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Nai supporting open Media in Afghanistan



# Media Watch Report

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# Media Watch Report

The current issue of Media Watch newsletter covers the following topics:

- A Khorshid-TV journalist was beaten by a parliamentarian's bodyguards
- A Khorshid-TV journalist was threatened by a member of Takhaar Provincial Council
- A journalist claimed that he was beaten by police forces from Kabul Police District 11
- A journalist was detained for three hours by police in Kandahar
- Attempt to abduct a journalist failed in Ghazni province
- A spokesperson was banned from speaking with journalists and media
- Nai celebrated Social Media Week under the banner of "Disagreement in social media does not mean enmity."
- Nai appreciated youth and organizations which were more active on social media





Journalist in Afghanistan continued to face violence, get threatened and beaten in July 2015. At least two journalists were threatened and beaten by people's representatives in the provincial councils and the legislative body. Meanwhile police beat a journalist in Kabul while detained another one in Kandahar province.

Another journalist in Ghazni province managed to escape from abductors as his family neutralized the abductors' efforts. In another development, access to information has got more restricted in Afghanistan in recent days. In the most recent case, the spokesperson for Herat Regional Hospital was banned from speaking with journalists.

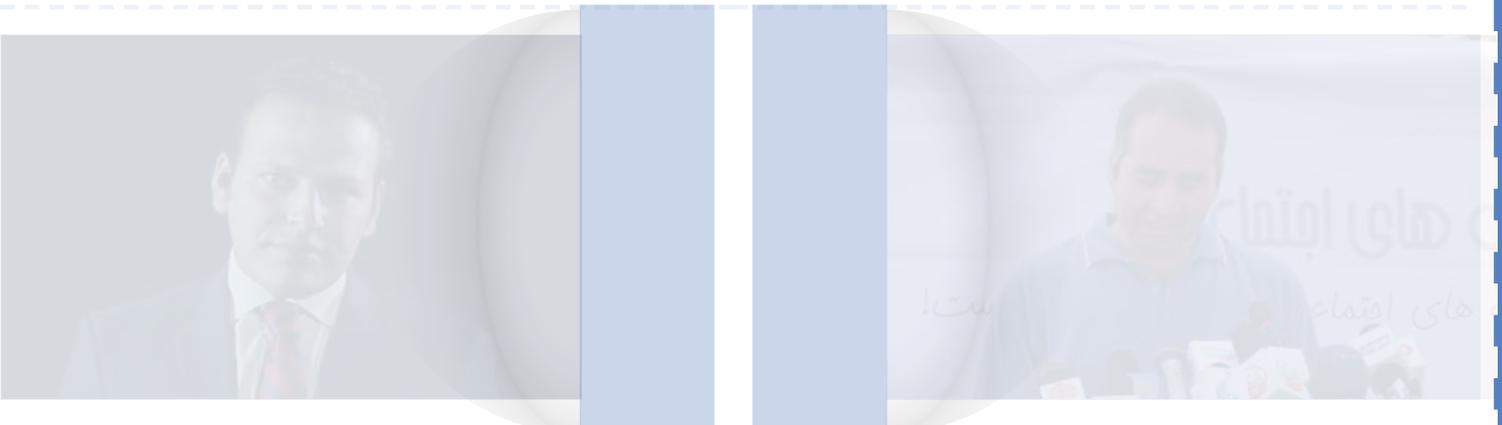
In separate incidents, Mohammad Amin Babak, host and moderator of political discussions at Khorshid TV and Shafiq Poya, local correspondent for the same TV in Takhaar province, were beaten and threatened to death either by elected representatives or their guards.

Amin Babak was beaten by the armed guards of Nazir Ahmad Ahmadzai, a member of the House of Representatives, when he was passing a street to go home in Kabul city. This journalist lives in the same lane where the Parliamentarian does. The latter's guards had closed the lane and the journalist insisted and sounded his car's horns to pass through. It made the guards angry; they came out and beat him.

In a separate case, a Takhaar-based local correspondent for Khorshid TV was threatened and insulted during an interview with Latifa Saidi, a member of Takhaar Provincial Council. Mr. Poya intended to ask the provincial council's member about her earlier beating of a police officer when she began to insult the journalist and said either she would remain in the city or the journalist.

Threatening and insulting of journalists by such persons who are elected to the legislative bodies by the direct vote of people show the depth of disaster in the country. They are those people who have used the democratic atmosphere and values to reach to where they currently stand. But now they attack another pillar of democracy: free journalists and media workers. This is against the principles of a democratic system. When laws in a society are broken by the lawmakers themselves, chaos and disrespect to people prevail.

Meanwhile another journalist, Mohammad Zubair Aalemyar, chief editor of Raah-e-Abreshom magazine, claimed that a police officer from 11th Police District of Kabul city beat him. The journalist first complained to the police officer about a person's threats to him, but the police officer suddenly slapped





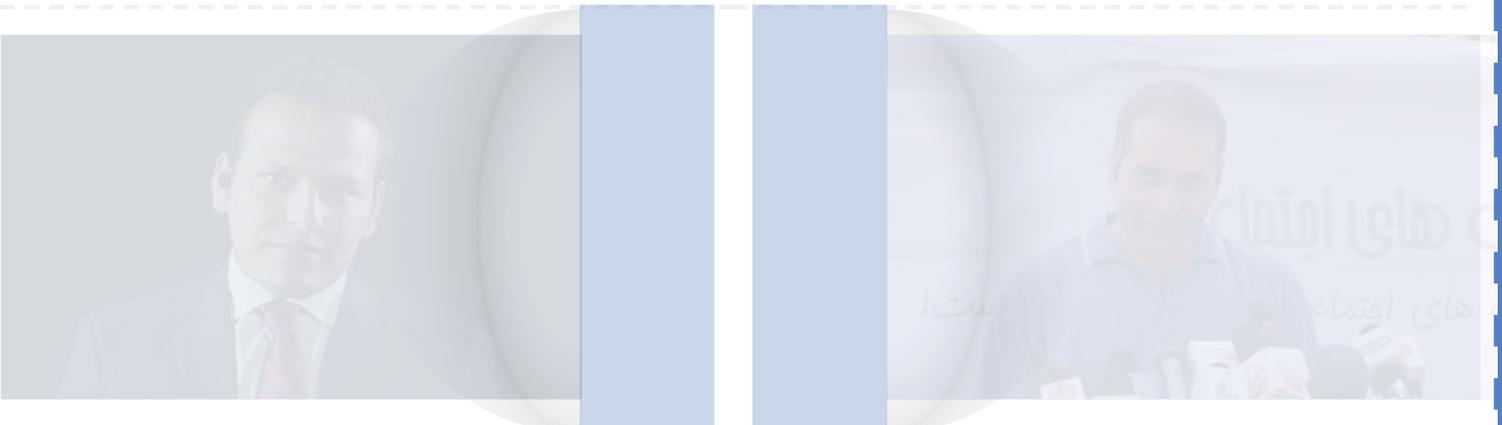
him and then beat him with his butt stock. In a separate incident in Kandahar province, a group of police officers stormed into a journalist's house and detained him and his brother for a while. Naqibullah Qoraishi, former journalist for local Hewad TV channel, does not know the reason for police's action, but police officials in Kandahar told Media Watch that their target was the journalist's brother who was detained on accusation of disrupting public security and when they learned that the journalist was not involved in the issue, they released him.

