



نی حمایت کننده رسانه های آزاد افغانستان
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Media Watch Report

Owner Nai
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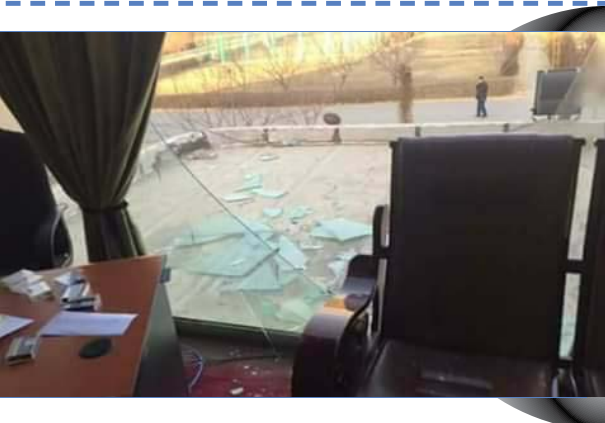


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Media Watch Report

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

- Killing and injuring three media workers in a suicide attack
- Beating a journalist by secretary of Qunduz governor
- Disdaining a journalist in North
- Insulting a journalist in Herat
- Census about problems of female workers in media
- Endorsement of legislative entities about Afghan army casualties





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At the onset of Jan 2017 tens of Afghan innocent citizens were killed due to suicide attacks took place in Kabul, Helmand and Qandahar. Among these casualties there were two journalists, working in a TV channel special broadcasting the parliament activities only. Moreover there were some other violations against journalists that most of them stemmed in censorship conspiracies planed by the government authorities. About five journalists were beaten severely in Kabul, Herat and Faryab provinces because of the footages they had recorded. Another journalist in Qunduz was beaten by secretary of the governor, since he wanted to film a public protest. Likewise, in North and West parts of Afghanistan there were some other violations that we have recorded all of them and in this report will highlight them in more details as in the following:





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Three journalists killing in one terrorist attack:

In 10 Jan 2017, one of the separate buildings of Afghan parliament was attacked by terrorists that as a result, some of innocent people got killed and injured. Unfortunately among these casualties there were two journalists, including one male and one female. Noorullah and Farida who were working in a TV belong to exclusive program of Afghan parliament were among the dead bodies while Taher Paiman a journalist of “Kherad weekly” got injured seriously. The tragic angle of the story about Noorullah is that he was going to marry with his fiancé in next month of the incident preparing everything and waiting for the exact date. Another victim Farida was a widow, the only breadwinner for her children, whose her husband was killed some years ago in similar incident, suicide attack. Tahir Paiman, a young journalist of weekly newspaper (Kherad) is now going to recover after suffering emergency condition in hospital. Nai condemned the attack through press releases and other media means in public and besides asked the government to pay attention about security of journalists and media. It is mentioned in a part of the press release that the Afghan unity government should not ignore the trial of violators of human rights as precondition in any kind of peace talks with all belligerent parties. Last year, the media family of Afghanistan left 14 casualties which was the bloodiest one in the history of media in the country and based on that the current year seems very dark and terrible with full of challenges. Therefore, we suggest that editors and managers of media channels should be more precautionous about their staff.

A journalist beating in Qunduz province:

Faisal Noori, a local journalist of Khawar TV claims that he was beaten by secretary of the governor. In a special occasion while the governor wanted to introduce a new chancellor for the University of Qunduz, he faced with some negative reactions of its teachers who did not want the new person as their head. As a result the body guards of the governor started pushing people by their guns and it was a very interesting moment for journalists to cover the incident for reporting it in their news. But, while the guards noticed that they are going to be filmed by journalists, started beating them including Faisal Noori. In a contact made by Nai with Qunduz governor, we asked him to behave with his personnel lawfully and make them understand that access to information is the right of every one according to the Afghan constitution. After our contact the governor invited all journalists for a press conference and apologized for ill behavior of





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his staff and promised them to investigate about the incident. He even promised for all attendants of the press conference that if they want, he is ready to replace his secretary from his position and that was a wise suggestion which was agreed by journalists. In this regard, we will wait for one month to see will he do according to his promise or no. In due date, we will approach to justice entities to follow this case practically.

Two journalists receive no reception:

Tahir Sadid a journalist of Khorshid TV and Mirwais Bejan who works in voice of America TV, through sending a letter complained about head of Aqeenda custom. They have claimed that the authorities of the custom in Aqeena have wasted their times, since first accepted their suggestions for making interviews, but at the end after coordination from Kabul and then traveling to custom base, they rudely refused all of their plans including interviews. In a phone conversation, Tahir Sadid explained that he had gone for making a report about the incomes of the custom, but head of the custom refused the primary request for interview and besides prevented all of his personnel not to speak any word with us. Similarly, the correspondent of VOA confirmed the incident and expressed his sorrow about what happened. In this regard, the authorities of the mentioned custom refuse all claims of made by journalists denying that there was not any coordination between them before their arrival. They say that due to an official letter issued by ministry of finance, no one in all belonging branches of this ministry is allowed to make interview with media except their spokesman. For verifying their issue, we made contact with authorities of the ministry several times, but each time they did not pick our phone.





