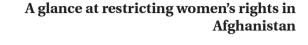


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> > Cover photo: M.Raja

# WOMEN; A Forbidden Truth

(A Case Study of Violence Against Women Under The Taliban Regime in Afghanistan)

## A woman was killed in Jaghori **Township of Dahst** e Barchi

Kabul- Dasht e Barchi- March 29,2022

Silk Way Weekly: The latest round of terrors took place in west of Kabul. Local sources told Jade Abresham, a woman was killed in March 29 in Jaghori Township of Dahst e Barchi. The witnesses told the woman was suffocated in her house by unknown people.

People found the body of a women some days ago in Shahrak Omid Sabz located in west of Kabul and reported the incident to the concerned PD.

### **Teenager Girl Found Dead in** Kabul

Dasht-e Barchi -7 March 2022

Silk Way Weekly: Photos show the body of a girl with tied hands and feet, abandoned in the garbage.



Witnesses at the scene told Jade-Abresham that the body of this teenage girl was found on March 6, in Dasht-e Barchi area. "The girl, aged between 17 and 18 years old, first has been raped and then has been killed", said one of the witnesses. Local sources confirmed that the girl was killed mysteriously during the night and the residents discovered her body in the garbage of Takamol High School in Dasht-e Barchi. The perpetrators are not yet known, the witnesses added.

## Two young girls murdered in **Balkh**

-6 March 2022

Silk Way Weekly: According to local sources, the bodies of two young girls were found in Tangi Shadian of Balkh province. One of them was shot and the other was suffocated, but both were killed in a mysterious way, the same sources said. The perpetrators of the killings are not yet known, but the bodies were taken to Tangi Shadian by the

The media recently reported that several female protesters and civil society activists were killed after being detained by the Taliban in Mazar-e-Sharif. The group denied this information.

## **Body of woman** discovered in Kandahar city

March 19, 2022

Silk Way Weekly: Local sources reported Jaw the body of a woman, with tied hands, was found in PD3 of Kandahar city in a water pool.

The reason behind the murder is not clear and police did not mention respond on it.

## A glance at restricting women's rights in Afghanistan

#### By: Aref Wafaei Translated By: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

The Taliban negotiations team in Doha Talks repeatedly told the international media during their interviews that they have changed; especially about women's rights. However, after the fall of the elected government and the resurgence of Taliban, on 15 August, 2021, Afghans saw no positive changes in Taliban's policies on women's rights. Since then most of the Taliban's edicts have been on restricting women in Afghanistan.

Taliban have issued several edicts on restricting women's rights after they have retaken power. The following edicts are some of the major edicts issued by the Taliban.

#### 1. Restricting Women's political rights

The Taliban take care government was announced on September 7, 2021, chaired by Mullah Hassan Akhond. On one hand, there was no women in the Taliban's cabinet and on the other hand Taliban dissolved Ministry of Women and Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, the two institutions supported women in Afghanistan. They also established institutions to further limit women's rights including the Ministry of Promoting Virtue and Preventing Evil.

Afghan women, being deprived of their political rights and experience increasingly their rights restricted and denied by the Taliban, took to the streets and staged peaceful demonstrations to demand their rights and voice their concerns to the Afghans and the world. Afghan women's rights protestors have taken many initiatives in Kabul, Herat, Balkh and Nangarhar, demanding meaningful participation in government and other political processes in the country. However, when Afghan women protests were extended in other provinces, Taliban government banned women's protests on 30 September 2021. This decision enabled Taliban to silent women to some extent paving the way for further excluding women from the public scene.

## 2. Banning women from working for public

One month after taking Kabul the new Taliban government issued several decrees rolling back the rights of girls and women including banning Afghan women from working for public office, except health sector. Guardian reported on 18 September, 2021, that the edict has been in place and women and girls were not allowed to attend office.

According to reports of the Ministry of Economy of Afghanistan women constituted 16.6 of the work force of the country in 2020 for public and private sector. However, after the Taliban edicts, most of Afghan women have lost their jobs in public sector while most of them have been the bread winners for their families.

However, Taliban not only restricted women working in public offices, but the decided to fully exclude them; as a result, they issued Taliban banned women from working for foreign and domestic NGOs on. The Taliban foreign and domestic non-governmental groups in Afghanistan to suspend employing women, allegedly because some female employees didn't wear the Islamic headscarf correctly. Following this, a number of the international NGOs stopped their activates in Afghanistan and said they cannot effectively reach children, women and men in desperate need in Afghanistan without the women in their workforces.

#### 3. Limitations of the Rights to Freedom

Most of the Taliban's edicts have targeted women's freedom, especially women's rights to choose dress, movement, freedom of opinion and entertainment

The rights to choose dress: Taliban announced on August 23, 201, that Afghan women enjoy full women's rights and only Islamic hejab has been added to them. But they announced on April 5, 202, that women shall wear burqa. Taliban had already announced that women shall wear the Islamic hejab correctly.



While girls' schools remained closed, Taliban held national entrance exam on 13 October 2022, after one-year delay. According to the Ministry of Higher Education, about 150,000 students and about 115,000 students passed the exams successfully. However, female students faced restriction in the entrance exam too because they faced limitations in selecting specific fields of education. As a result, female students were not allowed to select journalism, agriculture, veterinary medicine, engineering and economy.

