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Media Watch Report

Owner Nai
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Media Watch Report

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

- Taliban destroyed and burnt Kunduz-based audio and visual media entities
- A media staff was killed in Kunduz city, Kunduz province
- A journalist was killed in Faizabad, Badakhshan province
- A journalist for Bokhdi News Agency was insulted in Bamyan city, Bamyan province
- Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan convened a meeting of senior media directors in Kabul to discuss the reform package proposed by the Electoral Reform Commission
- Censorship is widespread in Afghanistan media
- Journalists' escape from Afghanistan is worrisome
- Over 75 media entities closed due to economic problems
- State should officially recognize citizens' right to know
- Ghor Governor insulted chair of Ghor Journalists' Council





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Occupation of Kunduz city by Taliban caused a large humanitarian catastrophe in Kunduz province. Citizens of Kunduz and other parts of Afghanistan incurred casualties and severe financial and economic losses. Kunduz journalists and media also went through serious problems and hardships.

State offices and markets were set on fire. Jewelry stores and currency exchange shops were ransacked. Moreover, media establishments in Kunduz were also damaged. Media Watch has received reports indicating that terrorist Taliban looted all radio and television stations based in Kunduz city. They also burnt some TV stations.

Terrorists destroyed and burnt the radio equipment that they were unable to take with them.

Kunduz journalists who were carrying the duty of reporting and spreading of information were worried for their lives. Given the high probability that Taliban may have taken them as hostages or may have killed them, they decided, in the face of immense problems and challenges, to leave Kunduz city and take refuge in neighboring provinces of Takhaar, Badakhshan, Balkh, and Baghlan. Some of Kunduz journalists and local media operators also came to Kabul.

Two journalists were killed in Kunduz and Badakhshan provinces in the past two months. Caught up in Taliban's battle for occupation of Kunduz, Zabihullah Pashtunyar, presenter of entertainment programs at Kaihan local radio station, was killed. In addition to his occupation at Kaihan Radio, Mr. Pashtunyar was also working, out of poverty and economic needs, as a nightshift guard at Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Kunduz Surgical Hospital. There, it is said that he was killed in American Air Forces' bombardment of the hospital.

In another incident earlier last month, Yama Behroz, a freelance journalist, was killed right outside his house in Faizabad, Badakhshan province. Unidentified armed men/groups placed a mine outside the entrance of Mr. Behroz's house. When he came out of his house, the mine exploded and killed the young journalist.

In a separate case, police prevented a Bokhdi-News-Agency journalist from entering the area of SAARC festival in Bamyán city, Bamyán province. They detained the journalist for one hour, interrogated, and ultimately insulted him.

In addition to security challenges and problems that journalists continue to face in Afghanistan, a poll conducted by Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan found that censorship is seriously annoying both





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media and journalists around the country. The poll, which was conducted among 335 journalists in 25 provinces, shows that censorship exists to a serious extent among media and journalists in Afghanistan. Seventy-two percent of participants said that censorship existed in Afghanistan and was mainly imposed by the state.

On the other hand, group escape of journalists and media personnel from Afghanistan causes another loss to freedom of speech in the country. Due to heavy censorship in their media entities, pressures from the state, continuation of war and insecurity, and their vague future in the country, a group of over 20 journalists and media personnel left their homes –and jobs– and migrated outside the country last month.

During the last two years alone, more than 75 media entities have been forced to close their offices around the country due to economic and financial problems. After Afghanistan's ascending path towards freedom of speech in the post-Taliban era, the pace at which media have closed their offices in the last two years is quite worrisome.

In a separate development, Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan celebrated International Right to Know Day for the first time in the country. The International Right to Know Day was observed at a time when citizens in most of the cities and villages around the country continue to be deprived of this right and do not have access to information and knowledge.

The shortest path to ensure citizens' access to this right is access to information. When the country's citizens have access to information, they can better and faster gain knowledge.

The currently effective Law of Access to Information still faces implementation challenges in state's offices. Citizens and journalists continue to face challenges in getting open access to information. State officials still deny to timely disclosing information requested by journalists and citizens in general.





