



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



Media Watch Report

Owner Nai
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Sediqullah Tawhidi Media Watch Director and Media Analyst

0700279176-0777868270

tauhide@nai.org.af



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Media Watch Report

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

- Killing head of a local radio
- Taking head of a local radio to attorney
- Military attack against a local radio in Khost province
- Injuring three journalists
- Violation against a journalist in Jalalabad
- 2016 the bloodies
- Declaring Jihad by a university teacher
- Surviving a journalist from a malicious attack
- A journalist of Noor TV beaten in Kabul



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خشونت در برابر خبرنگاران افغانستان ۲۰۱۶

توضیح خدمت فرعی	جنوب	غرب	شرق	شمال	شمال غرب	شمال شرق	مرکز	جنوب غرب	جنوب شرق	جمع
کُتن	14	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	8
زخمی	23	3							2	18
پانزدهت	3			2	1					3
تد و کوب	43	1	4	2	1	9	1	7	11	3
تهدیدهای گروهي	40	4	2	12	3	1	11	2	1	3
تهدیدهای فردی	75									75
تهدیدهای گروهي	96									96
تهدیدهای فردی	108									108
تهدیدهای گروهي	13									13
مجموع کلی	415									
موزون شده از سوی افغانها در برابر خبرنگاران صورت گرفته است	63									
موزون شده از سوی طالبان در برابر خبرنگاران صورت گرفته است	326									
موزون شده از سوی شخصیتها در برابر خبرنگاران صورت گرفته است	26									





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The latest month of 2016 was ended by killing an experienced journalist and injuring three and beating several journalists in Afghanistan. The journalists of Afghanistan left a bloody year behind, in which 415 cases of violations against press workers have been recorded. Totally we can say that in this year only the murder cases hovered up to 14 tolls.

It is believed that one of the main factors of rising the rates of violations against journalists have been recognized the extending and all-embracing of conflicts within the country. During this year, some parts of Qunduz, Helmand, Farah and Terinkoot were captured by Taliban which is one of the main reasons of increased violations that journalists were under the threads collectively and therefore they escaped to some other area to save themselves from different calamities. In this report, we will give full details about the number of of killed journalists who murdered in 2016.

Therefore, this year witnessed the worst number of violations that out of 415 cases, 326 of them are committed by Taliban which include killing, injuring and threats. The government of Afghanistan is also responsible of 63 cases if violations against journalists. 26 cases are committed by unknown people. The media watch has called this year the bloodiest one and asked the government to investigate about these cases and take the perpetrators to justice entities.





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Local radio head killing in Logar province

Qazi Mohammad Naseer Modasser, head of local radio named “Paigham Mili” was shot down in Logar province by some unknown gunman. He was on his way going back to home while stopped by gunmen and killed. One of his colleagues, Khan Wali Ahmad Zai, editor of news of the radio said in an interview with media watch reporter that he was killed in a place where police has full control over during daytime but by sunset it goes out of control and Taliban replacing them. “He was a reverent and a kind man that had no hostility with anyone and we urgently want from the government to investigate about this case.” Said his colleague, Ahmadzai.

Maddasser was warned several times by Taliban before his death. He had worked more than ten years in the aspect of media and besides a judge working for Mujahideen during invasion of Russian in Afghanistan. Taking into account all death tools in 2016, he was the fourteenth victim among journalists who murdered in this year. After this incident, most of remaining journalists scare of worsening condition.

Nai, supporting open media expressed its deepest sorrow and meanwhile ask the government to do its best in identifying the criminals. Otherwise, other editors and journalists will loose there courage while if they consider that they government has no serious attention regarding these cases.