According to a research by the Human Rights institute of San José State University, imposing Taliban's hejab is not consistent with the dress culture of some parts of Afghanistan and especially with dress culture of the Afghanistan Central Highlands or Hazarajat, which is considered as imposing culture values on other groups against their will. Social dress code of the central highlands never include black burqa and the women of these area have their own code of dress. However, Taliban have forced women and even girl students to wear borqa.

Freedom of speech: Taliban announced on 14 November 2021, the local media that they shall broadcast series women have a role in them. Afghan media already had changed their policies to align them with the Taliban and had stopped broadcasted foreign series and stopping recreational programs. In another edict, Taliban ordered local media women announcers shall wear hejab and cover their face with a mask.

Freedom of movement: Taliban announced on 5 November women cannot accompany women to a nospital. According to this edict, a female chaperon shall accompany women to the hospitals or visiting a doctors.

Zabihullah Mujahid announced on September 26, 2021, public urban transportation and taxis shall not give a ride to those women who do not observe hejab. They also announced passenger companies and drivers shall not allow women without a chaperon for long distance trips with more than 78 kilo meters. Taliban also announced on March 25, 2002, banned women from flying without a man and they said women were not allowed to travel out of Afghanistan. After these edicts, women travelling in Afghanistan faced many problems and travelling out of the country was stopped.

#### 4. Banning women's sports

Afghan women had significant sports and fine arts achievements during the former government. But after the collapse of the former government and resurgence of the Taliban, they suspended women's sports on September 8, 2021. One of the members of the Taliban

cultural Commission, Ahmadullah Wasiq, in a press conference with media told the media that women are not allowed to participate in sports events. Because their face and body maybe seen during the sports and it was against the Islamic values. After the announcement, all women sports team that participated in international sports events during the former government stopped working.

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## 5. Deprivation of the right to recreation and

Taliban banned women from public parks and recreational places on November 29, 2022. Before this edict, Taliban had segregated the parks and entertainment places. Taliban spokesperson for the ministry ordering to virtue and prohibiting from vice told French News Agency that as women had not followed the segregation order of the group, the have banned the parks and recreational places on them. Following this edict, Taliban issued another verdict banning women from the public women bathing throughout the country.

#### 6. Limiting the right to education

The ministry of Education of Taliban announced on 17 September 2021, to attend schools. However, the announcement did not mention when girl students could attend schools. At the beginning, it was predicted the Taliban authorities may soon open the girls' schools. But the ministry of Education of the Taliban only opened girls' schools under grade

The Taliban authorities announced on 5 October 2021 that the girls and boys classes shall be segregated, girls shall observe full Islamic hejab and they shall study specific fields of education. When the educational year 2022 started, the doors of girls' schools were open to girls for a short period in some provinces. But soon Taliban issued a verdict to ban girls' schools.

While girls' schools remained closed, Taliban held national entrance exam on 13 October 2022, after one-year delay. According to the Ministry of Higher Education, about 150,000 students and about 115,000 students passed the exams successfully. However, female students faced restriction in the entrance exam too because they faced limitations in selecting specific fields of education. As a result, female students were not allowed to select journalism, agriculture, veterinary medicine, engineering and economy.

Although deepening restrictions on women and girls' education posed mounting challenges on the way of women and girls' education, they thought it maybe for a short period and Taliban leadership may change their restrictive policies. The Taliban Ministry of Education issued an edict on 13 October 2022, banning Afghan women and girls from higher education in public and private universities.

As a result, the Taliban take care government has destroyed all administrative and political structures to ensure gender equality and women's rights in the country. Taliban has continued exclusion of women from the social life and deepening restrictions on women without paying least attention to the UN, Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch and Organization of Islamic Conference.

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## Taliban killed a young women in West of Kabul

January 13, 2021

Silk Way Weekly: Reliable sources in west of Kabul reported on January 13, 2021 Taliban fighters killed a young woman in west of Kabul. They added that the victim was named Zaiban Abullahi.



Zainab Abdullahi was killed while she was returning from a wedding party accompanied with her family. Their car had been stopped and checked in the police checkpoint and then they had been allowed to go but they were shot and killed after seconds.

The chief police of PD13 confirmed that she had been killed by Taliban fighters.

## Mysterious killings; dead body of a young girl was discovered in west of Kabul

March 26, 2022

**Silk Way Weekly:** As an indication of continued murdering of women in Afghanistan, the dead body of a young girl was discovered on March 26, 2022 in west of Kabul.

Local sources added the murdered had occurred on a hill of Omid Sabz Township and the perpetrators were not identified.

## A girl student killed herself protesting extending girls' school ban by Taliban

west of Kabul -25 March 2022

**Silk Way Weekly:** Local sources say a student girl aged 17 has killed herself in west of Kabul.



The local sources say the girl has jumped down from a market in Dasht e Barchi and died in a move to protest the school ban by the Taliban.

This comes as dozens of girl students have protested the decision of the current government to ban girls in grades 7-12 from going to school and have advocated for reopening girl schools.

The Taliban Ministry of Education had pledged to open girl schools on March 22, but they closed the school doors on the girls on the same day.