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Taliban destroyed and burnt Kunduz-based audio and visual media entities

After terrorist Taliban's attack and full occupation of Kunduz city on Oct 30, 2015, the terrorists committed brutal and graphic crimes in the city. They raped women, brutally tortured Kunduz citizens, looted private properties and assets, and burnt state offices and media entities in Kunduz city.

Nai's latest information about Kunduz indicates that terrorist Taliban have looted nearly all national and local media offices in Kunduz city. They either destroyed or burnt the radio equipment that was difficult to take out of the city. Reports indicate that Taliban burnt the entire office of Roshani Radio Television in Kunduz city.

Taliban ransacked offices and equipment of Zuhra, Kaihan, Shaista, Cheraagh, and Kunduz local radio stations as well as Roshani and Khaawar private radio and television stations. They also looted office of the National Radio Television and Pazhwak News Agency in Kunduz city. They either destroyed or burnt the equipment which was difficult to take out of the city.

Terrorist Taliban also looted office of Jaihoon local radio station based in Imam Saheb district after they occupied the district. Kunduz province is left without any radio or television now.

Zarghoona Hasan, owner of Kaihan and Shaista local radio stations in Kunduz city, escaped to Kabul after the city fell to the hands of terrorist Taliban. She told Media Watch: "On the second day of their occupation, one of my friends called me on the phone and said that white pick-up trucks with Taliban's flags on them came in, looted radio station's equipment, destroyed the office, and then left." Ms. Hasan continued: "Radio Shaista was a women's radio which was broadcasting programs for Kunduz women." She also said that most of her staffs and colleagues escaped to the neighboring provinces while she did not know about some of them and added that their telephones were switched off.

Ms. Hasan expressed her concerns about Radio Kaihan's chief editor, Naqibullah Haqyar, who has not been able to leave the city and is still trapped there.

Ms. Hasan called the killing of one of her colleagues, Zabihullah Pashtunyar, a tragedy and added: "Mr.





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Pashtunyar was the commentator in the entertainment programs, and since he had dire economic needs, he was also working as a nightshift guard at the Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Kunduz Surgical Hospital. There, while on duty, he was killed by the American Air Forces' bombardment of the hospital."

Sediqa Sherzai, owner and chief editor of Roshani Radio Television, has also escaped to Kabul after the Kunduz city fell to the hands of terrorist Taliban. She told Media Watch: "Taliban destroyed Roshani Television Station which, after overcoming many problems, we had managed to establish just two months ago. Now we have no accurate account of it. Some colleagues say that Taliban burnt the station all together."

Ms. Sherzai assured that her colleagues were able to safely evacuate the city. Some of them escaped to Takhaar and Badakhsan and some others to Pul-e-Khomri and Kabul.

Najia Khodayar, owner and chief editor of Radio Zuhra, has also escaped to Kabul after the war erupted in Kunduz city. She told Media Watch: "One of my friends contacted me and said that while chanting 'God is great,' Taliban looted the radio station's equipment and broke and destroyed the rest that they could not take with them. Then they set the station on fire."

Ms. Khodayar said that all her colleagues escaped out of Kunduz city to the neighboring provinces and to Kabul. Some left the city on the first day and some other, including her, did so as soon as they had a window of opportunity.

Taliban's occupation of Kunduz and their crimes when they were in control of the city were strongly condemned by national and international human rights organizations which called Kunduz occupation as an evil act and crime against humanity.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan called Taliban's burning of public institutions and civil society entities including media as brutal and evil acts and condemned them in its successive press conferences and statements.





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Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, executive officer of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, asked the International Commission on Human Rights to declare and record Taliban's inhumane crimes in Kunduz province as crimes against humanity.

Mr. Khalwatgar said: "We appreciate security forces which still defend the people and city of Kunduz. We ask them to put safety and security of journalists and media personnel on their priority list."

Following Taliban's acts of violence and brutality in Kunduz city and province, Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan calls upon the National-Unity-Government officials to use any possible option to protect journalists and media employees in the province.

There were one state and two private television stations, 10 local radio stations, and several governmental and non-governmental publications actively operating in Kunduz before the city fell in the hands of Taliban. They shut down, looted, and even burnt the offices and equipment of these media entities and the city is now even worse off than the actual Taliban's rule in late 90s and early 00s when there was only a Taliban-owned Da Shariat Ghag radio operating in the city.

