

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan



نای حمایت کننده رسانه های آزاد در افغانستان  
Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan

# **MEDIA WATCH REPORT**

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## **Preamble:**

Compared to the previous year there was a 38 percent increase in violence against media workers in 2011, an indication of the bitter fact that Afghanistan is still an unsafe place for reporters. This rise in violence can be attributed to several factors. The ongoing war in Afghanistan and insecurity are the main causes. The conflict poses unique threats to media workers, hindering their ability to report on news and current events. Meanwhile, the various parties to the conflict want their side to be presented in a way that only serves them. Another cause for the surge in violence is impunity — offenders are rarely punished. During the last 10 years perpetrators of violence have not been tried and rarely punished for their actions, including in cases where media workers were killed in government-controlled areas. The Afghan government's lack of support for the press is yet another factor. Combined, this has resulted in a situation where everyone, including citizens, law enforcement officers and senior government officials grant themselves the right to abuse media workers and commit acts of physical violence. Conscious that this has a negative impact on information access and dissemination, Media Watch expresses its deepest concerns.

Ten years after the establishment of the current regime, government officials publicly proclaim support for freedom of expression. Often when these officials find themselves behind a podium they take the opportunity to cite press freedoms as a personal achievement and a success story for the government, but their actions belie this rhetoric. Some government institutions still exhibit the autocratic practices of past regimes. The government barely believes in freedom of speech and freedom of the press. How can a person with a narrow-minded mentality appreciate citizen rights like freedom of expression and press freedom? Furthermore, these fragile freedoms are geographically-limited to Kabul. In the provinces, when media is critical of government officials, reporters can expect swift backlash, including threats to their lives, detention and assault to name some of the more common illegal responses. As a result of this, self-censorship is widespread and growing in the provinces – a trend which, if continued, will ultimately mean the death of freedom of expression. The government is unwilling and has failed to support freedom of expression and freedom of the press.

This edition of Media Watch covers the following topics:

- **Media violence 38% greater in Afghanistan in 2011**
- **Kandahar University chancellor threatens Radio Killid reporter**
- **Rah-e Farda TV reporter beaten by bodyguards of jihadi leader**
- **Photo Press Europe reporter assaulted by members of National Directorate of Security in Baghlan province**
- **Media workers threatened by Ghazni PRT soldiers**
- **Ghor province officials pressure Feroz Koh publication**
- **Afghanistan media guidebook unveiled**
- **New newspaper launched in Kabul**

- **Human rights, media and freedom of expression week celebrated**
- **Monthly Mass Media Law analysis**

**Media violence 38% greater in Afghanistan in 2011**

Media Watch — a unit of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan — released its annual report entitled “Afghan Media in 2011” in a press conference on Dec. 27. According to the report, 2011 was an unsafe year for media workers in Afghanistan. The report reveals a 38% rise in violence against media workers in 2011 compared to 2010.



The report records three media worker deaths, six injuries, two detentions, 33 assault, 15 cases of verbal abuse and 21 incidents of threats for a total of 80 cases. Government officials were responsible

instances of Journalist's murder, insult, arrests, and treat in 2011														Instances
Total	Dec	Nov	Oct	Sep	Aug	July	Jun	May	Apr	Mar	Feb	Jan		
3		1		1		1								Murder
6				2	1	2						1		Injured
2							1						1	Arrested
33	2		1	2	3	3	3	2	7	5	1	4		Beaten
15		15												Insulted
21	3		4		1	1	2	3	3	1		3		treated
<b>80</b>	<b>Total instances</b>													
<b>49</b>	<b>Violence cases by the government to the journalists</b>													
<b>9</b>	<b>Violence cases by Taliban to the journalists</b>													
<b>4</b>	<b>Violence cases by Nato forces to the journalists</b>													
<b>18</b>	<b>Violence cases by Unknown people to the journalists</b>													

for 49 incidents, compared to the Taliban at nine and 4 for international forces. Eighteen incidents were unattributed. Media Watch Manager Sediqullah Tauhidi blamed state authorities for the majority of this violence.

