



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

216



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نی حمایت کننده رسانه‌های آزاد افغانستان

Owner: Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan
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What we will cover in this month:

- The death of Mohammad Dawood Siawash former Afghan journalist in German
- The detention of three local journalists in Daykundi by Taliban Intelligence forces
- The detention of a freelance journalist in Kabul
- Reviewing the activities of party media outlets by the Media Violation Commission
- The media's concern about the lack of access to information on World Information Access Day
- The complaints of Taraqi TV employees about not receiving salary after the suspension of this media
- The beginning of Mursal Radio in Kabul
- Naming of a road in the name of Etifaq Islam in Herat province



Preface:

After the two-year rule of Taliban in Afghanistan, we are witnessing the increasing of Afghan media community problems. In the last two years, more than 90% of journalistic values have suffered deeply. Based on the information obtained, it indicates that Taliban have systematically controlled the freedom of expression and access to information. The obtained information proves that all journalism activity is directly or indirectly affected by the imposed restrictions by the Taliban officials.

In the last cases, Taliban have blocked Nasim Radio station in Daykundi province and imprisoned three journalists, including the chief editor of this media. Information from Daykundi province indicates that Taliban have detained the employees of this media and accused them of working with foreign media. Such unprincipled behavior toward journalists and media outlets indicates severe restrictions against values such as freedom of expression and access to information.

Taliban by imposing pressure on media outlets and journalists in the last two years of their government put most journalists and media outlets under their influence. According to a recent survey of Nai regarding the freedom of expression and access to information, 89% of journalists and media workers believe that access to information and freedom of expression are limited in Afghanistan.



Mohammad Dawood Siawash father of Yama Siawash was killed mysteriously in Germany

Bagtash Siawash, a former member of the Afghan parliament announced the mysterious death of his father in Germany and said that German police found Dawood Siawash's body three days after his disappearance. Bagtash Siawash wrote on his Facebook page on 20 September that Mohammad Dawood Siawash passed away in an unknown manner after three days of disappearance. He also said that the German police found his father's body, but still, it is not clear what happened to him.



According to the report of German's 24 BR Channel, there are no signs of beating on Dawood Siawash's body, and for further investigation, an autopsy has been ordered by the high court office.

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says that German police should conduct a comprehensive investigation into the mysterious murder of Dawood Siawash, and should seriously



investigate what happened and the results shared with the Afghan journalism community. Mr. Karimi also said:” Recently, we have witnessed increasing violence in Iran, Pakistan, and even European countries. We hope that the results of the investigation be shared with media outlets and journalists as soon as possible.

Bagtash Siawash said that his father tried to bring the perpetrators of his son’s murder, Yama Siswash to justice. Yama Siawah the political presenter of Tolo News on 7 November 2020 was targeted by a terrorist attack in Kabul and was killed along with his driver.

Three local journalists of Nasim Radio were detained in Daykundi province

A local source in Daydundi province says that on 27 September the intelligence forces attacked on Nasim Radio office in Nelli city center of Daydundi province, and took all the mobile phones of employees, then stamped and closed the gate of this media.



Based on this source, the Taliban intelligence forces detained Sultan Ali Jawadi chief editor, saifullah Rezaee, and Mujtaba Qasemi two journalists of Nasim



Radio, and transferred them to the intelligence department of Nelli city. It is said that the chief editor and two journalists of Nasim Radio were released after a few hours but warned them to not open until the next order of officials. Still, the local officials did not react to the closure of Nasim Radio and detention of its employees, but a local source said that probably it happened because of the republication of a foreign program radio via this channel.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan condemned the attack on the Nasim Radio building and considers it a pressure and restriction on the media's free flow of information, and calls on the local government of Daykundi province as soon open the radio channel, and do not to forbid the free activity of this media and its employees.

This accident happened while the Ministry of Information and Culture of Taliban announced a plan regarding journalists and media outlets to investigate media issues through the Ministry of Information and Culture, especially the Media Violation Commission, and no officials of government and administration were allowed to interfere on media outlets and journalistic activity

Taliban detained a freelance journalist in Kabul

Abdulalim Ziayee a freelance journalist was detained by Taliban forces. He went to 17 district of Kabul city to provide a report. Mr. Ziayee said to Nai Media Watch:” It was scheduled to record a program from the Khairkhana area of Kabul city at 17th district with the permission of related checkpoint and intelligence forces of Taliban, but they have forbidden us to cover the report. First, they transferred us to the checkpoint, after a while transferred to police district, and after few hours with many appeals released.”



Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says that the detention of journalists has changed to a usual issue, and journalists are sometimes detained arbitrarily for a temporary or long time by the government. Mr. Karimi said that the detention of journalists is against mass media law and journalism principles. If there is any claim, it is better investigated through the Media Violation Commission.



Also, a reliable source in Kabul says that Taliban forces have arrested Nida Parwani a protester and the journalist of an online media from her home. This journalist was arrested where she was supposed to cover the protests of the protesting women.

It is worth mentioning that journalists are facing increasing threats and restrictions after the Taliban took control of Afghanistan, and the Taliban have detained, imprisoned, and tortured dozens of journalists since they took control of the country.



The activities of party media will be reviewed and investigated by the Media Violation Commission

Khairullah Khairkhah acting Ministry of Information and Culture after holding the first media violation commission meeting said that the activity of media promoted by political parties in the county will be evaluated. Mr. Khairkhah added the media that broadcasts against the national and cultural interests of Afghanistan will be introduced to the High Court.



The officials of the Ministry of Information and Culture have emphasized that no media has the right to publish against the cultural and national interest contrary to Islamic Sharia. Mr. Khairkhah says:” There are some media outlets and some people that because of external opposition disrupting the situation. We will evaluate them and based on their violation, we submit them to the court to immediately decide on them.



Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says that the government should stop imposing restrictions on media outlets and journalists:” One of the major challenges is the non-enforcement of the access to information law and the resumption of access to information commission. The Ministry of Information and Culture should make it easier for the media outlets and journalists to operate freely and without conditions.”

Nai requests media support organizations at national and international levels to stand with media outlets and journalists of Afghanistan and act based on their 20 years of commitment to the media and journalists of Afghanistan. Nai also asks the officials of the Ministry of Information and Culture to refer cases related to the work of media outlets and journalists to the Media Violation Commission and monitor unprincipled actions against journalists.

The media is worried about the lack of access to information on the World Access to Information Day

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan on World Access to Information Day has expressed that the lack of access to information in the country has indicated a 32% increase. According to this organization, the access of media and journalists to information has decreased in the absence of law related to media, and the Taliban should pay attention to this important issue.

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan said:” Before, more than 55% of access to information was restricted in Afghanistan, but the information we collected shows a 32% increase compared to the Republic period.”



Some journalists say that they face many challenges due to a lack of access to information. Shah Agha Sadaat journalist said:” Afghan journalists have been facing a lot of problems for the past two years. Government spokespersons do not present up and do not share timely information with journalists.”



The Ministry of Information and Culture says that the new media law has been sent to the leader of the Taliban for approval. Mahajeer Farahi the deputy of the Ministry of Information and Culture emphasizes that access to information is the right of journalists and media workers. Mr. Farahi said:” We obliged all the spokespersons of Islamic Emirate to provide timely information to the media outlets and journalists regarding to their scope of work.”

Based on the statistics of media support organizations, more than half of the media outlets in Afghanistan have been deactivated after the recent developments in the country and nearly 70% of journalists and media employees have lost their jobs.



The employees of Taraqi TV are complaining about not receiving their salaries after the suspension of this media

Taraqi TV which resumed broadcasting eight months ago in Herat province is closing again due to economic problems. This media during in republic regime was one of the active media in Herat that had entertainment, political, economic, and cultural programs, but it was closed due to economic challenges.



The employees of this TV who did not receive their salary for several months said to the media that they had not paid their salary for several months after the closure of this media. One of the journalists of Taraqi TV said:” Economic problems and restrictions by Taliban have caused journalists and media workers to lose their jobs, including me and my colleagues who have not been paid with the closure of this media.”

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan demands serious attention from national and international organizations that work in the media and journalists sector for media activities in



Afghanistan. Mr. Karimi also said:” Unfortunately, the international organizations have been silent for two past years in this field, and we will witness the suspension of media outlets more than ever.” Mr. Karimi is worrying and says that the following political changes in the country, nearly half of media outlets have stopped their activity in Afghanistan. With the suspension of media outlets, more than 65% of journalists and media workers have become unemployed. Nai believes that one of the achievements of the last 20 years is the presence of mass media and media pluralism in Afghanistan, which unfortunately is deteriorating in the current situation.