Media Watch at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan calls upon the state of Afghanistan and international organizations that defend freedom of speech to help Kunduz media reconstruction and relaunch. They should not allow terrorist Taliban to achieve their goals through shutting off the voice of media and freedom of speech in Kunduz.

A media staff was killed in Kunduz city, Kunduz province

Zabihullah Pashtunyar, presenter of entertainment programs at local Radio Kaihan, was killed in the early hours of morning on Oct 3, 2015. In addition to his job at Radio Kaihan, he also worked as a nightshift guard at Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Kunduz Surgical Hospital for the past three months.

Along with his colleagues, Mr. Pashtunyar was on duty at MSF Kunduz Surgical Hospital when American Air Force's jets bombed the hospital and killed them. The attack was carried out to clear Taliban from





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Kunduz and in particular to clear the MSF Hospital of Taliban fighters who were reportedly using the hospital as a shield.

Human rights organizations condemned the airstrike at MSF Surgical Hospital in Kunduz. They called using of public benefits institutions for terrorist attacks as well as attacking such institutions as unjustifiable.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan strongly condemns killing of the media employee in the attack and calls upon the state of Afghanistan to investigate the incident and clarify the reasons of his death.

Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, executive officer of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, said: “We call upon American Air Force to pay to the family of the slain journalist the redemptive fine. From the beginning of the recent war in Kunduz and when the city was not yet occupied by the Taliban, we appealed to the state of Afghanistan to set as a priority protection of journalists and media offices and establishments. But they overlooked it. Then media entities were burnt, their equipment and facilities were looted or destroyed and now one of our media employees is dead.”

After terrorist Taliban occupied Kunduz city, they committed crimes against humanity in the city. In addition to looting public properties and assets, they raped women; carried out targeted and mass killing of Kunduz citizens; ransacked all media establishments and equipment; destroyed those which were not portable; and set some media offices in fire.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan considers Taliban’s crimes in Kunduz as unforgivable, and calls upon international human rights and media support organizations to help restore Kunduz media’s establishments, broadcast, and publication as they have incurred very serious and costly losses. Kunduz media operators and directors cannot afford to reconstruct their entities and restore their broadcasting and publishing services without assistance from the state of Afghanistan as well as international organizations.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan considers Taliban’s crimes in Kunduz as crimes against humanity and calls upon the United Nations’ Commission on Human Rights to declare and record Taliban’s crimes in Kunduz as crimes against humanity.





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A journalist was killed in Faizabad, Badakhshan province

Yama Behroz, a freelance journalist in Badakhshan province, was killed at the entrance of his house on Sep 18, 2015.

Unidentified armed men threw a bomb into Mr. Behroz's house, located at first district of Faizabad, the provincial capital of Badakhshan province, at 2:00 am on Sep 18, 2015. When Mr. Behroz went out of his house to find out about the incident, right after he exited his house's entrance, a mine already placed there exploded and killed him on the spot.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan condemns Mr. Behroz's murder and wishes resilience and patience to the slain journalist's family and friends.

Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, executive officer of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, called upon the state of Afghanistan to identify, arrest, and submit to the judicial organs the perpetrators of this crime. Mr. Khalwatgar added: "Authorities in Badakhshan are obliged to conduct thorough investigations of this murder case and determine whether the slain journalist's media activities have been involved in the case."

It is worth to mention that the slain journalist's father currently serves as a security officer and it is yet to be determined whether his father has been the main target of the attack.

Journalists do not feel secure in Afghanistan. Due to increasing insecurity, their vague future in the country, state's overlook of journalists' legal files, heavy censorship in their media entities imposed by the state and local powerbrokers, a group of over 20 journalists and media staffs left their homes and migrated outside the country last month.

Unless the National Unity Government devices a working strategy to provide security for journalists and address their concerns that currently cause them to leave their country, freedom of speech will be severely harmed in the country.





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A journalist for Bokhdi News Agency was insulted in Bamyan city, Bamyan province

Zamaan Ahmadi, a local journalist for Bokhdi News Agency in Bamyan province, claims that Bamyan police has detained him for several hours and committed violence against him.