A journalist taken to attorney in Logar province:

Noorullah Stanikzai, head of Zeenat radio has been introduced to attorney because of broadcasting a critical program regarding the provincial council of Logar. His criticism was why the council members did not participate in the funeral ceremony of late Mudasser. “His radio was like a bridge between people and government that he had devoted his life for helping people but after his death, it was very surprising why the government and council authorities were so apathetic towards this shocking incident”. Said Stanikzai. He added that he only posted his personal view about none- attendance of mentioned people and as a result his complain provoked the anger of head of provincial council and they made a claim against him that he must prove it. In this regard, we tried to have the response of Naser Ghairat, head of the council. He said that he behaved with him as an ordinary citizen not as a journalist why he has disdained the representatives of people. He believes that he has followed all necessary principles correctly since sending a letter to ministry of information and culture about the accusation. In this regard, Nai clearly stated to all





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authorities that in case they deem some critical posts and views as an insulting matter against themselves they can approach to special the commission which is appointed for solving these kind of problem. According to the effective law the commission is responsible for investigation about any wrong doing of journalists while performing their jobs and this is the commission which is entitled to transfer some cases after study to relevant justice entities. Meanwhile, Nai regularly cleared for all journalists of Afghanistan that to do their jobs professionally and to keep in their minds the credits of people are respectable.

A local Radio in Khost province under attack:

According to the reports of a local radio named “Chennar”, their radio station was attacked by unknown gunmen but after arriving the patrol officers the gangs escaped from the area.

Shahzadullah Hamidi, one of correspondents of mentioned radio who was working as night shift said that two gunmen started firing towards their office and after a while they were pushed back by patrolling officers and therefore they saved. He doesn't know who were they exactly but surely believes that they are enemies of freedom of speech, since they have been working against corruption disclosing the faces of mafia groups. The security commander of Khost said in an interview that as soon as he learned about the attack against the radio, he urgently sent a rescue team to the area but they succeeded to flee. He promised that his team will continue investigation for identifying the criminals. Unfortunately it is not the first attack against media but in 2016 several malicious acts against radio and TVs are recorded which have taken place in other provinces like Jalalabad but the government has no positive result and achievement about them.

Three journalists injuring:

Three journalists, who were going to cover a military operation of the government in Zabul province, got injured due to exploding a road mine. These journalists are Laljan, a reporter of dotcom news agency, Najib Pashtoon, Kabul Times reporter and Quadratullah Hemat, a local correspondent of Shaikh Mata radio. The wounded journalists were taken to hospital of the province but then because of emergency condition carried to Kabul. According to the wounded journalists, this explosion happened while the military convoy passed safely from the place but coincided with their car. One of the injured journalists named Laljan, believes that there should be some other hands behind the attack as conspiracy which mean the bomb was detonated by remote control. They also indicated that the governor of the province, Besmillah





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Afghanmal, have had no good relation with journalists and they always suffer different kinds of violations since he has appointed in this position.

The wounded journalists expect that the government should help them for medication and if it is required, send them to abroad for higher operation. The spokesman of the governor Gul Islam Sayal, repudiate the complains of the journalists and claimed that the governor and his personnel have very kind relation with all journalists but there are few who want to show a wrong picture from their office. Some journalist due to having personal problem with the governor and therefore try to make some accusation against him. He added nevertheless the governor is very upset for their injuries and emphasized that this is a crime committed by enemies of Afghanistan, but Taliban have denied the responsibility of the attack, since they want to build distrust among the government and civilians. It is mentionable that journalists of Zabul province have sent their complains time to time about the governor in the past to Nai office. For solving their problem, Nai has officially sent a letter to Independent directorate of local governance (IDLG) to solve this problem. Last month a correspondent of Ariana News TV was also killed in a road mind occurred in Helmand province. A deadly fearful tactic of Taliban which imposed lots of causalities among innocent people including journalists. Once again we made contact with Zabul authorities and asked them to investigate about this attack and share the result as soon as possible with all media.

A journalist claim menacing by a security officer:

Eimal Zaheri, complained to Nai about Jalalabad police officers who behaved with him awkwardly while he was going to make a report about drug trafficking and its usage openly in the province publicly. According to him, while he wanted to go for making a report, the security officers behaved with him very rudely. "They stopped me and started posing some questions and at the end harassed on me why I am going to make such a report which is against the government". Said Eimal Zaheri. Now he worries that in case of broadcasting this report he will face with other risks and security condition. Media watch reporter tried to make contact with governor office, but each time its contacts failed and they did not respond.

We believe that rude behavior of the police and other forcing entities of the government will cause censoring in publishing and broadcasting the reports and it is something that seriously will damage the freedom





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of speech and democracy.