“Unfortunately, in 2011 journalists were victims of violence by officials at all levels ranging from highway police to senior government officials,” he said.

The growing violence has created concerns for Afghan media workers, who are uncertain about the future of their profession. Voice of America TV reporter Homayun Shoaib said: “As a journalist these figures were shocking to me. I was under the impression that with more than 10 years behind us these statistics would have decreased, but the facts show the opposite.”

Media workers who have been victims of recent violence say the situation has become intolerable and some reporters say they have lost faith.

Agence France Press photojournalist and reporter Massoud Hussaini described an incident that took place in 2011: “A police commander, whose name I won’t mention, referred to reporters [on the scene] as ‘dogs.’ The commander’s comments encouraged the officers under his command to become aggressive. One of them attacked me like he was encountering a criminal. He hit me so hard on my arm with his rifle that I was numb for more than an hour.”

The Information and Culture Ministry issued a response to the Media Watch report. Deputy minister Din Mohammad Mobarez Rashidi said: “We are shocked by the Media Watch report. We cannot say anything by way of confirming or dismissing these incidents, but we respect the Media Watch report.”

Mr. Rashidi added that media workers can register their complaints with the ministry, but in 2011 only four cases were filed, he added. A number of media workers complained that the ministry does not take their grievances seriously. Channel 1 TV anchor Ahmad Haris Jamalzada, who previously worked as a Noor TV newscaster, said he contacted the ministry, but officials did not help him.

“I tried to speak with the deputy minister several times, but I couldn’t reach him, so I decided to try to meet him, but I was not given an audience. Finally, his secretary told me that the deputy minister said, in firm language, that my problem is a dispute between two television stations and that the ministry can’t help.”

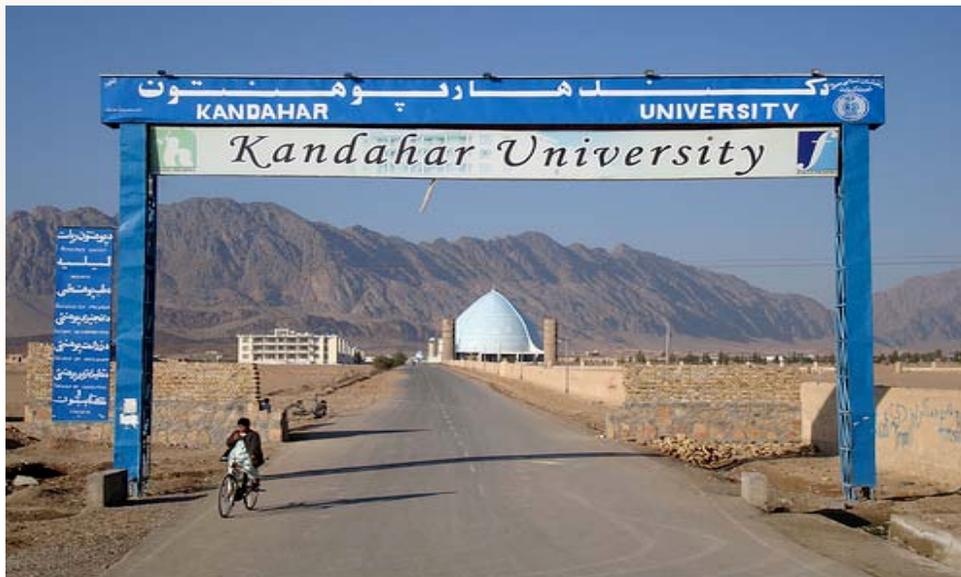
Media Watch’s annual report also highlighted the deaths of Pajhwok Afghan News reporter Ahmad Omid Khpalwak, reporter Farhad Taqadosi, who worked for the Iranian-run Press-TV and Jafar Wafa, a reporter for the Laghman-based Radio Kalagosh.

