



نی حمایت کننده رسانه‌های آزاد افغانستان
Nai supporting open Media in Afghanistan

215



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**Owner: Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan
August, 2023**



What we will cover in this month:

- The secret murder of a Female YouTuber in Kabul
- The collective detention of journalists during two years of Taliban in Afghanistan
- The detention of Iranian photojournalists by Taliban forces in Afghanistan
- The bad situation of media outlets and journalists in the two years under the rule of the Taliban
- The destruction of Yama Siawash's grave by biased people
- The concern of international media support organizations about the detention of Afghan journalists
- Taliban restrictions on local media broadcast in Helmand province
- The finalization of Mass Media Law by the Taliban in the absence of media and media support organizations
- The beginning of Ulfat Radio broadcast in Nangarhar province
- The embezzlement of International Journalists Federation assistance by Pakistan's Federation of Journalists
- The death of a comedian and media worker after 40 years of being in the media



Preface:

Since the Taliban re-takes Afghanistan, media activities and journalists' conditions have gotten worse. In the current month, violence against journalists and media workers unprecedentedly increased and more than ten journalists and media workers have been detained and tortured by the intelligence forces of the Taliban.

The increase of violence against journalists was large and systematic, and severely concerned the media support institutions at national and international levels. All organizations announced their concerns about journalists' and media outlets' challenges all over the country. Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan advocates on different levels so the detained journalists have been released.

These detentions peaked while the Taliban celebrated its second anniversary of victory. Besides that, the international institutions regarding the situation of Afghan media outlets and journalists who faced serious challenges in journalistic work made their concerns by conducting surveys and presenting them in public. Media support organizations are also fed up with the current situation and have held meetings with the leadership of the Media Violation Commission.

Along with all these challenges in this month, we witnessed the murder of a freelance journalist and female YouTuber in Afghanistan. Hora Sadaat was doing valuable work as a journalist and YouTuber for many years, but unfortunately, she was killed by biased people in Kabul city.



Hora Sadaat a female you tuber was killed in Kabul

Earlier Hora Sadaat one of the female YouTubers was killed on 20 August in Kabul city and still, the reason for her murder is not clear. Taliban confirmed her murder and said that two individuals related to this case were detained.



Khalid Zadran the spokesman of the Taliban security command confirmed the murder of Hora Sadaat on his Twitter account and wrote that this female YouTuber was killed three days back at 18 district of Kabul. He added that in the first step of the investigation related to this case, one woman and two men were detained and interrogation is continuing.

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the Office in Charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says that recently violence against you tuber addition to journalists has increased. Based on the information that sources confirmed, Hora Sadaat was killed in a complicated scheme that still government officials did not share the



details. Mr. Karimi requests that government officials as soon as possible the intelligence security should take measures, so the perpetrators of this incident should be brought to justice.

Hora Sadaat was about 25 and had worked on different YouTube channels including Kabul Funs and Star Funs. She went to different parts of Kabul city and interviewed different people and families about their careers and routines.

Some journalists were detained collectively on two years anniversary of the Taliban

In one last month, more than 14 journalists and media workers across Afghanistan were detained. Information from the eastern of Afghanistan indicates that yesterday 10 August, the security forces detained two journalists of Killid Radio named Faqir Ahamad Faqirzai and Jan Agha Saleh in Nangarhar province.



Based on the information, security forces took the journalists away after arresting them. Also, information from the southern part of Afghanistan shows that three



local journalists were detained by security forces. Based on the information on 13 August Shamsullah Omary, Wahidurahman Afghanmal and Ataullah Omar are the journalists that are detained in Qandahar provinces. As well as other journalists including Parwiz Sargand from Kunar, Hasib Hassas from Kunduz, Ziaulhaq employee of National TV in Kabul, Sayed Wahdat Abdali in Ghazni, Mahboob Hakimi from Zabul, and Shah Mahmood from Urozgan province are in Taliban detention.

After the following detention of journalists Richard Benate special representative of the United Nations in human rights in Afghanistan expressed his concerns regarding the media outlets and journalists' situation. He tweeted that after the detentions of journalists in the last days, Afghan media outlets are in restriction.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan is severely worrying about the detained journalists. Nai asks for the release of detained journalists and calls on the Media Violation Commission in the Ministry of Information and Culture to peruse and take measures about the fate of detained journalists. Nai also asks the Ministry of Information and Culture especially the Media Violation Commission to investigate the reason for the detained journalists and aware the Afghanistan journalism community.