In another development, unidentified persons tried to abduct a journalist in Ghazni province but ultimately failed. Esmatullah Omari, a journalist for Zabulistan publication in Ghazni province said that he was on his way home along with his father and brother when a group of three unidentified persons attacked them and tried to abduct him. But his father and brother's resistance saved him and the abductors ultimately failed. Police arrested a person in connection with the incident. However, some sources in Ghazni suggested that the issue of abduction has been exaggerated and said that it was a completely personal issue and was ultimately solved after several days passed.

Government of Afghanistan, particularly the Ministry of Interior and detective organs, should take such incidents seriously and should not overlook them. If the issue of abduction of the journalist is serious, then it should be investigated deep to its roots and the perpetrators should be identified and punished. Even if it is a personal issue, as claimed by some, it should still be seriously investigated and the results should be published to the people. Overlooking such cases can leave very negative impacts on society and will cause journalists and other citizens feel insecure.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan celebrates the first week of solar month of Asad (= third week of July) as the Social Media Week every year. It also celebrated the Social Media Week this year. Nai's message to the Social Media Week this year was: "Disagreement in social media does not mean enmity." Nai requested all social media users in Afghanistan to regard this message when they use or write something in social media.

This year, the Social Media Week was celebrated in a different manner comparing to last year. Nai presented Nai Special Statue for Social Media to the three best article writers on social media. It also presented letters of appreciation to the three organizations which mostly used social media for advancing their causes and purposes.





### **A Khorshid-TV journalist was beaten by a parliamentarian's bodyguards**

Mohammad Amin Babak, a journalist and presenter of political programs at Khorshid TV was severely beaten by the armed bodyguards of Nazir Ahmad Ahmadzai, second deputy speaker of House of Representatives, in the evening of July 21. His head and face were bleeding.

The journalist was beaten by the mentioned parliamentarian's bodyguards when he wanted to pass a street which was blocked by them. While Mr. Babak was sounding his car's horns to demand clearing of the road, the armed bodyguards got angry and beat him up. In order to get to home, Babak needs to pass the street where Mr. Ahmadzai lives.

Babak told Media Watch: "Our house is located a lane away from Mr. Ahmadzai's. I usually pass this lane. They had blocked it with their vehicles and when I sounded my car's horn to ask them open the way, one of Mr. Ahmadzai's bodyguards instructed his colleagues to beat me."

When director of political programs at Khorshid TV, Shaadaab Bekzaad, arrived at the scene to ask for his colleague, the same people also threatened him and told them that they worked at the National Security [Directorate] and could arrest and imprison them indefinitely.

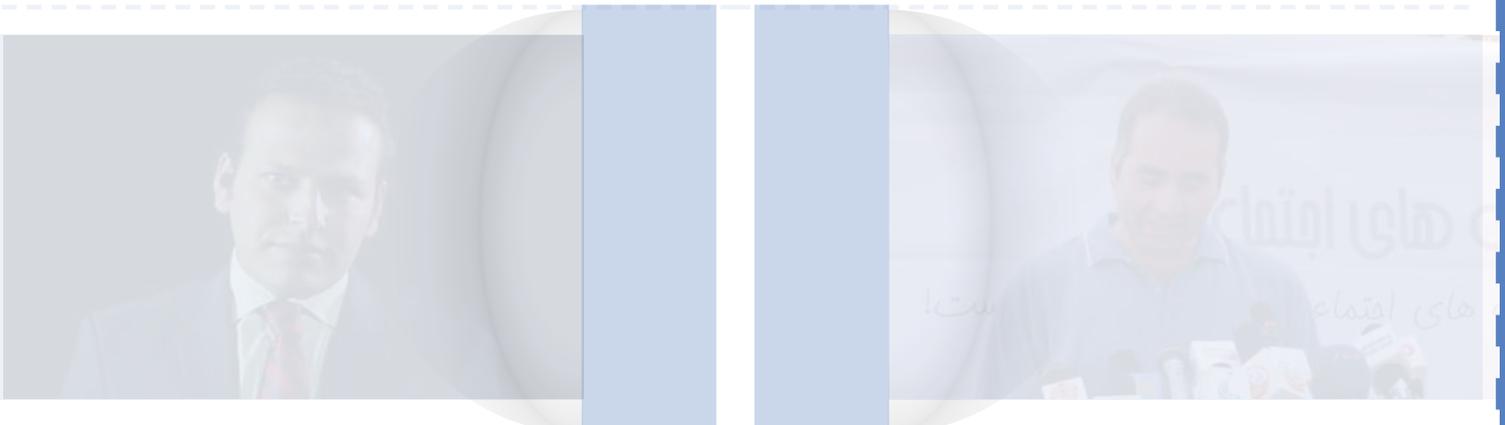
But Nazir Ahmadzai, the parliamentarian, said that the individuals who beat Mr. Babak were not his personal bodyguards but rather his office guards.

He added that crime was an individual action and media and journalists should not have attributed the actions of his bodyguard to him.

Meanwhile in a press conference, Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, executive director of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, strongly condemned beating of Mohammad Amin Babak, presenter and moderator of political programs at Khorshid TV, and called upon detective organs to arrest and submit perpetrators to the legal and judicial organs.

Efforts through informal channels have begun to solve the issue by means of traditional approaches namely to control the situation through offering apologies to the affected journalist and to skip punishment of the perpetrators.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan does not consider it appropriate to solve cases of violence against journalists through informal channels and traditional approaches. Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, executive officer of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, said in a press conference: "Journalists have been subject of misbehavior and violence by high-ranking government authorities





in the past and efforts were made to address their cases through traditional approaches. This has saved perpetrators from punishment and had been proven ineffective as the journalists have faced violence and misbehavior again days after such incidents were mitigated.”

After pressures from journalists and journalists’ rights protection organizations, in particular from Nai, Mr. Ahmadzai promised to submit his guard who beat the journalist to the legal and judicial organs.

