



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

# 217



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

- The detention of the chief editor and two journalists of Nasim Radio in Dikundi province
- The summon of Shams Amani political presenter of Tolo News by GDI
- The injury of Khaibar Akefi Afghan journalist in an air attack of Ukraine on Russia
- The release of Murtaza Behbudi Afghan- France journalist after ten months
- The danger of compulsory deportation of more than 200 journalists from Pakistan
- The complaint of journalists from the difficult situation of informing in Balkh province
- The reactivation of Nihad Radio and Istiqlal Radio in Balkh and Kabul provinces



## **Preface:**

What concerned the Afghan media community in this report is that journalists and media workers complain about the lack of access to information in different provinces. Access to information as a basic element of media activities is important and essential, but in the last two years, this importance has deteriorated to an unprecedented level. The complaint of journalists about the lack of access to information is based on the fact that spokespersons and press officials do not share the information they need for their news reports in the center and provinces.

Following the political changes in the country, the access to information law and monitoring access to information commission was declared invalid by Taliban leadership. Besides restrictions on access to information, pressure on the free activities of media outlets, censorship of broadcast content, and lack of personal immunity for journalists and media have also been challenging issues in the last two years.

In the most recent case, the detention of Nasim Radio employees in Dikundi province for the second time and the beating of journalists in Bamyan are also prominent cases of this report. In addition to beating and detaining journalists, a number of journalists in other provinces were also insulted, which restricted journalism activities. The detaining and insulting of journalists addition they become unmotivated from journalism activities, they continue their work with fear and horror, and finally, they have to leave the task of journalism.

The continuation of such a situation will damage the value of journalism activity in the country, and in journalistic scope, fundamental changes will occur. Therefore, all departments of government should stop the mentioned violation, otherwise, the future of journalism and free media outlets will be destroyed in Afghanistan.



## Taliban detained the chief editor and two journalists of Nasim Radio in Dikundi Province

The local sources Dikundi province say that Taliban have detained the chief editor and two journalists of Nasim Radio after a few days' release in Dikundi province. Sources declare that the Taliban on 7th October summoned Sultan Ali Jawadi chief editor, Mujtaba Qasemi, and Saifullah Rezae journalists of Nasim Radio in the local GDI Office, and then took them to jail.



One of the close relatives of Sultan Ali Jawadi who did not want to be named in the report confirmed this issue. He said to the media:” Yesterday at 11 AM, the director of information and culture and his deputy spoke with Mr. Jawadi, and invited them to come to their office to deliver their journalistic tools. When they went they did not come yet, after 3 PM we informed them that they transferred to jail.”

Meanwhile, Reza Wahedi the owner of Nasim Radio in Dikundi province confirmed this issue and said to the media that, ten days back the operation of this



radio was suspended. We repeatedly talked with Taliban officials, and not only start the activation, but its employees were detained again.

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai says, the detention of Nasim Radio journalists and suspension of this radio is a measure of restrictions of free media activity and calls on local officials of Dikundi province as soon permit the reactivation of this radio and release its employees.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan in a press release stated that local officials of Taliban in Dikundi province has said that the suspension of Nasim Radio and detention of its employees is because of its publication against Taliban policy.

It is worth mentioning that Shahzad Rasul journalist for Did News Agency was beaten up by local Taliban forces on 28 October, while he went to provide report in areas where mines are being extracted. Mr. Rasul says that the local Taliban threatened him that he should not make this case public.

### **Shams Amani presenter of Tolo News TV was summoned by GDI**

Shams Amani journalist and presenter of Tolo News TV on 18 October was summoned and threatened by GDI. Mr. Amani said to Nai Media Watch that the GDI forces accused and warned him of negative propaganda against the Taliban so should not cover the human rights, comprehensive government, and rights of education for girls and women in his programs.

Mr. Amani also said:” On 17th October GDI contacted and called me to its department. At the said address after two hours four people came and started an investigation about my programs about rights of education for girls and women, comprehensive government and human rights and poverty, and told me that you are pursuing the negative propaganda against the Emirate. They straightly threatened and told me that for the protection of the regime, killing such you guys is very easy and worthless.”



Mr. Amani also added that they do not allow for reasons, and the text they already prepared forcibly signed on him:” On the text was written, the following such human rights, comprehensive government, poverty and rights of educations for girls and women should not be discussed in your programs. At the end of this paper they wrote that if any resistance happened, the Emirate is free for any sentence.”