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## Sharia and Violence; Taliban Group Whipped Tens of Women in Public

By: Ali Ausian Translated By: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

Taliban, as a group that has a longstanding connection with religious extremism, international terrorism, ethnocentrism, misogyny (anti women policies) and violence, after regaining control over Afghanistan, deprived women of access to economic resources, education, participation in social and public space, and other rights and privileges. And the benefits of modern life were deprived. In addition, one of the other consequences of the Taliban government, which has put the life and human dignity of Afghan women in serious danger, is the intensification of all kinds of physical violence, such as whipping them without proving the crime and holding a fair Sharia court, in field courts and in the public space. There is no doubt that holding a fair trial based on human rights standards by the Taliban is not much expected; But their decisions are not in accordance with Islamic Sharia too. Rather, each of the Taliban, including soldiers and commanders, judges and district governors, based on false assumptions, issue and execute whipping and imprisonment sentences against women anywhere and based on their own tastes.

What follows are examples of violence by Taliban forces, authorities and courts against Afghan citizens, especially women, in 2022. It is astonishing to note here that all the women punished for committing adultery or having sex outside of marriage have been sentenced to be flogged and imprisoned by the Taliban in stadiums and other social places - which should be the place of cultivation of human mind and body.

The local officials of the Taliban in Kandahar, on June 30, 2022, announced that their court had sentenced three people to 39 lashes and one year in prison on charges of theft and extramarital sex and it has been performed in front of everyone.

Badakhsahn local sources had reported on July 20, 2022 that the Taliban had punished a woman and her daughter for divorcing her husband and marrying another man in Nasi district of this province. The Silk Road Weekly wrote in a report that this mother and daughter were sentenced to 100 lashes each, by the order of Juma Fateh, the Taliban district governor for Nasi district, which was executed in front of everyone.

Local sources from Ghor, on July 20, 2022, reported that the Taliban had whipped a man and a woman in this province. At the same time, the Taliban governor's office in Ghor announced in a newsletter that a man and a woman were flogged by the court of Ghor on charges of illicit relations, in front of everyone, to serve as an example to others. According to this newsletter, each of the defendants has been sentenced to 39 lashes and one year in prison.

Local sources in Takhar, on July 21,2022, reported that the Taliban had whipped a woman "because she did not have chaperone" in the Darqad district of this province. One of the residents of Darqad, while confirming this report, told Silk Road that this 30-year-old woman was whipped by the Taliban in front of everyone, even though she was wearing a veil (burqa).

The security officials of the Taliban in Ghor, on July 21, 2022, had announced that they had arrested a man and a woman on the charge of running away from home. At the same time, the Silk Road Weekly wrote in a report that these two were residents of Qads district of Badghis who were arrested by the Taliban after fleeing to Ghor.

Local sources in Paktia reported on July 2022 that the Taliban stoned a six-year-old girl to death in Rouhani Babai district of this province.

Mohammad Janat, the father of this child, confirmed this report and said that his daughter was kidnapped from his house on the second day of Eid al-Adha. "After much searching, I found my daughter's petrified body a day later



As mentioned, the violence against women in front of everyone's eyes, which is mostly based on false suspicions and accusations and before the proof of Sharia and legal crime, by the Taliban, has caused many reactions at the global level. In a report, Amnesty International described the public flogging of the accused by the Taliban as the group's return to cruel and extreme methods and called for an immediate stop. The organization, in another part of its report, said: "This group clearly does not believe in the basic principles of human rights, and in an alarming slide, they are moving towards what appears to be a bitter reminder of their rule three decades ago."

in a ruin."

The Silk Road Weekly, on October 7, 2022, quoting local sources in Zabul, reported that the Taliban had whipped two women and three men and put them in prison.

Rahmatullah Hamad Niazi, the head of Taliban information and culture department in Zabul, also announced that these people were sentenced to punishment for adultery and theft. According to local sources, the Taliban arrested two women and one man on the charge of adultery, each of them was sentenced to 39 lashes and two years in prison, and the other two men were sentenced to 21 lashes and one month in prison on the charge of theft and the sentence of whipping has been applied to them in front of everyone.

A video published in the media from the city of Qalat, the center of Zabul, also showed that the Taliban were going in groups to the place where three men and two women were taken to be lashed.

One of the officials of the Taliban security command in Takhar had told the media on September 12, 2022 that they had arrested a woman and three men in the city of Talaqan, the capital of this province, on charges of having an illicit relationship.

Local sources in Nangarhar had told the media on September 12, 2022 that the Taliban arrested a man and a woman on charges of having an illicit relationship and handed them over to the woman's family. According to the sources, the woman's family members shot the accused in "Sorch" village of Kuzkunar district of Nangarhar.

Local sources in Ghor reported on September 13, 2022 that the Taliban sentenced a girl and a boy to 39 lashes for having sex outside of marriage and the verdict has been executed on them in front of everyone.

Local sources in Wares district of Bamyan told the media on September 13, 2022 that a young woman was stabbed 10 times in Tagawghar village of this district on charges of having an illicit relationship with a person named Sayed Mohammad Hossein Mortazavi Beheshti, director of the Taliban population registry. According to the sources, when this Taliban member came to that woman's house, the woman's uncle along with several other people got to know about the incident and rushed to her niece's house. Seeing them, the man ran away from the place; But the woman was seriously injured by her cuncle with a knife. Beheshti, in response to the publication of this news, said that he had a temporary marriage with this young woman.

