



نی حمایت کننده رسانه های آزاد افغانستان
Nai supporting open Media in Afghanistan



Media Watch Report

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

- Disdaining a journalist
- Head of a private university beat a journalist
- More challenges over access to information
- Censorship in social media





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Last month Sep, two cases with regard of violations against journalists were recorded in Nai, media watch office. The two beaten journalists named Mirza Mohammad Hafezi, introduced himself as a journalist in Marshal TV, and another one named “Seyar Nikzaad” who works in Maiwand, both were beaten scornfully. The Mashal TV journalist during filming a firing incident took place in a market, was beaten severely by a police. The reason why he was beaten will be read in details in the report hereunder. In a separate incident, “Ahmad Seyar Nikzad” who works in producing political program was beaten by body guards of head of a private university named “Bakhtar” near his house.

According to him, lastly he had a program for showing the low quality of some private universities and therefore, surmising perhaps it was the main reason of violation against him that even un-provoking fires happened by his guards in that incident. On the other hand, on 28 Sep, a day in which named as an international access to information, Nai commemorate it in its office. In the event we had an annual review about past recent years and our findings were presented in a comparative table for audience that 2016 has been the worst one for media which means so many violations took place in this year because journalists wanted access to information.

In this month the media watch found through a survey that most of the social media users feel uncomfortable while wanted to write and publish critical issues about the political situation for fear of insecurity and other reasons. More details about the figures and percentage are mentioned in next pages.

صبح





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Mashal TV journalist and Kabul police:

Mirza Mohammad Hafezi who works as correspondent in Mashal TV, complained about an awkward behavior of a police while wanted to film a blazing incident and conflict between people and police in the area. “The shopkeepers and business men wanted to go inside to save some of their properties and money, but police were hindering and beating them,” said Mirza Hafezi. According to him, he then deleted all of recorded films from the scenery under pressure of police that they threatened him certainly will break his camera if he disobey their orders and keep the films in the memory.

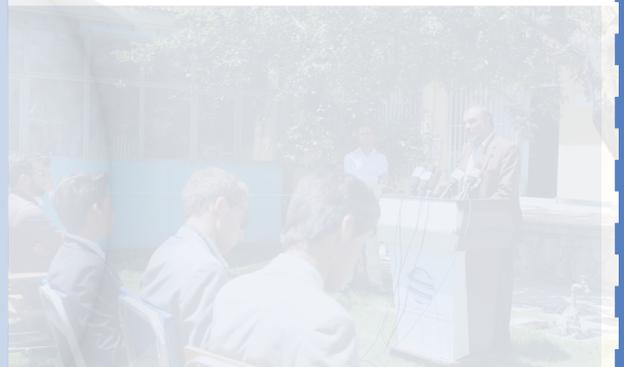
After his approaching to Nai, we wanted to make contact with police authorities of the area but our efforts each time were failed since they were not ready to give us the reason.

Beating Maiwand TV journalist:

Ahmad Seyar Nikzad as a producer and correspondent of political program of Maiwand TV, severely was beaten by body guards of head of a private University called “Bakhtar”. He says on 07:00am exactly he heard some yelling from out side while went out his home to check up, astonishingly, he noticed that his driver is fallen down and a man who later known as head of Bakhtar university, beating him. While he wanted to rescue his driver, his body guards rushed on and started beating him. “Apparently the violators accused us why my driver parked his car in front of his house” said wounded Seyar. When we approached to the office of police in relevant district, they indifferently behaved about the case.

According to him, while this incident was reflected in facebook, some people for mediating between two parties came to his house on behalf of head of Bakhtar University and blandly requested him to give up from making any claim against the violators”. As advocating agency for journalists rights, we approached to relevant district and police office, but they replied that both side of litigation have made peace together and there is no need to follow this case by any one.

However, through an official letter we asked the relevant authorities of the government to investigate about the case and behave with the violators deservedly. .





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Current year the worst one for access to information:

With an eye to seven years of recent, the current year has been recognized the worst one with regard of access to information. The 28 Sep that is known as international day of access to information, commemorated in all of the world. Celebrating this event in Nai premises, we reflected our findings regarding the growing measures of violation which its percentage exceeded to 72% which of 42% of the incidents recorded in terms of access to information by journalists. Based on figures documented in Nai, the best year for journalists family has been the 2011, in when the number of violations against journalists came up to 80 cases that 15 incidents out of eighty belonged to access to information. In a press conference, Sediqullah Tawhidi head of media watch asserted that however the law of access to information is effective, still there are so many infringements, particularly the current year 2016 recorded as the worst one. He added that the media owners and journalist family urge the government not to suffice only for having a written document as law, but rather should enforce it practically and those who violate against correspondents should be punished according to the effective law.

According to the table the measure of violations since 2015 have been recorded as in the following:

2015: 26%

2014: 32%

2013:38%

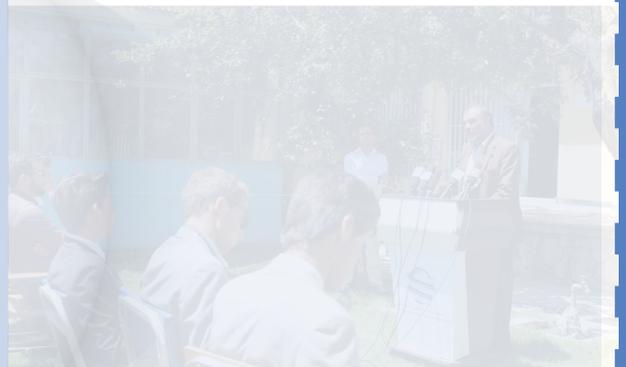
2012: 34%

2011: 18%

It is mentionable that Afghansitan is among 100 countries which finally could succeed to institute an all plenary law about access to information. But it is very queer that the percentage of violations was too low while this law was not introduced.

Censorship getting higher rate:

Through a wide range survey, Nai could find that the majority of social media users approached self-censorship and try to keep themselves aside from publishing critical issues. In this survey conducted by Nai, more than 1000 journalists and social media activists were included. Also, 94% of responders have answered that they avoid commenting on political issues, due to various reasons such as apathy of gov-





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ernment authorities, receiving warnings etc. Only 6% believed that there is no censorship and they can publish whatever they want to. Among those who avoid publishing critical issues, say that some of them receive warnings directly from the addresses of whom they have criticized on, to delete their contents in the social pages.

Some also fear of losing their jobs if publicize their thoughts through social media. Seddiqullah Tawhidi head of media watch while sharing the results of the survey in a press conference said that the consequences shows clearly that the government have indirectly intervention. “ obviously the concern and dissatisfaction will grow among civilians more and more if the government shut the doors of criticism towards people, rather than learning from their objections to bring some reforms and that is something which damage seriously the democracy”, said Tawhidi.

Nai, through sharing the results of the survey with media partners, simultaneously called on the government to use from media outlets as prodigious sources which some corruption files and other infringement secrets are disclosed through these instruments. The media outlets can play very effective roles in struggling against corruptions and terrorism if used in a right way.

صبح





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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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