



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



Media Watch Report

Owner Nai
Monthly Report #138
November

Sediqullah Tawhidi Media Watch Director and Media Analyst

0700279176-0777868270

tauhide@nai.org.af



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

Media Watch Report

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

- Killing a journalist in Lashkarga
- Despotism in Farah province
- Beating a journalist in Herat province
- Beating a journalist in Zabul province
- An attack against Khorshid journalist
- Malicious attack against a media activist
- Arresting a suspected man in Zabul about killing a journalist





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

The eleventh month of 2016 begun with murdering a correspondent of Ariana News TV and since then three others were beaten and another one got wounded in a malicious attack. Nematullah Zahir who was working with Ariana News as local correspondent, was killed due to a road mine embedded already for killing him and his friends in lashkargah suburban places. Haseeb Montaser, a specialist correspondent of sport news was beaten by athletes in Herat province. While making interview with one of winning members of the race, some other persons came over from loser team and started beating him. Aziz Watanwal a journalist of Khorshid TV in Jalalabad and Rahmatullah a journalist of “Zema” radio were beaten by unknown people. Fortunately, the perpetrators are arrested by police and expected to be taken to the court for prosecution. On the other hand, there are winds of despotism blowing in Farah province, because one journalist and one civil activist are introduced to the court, because they had criticized about short falling of the provincial governance in a TV why some part of the province captured by Taliban. For the moment, many of government authorities who are criticized abuse from their power and put pressures on analysts and critics. On the other hand, one suspected person is arrested in Zabul province for accusation addressing him about killing a journalist.





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

A journalist of Ariana TV assassination

On 04 Nov 2016, “Nematullah Zahir” a local correspondent of Ariana TV had gone to cover a military story in the battlefield, but his vehicle crushed by explosion of a road mine and he was killed. This military operation was conducted by national army for the purpose of pushing back the Taliban from the area of “Soor Godar”. The spokesman of Helmand province, Omar Zawak said to the media that his car plough into with a road mine and Zahir was killed due to the heavy explosion. According to the eye witnesses, first the caravan cars of police were put under fires of Taliban and therefore police asked them to change their direction, but unfortunately the car was exploded by road mine. One of his colleagues “Ahmad Farshad Saleh” told us in an interview with Nai that his murder was not an ordinary one but a conspiracy because he knew about the causes and those who make the riots. Zahir was a married man with three children and had started his working with “Ariana” since 2009. Nai called on the government to research about this case seriously and do its best for safety of journalists. In reaction about this case, the press office of the president Ashraf Ghani, released a declaration in which condemned the attack. “Death of Zahir left all of us in a deep sorrow and grief but the terrorists must understand that they can not enfeeble the resolution of journalists at all” a quote from Ashraf Ghani in the declaration. Meanwhile the senators besides condemning the attack against journalists stated that if the government doesn’t pay attention to the security issue of journalists, the achievements of recent decade regarding democracy will be vanished. On 06 Nov they emphasized that the government should reckon about murder cases of journalists. Nai deem it a remarkable example of worsening condition in terms of journalistic activities and reflected its demands in a press release that the government should do its best for security of correspondents and media workers. Zahir is the thirteenth journalist who is killed during proceeding his job. Prior to this attack, another journalist named “Yaqub Sharafat” was killed by shooting in Zabul province but still there is no clue since the government has been unable to find the criminals. The media watch ask the government to recruit a special unit for protecting the lives of journalists in war zones as soon as possible.





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

Despotism in Farah province

Some journalists and civil society activists made contact with Nai and complain about despotic ruling of the provincial governor. According to them the governor put different kinds of pressures on those who make criticism about the existing system, corruption etc of the province. “Barialai Ghafari” who is introduced to a court by the governor explained that he had already gave some briefings in an interview with Tolo TV about the chaotic condition in Fara and it is the only reason that now he has to clear his case with the court. “The government authorities in Farah province afraid of disclosing their inefficiencies and therefore he made the head of information and culture to make an accusation file against me” said Ghafari. He added hereby they want no one to dare make any criticism against them in future albeit for the purpose of reforms. On the other hand, the governor “Asef Nang” claimed that he has insulted the governor. The governor believes that this issue has no link with media to be sent to the commission of media. However the mass media law is a well- recognized document which says all felony cases relating to media should be sent to the special commission not to other addresses. But still some authorities like governors break the law.