During the press conference Mr. Tauhidi noted that self-censorship was widespread. He said reporters working in the provinces resort to self-censorship because they do not receive support from media owners and government officials. Mr. Tauhidi encouraged media workers to get organized by joining journalists unions to lobby for their rights.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan calls on the government, media support organizations and the international community to support Afghan media workers and prevent political games from jeopardizing the achievements made by the media in the last 10 years.

## **Kandahar University chancellor threatens Radio Killid reporter**

Radio Killid Kandahar reporter Ahmadullah Sargand was insulted and threatened by Kandahar University Chancellor Hazrat Mir Totakhel during an interview on Dec. 13, 2011. According to Mr. Sargand, when the chancellor was asked about progress and other positive developments at the university he answered enthusiastically, but



when asked about public complaints and problems he became abusive and threatened to assault him if he continued with the interview.

Media Watch obtained a copy of the recording of Mr. Sargand's interview. In the audio Mr. Totakhel can be heard insulting reporters and the Afghan people. He is also heard saying: "If you continue with these questions I will hit you so hard it'll knock your teeth out."

Mr. Sargand said the incident was insulting to all Afghans. "If this is not derogatory, what is? The chancellor used such foul language I can't repeat it. He put his fist near my face and threatened to break my teeth. There is no greater abuse than this," he added.

When Media Watch contacted Mr. Totakhel to discuss the incident his reaction was abrupt. When a Media Watch reporter told him that he has to treat reporters in accordance with Afghan laws, Mr. Totakhel responded: "I follow my own law and I will not give any interviews to any journalist in the future."

Media experts condemned the chancellor's behavior and say his reaction violates academic standards. Rah-e Ayenda Editor-in-Chief Dastagir Hujhabr said: "I listened to parts of the Radio Killid interview with the Kandahar University chancellor and the statements expressed by the chancellor demonstrate that he has no academic ethics and that he's a very rude person."

Mr. Hujhabr said several factors explain this kind of behavior by state-appointed officials and their abuse of media workers. "Some individuals who are appointed to different positions are not really qualified. They're appointed because of nepotism, personal relationships and deals so they don't fear public opinion or condemnation. Mr. Totakhel does not appreciate the reality of our society. He is still under the impression that the current order is a fascist or totalitarian regime and that he's working for a dictatorship," he said.

Media Watch presented parts of the recording to the Ministry of Higher Education, specifically those parts wherein Mr. Totakhel insults and abuses the reporter and Afghans. The ministry said it would

conduct an urgent inquiry. One month on, the ministry has not taken action, or the results of its inquiry have not been shared with Media Watch and the press.

Afghan media workers regularly encounter abuse from the enemies of freedom of expression, but this time a reporter was insulted by an official charged with the education of future generations. The Kabul University chancellor not only insulted the reporter, he also leveled that language at the Afghan people. Media Watch is seriously offended and we call on the relevant authorities to take this matter seriously and fire officials who do not believe in freedom of expression as a strong lesson to others.

### **Rah-e Farda TV reporter beaten by bodyguards of jihadi leader**

Rah-e Farda TV reporter and presenter Mohammad Ilham Naderi claims he was assaulted by bodyguards of Sheikh Mohammad Asif Mohseni on Ashura Day after he went to collect his microphone from a podium while Mr. Mohseni was still delivering a speech.

“It was the day of Ashura and a gathering was held on this occasion at Khatam-ul Nabieen University where Sheikh Mohseni was delivering a speech. His speech was being broadcast live when I was contacted by my office and directed to cover a suicide attack at the Abu Fazel Shrine in another part of Kabul. After a brief moment I asked university staff to grab my microphone from the podium. When we collected our equipment and headed outside, Mr. Mohseni’s bodyguards called out to us. When we approached them they started beating us in front of thousands of people without even saying a word.”