The parliamentarian participated in a TV discussion along with Nai executive officer, Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, and offered his apology for his guard’s misbehavior toward the journalist. He said that he will submit the perpetrator to the Office of Attorney General of Afghanistan.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan believes that violence against journalists is a crime and such cases should be pursued in accordance with effective laws of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The perpetrators should be submitted to the legal and judicial organs for investigation and punishment.

### **A Khorshid-TV journalist was threatened by a member of Takhaar Provincial Council**

Shafiq Poya, a journalist for Khorshid TV in the north, claimed that Latifa Saidi, a member of Takhaar Provincial Council, threatened him in the office of Takhaar Police chief and told him: “Either you or I should stay in this city!”

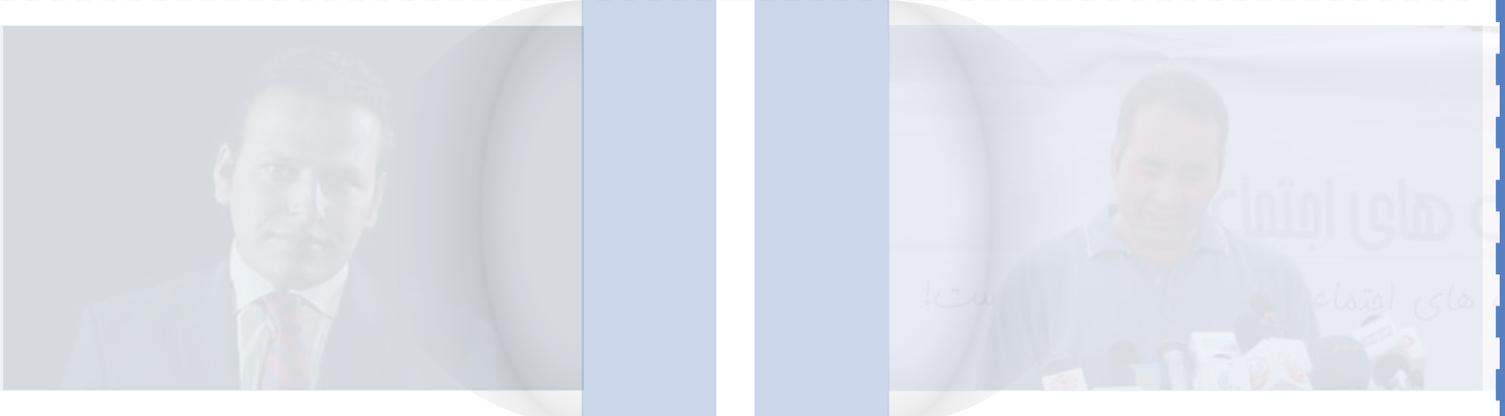
The journalist came under threats from the provincial council member when he wanted to interview her on the case of a traffic police officer who was beaten and his gun’s magazine was seized by this female member of the provincial council.

Shafiq Poya told Media Watch at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan that this was the fourth incident in which she has threatened him. Mr. Poya added: “Prior to the latest incident, her people (guards) had chased me several times, but I did not take them seriously.”

Mr. Poya also said: “Unlike expected, Takhaar Police chief did not take a position in the issue. They tried to neutralize the case and rarely behaved in accordance with laws.”

But, Latifa Saidi, member of Takhaar Provincial Council, called Mr. Poya a scoundrel and added that he wanted to make up a case for him so that he can move abroad.

She also insulted Media Watch journalist and by cursing Khorshid-TV journalist insulted him again. Meanwhile Noor Mohammad Hakimi, Takhaar Police chief, told Media Watch that he was present in the scene where the provincial council member refused to share any information about the incident happened to the traffic police but did not threaten the journalist in any way.





Takaar Police chief told Media Watch: “Because the female member of Takhaar provincial council has neurological disorders, so the issue should not be taken so seriously.”

But Shafiq Poya, Khorishd-TV journalist, said that Takhaar Police chief’s position on the issue has favored the other side and he has shown no firm intention to support and protect journalists.

The behavior of the member of Takhaar provincial council toward Media Watch journalist clarifies everything. Now it is clear that member of Takhaar provincial council misuses her official authority not only to threaten and insult journalists in Takhaar province, but she has also crossed the law and attacked a traffic police officer.

Representatives of people are supposed to provide essential supports to their constituents and solve their problems. They should not step outside the circle of law and attack people instead of protecting their civil rights.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan calls upon provincial authorities in Takhaar to seriously investigate the case and to protect people against those who under any name and position insult and attack them.

### **A journalist claimed that he was beaten by police forces from Kabul Police District 11**

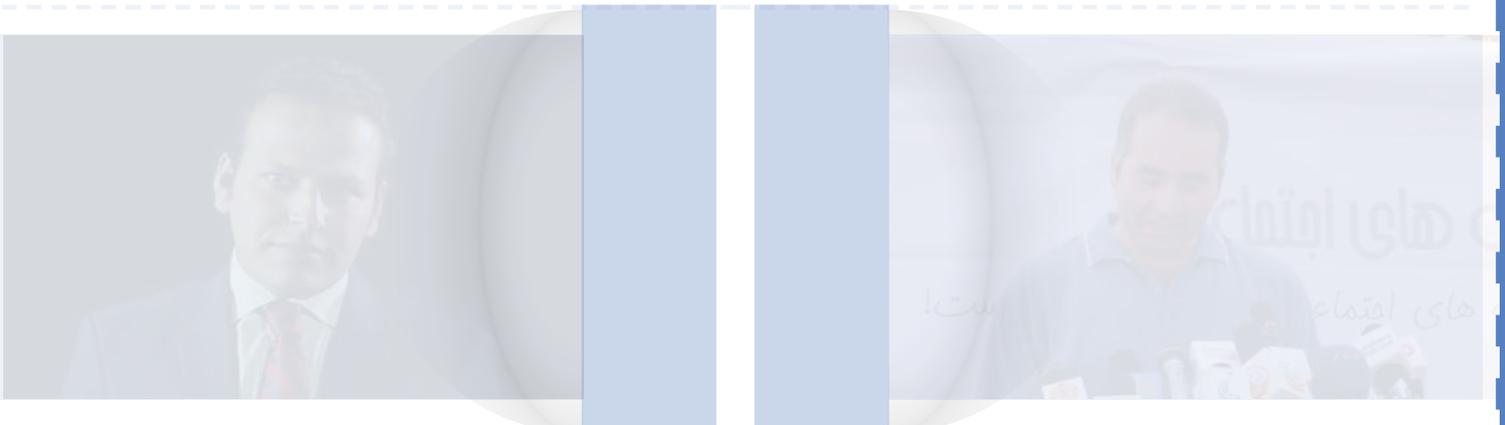
Mohammad Zubair Aalemyar, chief editor of Rah-e-Abreshom, claimed that a security officer from Kabul Police District 11 has seriously beaten him in the area of Qala-e-Najaarha Square.