The bloodiest year ends up:

The annual report of 2016 was published and disseminated by Nai. In a press conference held on 29 Dec 2016 in Nai office, this year was called the bloodiest one. In this year, 415 cases of violation is recorded reportedly in Nai that among these numbers, 14 killed journalists are included. Also, 23 journalists are recorded as wounded and 43 others beaten, 3 persons arrested and 332 threatened.

About 14 killed journalists, most of them are murdered by Taliban, whether through suicide attacks or deliberate individual terror. For instance 7 death tolls targeted by Taliban belong to Tolo TV at the beginning of the year. Those who are killed individually by Taliban as their specific targets, are like Qazi Nasir Modasser, head of a local radio in Logar province shot down by Taliban and Nematullah Zahir, a journalist of Ariana news TV who lost his life due to a road mine in Helmand while gone for covering military news. Yaqub Sharafat, is another journalist working for RTA (National TV) who was killed secretly in Zabul province by a gunman in the date of 16 of Oct 2016. Hussain Mohammadi, previously a reporter of Negah TV lost his life in a terrorist attack in Dehmazang of Kabul. Zabiullah Tamana along with his international colleague David Gelki who both had gone to Helmand province were killed by Taliban targeting specifically the vehicle which they were on board. Zubair Khaksar a local journalist of National TV in Jalalabad was killed by unknown gunmen in Sorkhroad district of the province. The worst bloody terrorist attack was killing seven media workers of Tolo going back to their homes through a bus shuttle. They were three ladies named Mariam Ibrahim, Zainab Mirzaee, Mehri Azizi and four men whose names are Sayed Mohammad Jawad, Hussain Miri, Mohammad Ali Amiri and Mohammad Hussain.

The annual report of 2016 show that apart from murdered journalists, 23 others got wounded due to violations. The most shocking one was the terrorist attack against shuttle of Tolo TV staff in which 20 people wounded seriously. The reports show that about 43 journalists are physically harmed and beaten that in these cases mostly the government personnel are involved. The boldest numbers of physical violations against journalists have taken place in May, June and August. In May, many journalists had gone for preparing reports about demonstrations made by enlightening movement who urging the power cable to be crossed via Bamian. Later on, in August while Ashraf Ghani had gone to Bamian province, seven journal-