A local source in Kapisa told the media on September 20, 2022 that the Taliban had sentenced two women and two young men to 49 lashes in Hessa Awal district of Kapisa for having extramarital affairs. Also, it had been performed in front of everyone.

A local Taliban official in Logar, on October 24, 2022 told Afghanistan free Media that according to the verdict of the provincial court, as a result of the application of sharia restrictions on three women and 11 men who were accused of theft and "moral crimes", they were flogged in front of everyone and then sent to prison to serve a short term. Also, the local Taliban officials in Bamyan announced that they whipped a girl and a young boy on the charge of having a premarital relationship. These two, young boy and girl, were publicly whipped 29 times in front of the broken statues of Buddha in "Shahid Mazari" stadium on Thursday, November 17,2022.

Etilaatroz newspaper quoted its sources in Bamyan and wrote that Arzoo and Mohammad came to Bamyan from Kabul for fun 40 days ago and had a romantic relationship. But they were arrested by Taliban forces from Bandamir National Park and tried on the charge of having a premarital relationship.

The local Taliban authorities in Kandahar announced on 26 October 2022 that they sentenced five people to be whipped and imprisoned. An official of the local Taliban court, who declined to be named, confirmed this incident and said that the Taliban court sentenced a man and a woman accused of illicit relations to 39 lashes and one year in prison, and three men accused of theft was sentenced to suffer 30 lashes in front of everyone and seven months in prison.

The local Taliban officials in Ghor had announced in a newsletter on November 23, 2022 that they had whipped 11 men and one woman in Ghor. The media office of the Taliban governor in Ghor wrote in a newsletter that these people, who were arrested on charges of theft, drinking and moral corruption, were sentenced to 25 to 39 lashes by the Taliban court, and one woman was accused of Moral corruption has been sentenced to 39 lashes. The sentence of whipping has been carried out on them in front of everyone.

The Taliban Supreme Court in Kabul, on December 1, 2022, announced that 21 people, including six women, were sentenced to 20 to 39 lashes on the suspicion of committing debauchery, having illicit relations and running away from home consuming alcohol and sodomy.

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The girls returned home sad and concerned as the Ministry of Taliban had announced school ban for girls in grades 7-12 will continue until the next announcement and when their dress is designed according to the Sharia and Afghan cultural values, then the girls would be allowed to attend their classes.

## A young girl was shot and killed in Sangtakht wa Bandar of Daykondi

Daikondi Province-May 22, 2022

Silk Way Weekly: Local sources said on May 22, 2022, a young girl was killed by gun shot in Dahan Gharak village of Sangtakht district of Daikondi province. It is not clear why she has been killed yet.

## A girl student died fearing the closure of Universities again

8 May 2022

Silk Way weekly: Freshta, a top girl student of Zawol private university in Kabul died fearing the closure of universities by the Taliban. She died of feat and stress she had undergone for not being able to complete her education as she was passing her last semester in curative medicine in Zawol university.



One of her close family friends told media, Freshta, 26, and was in her last year of university. When she came back home on May 3, 2022, "she felt pain in her heart, then she slept and neve woke up."

Some weeks ago, a school girl in west of Kabul suicided objecting the school ban by the Taliban.

Afghan girl students are increasingly undepressed by the Taliban. Girl school ban had exacerbated such mental and physical pressures and they even fear the universities would be closed to girl students. Some of Afghan girl students have quit school and left the country.

# Two women were shot, Killed in Badghis

29 March 2022

Silk way weekly: Women are under attack in different parts of Afghanistan. two women were shot dead in Sarghar Siah village



According to local authorities, they

## Sharia and Violence; Taliban Group Whipped Tens of Women in Public

According to the approval of the Supreme Court of the Taliban, the sentences issued by the Taliban forces have been implemented in front of everyone.

Local sources from Ghor reported on 13 December 2022 that the Taliban arrested six men and one woman on charges such as alcohol consumption and moral corruption, and the appeals court of this group in Ghor sentenced each of the defendants to 21 to 39 lashes. According to this report, the orders were enforced in the sports stadium of Firuzkoh city, the center of Ghor, in front of everyone.

Etilaatroz newspaper, quoting its local sources in Zabul and Helmand, reported on December 14, 2022 that the Taliban had whipped 27 people, including two women, in the stadiums of the cities of Qalat and Lashkargah, the centers of these two provinces, in front of everyone.

Sources in Zabul have confirmed that among the accused, one of the women was given 39 lashes and three years in prison for having an illicit relationship, another was given 20 lashes and one year in prison for the crime of running away from home, and five men were accused of theft. sodomy and having illicit relations with women have been sentenced to 10 to 39 lashes and one month to one year in prison.

According to Mohammad Qasim Riaz, 20 men have been sentenced to 35 to 39 lashes and short-term imprisonment on charges of theft and having illicit relations with women. Taliban sources and people in the mentioned provinces have confirmed that the Taliban whipped the accused in front of everyone.

Muazuddin Ahmadi, the head of Taliban cultural and information department in Badakhshan, announced on December 22, 2022 that the Taliban court sentenced 25 people, including four women, to 30 to 39 lashe and short-term imprisonment on charges of moral corruption and 21 men on charges of moral corruption, drinking and selling alcohol.