Jawan Radio violated in Herat province

On Tuesday 22 Nov, Haseeb Mostanser was severely beaten by some athletes in Herat and his filming camera broken. He was beaten by members of loser team after finishing the football race why he interviewed with the winners. The district police informed us that they have identified the violators since having a tape recorded by security camera and soon will arrest them. He also added that after arresting them, they will be charged for the properties what they have broken. In a contact with security officers of the province, Nai asked them to take action about this case as soon as possible.

It is a clear emblem of ignorance among people that they do not respect journalists and in some occasions vent their angers on them. The government is responsible to investigate about this issue. The impunity of this kind of people can inflict more damages on freedom of speech.





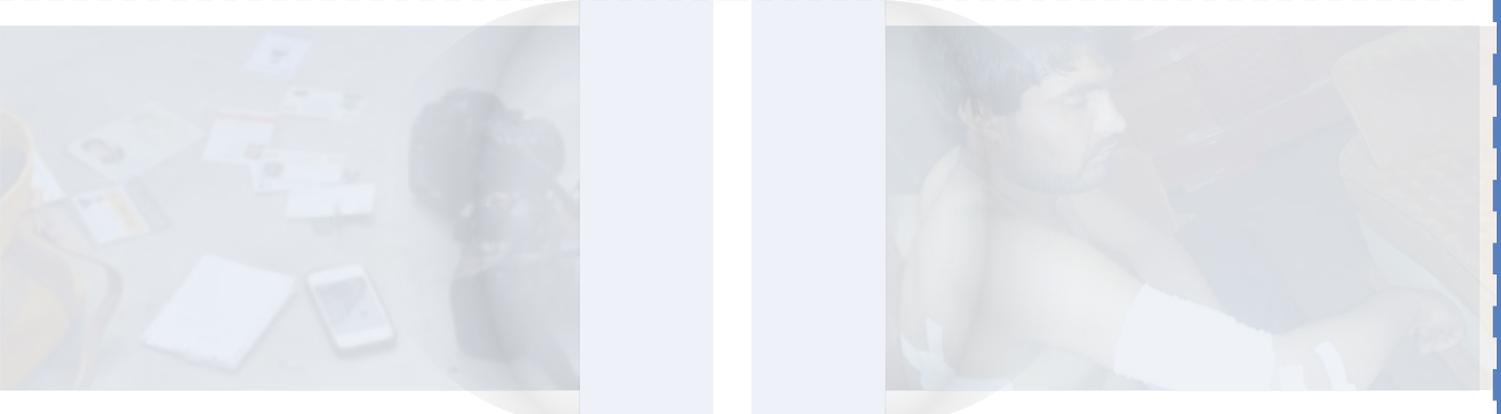
نی حمایت کننده رسانه های آزاد افغانستان
Nai supporting open Media in Afghanistan

A journalist violated in Zabul

“Esmatullah Qaeel” made contact with Nai and informed us about violation that he received from unknown people. Qaeel is a local correspondent who works with “Zema” radio in Zabul province. According to him, in 11 Nov, he was injured by knives of two men attacked against him when he was going home. After getting injured he called police and asked them for help and luckily the attackers were arrested by them. Now he expect that police and responsible entities should investigate about this matter what was the intention of attackers. “Ahmad Wali Sarhadi”, head of journalists federation believe that these kind of violations conducted by particular groups against journalists in the province and there is a an urgent need to identify them in a soonest possible time in order to curb further harms. Nai appreciated the prompt action of police and at the same time asked them to go ahead and follow the case thoroughly. Previously, many journalists have been violated but due to impunity and procrastinated policy of the government the violations rate got higher momentum.

A media activist get injured in Kabul

Mirwais Amarkhail, a media activist got injured by some armed men on 19 Nov of current year. He was working as producer of political program in Pajwak and Lemar TV before. According to his brother, first he received a call which asked him to get his gifts outside of home but when he left the house, some gunmen started beating and firing on him. His brother added that Mirwais has no enmity with any one, but always reflecting the voice of people through media. He expects that the government should take the criminals to the court as soon as possible. As far as his condition is not ok, so the police has abstained investigation to pose some questions directly to him. We asked the police authorities to take further necessary steps for identifying the perpetrators.