Mr. Naderi said that they were assaulted for leaving in the middle of Mr. Mohseni’s speech, but the situation demanded that they leave and cover the breaking news of the attack. Khatam-ul Nabieen University officials claim they are not aware of the incident. University staff member Hajji Alizad told Media Watch: “A large number of people were present on Ashura Day. We did not see this brother [the Rah-e Farda TV reporter] assaulted. He should have told us on the spot so that we could’ve taken action, or he can tell us who assaulted him.”

Mr. Naderi said that as a reporter he does not want to jeopardize his relationship or access to high-profile individuals like Mr. Mohseni, so he has not followed up. He added that he hopes Nai and Media Watch will look into the incident. Mr. Naderi also said he wants his reputation restored because he did not commit an offense that would warrant a brutal beating in front of thousands of people.

Media Watch condemns all acts of violence against media workers, including physical assaults. We call on law enforcement officials and legal entities to take decisive measures to prevent violence and punish offenders. Mr. Naderi’s case is not unique. Reporters are often publicly assaulted, but perpetrators are rarely prosecuted or punished, which only encourages offenders and promotes future impunity. This is a worrying trend that is creating an unbearable situation for media workers and freedom of expression.

### **Photo Press Europe reporter assaulted by members of National Directorate of Security in Baghlan province**

Ahmad Jawid, a reporter for Photo Press Europe, claims he was brutally assaulted by National Directorate of Security officials in Baghlan province and insulted in front of hundreds of witnesses. Speaking to Media Watch in a phone interview he said: “I was riding in a car in Pul-e Khumri when an NDS official stopped the vehicle and hit me in the face with a walkie-talkie.”

NDS officials say the reporter was beaten because he was speeding in an area that was secured for Ashura Day. Mr. Jawid denied their claim. “Our car was stopped by NDS between two speed bumps, which deter speeding. The NDS claim is completely baseless because it’s not possible to speed between those two speed bumps.”

Media Watch contacted law enforcement officials in Baghlan and asked the provincial NDS director to discipline the officer who beat Mr. Jawid. Baghlan NDS Director General Hafizullah said the reporter should come to the NDS offices in Baghlan to lodge a complaint. Mr. Jawid said he declined to go to NDS because officials may have tried to settle the matter with an apology. Following pressure from Media Watch, Gen. Hafizullah said that he dismissed the officer in question and ordered him to go to Kabul for investigation. Baghlan Journalist Association President Abdul Khalil Narmgoi said if this is true, then a formal public announcement must be made to the media.

Media workers in Baghlan have had several run-ins with provincial security officials. Pajhwok Afghan News reporter Abdur Rahman Sherzai and RTA reporter Sayed Fazeluddin have also been mistreated by local security officials. Mr. Narmgoi expressed concern about the situation of journalists in Baghlan and asked media advocacy groups and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission to extend support to these reporters and place pressure on Baghlan authorities to help institutionalize freedom of expression in the province.

Media Watch condemns the assault by NDS and we welcome the decision to fire the offender and refer him for investigation. Law enforcement officials who are guilty of inappropriate and abusive behavior should be removed from duty so as to distinguish them from sincere officers who work for our nation. Doing so will also help the country’s state-building efforts, institutionalize freedom of expression and media rights, while providing media workers confidence that they will not be assaulted or humiliated by security officials during the course of their work.

### **Journalists threatened by Ghazni PRT soldiers**

Ghazni province reporters claim they were threatened by Ghazni PRT-based soldiers on Dec. 21, 2011 when they tried to film the deaths of several Polish soldiers as a result of an attack. Reuters reporter Mustafa Andalib said local media were prevented from getting close to the bodies of five Polish soldiers who were killed during a roadside bomb blast. Sensitive of the situation, reporters did not try to get very close so they filmed the incident from a distance, but Nato soldiers fired into the air to run off reporters.

Mr. Andalib said: “When they prevented us from taking photos and film I turned back, but at that very moment they fired in my direction and bullets hit the ground near my motorcycle.”

