



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

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



What we will cover in this month:

- Detention of Afghan journalists in Pakistan and Iran
- The decrease of media outlets' content simultaneously the TV International Day
- Non-following of Elyas Dae murder case after three years of killing
- End of impunity culture against journalists crime in Afghanistan
- Donation of free media in Afghanistan award by NED to Amu TV
- The closure of Anbir Radio by the municipality of Sare-Pule province
- The reactivation of Mashaal TV after a two-year suspension



Preface:

Although Afghan journalists have continued their professional activities in the past two years, but still the pressure on journalists' activities has not decreased. In the past month, we witnessed unprincipled behavior toward journalists and media workers inside and outside of Afghanistan. Recently, two Afghan journalists have been detained and harassed by Iranian police. At the same time, with the departure of Afghan refugees by the Pakistani government, Afghan journalists are not having good conditions in this country. At the beginning of November of this year, one of the Afghan journalists in exile was insulted, harassed, and detained by Pakistan police, and for more than ten hours he was in police custody.

In addition to all these challenges, this year World Television Day is coming when we do not have more than half of the visual media with us anymore, and there is a significant decrease in professional activities and content of television. However, Afghan media outlets are committed to producing different content for their audience, but the current situation has caused the media content to decrease drastically.

Afghan journalists in the current situation want to end the of culture impunity for crimes against journalists, and they want the international institutions to reach out to the violent cases and murder of journalists, especially the murder of Elyas Dae and Yama Siawash cases.



Three Afghan journalists were detained in Pakistan and Iran

Mohammad Jan Tamkin Afghan journalist was detained on 27 November with his family members by Pakistan police in Islamabad. Mr. Tamkin said to media outlets that after two hours of argument eventually released and now staying at home, and does not have the right to go out.” Pakistan security police detained and took me to the Plaza, and after about two hours were in detaining of police. After a long argument and discussion could release myself temporarily. We are in serious restrictions; the condition was to not go out for 24 hours.”



Mohammad Jan said that he has a passport validity visa and documents from the United Nations, but his family member's visa has expired and in a few days will receive the update. He claimed that Pakistan security police did not accept his extension documents from a family member, and emphasized that if do not provide it for up to 24 hours, they will face legal behaviors.

Ahmad Shah Morawat another Afghan journalist claimed that Afghan refugees including journalists and media workers somehow detaining and insulting, and they are released by bribing.



The Afghan Journalists Federation in exile as well confirmed the detention of Afghan journalists issue and said that he was an active member of this federation and a journalist in Pakistan.

Also reports from Iran indicate that Samiullah Quraishi and Besmillah Rahemi Afghan journalists who have legal documents and passports detained by Iran police, and other journalists who are waiting for their immigration case to other countries worrying about their future.

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the Media Watch Manager of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan asks all national and international organizations working in the media support field and the UNHCH Office to pay serious attention to Afghan journalist's immunity.

This is not the first time that Afghan journalists have been concerned about problems in Pakistan, in the past as well they several time requested the Pakistan government to reach out their problems. After the re-over of the Taliban in Afghanistan, many Afghan journalists and media workers due to security challenges and unemployment went to Iran and Pakistan with the aim of immigration to Western countries including America.

Simultaneously with TV International Day, the content of media outlets decreased

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan in a press release on the event of TV International Day says that after the political changes in Afghanistan, the media field especially visual media facing a huge challenge.

Mohammad Zarif Karimi the Media Watch Manager of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says that recently 77 out of 147 TV Stations have been suspended. Mr. Karimi also said:” Today TV International Day is celebrated while 52% of them due to financial challenges stopped their broadcasts in Kabul and all over Afghanistan.”



At the same time, some TV journalists say that due to restrictions and lack of access to information their journalistic activities increased to a minimum. Husai Ahmadzai journalist for Shamsbad TV says, beside some restrictions that the Taliban imposed on female journalists in the last two years, they do not have proper freedom of expression like past.” Now working on a TV is very difficult in Afghanistan. Before we could freely discuss and criticize government officials and their activities at high levels, but now the Taliban tightens our hands.”