Meanwhile, the activities of seven media in have been stopped in Paktia province due to economic challenges after the Taliban regained power in the country. According to the officials of these media, seven media outlets including 4 radios, 2 print media, and one online media have stopped their activities.

Mursal Radio started operating in Kabul province

Mursal Radio which is especially for women was established by the Afghanistan Service Development Office and Killed Group in Kabul province.





This media started its trial broadcasts a month ago and 20 journalists and media workers all of them women engaged in journalistic activities. The broadcasts of this radio are dedicated to women's issues, which are active in various political, economic, social, literary, news broadcasting, and entertainment sectors.

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Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan appreciates the broadcast of Mursal Radio in Kabul and consider to a good step toward media activities and freedom of expression. Nai hopes it facilitates the growth of media outlets and freedom of expression more than ever in Afghanistan.

This radio as an independent free media started to operation which has received broadcasting license from the Ministry of Information and Culture, and frequency license from the ATRA Administration. This radio will operates based on journalism principles and Mass Media law in Afghanistan.

A road was named by the name of Etiraq Islam in Herat province

The road of Etifaq Islam Daily which was named by the Road Naming Commission in 2017 for respect to this print media finally got the board. Etifaq Islam Daily has been one of the active newspapers in the country in the past century which started in 1919 with the management of Abdullah Qani Heravi. He spent 104 years of his life supporting intellectuals in all political periods and the history of the past century. This daily was printed despite many changes and developments on that time.



Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan appreciates the naming of Etifaq Islam Daily Road and considers it an effective step in the field of journalistic activities. Mr. Karimi considers this action of the Ministry of Information and Culture in the Western zone to respect the freedom of expression and free media activity for journalists and media workers.



Eventually, on 20 September based on the request of Etifaq Islam manager and its employees, and with the support of the Ministry of Information and Culture and local officials the board of this road was installed.



Press Releases



Nai Press Release
21 September- 2023
Kabul- Afghanistan

Nai requests a comprehensive investigation of Mohammad Dawood Siawash Afghan journalist and writer death by the German government

Yesterday on 20 September, Baktash Siawash the senior son of late Mohammad Dawood Siawash published the secret death of his father. Baktash Siawash Facebook page stated that after three days of disappearance, he found the body of his father from German police. However, Mr. Baktash Siawash did not provide more details in this regard but requested the German government to investigate this incident.

Dawood Siawash during 40 years spent his life in the field of journalism, writing, poetry, and history writing. Mr. Siawash was one of the founders of Weekly News, Sabawoon Magazine, and in recent years, he was the chief editor of Armaghan Milli Monthly. Late Dawood Siawash after the murder of his son Yama Siawash two years and ten months ago advocated at the national and international level for bringing the perpetrators to the International Criminal Court and recently submitted this case to the International Criminal Court in the Hague. Yama Siawash son of Mohammad Dawood Siawash was one of the country's elite journalists who was killed in an explosion on his car in Kabul.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan asks the German government to conduct a necessary investigation into the death of Mohammad Dawood Siawash and inform the public about the results.



Nai Press Release
28 September 2023
Kabul – Afghanistan

Systematic Restrictions on Access to Information Have Made Complicated the Future of Journalistic Work

28th September is equal to International Day for Universal Access to Information. Access to information as citizen rights of Afghanistan people in last 20 years was in very poor situation. But in the last two years after the cancelation of the Access to Information Law, the cancelation of Access to Information Commission and oversetting of Information Providers Parts in government administrations have brought this right in the lowest level.

Based on Nai survey, journalists and media outlets are complaining from non-access to information and timely access to basic information by government officials. The concept of survey indicates that non-access to information increased 32% in the last two years. 89% of journalists believe to non-access to information. The International Day for Universal Access to Information is celebration while journalism activities in Afghanistan face in tough challenges. In another hand, additional to non-access to information challenges, other problems like physical violence, absence of work immunity against journalists and media workers as well worrying.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan repeatedly referred the mentioned challenges to government officials for taking measure in this regards. Nai once again calls on government officials to reach out the challenges of Afghanistan journalism community, and also in the proxy of journalists and media outlets request the enforcement of Access to Information Law and reactivating of Access to Information Commission.



It is worth mentioning that after the political changes in the country more than half of media outlets stopped and nearly 70% of journalists and media workers lost their jobs.



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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For any issues on the process of access to information, please call at: +93702355867