Confirming this issue, local sources have reported that the sentence of whipping was applied to the male and female defendants in front of everyone in Badakhshan's New City Sports Stadium.

Local sources in Kunduz reported on December 22, 2022 that the Taliban arrested 10 people, including four women, on charges such as running away from home and committing moral corruption, and six men on charges such as theft and having illicit relationships, to endure 30 39 lashes have been condemned. The sentence of whipping was carried out in front of everyone at Khurshid Stadium in Imam Sahib district of Kunduz.

Local sources from Uruzgan had reported to the media on December 22, 2022 that the Taliban had whipped 20 men in the sports stadium of Trinkut city, the capital of this province.

Agha Wali Qureshi, head of Taliban cultural and information director in Uruzgan, confirmed this report and announced that these people were sentenced to 20 to 39 lashes and eight to 18 months of imprisonment by the Taliban court on charges of theft and moral corruption. He also stated that the sentence of whipping was supposed to be executed on three women in front of everyone; But it has been postponed for some reasons.

The Supreme Court of the Taliban announced in a newsletter on December 31, 2022 that four men and one woman were sentenced to punishment by the primary court of Gardiz city, the center of Paktia, on charges such as theft and committing moral corruption. In this newsletter, there was no explanation about the amount of punishment for the defendants; But it was stated that the punishment was executed on the accused in front of everyone.

Local sources from Daikundi had reported on January 10, 2023 that the Taliban had whipped three young boys and four young girls in front of everyone for accusations such as engaging in illicit relationships and having fun. According to this report, the Taliban primary court sentenced one of the boys to endure 39 lashes and one year of imprisonment, the other two boys to endure 25 lashes and one month of

imprisonment, and among the four girls, two of them endured 29 lashes and two others to onemonth imprisonment and 15 lashes and 10 days' imprisonment.

Local sources from Badakhshan said on January 17, 2023 that the Taliban primary court in Baharak district of this province sentenced a boy and a young girl to 38 lashes in front of everyone on the charge of having illicit relations. One day after the court verdict, the convicts were whipped in front of everyone.

On January 17, 2023, Attaullah Zaid, the spokesman of the Taliban governor in Kandahar, announced that the Taliban had flogged nine people for adultery and theft. According to Zaid's statements, the Taliban court arrested three people on the charge of adultery and hey have been sentenced to 39 lashes and one-year imprisonment and six others who were arrested on the charge of theft have been sentenced to 35 lashes and 7 months imprisonment. The sentence of whipping was executed in front of everyone in Kandahar football field.

The Bakhtar News Agency, which operates under the supervision of the Taliban, confirmed in a report on February 7, 2023 that a woman in Ghor was whipped 39 times and five men were lashed 15 to 39 by the Taliban in front of everyone in the sports stadium of Firuzkoh city on the charge of having an illicit relationship, producing and consuming wine.

People's sources in Navehmish district of Daikundi reported on February 7, 2023 that the Taliban arrested a man and two women on charges of having an illicit relationship and sentenced each of them to suffer 25 to 39 lashes in front of everyone. This sentence was executed without delay in front of hundreds of people.

Public sources in Badakhshan had reported on February 17, 2023 that the Taliban had flogged nine men and two women on charges such as having extramarital affairs in this province. Officials of the local Taliban court in Badakhshan, confirming this report, announced the charges against these people as moral corruption and theft.

One of the eyewitnesses said that the Taliban sentenced each of the defendants to receive 39 lashes and the sentence was executed in front of everyone in Batash village.

In the latest case, local sources in Jabal al-Saraj district of Parwan told the media on Saturday, March 6, 2023, that the Taliban whipped four young boys and two young girls in front of the audience.

As mentioned, the violence against women in front of everyone's eyes, which is mostly based on false suspicions and accusations and before the proof of Sharia and legal crime, by the Taliban, has caused many reactions at the global level. In a report, Amnesty International described the public flogging of the accused by the Taliban as the group's return to cruel and extreme methods and called for an immediate stop. The organization, in another part of its report, said: "This group clearly does not believe in the basic principles of human rights, and in an alarming slide, they are moving towards what appears to be a bitter reminder of their rule three decades ago. "

Rina Amiri, the US Special Envoy for Afghan women, girls and Human Rights, also described in a tweet, the implementation of Sharia limits on women in front of everyone's eyes as terrifying and considered the expansion of the Taliban group's rebellion against the world as an indication of their acceptance of the policies of their previous era.

However, Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesman of the Taliban government, announced on February 11, 2022, that Hebatullah Akhundzadeh, the leader of this group, in a meeting with the judges of the current government, emphasized the implementation of the Sharia ruling and the implementation of Hudud and retribution.

In my opinion, hundreds of women who have been punished by the Taliban in front of everyone in the last year, their crime was adultery/ sex outside of marriage. But the question is, according to the proofs of adultery in Hanafi jurisprudence, how and by what means did the Taliban succeed in proving the crime of these victims? According to Hanafi jurisprudence, "the proofs of the crime of adultery are proven by the testimony of witnesses, confession, corroboration, refusal to curse, and the judge's knowledge." If four witnesses testify that we saw such and such a person committing adultery, like seeing a stick in a jar and a rope in a well. If the witnesses deny during the testimony or before the testimony or after the testimony, or if their number does not appear in the testimony, the amount of qadhaf will be applied to him and the amount will be deducted from the accused person. If the accused confesses to adultery without coercion or threat four times and in front of Imam Abu Hanifah in four assemblies, the limit will apply to them. While confessing, the accused must be alert, awake and in the sharia court before the ruler or judge.