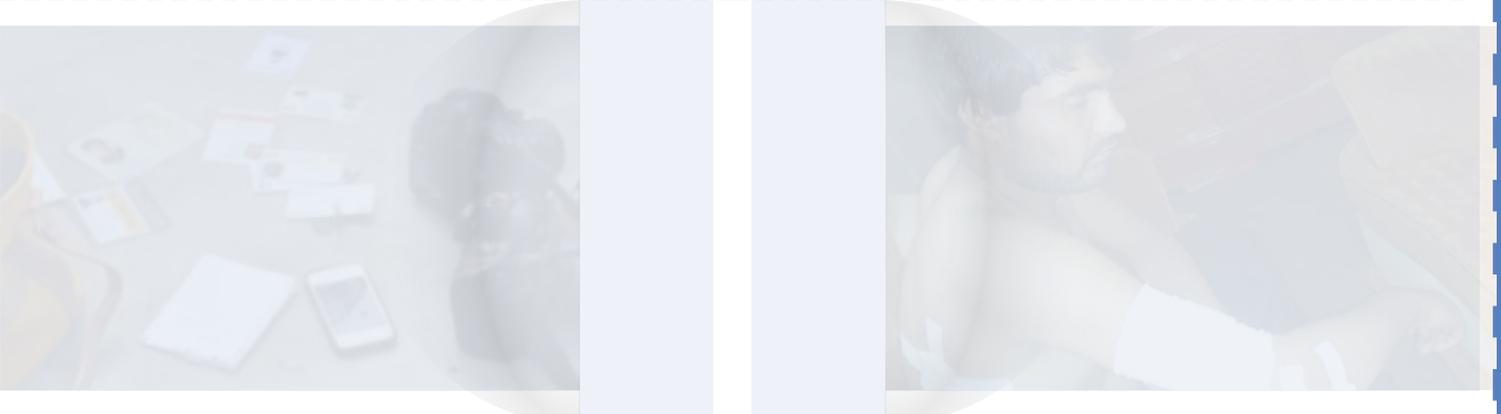
نی حمایت کننده رسانه های آزاد افغانستان
Nai supporting open Media in Afghanistan

Khorshid TV correspondent survives in an ambush attacks by thieves

Aziz Watanwal who works as local correspondent of Khorshid TV in east of Afghanistan claimed that on Thursday 05 Nov, about six tramps had attacked on him and wanted to rob his car. Relating this issue, the spokesman of Jalalabad, “Ataullah Khogiani” said to media that two persons out of six have been arrested. He says that beside existence of terrorist groups like Taliban and Daesh in Nangarhaar, there are some local powerful figures in the area as well who make some problem against journalists time to time.

Arresting a suspected person for killing Yaqub Sharafat

Zabul police has arrested a suspected man in linkage of accusation about assassination of “Yaqub sharafat” who was killed in 16 Oct by some unknown armed people in this province. While police of the area reported about arresting a suspected man, the provincial commander says no one has been accused nor arrested in charge of this bloody attack. Sharafat 22 aged man had gone to Qalat city of Zabul for the purpose of doctor visit with his wife but in the way back to home, he was shot down and the criminals escaped from the area immediately. The media watch appreciated the efforts of police but expect the investigation authorities to process this case regularly till proving the exact facts behind the plot. The contradiction between provincial commander and the local police seems very controversial and therefore Nai appreciate the strives of police but at the same time ask the authorities to share their progresses and achievements with media for trust building among people.





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

Attention!

All journalists and media organizations are hereby notified that Mr. Atiqullah Saket 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 0777274099 or via email at: saket.atiq@nai.org.af.

For more information on Media Watch project please contact our team at:

Mohammad Saber Fahim

Media Watch Senior reporter

Cell# +93 (0) 700-266-727 saber.fahim@nai.org.af - saberf4@gmail.com

Nawid Mohammadi

Media Watch reporter

Cell# +93 (0) 787-159-022 nawid.mohammadi@nai.org.af - nawidmohammadi88@gmail.com

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.

Copy right is reserved for Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan

