and does not pay attention to the Afghan government's peace-talks delegation. In the meantime, the New US President Joe Biden, has also extended the US Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation Zalmay Khalilzad's mission for peace negotiations and as per the reports United States expect to evaluate the peace agreement signed between Taliban and US. In addition, the war and violence continue in Afghanistan even capital [Kabul] is not secure in terms of magnetic bombs. The targeted killings of civilians, journalists, activists and.... are on the rise across Afghanistan.

**What does the Afghan cabinet say about the meetings?**

Unfortunately, the Afghan government treats the media in a discriminatory manner. They talk to the virtual media more than the sound media and newspapers. Most of the information is available through the international media and the official pages of the Board members. But overall, the Afghan delegation is stationed and everyone is waiting for the new US policy for peace in Afghanistan.

**What is your experience of reporting on Afghanistan war and peace?**

In a country like Afghanistan, which has been at war zone, it is not difficult to gain experience, while the Afghan journalists and reporters covering different issues including war and peace in the country and face major challenges, despite the lack of access to information.