According to the above jurisprudential/ Sharia evidence, the punishment of women in front of everyone by the Taliban, regardless of international and human rights standards, not only does not comply with the principles of Hanafi jurisprudence; Rather, their attitude towards women is more subject to personal views, extremist tendency and strict ethnic Pashtun traditions.



were members of one family and the reason for the murder has been cited as a domestic issue.

After the Taliban takeover, family issues and mysterious murders of women have increased in the country and several women have been murdered mysteriously in different provinces of Afghanistan so far.

## A man killed his wife and wounded his two children in Samangan

Silk Way Weekly: Taliban authorities in Samangan confirmed that a man killed his wife and wounded his two children on May 22, 2022, in Aibak of Samangan.

## Domestic murders increased in Afghanistan; Women Killed Bitterly

15 June 2022

**Silk Way Weekly:** A man killed his wife in Faryab province with knife.

The local sources say that, on Monday 13 June, a woman was killed aged 19 and pregnant.

Before this tragic incident, a man shot and killed 9 members of his family including women and a 3-yar old child with knife in Nimruz province. At the same time, a man in Helmand killed his wife and a -3-month child.

Local sources said the incident occurred on 12 June, in Haji Taj Mohammad village of Garmsir district of Helmand province.

After Taliban seized power in Kabul, criminal incidents and domestic murders have increased in Afghanistan.

## Dead body of young girl found in Bamyan

Bamyan -25 June 2022

**Silk Way Weekly:** The dead body of young girl, 24, was found in well in Shahidan area of Bamyan city.

Local sources say the girl was the main resident of Waras district of Bamyan and lived in Bamyan city. According to the local sources she was kidnapped one month ago in Bamyan.

The press office of Bamyan police chief has confirmed the news saying they had arrested one person in connection to this case. They have not mentioned the motive behind the murder yet. Mysterious murders and women suicide have increased recently in Afghanistan.

## A girl killed herself somedays ago in Saighan district of Bamyan

**Silk Way Weekly:** Two days ago, a girl killed herself protesting to forces marriage in Sayed Baba village of Saighan district.

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# The Taliban silence the rape victims by threatening them with death

#### By: Farhad Kohistani Translated By: Mohammad sakhi Rezaie

With the identification of the Taliban based on the first period of this group's rule in Afghanistan and its 20-year war with the citizens during the republic government, the possibility of any demeaning and inhuman treatment by this group is imagined, the most important of which is trampling on the human identity of women and in the worst case scenario, rape and kill them. In the past year and a half, there have been many reports of sexual assaults by Taliban forces on women in the media, and I have collected some of them here.

Independent Persian: On 23 January, 2022, the Farsi Independent reported on the Taliban's gang rape of female prisoners and other violence inflicted on them in prison. In this report, the situation of the women's rights protesting prisoners, including men and women, in the National Security Detention Center and Balkh Prison has been discussed. Men and women who were arrested during women's protest marches on the 16th and 17th of September ,2021, in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif, the center of Balkh. They included 40 girls and 30 boys.

One of the women's rights activists in Balkh told the Farsi Independent that after the release of the girls from the Taliban prison, she met at least four of them. In this report, she said that the detained girls have experienced a terrible situation both in prison and after their release. She has said that the girls were tortured and gang-raped many times in prison. The source said: "The girls told me that in the National Security Detention Center, a woman stripped them completely and tortured them with electric batons and whips. This woman forcefully fed these girls psychedelic pills, and then the Taliban gang-raped them."

In this report, quoting another source, it is stated that the arrested girls were interrogated and tortured for one week in the building of the fourth security district of the Taliban in Mazare-Sharif, and for two weeks in the detention center of the National Security Directorate of this group in Mazar-e-Sharif, and then, they have been transferred to Mazar-e-Sharif women's prison.

The report also states that the bodies of eight detainees, including women and boys, were found in the suburbs of Mazar-e-Sharif a few days after their arrest, and five protesting girls were killed by their families after being released from prison.

On September 10, 2921, the Etilaatroz reported the rape of a woman by Taliban forces in Khawak area of Panjshir. Roz information, referring to the audio tape obtained from the conversation between two Taliban officials in Panjshir, wrote: "Maulavi Aminul Haq, a member of the commission for handling complaints against Taliban soldiers and the head of the urban court of this group in Panjshir, in this audio tape tells his audience, a person with the last name Ziai, that the case of Taliban members raping a woman in Khawak is true. Aminul Haq said that "six members of the Taliban have been arrested on the charge of raping this woman; But one of them has confessed to committing this crime and the other five are accomplices."

The Voice of Afghanistan news agency reported on 8 September 2021 that Taliban forces sexually assaulted female prisoners in Ghor, and when these women complained to the Taliban prison authorities, their complaints were ignored. Voice of Afghanistan news agency quoted one of the female prisoners released from Ghor prison, writing that "Tamna (fake name), says that Taliban forces enter women's bedrooms at night and forcibly rape them." Tamna said that a number of Taliban commanders also take female prisoners out of prison and rape them. This former prisoner in Ghor prison says that a Taliban commander sexually assaulted a 20-year-old girl in the prison of this province, and one night after this incident, this girl hanged herself and ended



her life. "Taliban officials hid this crime and the perpetrator of this rape was not punished." Tamna said that "Taliban commanders go to the women's rooms during the days and monitor the acceptable women in order to go to their beds in the middle of the nights or ask the imprisoned women to come to them."