Nai believes that such unprincipled detentions can be considered a pressure on journalists and media workers, and if such actions continue will put journalists in fear and horror space, and face the freedom of expression and access to information in a serious challenge in Afghanistan.

Mohammad Hussain Walayati photojournalist of Tasnim News Agency was detained in Kabul

Mohammad Hussain Walayati photo journalist for Tasnim News Agency was detained on 22 August by the security force in Kabul. Tasnim News Agency based



on Hassan Kazemi Qumi the special representative of Iran in Afghanistan and ambassador of this country has reported that the effort ongoing for the release of this journalist. Mr. Kazemi Qumi said:” A few minutes back has spoken with intelligence services officials in Kabul, They said, they are following the issue, and as soon they will inform.”



Meanwhile, another official of Iran emphasizes taking measures by diplomatic channels for the release of Hussain Walayati. Taliban officials did not react yet, but Khairullah Khairkhah the acting Ministry of Information and Culture of Taliban had said in the program that no journalists have been detained because of their journalistic work.

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the Office in Charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan asks security sources to share information regarding the detention Iranian journalist, and if there is a reason related to his journalistic activity, share it



with the Afghan media community, the detention of international journalists is against the mass media law of Afghanistan and international commitments.

RSF in a report on 15 August pointed to journalists' detentions and stated that the violation cases, freedom of expression and access to information rights is worrying, and Taliban are accountable. Also, this organization has stated that the situation media outlets and journalists after the re-over of Taliban in Afghanistan in the last two years are in destruction.

Situation of media outlets and journalists in two years under the control of the Taliban concerned media support organization

During the two years of the Taliban government, many journalists were detained, insulted, beaten, and harassed. Thousands of journalists were unemployed, and hundreds of them left the country, and more than half of media outlets stopped their broadcasts in Afghanistan.



Khatira Ahmadi a former journalist of Tolo News TV in an interview with the media said she faced huge challenges and restrictions during these two years. Miss. Ahmadi said:” First they enforced to wear Hijab, and then ordered us not to appear



on the TV screen with an open face and have to wear masks. Really we female journalists passed tough days to provide programs.”

Header Bar, the deputy of Human Rights Watch said at that time, the Taliban law is insulting and shocking women, and it is harmful for them.

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the Office in Charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says that media activities and information flow in last two years were severely damaged:” nearly half of media outlets stopped their publications. More than 65% of journalists unemployed, they left the country or changed to free works, especially female journalists 95% of them lost their jobs or stayed at home by current challenges and restrictions.

Zabiullah Mujahid the spokesman of Taliban the on 17 August of 2021 his first press conference said in Kabul that Taliban are commitment for freedom of expression and media activities:” at the end once again assure media outlets and journalists that according to Sharia law and journalistic principles they engaged with media, and it is our commitment. We request all media outlets and journalists should be independence and free to continue to their neutral publication.”

The closure of media activity has added to journalist's problems. Based on the media support organizations in the last two years more than half of media outlets stopped their broadcast due to restrictions by the Taliban, and hundreds of journalist especially female journalists unemployed or left the country.

Yama Siawash grave was destructed by bias individuals

Government officials confirmed the destruction of Yama Siawash in Kabul. Police said that the grave of Yama Siawash the former presenter of Tolo News TV has destructed in Bebe Mahro cemetery at 10 districts of Kabul City. Khalid Zadrان the spokesman of the police twitted that this betrayal done by biased unknown individuals.

After the destruction of this journalist's grave, some scholars of religion considered this action against Islamic Law. Sangin Qadeti a religious scholar said to the media:” The destruction of the grave and putting food on the grave is against the Sharia law. Some who did this bad action should be punished by the government. Zabihullah Mujahid the spokesman for the Taliban government reported following up the perpetrators of this incident and said that the perpetrators should be brought to justice.



Mr. Mujahid said to the media:” We seriously follow this case. And some who disrespected to the grave severely should be punished. Our security forces are in process and started an investigation.”

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan condemns the destruction of Yama Siawash’s grave that lost his life against the freedom of expression and administration corruption and asks the security officials to seriously follow up the case and bring the perpetrators to justice.



Yama Siawash the former political presenter of Tolo News and advisor of Afghanistan Central Bank was killed with his two colleagues on the 8th of November 2020 in a bombing explosion at Kabul City.