He told Media Watch at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan that while he was on his way home on July 1, 2015, he received a phone call on which he was asked questions about the institute he served as administrative advisor. The phone was then cut.

Mr. Aalemyar said that he was contacted again on his phone and received so many curses from them that he could not help but telling them to see and talk to them in the upcoming moments. “Then I went to their shop. As I entered the shop they immediately began to beat me. Then a policeman arrived and I complained to him that these people beat me,” said Mr. Alemyar.

He described the incident as following: “I produced my press card to the policeman and told him that I was a journalist. He did not pay any attention to my words, slapped me in the face and then beat me mercilessly with his butt stock.”

Mr. Aalemyar said he did not know the reason for his beating by the policeman and thinks that the





plot was probably preplanned.

He added: “I do not know whether he was their friend or was paid by them.”

Mr. Aalemyar told Media Watch that while they were beating him, they also broke his voice recorder; his telephone also went missing.

Esmat Akbari, police chief of District 11, told Media Watch that they have taken necessary measures and arrested both the policeman and the other perpetrator in the journalist’s case.

Mr. Akbari added: “We have detained the journalist’s opponent side in the case. He is still under supervision in the detention center. We also put the policeman in the detention center, but he (the journalist) requested us to release the policeman.”

But he also said that their investigations indicated that the journalist had initially been the guilty side as he, together with his brother and father, stormed into the other side’s shop and caused them material damage.

Meanwhile Sediqullah Tawhidi, director of Media Watch at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, says that police should investigate and find the main roots of the problem and then deal with perpetrators.

He says that police should strictly follow the principle of justice in its pursuit of the case.

Journalists should not mix their private issues with those related to journalism, because using one’s journalistic position to solve his private conflicts is not ethical and will be considered as abuse.

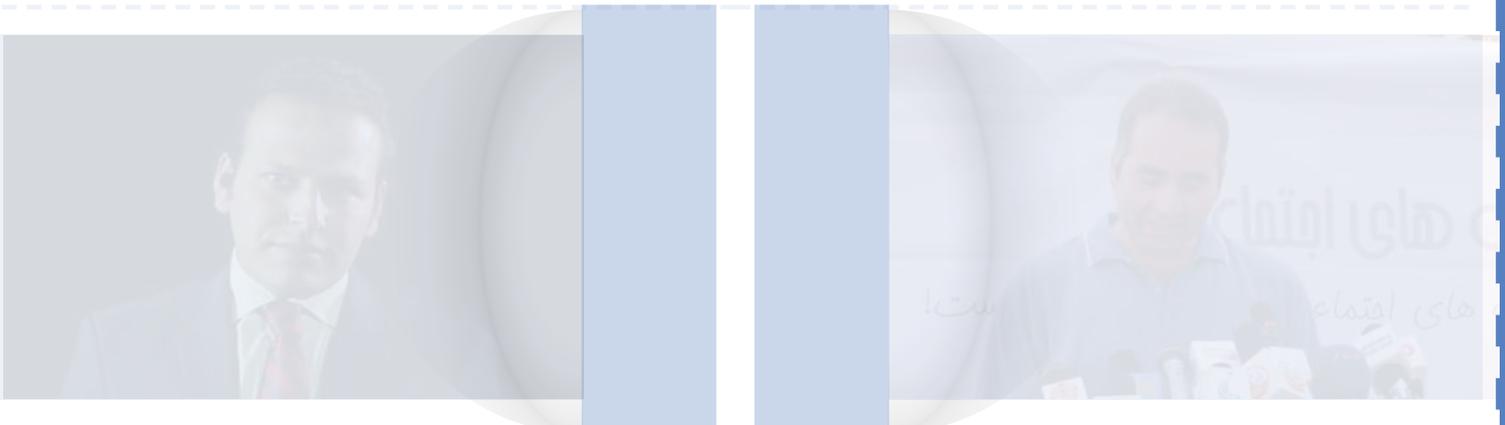
### **A journalist was detained for three hours by police in Kandahar**

Naqibullah Quraishi, a Hewad-Radio-Television former journalist in Kandahar, claimed that policemen from Kandahar 3rd Police District stormed their home at around 12:00 on ..... , searched their house and detained him along with his brother. Security forces released Mr. Quraishi after three hours of detention but his brother has remained in security forces’ custody.

He said that the reason behind their home search by the police was unclear and they only said that the search was authorized by the authorities. He added that the security forces could not find any doubtful object in their home.

“The soldiers closed my eyes and that of my brother’s and took us with them. After three hours in detention, they released me,” added Mr. Quraishi.

He said that the reason for their detention and questioning was not clear. His brother has remained





in police custody.

Mr. Quraishi said that he has not done anything wrong to justify police's storming of their house. But he added that he has usually published reports about mafia in the province which might have been the main reason behind police action.

Sediqullah Khaliq from Hewad TV told Media Watch that Mr. Khaliq has previously worked with them, but he does not work there anymore.

Elhaam, spokesperson for Kandahar Governor's Office, told Media Watch at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan that Mr. Quraishi's brother was police's target in the search. He added that police detained both of them because they did not know the target's face. Once they completed their investigations, they released Mr. Quraishi.

Journalists in Kandahar province say that police previously asked all citizens to cooperate with them. Mr. Quraishi's brother was detained by security forces for not cooperating with them. Their investigation continues.

Journalists have always stood against challenges of various kinds and have never joined hands with terrorists and murderers of people. Security forces should pay more accurate attention to distinguish between them and suspected persons.