Amu TV has reported that Taliban forces have sexually assaulted two young girls living in the west of Kabul city. Amu quoted these girls and wrote that the Taliban forces first kidnapped them from inside the city and then raped them. These two girls, who are both residents of the Dasht Barchi region in the west of Kabul and are from the Hazara tribe, have refused to reveal their real identities in the report due to the fear of their families' lives.

Quoting from one of these victims, who is 18 years old and was an 11th grade student before the Taliban returned to power, Amu wrote that on 10 Novewmber 2022, four Taliban forces kidnapped him from Gulai area of Dasht Barchi, when she was going to the market. And they put him in a red Corolla car, closed his eyes and took him to an unknown place. This girl told Amu: "When I was walking home, four or five Taliban people put me in the car. They closed my eyes and mouth and took me to an unknown place. They were four people who raped me in a group and after one day, they released me again. They threatened not to tell anyone about this." One of this girl's friends, who is a doctor, told Amu that he has known this girl for several years and before this incident, she was a happy and energetic young person. But after the rape, she has turned into a sick, depressed and scared girl. According to this doctor, until the publication of this report, she was afraid of everything, was in a very bad mental state and thought of suicide many times. This girl told Amu: "I tried to commit suicide twice, I suffer every second. It is not understandable to everyone, except me and the hundreds of girls who are victims of this crime every day."

In the report, it is stated that another young girl told Amu in a conversation on 18 November 2022, that seven months ago, the Taliban forces forced her into a Ranger in the Dasht Barchi area of Kabul city and took her away. This girl told Amu: "I was coming from an educational center seven months ago, I got out of the car, one of the Taliban came and said your dress is short; While I was wearing hijab. He said get up in the car! I didn't say anything out of fear and got up. He put something in my mouth, when I regained consciousness, everything was destroyed. After the rape, he put the gun on me, he said, "I will kill your whole family, go away."

Meanwhile, another resident of Dasht Barchi, Kabul city, told AMO that a year ago, one of the Taliban kidnapped her friend on the way back from an educational center in Dasht Barchi, oil tank area, and forcibly married her. According to this source, this girl was seriously unhappy with living with this Talib and finally, two months ago, she committed suicide.

According to the report, a member of the Taliban named Fazl al-Rahman, assistant to the mayor of the Taliban in Charikar, sexually assaulted a young girl on 29 November 2022. The Taliban officials in Parwan had denied the relationship between the accused person and the mayor of Charikar.

In another case, another girl, Elaha Delavarzi, claims that she was a victim of "forced marriage and rape" by one of the Taliban. On August 30 of this year, she claimed in a video tape that Saeed Khosti, the former spokesperson of the Taliban's Ministry of Interior Affairs, forced her to marry him in November 2022. He said that Mr. Khosti had "tortured" and "raped" him several times.

After the incident of the rape of Elaha Delavarzi became publicized, she went to Pakistan to escape from the threat of the Taliban and to be transferred to another country from there. However, Haqqani network forces arrested her from Pakistan and transferred her back to Kabul, where according to her family, she is still under the custody of Taliban intelligence and is being tortured and ill-treated.

In a video that was circulated on social media on 24 January, a woman claims that Taliban forces gang-raped her. This young woman says that she decided to commit suicide after this incident; But seeing her one-year-old child, she has given up. It is said that this event happened in Makrorian of Kabul city.

After returning to power, the Taliban have suppressed women in a structured way and against all standards of human and moral rights, and raping them is also a part of this group's approach towards women. On the other hand, in the past year and a half, due to the leveling of violence against women from the position of public power, the society has also been conducive with many physical and psychological violence against them. During this time, many women have been tortured, sexually abused, sold, or killed by family members and non-family members; While a large number of women and girls, due to escaping from family violence and increasing restrictions of the Taliban, have been forced to take refuge from life and death and commit suicide by different methods, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Taliban, this number in about one year, has reached 369 cases.



According to the local sources, parents of the girl wanted her to marry her aunt's son by force. As a consequence, she hanged her to say no to forced marriage.

Local sources reported to the Silk Way Weekly on June 21,2022, that a young girl killed herself in objection to forced marriage in Sayed Baba village of Saighan district of Bamyan.

Local sources said the family of the girl wanted to forcibly marry her with her aunt's son and she killed herself in an objection to their decision.

### Dead body of a young girl discovered in Herat

30 July 2022

Silk way Weekly: Dead body of a young woman was discovered on 30 July 2022 in Jebrael PD 13 of Herat. The dead body of the young girl was found in a sack on the wall of a house and the owner had expressed was not aware of it.

She was shot on the face and killed. The motive and perpetrator of perpetrators are not known yet.

Taliban authorities in Herat had not responded on the news.

## Killing Women in Afghanistan; Taliban Kill with bullets and Men with Knives

19 June 2022

Silk Way Weekly: After the Kabul fell violence against women has increased they are killed in different ways every day. The cases published in the media show some women have killed themselves due to domestic violence. Some women have been killed charging them with love and illegal affairs by their husbands, one of the men of the family, and even the Taliban.