Mr. Andalib said that when the Ghazni PRT wants coverage of positive events, they received reporters warmly. When they are not in control of the news, or when the news is not to their benefit, Nato soldiers become hostile. “When they inaugurate a project or if it’s a pre-organized event they

treat journalists like their friends, but when something bad happens they do not allow us to collect information, so we're left with no choice except to collect information from a distance, but we were still threatened," he added.

Freelance reporter Sayed Zakiria, who was filming alongside Mr. Andalib, also claimed that they were shot at by Polish soldiers. Media Watch tried to interview ISAF and PRT officials in Ghazni without success. Mr. Andalib acknowledged that there was a misunderstanding between reporters and soldiers over the videotaping of the dead Polish soldiers, but he added: "By opening direct fire they were threatening journalists."

This is not the first time international forces have been accused of threatening or abusing media workers. Media Watch condemns Nato forces in Afghanistan for threatening reporters in Ghazni and calls on international forces to discipline soldiers in accordance with the law.

### **Ghor province officials pressure Feroz Koh publication**

Feroz Koh magazine staff claim that they are consistently pressured by provincial authorities in Ghor province. Most recently the provincial governor sent a letter to the Department for Information and Culture calling for an inquiry into a critical article published by the magazine. Feroz Koh Editor-in-Chief Ghulam Rabbani Hadafmand said: "A critical article was published in the Aqrab 1390 issue of Feroz Koh, which discussed allegations of misuse of government funds by the [governor] during his trips. The article did not refer to any names directly."

Information and Culture Department Director Sarwar Azar said that the governor wants the magazine's senior management to prove the allegations published in the article. He said the article is offensive, prompting the governor to call for an investigation. He also said the matter will be referred to the Media Violations and Complaints Assessment Commission, which will investigate the governor's complaint.

Article 7 of Afghan Mass Media Law states that "every real or legal person who is attacked by the mass media, and his personality, good standing or material interests is damaged, has the right to refute it in the same media." Mr. Azar says this article is only applicable before publication and the case has to now be referred to a legal entity for further inquiry.

Mr. Hadafman maintains that his magazine did not violate any laws that would require media commission intervention. If he is summoned, he added, he has appropriate documentation to present to defend his magazine. He claimed this move was designed to pressure the magazine and that in the past officials have tried to create other problems for the publication. Mr. Hadafman also alleged that the information and culture director Mr. Azar is siding with the governor because they have a personal relationship.

Media Watch condemns any attempts by individuals or an agency to pressure Afghan media and we call on government officials to take decisive measures to put an end to such pressures and prevent opportunistic officials from abusing their powers to harass the media. Independent media outlets must exercise caution when reporting information. Publishing critical articles is appropriate as long as reports are based on facts. Media outlets must avoid publishing reports critical of natural or legal persons on the basis of rumors because rumor-based reporting severely damage the media's reputation and provide the enemies of freedom of expression with a weapon to use against media.

### **Afghanistan media guide unveiled**

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan has published the country's first comprehensive media guidebook. The book, an A to Z guide, detailing information, including names, locations, operations and staff for all Afghan media outlets throughout the country. The guidebook was released in a press conference on Dec. 5, 2011 and distributed to attendees.

Sediqullah Tauhidi, manager of the Nai-run Media Watch, told press conference attendees: "Although immense efforts were made to include all active Afghan media organizations in the guide, if



some outlets were not mentioned or for new outlets that come into being in the future we request that they send us their details so we can include them in future editions."

Communications and Information Technology Ministry official Nader Shah Aryan, who is a Nai board member, attended the press conference. He cited the books as the greatest achievement of its kind for Afghanistan. Media workers who attended the ceremony said they appreciate the guidebook, calling it a good reference for Afghan media organizations.

Voice of America reporter Abdulhai Warshan said: "Reporters' problems regarding access to other journalists and media in Afghanistan will be solved – it's something journalists were badly in need of."

Tamadon TV reporter Bismullah Naderi said the guide was "valuable" and added that the book would help reporters obtain information about remotely-located Afghan media outlets.