### **Attempt to abduct a journalist failed**

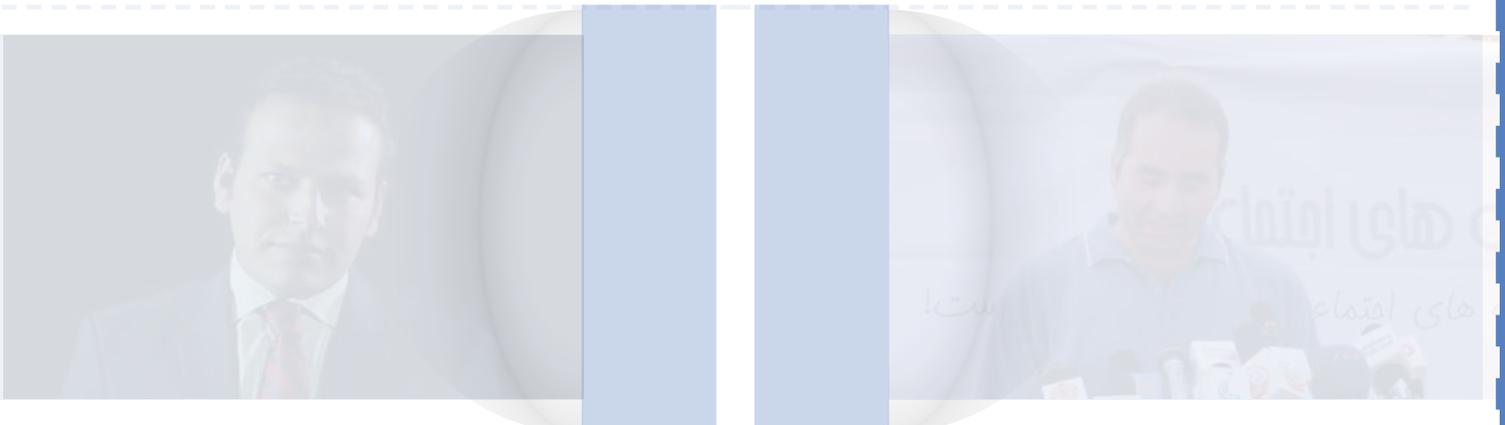
Esmatullah Omari, a journalist for Zabulistan Weekly, claimed that a number of unidentified persons attempted to abduct him in the last days of Ramazan holy month but members of his family responded and saved him while his father was seriously injured in the encounter.

Mr. Omari said that his father, his brother and he were on their way home when three unidentified individuals attacked them and attempted to abduct him. They encountered resistance by his father and his brother.

Mr. Omari added: "The attackers were armed and covered their faces. I do not know why they attacked us."

"In connection with the incident, police has detained a person who is a relative of ours, but it is yet unclear whether he is connected to the incident; the three attackers fled the scene immediately," continued Mr. Omari.

In an interview with Media Watch at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, Sayed Najib Hash-





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emi, chief editor of Zabulistan Weekly, confirmed the incident as “the attackers attempted to abduct our journalist.”

However, Ahmad Wali Sarhadi, chair of Zabul Journalists’ Association told Media Watch that the incident had a completely personal motivation which involved a family conflict and clash. He added that the issue had been solved on the second day of Eid.

Najib Hashimi, chief editor of Zabulistan Weekly, believes that even if the attack had personal motives, targeting and attacking a journalist is not a simple incident. It should be pursued through lawful channels instead of resorting to violence.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan condemns attacks on this journalist and calls upon government officials in the province to verify the incident, arrest perpetrators and submit them to the legal and judicial organs.

### **A spokesperson was banned from speaking with journalists and media**

Governor of Herat province recently banned the spokesperson for Herat Regional Hospital, Mohammad Rafiq Sherzai, from interviewing with and giving information to journalists. Nai calls the governor’s decision as censorship and in violation of Law of Access to Information.

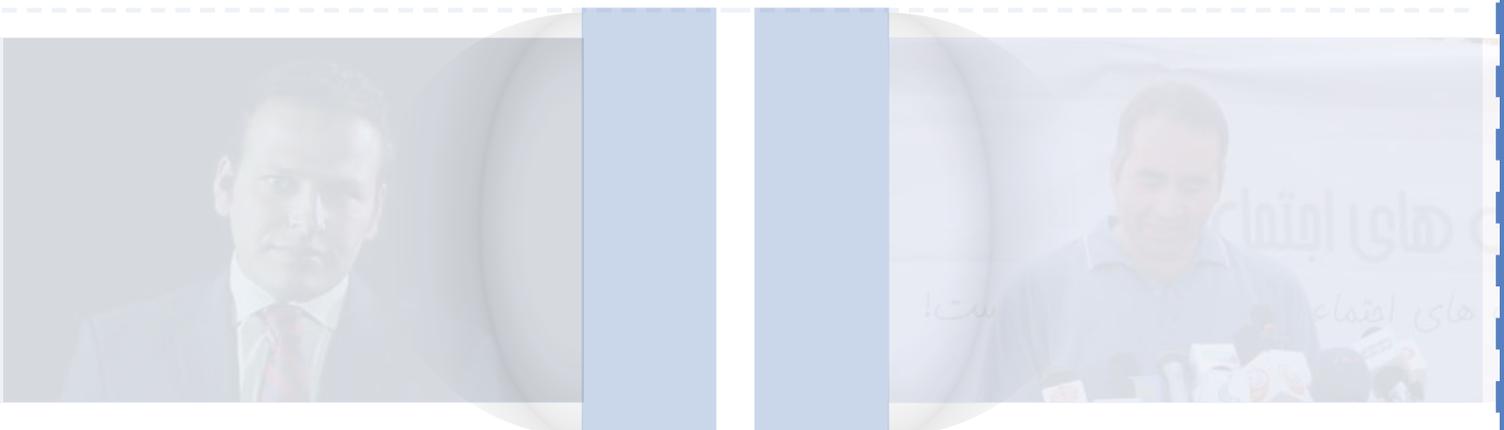
On July 8, 2015, Herat governor informed journalists that from that date on, they will only receive from the office of spokesperson for Herat Governor any information that they previously received from Herat Regional Hospital.

Mohammad Shafiq Sherzai, spokesperson for Herat Regional Hospital, told Media Watch at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, that following an order issued by Herat Governor, he could not talk to or share information with journalists anymore.

Mr. Sherzai said that for better coordination, the leadership of the Hospital had decided to share with media all press releases and information, including security –related issues, only after coordination with the security committee. The latter is comprised of representatives from National Directorate of Security, Police Headquarters, Traffic Department, and Herat Regional Hospital.

Mr. Sherzai requested the Office of Herat Governor to appoint an investigative board to investigate their activity records and determine the points that may have posed risks to the national interests or have politicized news topics.

The spokesperson for Herat Regional Hospital was banned from interviewing with media or shar-





ing information with journalists at a time when Herat journalists were happy about his service and wanted him to continue his assignment as the Hospital's spokesperson.

Journalists in Herat say that the spokesperson for Herat Regional Hospital was considerably supplying journalists with essential information in Western Zone. They expressed their concern on the possibility of dissolving the post by the government which will leave journalists with even more serious challenges to access information. They believe it will hurt freedom of speech in Herat.