International media support organizations worrying about the detention of journalists in Afghanistan

RSF on 15 August in a press release said that the Taliban detained 9 journalists arbitrarily in the last 10 days. This organization asked the Taliban government to release all journalists without any conditions.



The press release of this organization indicates that the Taliban during the operation on the media office detained Mohammad Faqirzai, Jan Aqa Salih from Nangarhar, Parwiz Sargand from Kunar, Hasib Hassas from Kunduz, Attaullah Omar and Shamsullah Omari from Qandahar province, Mahboob Hakimi form Zabul, and Shah Mahmood form Urozgan province. RSF said, 12 journalists are still in Taliban prisons which Taliban have not reacted in this regard.



Also, the International Committee for Protection of Journalists says that the wave of journalists' detention will weaken the little freedom media outlets have in Afghanistan. In the last two years, independent media outlets systematically have been destroyed and taken hostage.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan is concerned about the continuation of journalists' detention, and indeed such a situation silences the voice of freedom of expression. Meanwhile, local officials in Helmand province informed the new restrictions on media outlets in this province. Besides that two weeks back were witnessed the suspension of three local media in Nangarhar province.

RSF said that these detentions are against the Taliban officials who expressed their commitment to respect for media freedom in Afghanistan. However the Journalist's Rights Defender has said that journalists as systematically under the name of Sharia Law and against the mass media law of Afghanistan.

Taliban local officials put new restrictions on media outlets in Helmand province

Local journalists in Helmand province and some media support organizations say that the officials of the Taliban threatened media outlets in this province and warned them that they do not broadcast women's voices in any situation. One of the local journalists who do not want to be named in reports says that Taliban banned the women's voices in business advertisements.

In Helmand province in many provinces of Afghanistan local media outlets with the support of some United Nations administrations and media outlets broadcast business advertisements about health, education, and unexploded armament that the women's voices existed.

A manager of a local media in Helmand province who does not want to be named in the report said to the media, that the director of information and culture of



Taliban warned all media outlets in this province that after this should not broadcast women's voices in your programs, if played the manager of mentioned media outlets will punish and its media should be close.



But Mahajeer Farahi the deputy of information and culture minister in an interview with National TV under the control of the Taliban claimed that they do not restrict or pressure media outlets:” Basically Taliban are not against media. Media outlets are obligators in each country to be principle on the aim of that country.”

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan believes that such actions can be considered as pressure on media and if such behaviors continue, it will create a distance between the officials and the media outlets and destroy the trust. Nai calls on security officials in Helmand province to give an explanation about the case and assure the Afghan media community to will not continue such violence.

However, the Taliban government always promised that they would have appropriate behaviors with journalists and media outlets, but the restriction of the Taliban against journalists and media workers has continued in Afghanistan.



The Mass Media Law finalized in the absence of media support organizations

Zabihullah Mujahid the spokesman for the Taliban in a meeting with some journalists in Qandahar province said that the Mass Media Law was finalized and has been sent to leadership, so as soon will be published.



Mr. Mujahid also assured that coordination between the government's administrations will expand regarding access to information. He said:” Some problems related to media outlets exist that soon will be solved, and the Ministry of Information and Culture should prepare special cards for journalists, so journalists during report preparation do not face problems.” This meeting was held at the Department of Information and Culture in Qandahar province, some media officials criticized the access to information and announced that announced officials do not cooperate with media outlets.



Abdul Raqib Sahil one of the journalists said:” Mass Media Law is an urgent necessity in Afghanistan. And whatever soon approves for solving problems of journalists, media outlets and freedom of expression is important.”

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the Office in Charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says that this law should reviewed from media support organizations and media outlets channels, and should not be modify unilateral.

It is worth mentioning that still the republic Mass Media Law acting in media outlets of the country, and Taliban earlier said that until amendment and creation of new law for media outlets this could be enforceable.

Ulfat Radio started its broadcasting in Nangarhar province

Ulfat Radio begins its broadcasting in Nangarhar province. This radio is near to Durand line and belongs to the Shinwar district. Elaham Haqiqat the founder and chief editor of this media says that this local radio has 14 employees, and broadcasting programs that are not against national and religious values.



Mr. Haqiqat also said:” 8 people including one female employee working in this radio and if the hour of broadcasting increased the number of employees as well would be increasing.”