The Afghanistan Media Guide contains the names and address of all active Afghan media outlets and other information about them. The book was prepared and printed by Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan with financial support from USAID through Internews Network. The Dari and Pashto versions of the guidebook are provided free of charge to all journalists, media outlets and relevant organizations.

### **New newspaper launched in Kabul**

Publisher Zaki Dariabi recently printed the first edition of Etilat-e Roz, a new daily newspaper, in Kabul. According to Mr. Dariabi, who is also the paper's editor-in-chief, Etilat-e Roz will publish in eight pages and cover diverse topics including sports, health, global news, children's issues, entertainment and technology. "We will be committed to our independence and will try to be different," he said.

Mr. Dariabi said the daily will grow in the future and establish a readership among other print outlets.

Media Watch believes that creating new media outlets is not the most challenging element of operating a print publication — self-sustainability is important. Media Watch believes that low literacy levels and the absence of a reading culture pose challenges to sustaining print media, requiring patience and careful planning. Media Watch welcomes Etilat-e Roz to the Afghan print media community and calls on all print media to consider the needs and circumstances of society and adjust accordingly.

### **Human rights, media and freedom of expression week celebrated**

The Open Society Institute, French Institute in Afghanistan, International Media Support, Swiss Development Cooperation Agency for Afghanistan, UNAMA, the Writers' Nest, Arman-e Shahr Foundation and Hasht Sobh Daily marked Human Rights, Media and Freedom of Expression Week from Nov. 10-15, 2011 in Kabul. The celebratory week was kicked off at the French Institute in Afghanistan in a ceremony attended by media workers, cultural activists and members of the aforementioned organizations.

Open Society Organization member Zahra Mubtaker, who addressed an audience on the first day of the ceremony, said celebrating Human Rights, Media and Freedom of Expression Week was important, adding that it marked the first time it was celebrated in Afghanistan. According to Ms. Mubtaker, the ceremony provided a platform for media to discuss their role in promoting human rights. Ms. Mubtaker said that focusing on human rights from a cultural approach is one of the missions of the Open Society Foundation. She listed film production, photo exhibitions, voluntarily campaigns on human rights, workshops on human rights, media and freedom of expression among their human-rights related programs.

Media Watch Manager Sediqullah Tauhidi addressed the ceremony and said: "I think after 10 years of media activities in Afghanistan the time has come to review freedom of expression, press freedom and value of human rights."

Kabul Weekly Editor-in-Chief Faheem Dashty also spoke at the ceremony. In his speech he examined the link between media and human rights from two perspectives — first, how the media covers human rights violations and second, how media can promote human rights.

Human Rights, Media and Freedom of Expression Week events included exhibitions, theatre, discussions, poetry, discussions on literature and human rights, films and a concluding discussion on media in Afghanistan over the past 10 years.

### **Afghan Mass Media Law Analysis**

#### **Article 44**

(1) To better regulate the administrative affairs of Radio Television Afghanistan, an RTA Commission shall be established composed of seven members for a period of three years.

(2) The commission set forth in paragraph (1) of this Article shall include one religious personality, one lawyer, one engineer, one journalist, one professional artist, one civil society representative and one national RTA representative, taking into account ethnic and gender balance.

(3) The Commission set forth in paragraph (2) of this Article shall have the following duties and authorities:

1. Protect the independence, impartiality, and professional reputation of RTA

2. Monitor the implementation of the RTA budget
  3. Submit an annual RTA activity report to the Mass Media high Council
  4. Attract internal and external assistance to strengthen RTA
  5. Monitor the implementation of RTA rules and bylaws and other relevant laws
  6. Monitor the implementation of broadcasting policy set forth by the High Media Council in a manner that reflects the ethnic, language and cultural diversities of all people of Afghanistan
- (4) In accordance with the law members of the RTA Commission shall be entitled to an appropriate salary, which will be paid from the RTA budget

### **Analysis**

National Radio and Television of Afghanistan (RTA) is a 34-year old electronic media institution. It is also the country's first electronic medium. It is worth noting that, unfortunately, from the time of its initial establishment the national network has been influenced by successive governments, a situation that continues today despite government claims that it respects freedom of the press. Perhaps the legislature held the same concern, and in an attempt to mitigate this concern, a separate commission for RTA was proposed. Based on Article 44 of the Mass Media Law, the RTA commission has a fixed composition and set of responsibilities.