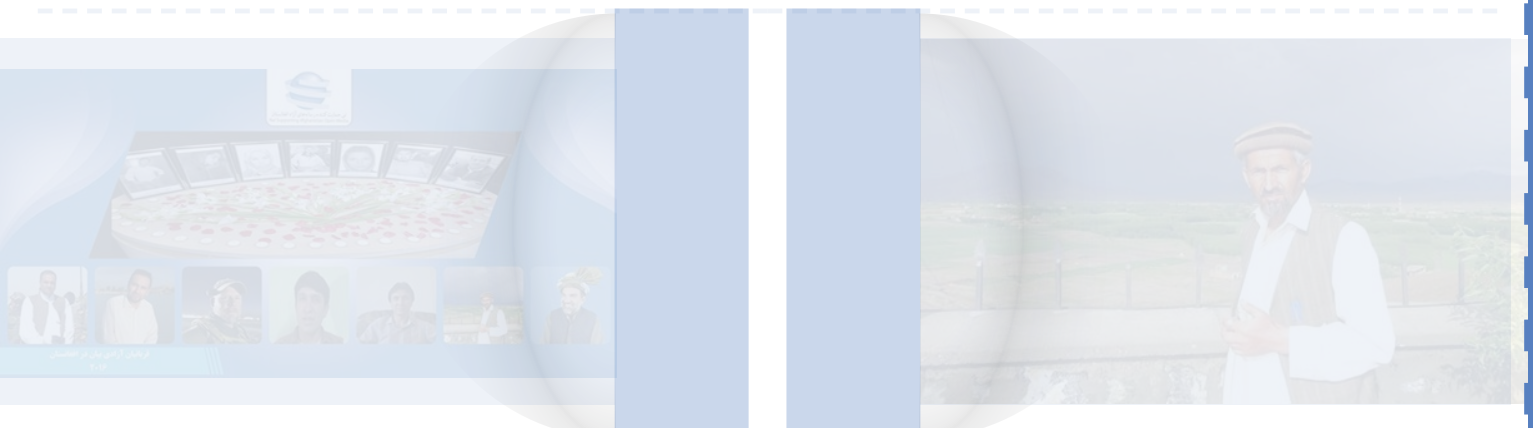


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ists were beaten by security guards of the president. Also in this year, 332 cases of threatening against journalist are recorded. In these types of violations Taliban are the main factors particularly while they captured two three times some big provinces like Qunuz, Lashkargah, Farah and Terinkoot. The journalists left their homes inevitably and seek refuge in other places. Also, in this year some journalists undergone short term arrestment by security entities. Zaman Ahmadi a journalist of Dutchevella, during travel of the president to Bamian was arrested and kept under custody untill Ashraf Ghani Bamian province and came back to Kabul. Two other arresting cases took place in Baghlan and Jalalabad. In Baghlan, one of independent journalist and a social page activist arrested why he has posted a critical issue in his facebook status about withdrawing of government forces in Baghlan province against Taliban.

Above all, Taliban due to perpetrating 326 cases of violations against Taliban are recognized as the main group of violators. Based on encapsulated report of 2016, out of 415 violations cases, they have committed 326 different cases crimes. It means that the government is also involved in some cases like 63 incidents that arresting, beating and threatening are some specific types of violations belong to them. In total number of 415, there are 26 cases which are classified under the name of unknown persons. The term of unknown is used for two kind of perpetrators who have not been recognized who they are and no group including terrorist groups take the responsibility of perpetration. For instance, in two assassination cases, no one including terrorist groups have claimed the attack against late Yaqub Sharafat and Zibair Khaksar in two different provinces Zabul and Jalalabad and so far no one has been identified.

Abdul Mujeeb Khelvatgar, directing manager of Nai supporting open media said in a press conference that last year 2016 was the bloodiest year for media activists due to killing 14 journalists and injuring 23 persons among our colleagues. He added that the gauges of violations against journalists in comparing with last years of 2013 and 2012, have been multiplied several times. He also indicated that the government through establishing personal and secrete relations with media directors have pushed the independence of media under the shadow of doubts and obviously this kind of deals with media will result in self-censorship. The copies of annual report were sent to three important entities of the Afghans presidential palace, ministry of interior and attorney general. In this year, despite of all calamities, there were some other positive steps towards improving the structures and principles in the aspect of media and freedom of speech like establishing a joint committee for safety of journalists and these steps make us hopeful about future. Said Khelvatgar, expecting that these measurements will hopefully decrease the gauge of violations against journalists.





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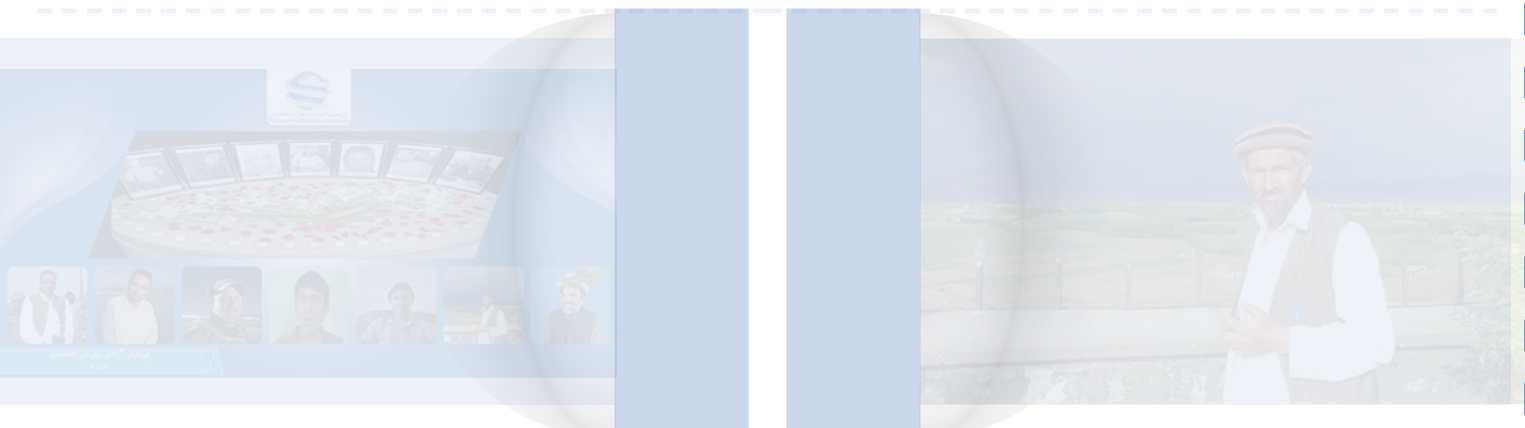