Herat Governor bans one of important spokespersons in Herat from sharing information with journalists at a time when President Ashraf Ghani has ordered all state spokespersons to immediately provide journalists with the information that they ask for.

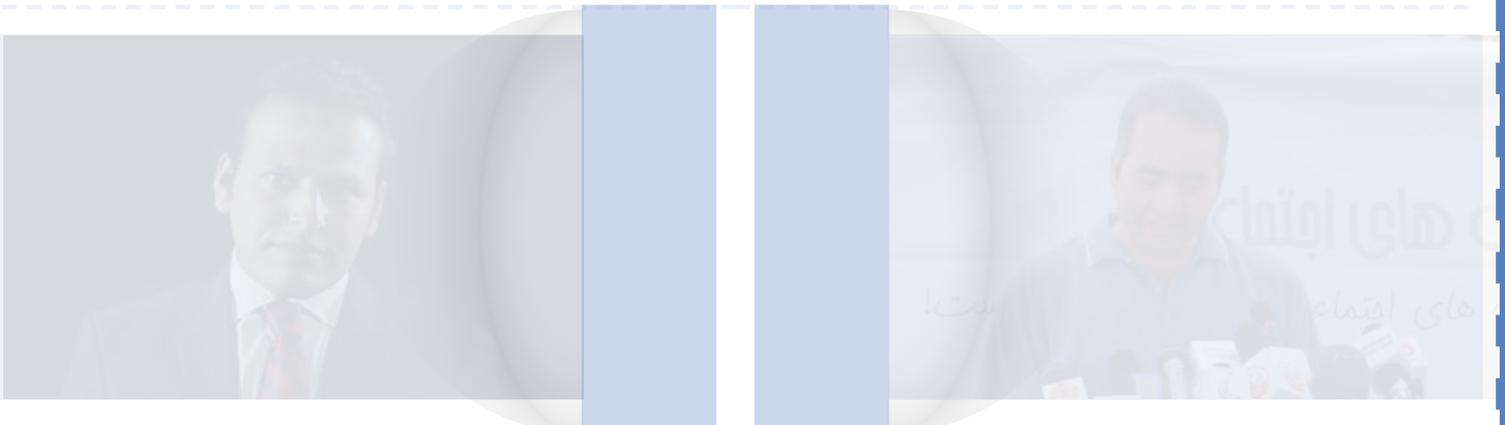
In spite of repeated attempts, Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan could not reach Herat Governor over the phone for clarifications.

Providing information on the incidence of contagious diseases, figures of casualties and injuries from terrorist as well as traffic accidents in an accurate fashion requires a professionally expert spokesperson. Health related topics should not be mixed with security related ones.

On the other hand, it will be overwhelming for the spokesperson [of the Governor's Office] to provide all required information on health and security related issues and this will hinder a timely flow of information to media.

Banning state spokespersons from interviewing and sharing information with journalists is in violation with the Law of Access to Information and the Constitution of the country. No one has the right to deprive citizens and particularly journalists from access to information. The government of Afghanistan is obliged to further facilitate flow of information. According to the effective laws of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, which considers access of information as the inviolable right of the citizens, the state is obliged to appoint spokespersons for state offices to facilitate journalists' work in accessing and spreading information. It is not allowed to dissolve spokespersons' posts and restrict open circulation of information.

Only the spokesperson for the Office of the Governor cannot acquire information in all areas and fields to provide journalists with professionally nuanced information. The presence and service of expert spokespersons for professional and specialized state institutions is essential and should not be overlooked.





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## **Nai celebrated Social Media Week under the banner of “Disagreement in social media does not mean enmity.”**

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan celebrates Social Media Week in Afghanistan every year. The banner for this year’s celebration was: “Disagreement in social media does not mean enmity.” Deputy Minister of Information and Culture in publishing affairs, deputy administrator of Afghanistan Telecom Regulatory Authority (ATRA) from Ministry of Telecommunication, media representatives, journalists, and a large group of social media users participated in this year’s celebratory event. In his inaugural address, Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, executive officer of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, said: “Social media have established a solid place and played effective roles in advocacy, education, recreation, reflection of realities, combat against corruption and against break of rule of law, civic reporting and other issues.”

“Nai believes that social media users in the country continue to improve their experience in properly using of social media each year,” said Mr. Khalwatgar.

“Users try to be more accurate in their choice of topics, contents, style of writing, and logical sequence of words when they publish on social media,” added Mr. Khalwatgar.

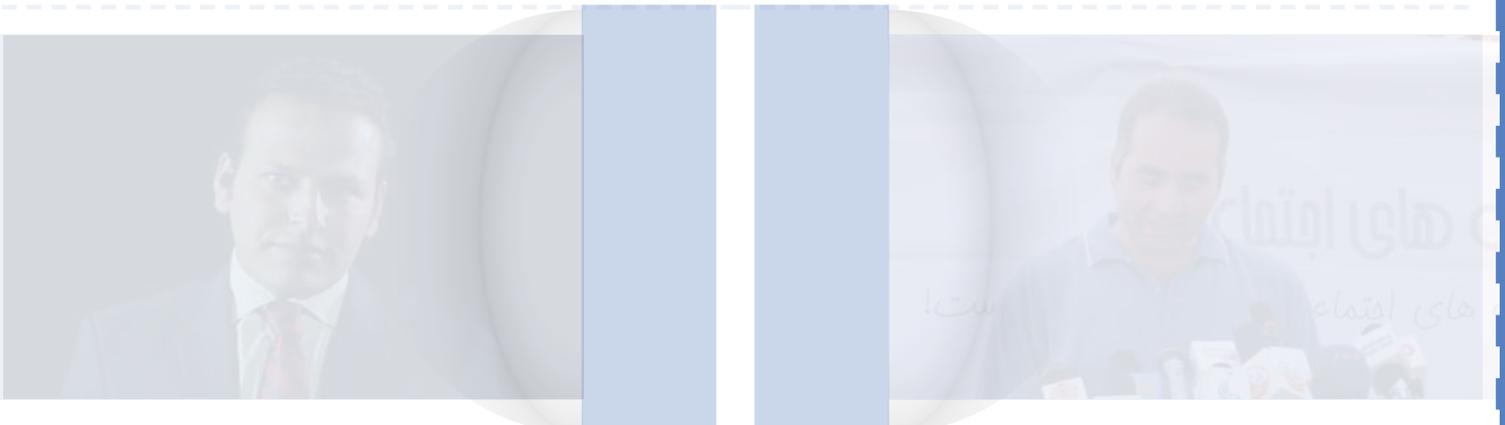
In order to bring further balance in the quality of using social media, Nai invites all users to regard good ethics, tolerance, Islamic values, human rights and human dignity while they are interacting on social media.