The information and culture department of Nangarhar province appreciates the broadcast of Ulfat Radio and considers it a positive step. Sediqullah Quraishi the director of information and culture of Nangarhar province said that they will cooperate closely with media outlets of this province.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan appreciates the broadcasting of Ulfat Radio in Nangarhar province and considers it a good step toward freedom of expression and free flow of information, and hopes that the growth of freedom of expression and free media activity is more than ever fixed.

More than 20 local media outlets were active in Nangarhar province and now 14 of them have broadcast.

International Federation of Journalists assistance has been embezzled by the Pakistan Journalists Federation

Despite Afghan journalists facing financial challenges, lack of job opportunities, and many other problems, they are deprived of international institutions' assistance. The International Journalists Federation said:” About 200 journalists who have stayed in Afghanistan minimum of 350 euros donated for them, so most of the assistance spent on food, medicine, and shelter. Journalists who are in Pakistan and get their visas, for buying tickets paid to each 2000 euro. For Pakistan Journalists Federation about 40000 euro had paid to provide shelter for Afghan journalist’s migration in Islamabad.”

Afghan journalists despite all suffering and challenges continue their journalistic activities and say that still no assistance received for them and no internal and external organizations in this regard contact them. Shokuria Sadaat one of the Afghan journalists who is in Pakistan said:” I was deprived of this assistance. However, I emailed but responded negatively and said that could not assist her.”



Mohammad Zarif Karimi the Office in Charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says journalists who are in exile in Pakistan, Iran, and Tajikistan have not used it. Mr. Karimi also added:” In this regard, the International Journalists Federation must respond that this assistance is based on which conditions are distributed and who confirmed them. I emailed in this regard to the organization, and if I get a response will share it with the Afghanistan journalism community and journalists.”



Meanwhile, the Independent Journalists Association of Afghanistan and related organizations that have membership in this international organization with the assistance of the International Journalist’s Federation express unawareness.

This is the first time that cash assistance from this international organization for Afghan journalists has interfered. This action previously always happened when journalists raised their voices, but no one reached out about this problem.



Abdul Ahmad Khaksar comedian and media worker died after 40 years of attendance in a media outlet

Abdul Ahamad Khaksar Afghan comedian after many years in the theatre and cinema field passed away at 75. Mr. Khaksar's relatives in an interview with the media confirmed his death. Abdul Ahad Khaksar son of Mr. Khaksar said that his father one week back suddenly due to foot ache had been sick.



Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan Besides condolences for Mr. Khaksar's family, civil society, and the people of Afghanistan, the death of this actor is considered a big sorrow for the Afghan artist's community. Abdul Ahmad Khaksar was one of the comedians elder in Radio and TV who had taken part in several movies. Mr. Khaksar beside the actor field was a good teacher in one of Kabul city high schools. Abdul Ahmmad Khaksar's services in educator, TV, and cinema areas will always remain in mind.



Mr. Khaksar studied Dari literature, and besides the theatre for several years was an educator in one of the high schools. Based on the published reports, he played in over 50 TV movies, and four cinema movies in different rules especially in comedian rules.



Press Releases



Nai Press Release
1st August- 2023
Kabul- Afghanistan

The illegal behavior of security forces against employees of Hamisha Bahar Radio& TV in Nangarhar province is a pressure on freedom of expression

Reports from Nangarhar province reached to Nai indicates that yesterday on 31 July security forces of Taliban attacked on Hamisha Bahar Radio& TV Office, and stopped the journalists training programs in this media outlet. Based on the mentioned reports, security forces entered to this building without prior coordination and religious principles, had an offensive behavior with journalists and media workers of this media outlet. Atlal Khan Stanikzai the chief editor of Hamisha Bahar Radio& TV said to Nai Media Watch that it is the second time that he and his colleagues face to such a situation in few past months.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan believes that such actions can be considered as pressure on media and if such behaviors continue, it will create a distance between the officials and the media outlets and destroy the trust. Nai calls on security officials in Nangarhar province to give explanation about the case, and assure the Afghan media community to will not continue such violence. Nai also expect, if there is any issue on individual or organizations refer to the Media Violation Commission.

It is worth mentioning that Ministry of Information and Culture a while ago mentioned that nobody has the right to interfere in the affairs of media outlets and journalists, and the only authority is the Ministry of Information and Culture and the Media Violation Commission.



Nai Press Release
11th August- 2023
Kabul- Afghanistan

Four journalists were detained in a week in Afghanistan

Information from the eastern of Afghanistan indicates that yesterday 10 August, the security forces detained two journalists of Killid Radio named Faqir Ahamad Faqirzai and Jan Agha Saleh in Nangarhar province. Based on information, security forces took the journalists away after arresting them.