On another hand, Abbas Mohammadi claimed that on 26 September, Taliban forces beat him, and his wife who was pregnant killed her kid in the stomach. Abbas Mohammadi calls on media outlets to raise his voice to entire the world. Mr. Mohammadi was previously a journalist, artist, and member of the Afghanistan Cinema Union in Dikundi province, and currently, he is in Kabul. He as well claiming that last year Taliban detained him for the accusation of being an army member in the republic regime, and punished him with over 200 thousand Afs.



Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai, open society, and the rights of critics for all citizens of Afghanistan especially for journalists can be as a human value, and the criticism of journalists from government officials can be an allegory of freedom of expression.

Nai believes that the detention of journalists and media workers is against public law and journalism principles. Nai calls on Taliban officials to investigate seriously the journalist's cases, and perpetrators should be brought to justice. if any media violation is committed should be investigated through the Media Violation Commission.

### **Khaibar Akefi and one of his family members were wounded in the Ukraine war**

Khaiber Akefi Afghan journalist who is living in Russia was wounded drastically in an air attack on Ukraine at Belgrade related to Russian territory.



According to Margreta Semonian the director of RT TV in Russia, Mr. Akefi is in a coma condition. He also said that his four-year-old daughter and his mother in-



law resident of Russia were killed in that attack. Based on Mr. Semonian, a journalist was 29, and for a while, he was covering the Herat earthquake in Afghanistan, and visiting his family who they were living in Belgrade city in the west of Russia took off.

At the same time, a report from Pakistan indicates that Masih Paiez one of the Balkh province journalists who is living in Islamabad detained by police. Mr. Paiez, more than one and half years lived in Pakistan at E11 area is currently in jail.

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan calls on Russian officials to investigate the injury of Mr. Akefi and share its results with the Afghanistan journalism community. Nai believes that violence against journalists and media workers and the non-following of perpetrators of violence cases against journalists indicates that a culture of impunity against journalists exists.

Nai requests the United Nations and the Taliban government to take serious measures regard the violent cases of journalists and perpetrators of cases against journalists and media workers, so the culture of impunity against journalists should be ended.

### **Murtaza Behbudi released after 284 days from the Taliban prison**

The Journalists Without Border has confirmed the release of Murtaza Behbudi a French journalist from Taliban jail and said that he was released after a painful test for his innocent prof. according to the press release of this organization Mr. Behbudi on 19 October after the Taliban criminal court order was released.

RSF also said that the Taliban consider him innocent of all accusations such as spying, illegal support of foreigners, and support of individuals to shift abroad. Murtaza Behbudi is one of the popular journalists who worked with various media



outlets including France News Agency. On 6th October he was one of the Freedoms of expression defender organization candidates for the prize of 2023.



Human rights defenders and journalists appreciated the release of Murtaza Behbudi. Richard Benit hoped that Mr. Behbudi would join as soon to his family. Alecsendra Murtaza's wife said: "With the release of Murtaza, hope comes to life, and my life can start again. I am emphasizing that journalism activity is not a crime."

Media support organizations confirmed the imprisonment of Murtaza Behbudi on the first of this year. He was detained on January 2023 and after 284 days was released. Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says that we all request to investigate the complaint of journalists through the Media Violation Commission, and journalists and media workers should know what crime the prisoned and should not a usual court takes decision on journalistic cases.



Meanwhile, the Taliban on 7th October summoned Sultan Ali Jawadi chief editor, Mujtaba Qasemi, and Saifullah Rezaie journalists of Nasim Radio to the local GDI department and then took them to prison.

## **More than 200 journalists are in danger of compulsory deportation from Pakistan**

The Journalists Without Border in a report says that the compulsory return of Afghan journalists is against international laws. The reports of this organization express that more than 200 Afghan journalists are in danger of compulsory deportation and continual beating, arbitrary detaining, and even forcibly evacuating by homeowners.



The press release expresses:” More than 200 Afghan journalists threatened to compulsory return. The compulsory return of journalists that they went there because of security threats is a clear violation and against the international law, and it is unacceptable of us.”