Meanwhile authorities at the Ministry of Information and Culture spoke of a proposal for legalization of social media activities.

Deputy Minister of Information and Culture for publishing affairs, Mojgan Mustafawi, said in the event: “As a society with Islamic and traditional values, it is good for us to have legalization [frame] for social media. This does not mean restriction of freedom of speech. We rather want to make sure that the rights of other individuals are not violated.”

The Deputy Minister of Information and Culture said that a new chapter of social media will be added to the Mass Media Law. But the details of legalization of social media are yet to be determined. However, Mr. Khalwatgar said that this new law should not restrict freedom of speech. He added: “If this is to be realized, then the main condition should be to make sure that it will not restrict access to information and social media. The relevant organizations should be consulted and asked for cooperation in conducting this work.”

Meanwhile, Engineer Khair Mohammad Faizi, deputy of ATRA at the Ministry of Telecommunica-





tion and Technology, informed the audience about activation of fourth and fifth generation (4G and 5G) of internet. He added that the project would provide the highest quality technical infrastructure. He also said that with this service, they wanted to play their role in the best possible way.

Mohammad Saber Fahim, senior reporter of Media Watch at Nai Office, pointed to advocacy activities through social media in the past year and particularly mentioned of advocacy for the case of Farkhunda by users of social networks and Facebook. He said: “If it were not for social media and Facebook, today Farkhunda’s case would have taken a different form in which she would have been identified guilty.”

Mr. Fahim also mentioned of pressures on social media users. He pointed to threats coming from high-ranking state authorities toward Facebook pages that disclose cases of corruption. For instance, some state officials have recently threatened to death the director of Kabul Taxi Facebook Page, which is an exclusively critical page.

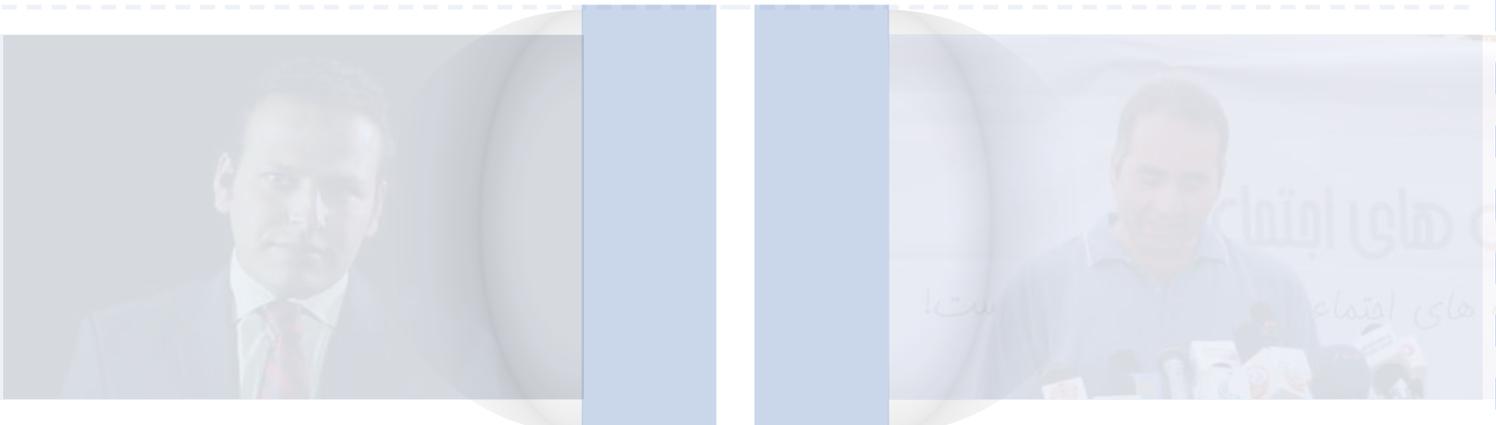
Saber Fahim called upon the government to prevent people who obviously work for the government from threatening social media users as combat against corruption can only be successful when government of Afghanistan pays attention to disclosures made by social media users.

Mohammad Qaasem Rahmani, legal consultant to Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, told the audience that the government should refrain from interfering in and restricting of social media. He added that the government should rather provide essential facilities for social media users.

Mr. Rahmani said that whenever a social media user discloses corruption in state offices, the state should not confront him or her but rather work to combat corruption as the state’s mandatory duty. Social media networks such as Facebook and Twitter have turned into important and influential media in Afghanistan. In most of the cases, Afghan users spread the news to audiences faster than traditional media like radio and television do.

Social media networks have turned into a tool of pressure on governmental officials. Users in social media networks complain about corrupt governmental offices and occasionally document their cases with publishing pictures and documents. These networks have been very influential in improving social behavior. Officials at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan say that social media networks have been playing a considerable role in disclosing corruption and combating repression and bullying.

However, given their limited access to internet services, using social media networks is not easy for Afghans. In comparison to other countries, using of these networks in Afghanistan costs more. According to the figures presented by Nai, internet speed in Afghanistan is 50 times slower than that





in a European country while prices for internet services is 100 times higher than that in a European country.

Nai's findings show that using internet services in some provinces is very expensive. Mr. Khalwatgar said that the price for internet services in remote provinces like Daikundi is from AFS 60-80 per minute.

In spite of positive impacts of social media networks, users sometimes violate other people's privacy and insult them. Creating of fake virtual pages under the name of popular persons and defaming them are other problems that have caused headaches. Defiling of others is another part of abusing social media.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan in collaboration with Nai Alumni have planned to jointly run campaigns among various social classes for promotion of sound use of social media networks. According to Nai's findings, there are 1.3 million people using social media networks in Afghanistan. Seventy users of social media networks, the majority of whom were Nai Alumni, went out to streets to campaign for appropriate use of social media networks. They distributed among people cards with information on how to use social media networks appropriately. They also got in touch with drivers and asked them to abide by urban order and traffic rules while driving across the city.

These young campaigners used their mobile phones to interview with drivers and then shared the interviews on social media networks. In their interviews with drivers they asked them to promise to regard urban order and traffic rules while driving across the city.