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Menacing a journalist in a private schoole:

Abdul Razaq Mobasher, who introduces himself as a local correspondent complained about the authorities of a Turkish funded school based in Herat province. He says that he had gone to cover a special occasion respecting the graduation of students but after his interview some persons came and grabbed his tape and then delete all of its contents.

According to him, he had only asked the students about how much they have paid for the occasion and it caused making them angry. On the other hand, Farhad Farhaat deputy head of the school says that they had not invited him nor any journalist for the occasion and this man had came without any permission, having no document to prove he is really a journalist and above all he was asking some irrelevant questions that had no link with our occasion. He also emphasized that they never misbehave with journalists and neither allow any one in their environment to do so.

Ministry of repatriate holds up access to information:

Hussain Seerat, a journalist who works in Dutchwella in Kabul claims that he was prevented from talking with deported Afghan refugees from Germany. On 24 Jan 2017 about 20 Afghan refugees were deported from Germany that among them 8 persons out of 24 inhabited temporarily in the guesthouse of the ministry. Seerat who wanted to make a report about the deportation but was hampered by the ministry workers by pleading that he had no permission letter signed by IOM. Later on, he approached to the ministry but they denied any procedure to be followed through IOM for making interview instead expressed their consent that no interview goes back to their permission. After long efforts, he found out through the spokesman of the ministry that it is the direct order of the mentioned minister personally, not IOM that journalists should be kept away from the deported Afghans and no one should meet them in person or by phone. Now Hussain thinks that the authorities of the ministry concern about disclosing some secretes why and how the refugees were sent back by force to their home country and some other confidential issues behind the story and therefore, he doesn't want people go to the fathom of it deeply. But in a contact with media consultant of the ministry, he still stress on a new procedure of IOM, because of better management of too much requests of journalists for interview with them, nevertheless IOM deny their involvement in





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this process.

Nai drew the attention of the ministry towards effective laws of media and opposed any obstruction under any justification which limits the access to information for media and people. This is something personal decision of the ministry of repatriate, which clearly opposes with our constitution and therefore it is their duty to pave the way for reflecting their views and experiences about the deporting which perhaps there are something useful through their ideas for solving the immigration crisis.

Violations against women in media:

Conducting a census in almost all over Afghanistan about ladies working in media, Nai found out that 82% have faced with different types of violations. Almost half of the participants in the consensus were female journalists and media workers who right now work in paper presses. 27% of the consensus were radio workers and 19% TV who all of them are female staff. One of questionnaires was about types of violations which they have faced with like physical, oral or sex etc. Relating this question 55% marked the oral, 26% sex and 7% violations. Another question was about the location where the violations taken place, whether out of their office or in their working environment. Answering this question 10% stated inside their offices. Have the violations linked to their official and professional jobs, was another question that 66% of the answers were negative but 43% have confirmed it.

In many cases Afghan citizens particularly the women conceal the violations which they face with and don't share them with their families traditionally. This census shows that only 43% have disclosed and shared their violations with their families while 27% have shared with their offices. The directing manager of Nai, Abdul Mujeeb Khelvatgar, in a press conference reflecting the results of the census said that it shows how much the situation is hard for women in media environment. He added that the media supporting agencies have solved only 20% of the violation cases of women while 80% remained unsolved. Nai asked the government and private mass media to respect the effective laws which are enacted for press and media laws and act accordingly with their staff.





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New rule about casualties of security forces:

On 16 Jan 2017 the Afghan parliament has codified a new rule which commission all mass media of the country to use the holy word of (martyrdom) about security forces who are killed against terrorist groups. The draft of the rule was suggested by some of the parliament members which finally endorsed by all. "Semeen Barakzai" a member of parliament said in an interview with Nai that they had already asked the media to use this term about the security forces individuals who lose their lives for security of our people and country, but none of them was obeying the rule due to none existence of a codified document and therefore it was a big need to have a document on hand. The ministry of interior affairs of Afghanistan welcome the decision of the parliament and their codified document and believes that implementing this rule by mass media. obviously will effect on morals of terrorists. In a statement, the ministry has mentioned that the national army of Afghanistan are in the right path struggling for the right aims and it is a deserved words to be used for their casualties. In terms of using this term by journalists, Nai has asked the government within a press release to pay attention about security of media workers since obviously using this kind of new terms and literature will infuriate the terrorists and therefore there is a big need for protection of journalists and media. It is mentionable that before some media was not obeying this order because of fluctuating policy of the government that time to time changing its policy from calling them enemies to their unsatisfied brothers. Also, some other media was not following the rule because of keeping their impartiality as independent media. It is worth remembering that in other countries like Pakistan and India already they use this term (martyrdom) for the casualties of their security forces and the term of "terrorist" for the riots and military opposition of their government. What is important about this new rule is that the government should guarantee the full protection of media and journalists.





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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 .

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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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