Mr. Ahmadi says that police forces prevented him from entering the SAARC festival's area to make a report. He added that in spite of his many efforts, he could not receive an entry pass to the festival area and when he attempted to film police's misconduct against local people, police forces arrested him and took him to the police district office where they interrogated him for three hours.

Mr. Ahmadi says that in addition to police forces' violent behavior and insult, security officers beat him too.

However, Abdulmobin Izidiyar, chief police commander of Bamyan province, said he had no information about the incident and that if the journalist would come to the police headquarters, they would be ready to answer.

Bamyan police chief commander expresses his lack of information about the incident while a police district office detained and interrogated the journalist for three hours.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan strongly condemns police's action and emphasizes that no individual or group has any right to insult or beat journalists. Nai calls upon security officials to prevent such occurrences in the future.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan convened a meeting of senior media directors in Kabul to discuss the reform package proposed by the Electoral Reform Commission

Over 100 senior media directors from 34 provinces participated in a meeting at the office of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan to discuss the reform package proposed by the Electoral Reform Commission.

Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, Nai executive officer, said at the beginning of the meeting: "What is important for us is that media and journalists should be informed and aware of: how the process of reforming the





electoral system proceeds; what facilities will be provided for journalists and media news coverage of election events; and other points that media need for reporting to citizens.”

Since citizens’ general awareness about the new electoral system is very limited, and the reform proposal put forward by the Electoral Reform Commission is very new for the public, Mr. Khalwatgar suggested to media directors to broadcast and publish through their media outlets the discussion points that will be raised in this meeting.

Media directors formed six working groups, finalized their suggestions and presented them to the Electoral Reform Commission.

They raised the following questions:

- What are the features of the new electoral system proposed by the Electoral Reform Commission?
- What roles will political parties play in the future elections?
- What would be the role of the Election Complaints Commission?
- What are the new criteria for selection of new electoral commissioners?

Sediqullah Tawhidi, deputy chair of Electoral Reform Commission answered the questions raised by media directors.

Mr. Tawhidi said: The Electoral Reform Commission reviewed ten electoral systems and found out that Afghanistan’s current electoral system is neither efficient nor inclusive. After essential consultations among commissioners, the Electoral Reform Commission proposed the parallel electoral system in its reform package to the president of the country.

Using electronic identification cards to replace voting cards previously distributed by the Election Commission is another proposal included in the reform package. Mr. Tawhidi told senior media directors: people should understand that electronic ID card is the best option for exercising their votes in elections. The voting cards have been distributed excessively and using them will pose again challenges to the upcoming elections.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan submitted to the deputy chair of the Electoral Reform Com-





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mission a package of suggestions put forward by media directors and suggested that the Reform Commission consider them for long-term electoral reforms.

Sediqullah Tawhidi, deputy chair of Electoral Reform Commission, called the proposed package by Afghanistan's senior media directors as invaluable and emphasized that the Commission will consider them in the reforming process of the country's electoral system. Mr. Tawhidi pointed to the media directors' experience which could significantly be useful to the Commission.

Censorship is widespread in Afghanistan media

Findings by Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan show that Afghanistan's journalists and media face strong censorship.

The results of a survey conducted by Nai office shows that, from a censorship point of view, the condition of freedom of speech in the country is severe. The survey reached out to 335 journalists in 25 provinces.

A breakdown of survey results indicate that 72 percent of participants said that censorship existed in Afghanistan, while 14 percent said that it only existed from time to time, and finally a slightly over 13 percent of participants said that it did not exist in Afghanistan.

Survey participants from Kandahar, Helmand, Khost, Herat, Farah, Ghor, Badghis, Logar, Ghazni, Laghman, Zabul, Samangan, and Kunduz said that censorship existed in their provinces.

Only two out of a total of 58 participants in Kabul province said that censorship did not exist. Another 3 participants said that it occasionally exists. The remaining 53 said that censorship existed.

Most of the participants in Badakhshan, Faryab, Ningarhar, Kapisa, and Parwan provinces said that censorship existed in their provinces while only a tiny percentage said that it did not exist in their provinces.

However, participants in Bamyán, Balkh, and Baghlan said that censorship did not exist in their provinces.

All participants in Baghlan province said that no censorship existed in their province. Over half of par-





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Participants in Balkh province said that no censorship existed in their province. Only 20 percent of Bamyan participants said that censorship existed in their province.