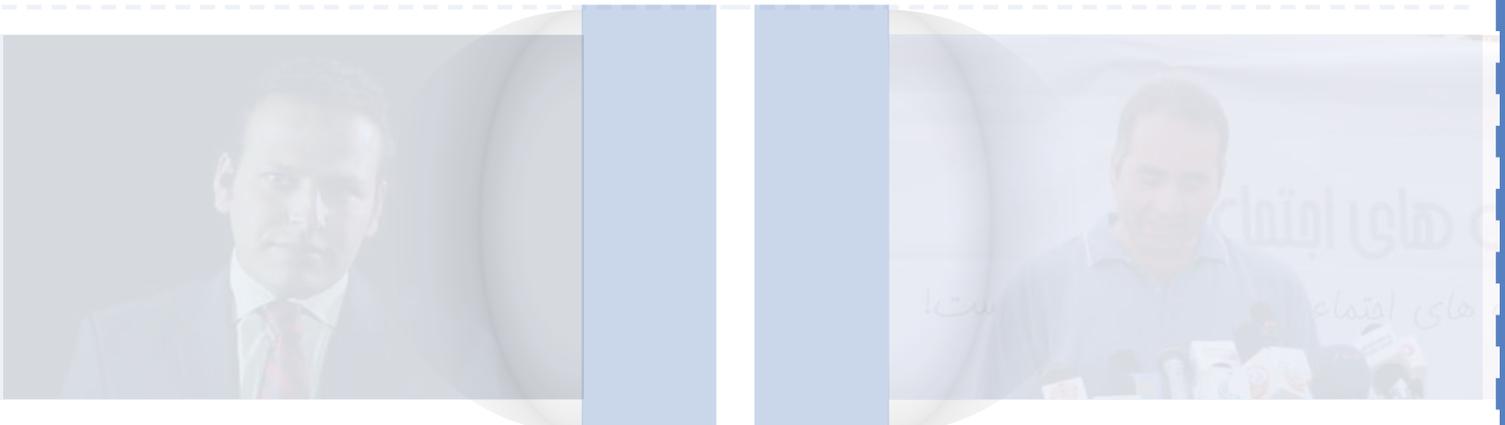
All Nai Office used the hashtag (#SMW2015) to share opinions and views in connection with Social Media Week with fellow citizens.

### **Nai appreciated youth and organizations which were more active on social media**

At the concluding gathering of Social Media Week, Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan presented three young active users of social media networks with Nai Statue. Responding to Nai's invitation, they have written essays on the role of social media and their consequences.

The essays from Narges Rasooli, Hashmatullah Khorasani, and Nabila Nazari respectively earned the first, second, and third positions in a sound and open competition.

In celebration of Social Media Week, Nai invited all social media users to participate in an essay writing contest through writing and submitting an essay about the role of social media.





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Nai received tens of essays, evaluated each of them separately, and announced three award-winning ones.

Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, executive officer of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, called one of the purposes of the contest as encouraging youth to writing essays. He wished further success for the winners.

Along with appreciating people, Nai also appreciated organizations and legal entities which used social media for advancing their purposes.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan used a new technology to evaluate all social media pages and searched for individuals and institutions which attracted the highest number of followers or likers.

In Twitter, which is mainly used for spreading news and information, a user named Shoja Rabbani has attracted 300,000 visitors and followers which was the highest number among users from Afghanistan.

One-TV attracted nearly 50 million visitors on You Tube and Google Plus which is the highest number among Afghanistan's media.

Tolo News TV attracted 1.1 million likers on its Facebook page which is the highest number among Afghanistan's media.

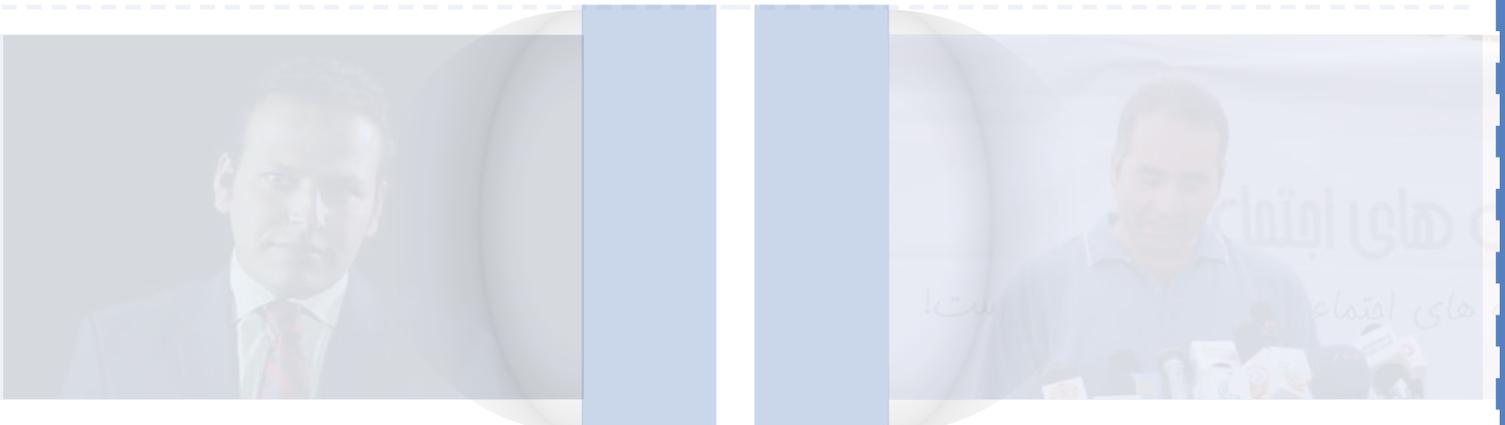
Also Mujeeb Khalwatgar asked both users of social media and journalists of traditional media to promote tolerance and combat hate among citizens as is reflected in Nai's banner on social media this year.

Mr. Khalwatgar asked users of social media as well as all citizens to apply the motto in their daily life.

"Publishing inappropriate pictures of women is a disrespect to the dignity of women; let's use social media as tools to promote solidarity and tolerance," added Mr. Khalwatgar.

Ever since 2011, Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan celebrates the first week of Asad (=last week of July) as the Social Media Week.

Since the very first time when Nai Office celebrated Social Media Week in Kabul, it officially requested the Ministry of Information and Culture to mark the corresponding week in the official calendar of Afghanistan as Social Media Week. Nai also requested from UNESCO to recognize the week as Social Media Global Week and give the credit for this human value to the people of Afghanistan. This year, too, Nai emphasized on both requests and sent official letters to the Ministry of Information and Culture and to UNESCO office in Kabul.





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### **Attention!**

All journalists and media organizations are hereby notified that Mr. Mohammad Qasem Rahmani works with the Media Watch in the capacity of Media Lawyer. Those journalists and/or media outlets that face legal issues in connection with their media related and journalistic activities, or need consultation on performing such activities, may contact him by phone at 0799 830 905 or via email at: m.qasim@nai.org.af .

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/Media-watch.htm>

Note:

1. 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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