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خشونت در برابر خبرنگاران افغانستان ۲۰۱۶

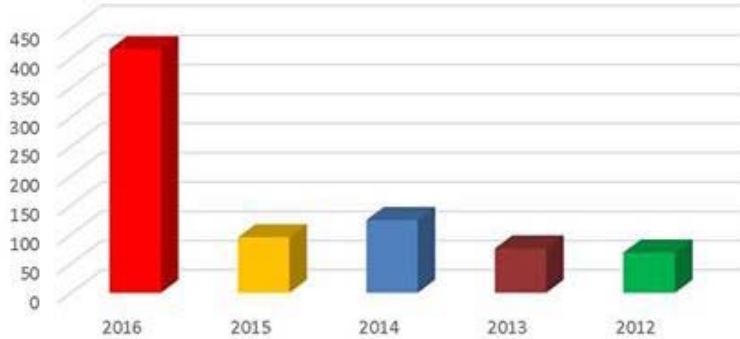
نوعیت خشونت فردی	جنوری	فبروری	مارچ	اپریل	می	جون	جولای	اگست	سپتامبر	اکتوبر	نومبر	دسامبر	مجموع
قتل	8					2	1			1	1	1	14
زخمی	18	2											23
بازداشت					1		2						3
لت و کوب		1	3	3	11	7	1	9	1	2	4	1	43
تهدید-اهانت	1	3		1	2	11		1	3	12	2	4	40
تهدید های گروهی	حدود 75 خبرنگار و کارمند رسانه بی در ولایت هلمند، پس از سقوط بخش های از شهر لشکرگاه توسط طالبان، در تاریخ 10 اکتوبر تهدید شدند												75
تهدید های گروهی	حدود 96 خبرنگار و کارمند رسانه بی در ولایت قندوز، پس از سقوط بخش های از شهر قندوز برای بار دوم توسط طالبان، در تاریخ 3 اکتوبر تهدید شدند												96
تهدید های گروهی	به تعداد 108 خبرنگار و کارمند رسانه بی در ولایت فراه، پس از سقوط بخش های از اطراف شهر فراه توسط طالبان، در تاریخ 8 اکتوبر تهدید شدند												108
تهدید های گروهی	به تعداد 13 خبرنگار و کارمند رسانه بی در ولایت ارزگان، پس از سقوط بخش های از اطراف شهر ترینکوت توسط طالبان، در تاریخ 8 سپتامبر تهدید شدند												13
مجموعه													415
موارد یکه از سوی دولت در برابر خبرنگاران صورت گرفته است													63
مواردیکه از سوی طالبان در برابر خبرنگاران صورت گرفته است													326
مواردیکه از سوی اشخاص ناشناس در برابر خبرنگاران صورت گرفته است													26

انتشار آمار و ارقام بالا با ذکر نام دیده بان رسانه ها مجاز است.



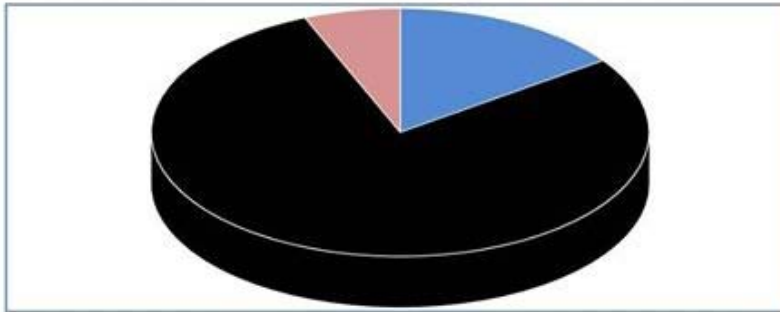


گراف خشونت در برابر خبرنگاران و کارمندان رسانه یی در افغانستان، از سال ۲۰۱۲ تا ۲۰۱۶