Another question asked survey participants where the censorship was coming from: the state, terrorists, local powerbrokers, or do they impose self-censorship themselves?

Forty-eight percent of participants said that censorship on journalists and media was imposed by the state. Another 46 percent of participants mentioned local powerbrokers as imposers of censorship on journalist and media. Next, self-censorship was ranked in the third place by 40 percent of participants. Ultimately terrorists as imposers of censorship on media and journalists were ranked in the fourth place by 25 percent of participants.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan announced the results of the recent survey and expressed its concerns over increasing censorship in media. Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, Nai executive officer, said that the government is the main imposer of censorship on media.

Responding to a question about the type of information and news that the state censors the most, most of the participants said that the state censors military and security news more than other types of information. Legal, judicial, and economic news come next.

Regarding censorship imposed by local powerbrokers, participants said that they mostly censor information and news about their law-breaking activities. The next categories of information censored by local powerbrokers include violence against women, smuggling and traffic of drugs, and security news.

Censorship on media and journalists imposed by local powerbrokers comes in a second position. Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan believes that local powerbrokers do not allow media to disclose their activities and so impose censorship on them.

Self-censorship has taken the third position. Mr. Khelwatgar, Nai executive officer, says that most self-censorship incidents are related to cases of human rights violations.

On self-censorship, most of the journalists said that they could not publish or broadcast news and reports related to human-rights violations and crimes. The next category here involves military and war news. Other categories include news reports on drug smuggling and terrorist attacks.





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On the censorship imposed by Taliban, most of the journalists said that they were prevented from publishing or broadcasting the number of terrorist Taliban's casualties that are initially announced by the state. The next categories censored by Taliban include news of state's victories against Taliban, entertainment programs, and commercial advertisements.

Media Watch at Nai office called the survey results shocking and expressed its concerns over imposing of censorship on Afghanistan's media.

The survey results show that censorship on media and journalists is mostly imposed by the government of Afghanistan. Therefore, Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan appeals to the president and chief executive officer of the National Unity Government to regard rule of law as well as to honor their promises to protect journalists, media, and freedom of speech. They should act against those who impose censorship on media and journalists and introduce them the legal and judicial organs.

Journalists' escape from Afghanistan is worrisome

The migrants' flood from war torn countries, particularly from Afghanistan, towards Europe is the headline of global media these days. Thousands of people risk their lives on the way to Europe every day. They leave their countries with hopes for a better future for themselves and their children.

Insecurity, unemployment, and destruction caused by war are among the causes for people's migration from their home countries. However, in Afghanistan it is a little different: not only unemployed and poverty-struck youth accept risks of death and try to get out of the country but also employed people leave their well-paying jobs to migrate to countries where they may feel safer.

Twenty-three media personnel from credible Kabul-based media entities left Afghanistan for Europe last week.

Now the question is: what has caused these media workers to leave their jobs and embark on a journey with far from determined outcome.





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A day after two dozens of media personnel left Kabul, Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan expressed its concerns in a press conference over escape of media workers. Quoting some of these journalists who just left the country, Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, chief executive of Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, listed lack of personal security and job insurance, presence of heavy censorship inside media entities, and a vague and unclear future as reasons that caused some of these media personnel to choose a highly risky path toward Europe over working in Afghanistan media.

Intra-organizational problems and censorship constitute only part of the obstacles on the way of journalists' works in Afghanistan. However, a bigger part of the picture is the view of government and statesmen towards media and open circulation of information in the country. Mr. Khelwatgar believes that in order to prevent disclosure of its failures, the government sees media through the lens of intelligence and constantly attempts to censor them.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan expresses its concerns over journalists' escape from Afghanistan and calls upon the government to address journalists' demands and concerns and to devise appropriate plans to encourage journalists to stay in the country and to prevent continuation of the current crisis.

Media Watch at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan believes that continuation of the current trend can cause a heavy loss to freedom of speech in the country which will not be easy to compensate. Therefore, the National Unity Government should seek appropriate ways to prevent the current crisis from ever widening.