At the same time, some journalists in Pakistan say that these days pressure of deportation increased on them by Pakistan police and they are worrying about their futures and families. A journalist who fled in September of last year to Pakistan because of security threats did not want to be named, said:” Compulsory returning is equal to sending us to carnage.” Some journalists also said to RSF that the pressure of homeowners increased, and the requests for visas and extensions are very challenging and need more time.

However, media support officials say that they are in contact with the Pakistan Journalists Federation and some steps are taken. Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan considers the compulsory returns of Afghan journalists from Pakistan against international laws. Mr. Karimi asks the Pakistani government to stop the compulsory deportation of journalists and media workers.

The media support organization expects that the Pakistan government should assist all citizens of Afghanistan, especially journalists in this tough political and economic situation of Afghanistan such behavior is objectionable, and still there is no good situation of journalistic activity due to economic challenges in Afghanistan.

### **The complaining of Balkh province journalists in the tough situation of access to information**

Some journalists in Balkh province say that the situation of access to information in this province makes it very difficult to gather information. According to them, the Taliban addition to restrictions on the flow of information, investigated journalists because they provided reports to foreign media outlets. Journalists as well claiming that because of fear, detention, and beating of the Taliban, they cannot cover even soft news of the day.



One of the journalists who did not want to be named in the report said:” Some news and reports that we not aware of them, and is against the Taliban publishing in media outlets of the country, Taliban accuse as and investigating.”



Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says that non-access to information is changing into a serious crisis for journalists of whole the country. Mr. Karimi said:” Non-assisting of government administrations, and absence of the law of officials has caused journalists in entire the county not to have access to information. We request the officials to as soon finalize the access to information law and share it with the journalism community.”

Balkh is one of the influential provinces of Afghanistan that daily tens cases of criminal happening there. Some journalists in Balkh say that the majority of mentioned criminals because of Taliban fear remain without cover.

These journalists explain its continuation of journalistic scope as very challenging. They are concerned about their safety and losing jobs, and in such an atmosphere, they cannot perform standard work. They also added that government administrations are sharing information timely.



## **Nehad and Istiqlal Radios after a few months stop started the operation**

Nehad local radio in Balkh province about three months back due to financial challenges stopped its broadcast and again started operations. Sayed Mohammad Yazdanparast the manager of this radio said to the media, Nehad Radio resumed its on 15 October its operation. According to Mr. Yazdanparast, the broadcast of this radio is continuing with the presence of 10 employees including women. The manager of this radio with concerning says that due to financial challenges, the expense of electricity and the absence of national policy for publications our radio is in unclear future.



Ataa Mohammad Sahoo the director of information and culture of Balkh province considers the value of this radio very ancient and assures that they will support journalists and local media.

At the same time, Istiqlal Radio after two years of suspension resumed operation. According to Ubaiduallah Najrabi chief editor of this radio, this station previously



started operation in 2014 in Kabul and neighboring provinces. Currently, Istiqlal Radio operates with eight male and female employees.

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the office in charge of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan welcomes the re-broadcasting of Nehad and Istiqlal Radios in Kabul and Balkh provinces, and considers this action important and valuable to provide accurate information and real message to people.

It is also worth mentioning that Bina Digital TV was established in France by several Afghan journalists and operates in different sectors.



# Press Releases



Nai Press Release  
8th October- 2023  
Kabul- Afghanistan

## **Nai demands the release of three detained journalists of Nasim Radio and the beginning of this radio broadcast in Dikunid province**

Information from Daykundi province indicates that yesterday 7th October, the GDI forces detained Sultan Ali Jawadi chief editor, Saifullah Rezaei and Mujtaba Qasemi two journalists of Nasim Radio in Daykundi province. These three journalists previously detained for several hours on 27 September of current year when the GDI forces attacked on Nasim Radio office and stopped the broadcast of this radio. Based on the mentioned information, still the reason for detentions of Nasim Radio employees and the suspension of broadcasts of this radio by local officials has not been clarified.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan consider the detention of these three journalists and suspension of its broadcasts as a measure to further restrict the free activity of free media. Nai asks the local officials in Daykundi province to allow the media resume its activities as soon as possible and release its employees, and also do not forbidden the free activity of this media and its employees. Nai asks the responsible officials in the Media Violation Commission if any media violation has caused the current problems investigate it.

It is worth mentioning that long ago the Ministry of Information and Culture planed that no department has the right to interfere in the affair of media outlets and journalists, and the issue related the media outlets and journalists should be investigated by the Media Violation Commission.



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217

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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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