However, the official of Taliban claims that according to Sharia Law, media outlets can operate, but some media support organizations and media outlets in reports and press releases said that after the Taliban took power, censorship on media outlets and journalists has increased, and most of them due to financial challenges and censorship stopped their broadcasts.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan does not consider the condition of Afghan media outlets and requests the national and international institutions to support the existing condition of Afghan media. Nai also asks the officials of the



Taliban government to revise the taxes and financial guarantees for media outlets to support the existing media outlets in Afghanistan, so they will not suspended.

On the third anniversary killing of Elyas Dae still his case is not followed

Three years passed after the murder of Elyas Dae's journalist for Azadi Radio in Helmand province. Mr. Dae was the voice of the people and freedom of expression and his report expressed a clear image of life in Helmand province. So Elyas Dae won several awards from media support organizations.



Mujtaba Mohammadi Elyas Dae's brother who is now living in Germany, said:" While I talking with my family member, Mehrabani son of Mr. Dae took the mobile and called me Baba. It is very hard for me. He lost his father, and he called his father Baba."

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan says after the re-over of the Taliban the targeted killing of journalists and killing of them have been increased. Mohammad Zarif Karimi the Nai Media Watch Manager said:" We lost three years



back Elyas Dae one of the popular journalists of Helmand province, and after Mr. Dae several journalists have lost their lives, and their cases have still not been investigated.” Mr. Karimi also said that in the last 20 years, more than 165 journalists and media workers lost their lives, and still the killings of journalists are a big concern in Afghanistan.

The third anniversary killing of Mr. Dae is coming while freedoms of expression and free media activities have been seriously restricted. Mr. Dae was killed on 12 November 2020 in a bomb explosion placed in his car. No one has taken responsibility for this event, and the launched investigations still have not any result. The last government of Afghanistan had been promised that the perpetrators of killing would be arrested and punished, but no one in this regard has been sentenced or punished. Now Taliban are in power, they have also forgotten the mentioned case and do not pay attention seriously.

Nai calls to end the cultural impunity against journalist’s crime in Afghanistan

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan simultaneously with the end of cultural impunity agonist’s journalist’s crime International Day in a press release calls to end the cultural impunity against journalist’s crime in Afghanistan. Nai has written that in the last 20 years, the perpetrators of most cases of journalists were warlords that even applicable law could not perform. Nai also has requested the International Criminal Court to recognize the murder of journalists and media workers as a criminal against humanity. This organization also expressed that this year the international cultural impunity against journalists came while four journalists lost their lives in Afghanistan.



Mohammad Zarif Karimi the Nai Media Watch Manager concerned about the deepening of violence against journalists by the Taliban government. Mr. Karimi said:” In the past as well we had criticism about journalists' cases that were not followed up efficiently, the related commissions and organizations including the joint committee of government and other commissions at Ministry of Information and Culture like the media investigation and complaint commission do not act efficiently, and now as well we are not witnessing a proper result in Taliban government from this commission.”



The second November is equal to ending the cultural impunity crime against journalists. The recorded statistics by the Nai Office indicate that more than 165 journalists and media workers in the last 20 years have lost their lives and the perpetrators of these cases have not been recognized yet.



The Afghanistan Free Media Statue donated to Amu TV journalist by NED Institution

The National Endowment Democracy Organization has announced that the 2023 democracy award was donated to Nazai Hashimyar Afghan journalist for Amu TV broadcasting from the United States of America. This organization announced that the democracy Award of this year has been offered to an Afghan journalist for her hard work and for enhancing awareness among people.



NED is celebrating its 40th anniversary of establishing in Washington DC. Based on the reports, this program has gathered different characters from the Biden government, media expert officials, human rights defenders, diplomatic characters, and leaders of democracy all over the world.

Meanwhile, Demon Wilson the managing director of NED has emphasized that journalists are the first-line frontier and champions of freedom of expression that doing their best for complicated democratic challenges in the global. He said:” We not only celebrate the NED anniversary, so make our society unity against new challenges of democracy.”



Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan appreciates the donation of the democracy award for Amu TV, especially to Miss. Nazia Hashimyar by NED organization considers it a positive step for journalism and information activities and calls on national and international institutions to pay serious attention to remaining media outlets.

National Endowment for Democracy is a non-profit organization that has been established for the development of democratic institutions all over the world. This organization donates thousands of awards to groups and individuals from more than 90 countries for the development of democratic institutions.

Nazia Hashimyar is a journalist for Amu TV in the United States of America, and this award is donated to her while female journalists and her colleagues facing various kinds of violence such as poverty, lack of access to information, threatening, unemployment, and other imposed restrictions by Taliban that put a huge affection on their work and lives of them.