Over 75 media entities closed due to economic problems

Media in Afghanistan have remarkably thrived in the past decade. They have been able to make significant achievements in circulating information, spreading awareness, and fighting against breaking of laws, corruption, and other social problems. However, their growth has not come about without challenges and problems such as violence against journalists and media, and intra-organizational problems including inadequate budget and economic hardships.

In spite of remarkable growth of media, Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan is now concerned over problems that now a great number of Afghanistan media struggle with. Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar,





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executive officer of Nai Supporting Media in Afghanistan, said that over 75 media entities have closed their offices due to economic problems during the last two years. There are still more media planning to close their offices and stop their activities.

Nai believes that the government of Afghanistan has not acted upon its pledges at London Conference which was held in support of media. Nai calls upon the conference of senior international community officials and the state of Afghanistan, which will be held in Kabul on Sept 5, 2015, to regard their pledges for protection of freedom of speech and media in Afghanistan.

Mr. Khalwatgar says that great investments have been made in Afghanistan's media in the past several years, but recently a great number of media face budget shortages and if this situation continues, Afghanistan media will face a catastrophe.

Mr. Khalwatgar adds that according to Afghanistan's Mass Media Law, the government is obliged to support media. However, the National Unity Government has no specific policy and strategy to this end.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan appeals to the international community to condition their assistance to the government of Afghanistan based on the latter's support for media. Such a support should be clearly defined and measured.

Media Watch at Nai office calls upon the government of Afghanistan to support the country's media in accordance with the Mass Media Law. It should not allow the remarkable achievements of the last 13 years to fade away.

State should officially recognize citizens' right to know

Thirteen years ago, International Day of Right to Know was proposed by advocacy organizations for freedom of information in Sofia, Bulgaria, on Sep 28, 2002. Their proposal was later accepted and gained a worldwide recognition.

The goal of observing International Day of Right to Know is to raise citizens' awareness of their right to access information from state institutions as a mean for furthering good governance and democracy.





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Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan observed the International Day of Right to Know for the first time in Afghanistan. Abdulmujeeb Khalwatgar, Nai executive officer, appealed to the National Unity Government to officially recognize and observe this day.

International Day of Right to Know is celebrated in Afghanistan at time when access to information is still a serious challenge for media and journalists around the country. Journalists cannot easily access information to share with public.

Nai office calls on government institutions to be protectors of media and freedom of speech in Afghanistan.

Unfortunately the Law of Access to Information has not been implemented and journalists are concerned about it. Massoud Ansaar, a Kabul based journalist, told Media Watch that the National Unity Government's promise to protect and support media sounds more like a written script in the ice.

The President signed the Law of Access to Information nearly a year ago. Yet it has not been regarded in action which has left journalists only with further concern.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan believes that establish of the Oversight Commission on the Right to Access Information has been a great step towards materialization of citizens' right to know. The commission is predicted in the Law of Access to Information and is meant to bring more facilities in accessing information.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan urges the Oversight Commission to take serious action towards implementation of the Law of Access to Information.

Media Watch at Nai office hopes that observation of International Day of Right to Know for the first time in Kabul help turn the topic into a public discourse so that citizens exercise their right in a more informed way.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan emphasize again that citizens' right to know will not materialize until the Law of Access to Information is not implemented yet. Access to information can significantly pave the way for citizens' learning and knowing.





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Ghor Governor insulted chair of Ghor Journalists' Council

Said Yasin Matin, chair of Ghor Journalists' Council, claims that Ghor governor, Simaa Joyenda, and his advisor have insulted him.

Mr. Matin says that when he went to the governor's house to set an appointment for a meeting, the latter has refused to grant him appointment time, disrespected him, and has called him with abusive words.

Mr. Matin also claims that the advisor to the governor, who is also a governor's relative, has behaved unethically and called him abusive words.

However, in a phone interview with Media Watch, Ghor governor, Simaa Joyenda, rejected Mr. Matin's allegations and claimed instead that it was in fact the chairman of Ghor Journalists' Council who insulted her.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan condemns any form of insult and misbehavior towards journalists and calls on state officials to refrain from unlawful behavior towards journalists and media. They should prevent occurrence of such incidents in the future.

Media Watch at Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan also calls upon journalists and media operators to act in accordance with journalists' ethical codes and the Law of Access to Information while conducting interviews or making reports.





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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.

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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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