According to Paragraph 1, the RTA Commission should consist of seven members who serve for a period of three years. According to Article 41 of the Mass Media Law, the chairman and commission members must be referred by the High Media Council to the president for approval. In previous analyses, Media Watch has critiqued this appointment process.

Paragraph 2 determines the criteria for the appointment of commissioners. The first criterion is tribal and gender balance. Given the country's social and political problems, the legislature has required this balance. The second criterion is that members must come from diverse professional backgrounds. According to this paragraph, the commission set forth in Paragraph 1 of this article shall include one religious personality, one lawyer, one engineer, one journalist, one professional artist, one civil society representative and one RTA representative taking into account ethnic and gender balance. The aforementioned criteria are necessary, but not sufficient because with these criteria alone the commission cannot be kept immune from politically-driven and discretionary government appointments.

According to Paragraph 3, the commission shall have the following duties and authorities:

#### *1. Protect the independence, impartiality and professional reputation of RTA*

The RTA commission should work towards preserving the independence, impartiality, and professional reputation of RTA and eliminating culture despotism and government influence over the commission. The only important criticism directed at RTA is that its programs are influenced by the government, the executive branch and legal bodies. As a result of this influence, RTA is always seen as a state tool and its programs are treated with skepticism.

#### *2. Monitor the implementation of RTA budget*

Another commission responsibility is to monitor the implementation of RTA budget. It is worth mentioning that this particular authority of RTA Commission contradicts Article 43 of the Mass Media Law, which gives the same authority to Mass Media Commission. Moreover, according to Article 43 of the Mass Media Law, the Mass Media Commission is authorized to review the annual RTA budget and submit the budget to the High Media Council. Article 41 Paragraph (3) also

authorizes the commission to introduce the RTA budget to the government; however, the Mass Media Law is silent regarding budget preparation.

*3. Submit annual activities report of the RTA to the Mass Media Commission*

This commission is required to submit an annual activities report to the Mass Media Commission and to present the report findings to the National Assembly on an annual basis.

*4. Attract internal and external assistance to strengthen RTA*

In order to ensure RTA's independence from the government, the RTA Commission is tasked with raising internal and external assistance from local and international institutions to strengthen RTA in accordance with its by-laws and provisions of the Mass Media Law taking into account RTA's independence and impartiality.

*5. Monitor the implementation of RTA rules and bylaws and other relevant laws*

According to Article 31 of the Mass Media Law all state and private media must have by-laws. Monitoring the implementation of RTA by-laws and other relevant laws is the responsibility of RTA commission. In appointing its chair and other members, the RTA Commission should consider meritocracy and prevent government influence in this process. The RTA commission should also monitor RTA's financial resources to ensure that there is no misuse or waste.

*6. Monitor implementation of the broadcasting policy set forth by the High Media Council in a manner that reflects the ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversities of all people of Afghanistan* Based on Articles 15 and 16 of the Mass Media Law, RTA is required to reflect the ethnic, linguistic and cultural diversities of all the people of Afghanistan in its programming. Private media outlets are not bound by law to do so. Private media are only required to observe Islamic principles in their programming. Since RTA belongs to all citizens of Afghanistan, the network should reflect the culture and language of all citizens and the commission should monitor compliance with this requirement.

According to Paragraph (4), RTA commissioners shall be entitled to an appropriate wage in accordance with the law to be paid from the RTA budget.

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To obtain a soft copy of the report, please visit the following link: <http://www.nai.org.af/Mediawatch.htm>

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