Anbir Radio was suspended by Sare Pol Province municipality

Sources from Sare Pol province claim that the local government of the Taliban stopped the operation of Anbir Radio in this province. This official of this Radio says that Taliban Municipality closed their office and warned them to stop broadcasting until they get the municipality's permit.

Habib Qayomi the chief editor of Anbir Radio said to Nai Media Watch that the local government of Taliban locked the gate of this media on 15 November by the order of municipal officials. Mr. Qayomi said:” Even though we have all the licenses of the Ministry of Information and Culture and frequency license of the Ministry of Telecommunications, the municipal officials closed our radio, while other media do not have such licenses in this province.”



The reports reached to Nai from Sare Pol province indicate that on November 15, municipal officials attacked on Anbir Radio office in this province stopped their broadcasts of this media, and locked its gate.



Nai requests the officials of Sare Pol province municipality to clarify the incident and assure the Afghan media community that such behavior will not be repeated in the future. Nai also emphasizes that if a media organization or person makes a claim, it should refer the issue to the Media Violation Commission.

It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of Information and Culture has said that nobody has the right to interfere in the affairs of media outlets and journalists, and the only competent official is the Media Violation Commission in the Ministry of Information and Culture.

Mashaal TV began operation after two years of suspension

After two years of the broadcasting stop of Mashaal TV, Fathullah Babakerkhil the head of this TV announced the resumption of this media. The officials of this TV



said that it will have broadcasts in the news and education sections after this. Mr. Babakerkhil added:” Mashaal TV started its operation in 2018, we had broadcasts until 2021, and after that, our broadcasts were stopped, and after two years, this TV started its broadcasts again.”



Mohammad Zarif Karimi the Nai Media Watch Manager considers good news the reactivation of Mashaal TV broadcasting for the Afghan media community and asks the officials of the Taliban government, especially the Ministry of Information and Culture to implement the laws related to journalistic work and put them in the implementation stage, so the media outlets and journalists operate freely in laws clarify.

It is worth mentioning that the statistics of RSF show that more than half of the 547 media outlets operated in Afghanistan in 2021 have stopped operating in more than two years. From 150 TV stations, less than 70 TVs are left in the country. As well as from 307 radios, only 170 radios have continued their activities.



Meanwhile, when the Taliban took power in Afghanistan, imposed numerous restrictions on the media outlets and journalists in the country and asked them to publish and broadcast according to the wishes of the Taliban government.



Press Releases



Press Release
2nd November- 2023
Kabul- Afghanistan

Nai urges to end the culture of impunity against journalists in Afghanistan

One of the challenges in the last 20 years is the culture of impunity against journalists and media workers in Afghanistan. In the last 20 years, more than 165 cases of journalists and media workers murder have been registered by Nai Office. Unfortunately, the perpetrators of these cases have not been identified. Those perpetrators of the journalists and media workers murder who have been identified have not been brought to justice. Following the murder cases murdered journalists and media workers were in the hands of warlords, and even the rule of law was powerless against them.

Nai is worried about the continuation of violence cases against journalists and calls on officials to investigate the murder cases of journalists. Nai also requested the International Criminal Court to recognize the murder cases of journalists and media workers as crimes against humanity in Afghanistan.

This year the International Day to end Culture of Impunity is coming while four journalists have lost their lives in Afghanistan.



Press release
21 November- 2023
Kabul – Afghanistan

In The Last Two Years, 52% of Visual Media Outlets Stopped Operations in Afghanistan

21 November in the global calendar is a TV World Day nominated by the United Nations, and this day is celebrated every year in Afghanistan. This year celebrating more than half of visual media outlets have been closed. Television as a visual media had a valuable role in spreading freedom of expression, access to information, and clarification of public thoughts.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan does not consider the work of media outlets, especially visual media, and calls on National and International Media Support Organizations to pay serious attention to these challenges. Nai also asks the officials to revise the taxes and financial guarantees for media outlets to support the existing media in Afghanistan, so they will not suspend.

Nai emphasizes on open media of Afghanistan, especially television to pursue their activities based on the principle of neutrality and independence so that the mentioned values survive.

It is worth mentioning that Nai survey indicates that 77 out of 147 TV stations stopped broadcasting due to economic challenges.



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