سال	مورد خشونت
2016	415
2015	95
2014	125
2013	76
2012	69

گراف عامل خشونت در برابر خبرنگاران افغانستان ۲۰۱۶



عامل	مورد
مطالبان	326
دولت	64
ناشناس	26

افراد ناشناس • طالبان • دولت

گراف نوعیت خشونت در برابر خبرنگاران افغانستان سال ۲۰۱۶



نوع	مورد
قتل	14
زخمی	23
بازداشت	3
لٹ و کرب	43
تهدید / اهانت	40

تهدید و اهانت • لٹ و کرب • بازداشت کوتاه مدت • زخمی • قتل





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Journalists threatened by a university teacher:

On December 2016, a very shocking news stimulated the surprise of all people in Talkhar province, while a teacher in its university proclaimed Jihad against media and journalists. His name is Abdul Maroof Tafakoori, whose status became controversial while posted some disdainful sentences against journalists. He had claimed that Taliban and Daesh (ISIS) are very deserving groups to come to power and compensate the journalists. Following these expressions, made by an academic person, the civil society activists started demonstration and wanted that the mentioned person should make apology for what he has asserted. But surprisingly not only he did not eat his words but even ramped up his verbal and written attacks. Shafiq Poya head of journalists federation in Talkhar asserted his idea in an interview with media that Tafakori is recognized as a disobedient person of the government who in many occasions views like fundamentalists people against freedom of speech and media. The journalists in Talkhar had some protesting gathering and appealed the government to take reasonable position for keeping the realm of multi-media safe and in the like manner Nai also asked the authorities to solve this problem. As a result of increasing pressures, the government had to arrest him and still he is under custody but at the same time there are some strives for making him free. It is mentionable that already he was arrested twice by security entities but released after spending some time in detention. On the other hand, Anwar-ul Haq Ahadi a predecessor minister of finance affairs, presently leader of a political party named “Jabha-e-Melli” has accused the private media that they are funded by security and spying sources of foreign countries. The antagonizing asserts against media got momentum while Ashraf Ghani used some ludicrous words about media activities while making speech in a gathering among militaries of the country. “don’t worry about the media what do they comment about you, since you are the ones who bombs come out from your within, but media people are those who send off their winds from their within” said Afghan president. Nai believe that if high ranking officials give out these kinds of statements among public, sure the lower ranking of people in the society will behave in worse horrible ways with journalists.





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Bokhdi news agency surviving in a deadly attack:

Shah Wali Zarin who is the editor of Bokhdi news agency was attacked by some unknown gunmen in Kabul. The attackers rampaged suddenly against him and started breaking the glasses of his car. He feels himself very lucky for surviving from this planned attack. In a letter sent to Nai, he hopes that the government should identify the criminals and try to protect the lives of journalists. “On 08th of Dec 2016, going to my office, two men riding motorcycles attacked on me but escaped while noticed that the police patrolling group approaching towards us.” Said Zarin narrating his story how he could save from the trap. According to him, previously he had received some signals about an imminent attack, but since he has no enmity with anyone it was not very concerning to him.

He thinks that perhaps the last published reports about corruption are the roots stemmed in the attack. The media watch department of Nai, made contact with the authorities and shared its concern about increasing violations against journalists that in case of indifferent status of the government, we will witness more terrible crimes which severely damage the freedom of speech.

Noor TV beating in Kabul:

In a same incident, Shaheen Shamal, complain about another savage attack by unknown people in Kabul. He has no idea about the attackers who they were, but surmises that this attack had direct link with his occupation as a journalist working in Noor TV. According to him, while the attackers learned that he is a journalist, they started checking his status in facebook and then starting beating him. He also claimed that the attackers wanted to kidnap him but while the passengers swarmed around, they left him and escaped away. He complains that his office (Noor TV) has not done anything yet for him as assistance. Nai emphasized to government authorities that the graph of violations against journalists and freedom of speech in 2016 went higher since there is no serious attention like last years.





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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) 787159022 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.

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