At the same time yesterday, a local journalist of Ariana News named Habib Sarab was detained by security forces in Paktia province. It should be mentioned that at the beginning of last week, local journalist Wahdatullah Abdali as well detained in Ghazni province and is still under arrest for no reason.

Nai believes that such unprincipled detentions can be considered a pressure on journalists and media workers, and if such actions continue will put journalists in fear and horror space, and face the freedom of expression and access to information in a serious challenge in Afghanistan. Nai calls on security forces in Nangarhar, Ghazni and Paktia provinces to release the journalists as soon as possible, and if there is any claim refer them to the Media Violation Commission.

It is worth mentioning in two weeks ago, security forces blocked the gate of three media outlets and stopped their broadcasts in Nangarhar provinces. While the Ministry of Information and Culture a few months ago mentioned that nobody has the right to interfere in the affairs of media outlets and journalists, and the only authority are the Ministry of Information and Culture and the Media Violation Commission.



Nai Press Release
11 August- 2023
Kabul- Afghanistan

Hasib Hassas journalist of Salam Watandar local Radio was detained on 10 August in Qunduz province

Reports indicate that Mr. Hassas was detained yesterday at 11:00 AM in center of Qunduz province. Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan asks the Qunduz province officials to clarify the reason for detention of Mr. Hassas. Nai insist, if the reason for detention Hasib Hassas is related to his journalistic work, he should be released as soon as possible.

Nai also requests to end the harassment and illegal behavior toward journalists and media workers in Afghanistan.

With the detention of Mr. Hassas, 5 journalists have been arrested in the past week in Afghanistan.



Nai Press Release
14 August- 2023
Kabul- Afghanistan

The detention of journalists in last two weeks in unprecedented in Afghanistan

Information from the south part of Afghanistan indicates that three local journalists were detained by security forces. According to the information yesterday on 13 August Shamsullah Omary, Wahidurahman Afghanmal and Ataulloh Omar are the journalists that are detained in Qandahar provinces. Based on the information from Qandahar, there is no any clear reason regarding the detention of these journalists.

With the detention of three local journalists in Qandahar in last two weeks, totally 8 journalists were detained in Afghanistan. Detentions of journalists and media workers from the first August 2023 have unprecedented than last two years.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan is concerns about the continuation of journalist's detention, and indeed such a situation silence the voice of freedom of expression. Meanwhile, local officials in Helmand province inform the new restrictions on media outlets in this province. Beside that two weeks back were witnessing the suspension of three local media in Nangarhar province.

Nai calls on local government officials to as soon as possible release the detained journalists. Nai also asks the Ministry of Information and Culture especially the Media Violation Commission to investigate the reason of detained journalists and aware the Afghanistan journalism community. It expected that the Media Violation Commission will grantee safety of journalists, and assure the Afghan media community to non-interfere in the work of Media Violation Commission.



Nai Press Release
21 August- 2023
Kabul- Afghanistan

Family Members of the Detained Journalists Ask the Release of Them

Ten journalists in various provinces of Afghanistan have been detained in the last two weeks. The mentioned detentions have created concerns among the media community and media support organizations than professional media outlets media freedom. Still the reason is not clear that in which accusation these journalists were arrested. The detention of journalists and non-clarity in especial of their fate has caused fear among the journalists and media outlets.

information indicates that in various provinces, still eight journalists include of Mohammad Faqirzai, Jan Aqa Salih from Nangarhar, Parwiz Sargand from Kunar, Hasib Hassas from Kunduz, Attaullah Omar and Shamsullah Omari form Qandahar province, Mahboob Hakimi form Zabul, and Shah Mahmood form Urozgan province are in prison.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan is severely worrying about the detained journalists. Nai asks the release of detained journalists, and calls on Media Violation Commission in Ministry of Information and Culture to peruse and take measures about fate of detained journalists.

However, recently the Media Violation Commission acted very weak regarding perusing the violation journalists and media outlets cases, and as well the detentions of journalists have been increased unprecedentedly.



For more information on Media Watch project please contact our team at:

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To obtain a soft copy of the report, please visit the following link:

<http://www.nai.org.af/Mediawatch.htm>

Note: to maintain confidentiality and to protect sources it was not possible for Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan to corroborate the incidents by carrying out additional investigations.

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