The type of killing of women is shocking and horrifying; men killed them with a knife and Taliban by a bullet. For example, on 8 June 2022, the Taliban shot and killed a 30-year-old woman before the eyes of her children in Daresuf district of Samangan province and charged her with illegal affairs with a man.

#### Ghor

Local security officials of Taliban say, on 17 June, a woman named Freshta shot killed herself in Saghar district of Ghor. The motive behind the killing is not known, but the local police sources say she killed herself after having a quarrel with

#### Helmand

On 16 June, a 10-year-old girl was shot killed in Sangin district of Helmand. The local sources say she had been playing with the gun when it suddenly fires and kills the girl.

#### Urozgan

Local sources say a midwife has been killed mysteriously in Deh rawod district of Urozgan province.

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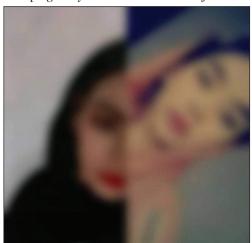
# Obituary of Balkh Girls; We were imprisoned a dark room that smelled of blood

#### Rabia Balkhi (Fake Name) Translated by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

Taliban have increasingly suppressed Afghan citizens, especially Afghan women. As an eye witness I write what has happened to women under the Taliban rule ib Balkh province.

I worked as a midwife in Mazar e Sharif before Taliban take control of Afghanistan. However, When Taliban took the control of the country I lost my job as many other women did.

On the second day, after Taliban took power, I decided to go to work. But I was sure Taliban will not allow me to work, but did not want to surrender to them. As a result, nothing unusual happened on the first day. I visited three pregnant women and had a good day. I had decided to talk with some women about "Pre-pregnancy health care". I wore hejab and a



long dress from the head to the toe, and left the home. I went to work with passion and no fear of the cruel ruler. But my happiness did not last much and Taliban had sealed off my office and after second two disheveled men appeared in front of me. One of them asked me, "aren't you aware of our restriction on women?" I told them "it is part of health system and women need me. Please, allow me to work." They looked at each other, and then told me "no one can ignore our laws and we do not allow women under 40 to work in private clinics." The much I asked them the more they rejected. And from that moment, the darks days of my life started. They had closed the door of my dreams and I could not open it. I left the clinic while just my eyes were full of tears. Each day, being locked in a house, and benign banned to help women, added to my

On September 4'2021, an announcement was posted on social media by women's rights protestors condemning Taliban for recruiting Pakistani diplomats in Afghanistan public offices. I wanted to participate in the demonstration but my family strongly opposed it. But I was in contact with my friends through WhatsApp groups. It was the biggest protesting gathering against the Taliban in Mazar e Sharif, about 70 women, girls and boys, participated in it. It was a peaceful protest and the participants demanded their basic rights. But it was suppressed by Taliban, 40 boys and girls, were detained by Taliban.

Taliban had threatened the reporters if they report it, they will risk their life. As a result, it was not reported and after four or five months, detained women disclosed some details of it with the media.

Sakina (fake name) was my colleague. We worked in a private clinic and lost our jobs after the Taliban take over. Salima participated in the protest and was detained by Taliban. She was in custody for two months and was mistreated and tortured in custody. When Sakina was released on the bail, I met with her at their home. She told me the sad story of her and other women and girls in the custody. She was in a bad mood. "We were in a room that smelled of blood. There were 20 girls in our room but we did not know where the other girls were. A woman tortured and whipped us and shocked us with electric. We were sexually abused by Taliban for several times." Her body was black and bruised, showing she had been severely tortured. She said "Women were tortured during the days and

nights in the custody and we heard the screams of women tortured in the next room. Three of my colleagues died under torture before my eyes."

Sakina had a sad experience of the prison. I suggested her to publish her story; but her brother strongly disagreed with me. "Our case is ours. Could you remove the stigma by publishing it on media?" He asked me. I told him, if we do not disclose the cruelty Sakina had undergone, it would be a further oppression on her. Then, Sakina's brother insulted me and made me leave their home. I heard the news of her murder after passing one week. Sakina's brother had shot and killed her to remove the stigma from their family. He not only was not punished for murdering her sister, but was appointed as an official in the Taliban administration.

Nargis (fake name), was one of the other protestors who remained in custody for 3 days. After releasing her, Taliban had encouraged her to marry on of their members; but Nargis had refused the marriage proposal. The, after two days, a Taliban member forcibly married Nargis. Nargis was 22 years old and studied economy in a private institute of higher education. Her mother says she has not seen her daughter for several months and she does not know whether Nargis is alive or dead.

In October 25, 2021, the dead bodies of four civil society activists, two of the were men, and the dead bodies of 2 former ANSF were discovered in Tangi Shadyan. The identities of these people were not shared with media. One of the reasons Taliban announce such cases, is that their families do not dare to share them with media.

In October 27, 2021, the dead bodies of five civil society activists were found in Sharak Khalid bin Walid. Forozan Safi was one of the victims, a former civil society activist and university lecturer and Maryam Hmaraz was another victim, the chairperson of a cultural institution of the former government. But only the identity of Maryam Safi was shared with the media.

According to my information, although Maryam Safi was the chairperson of a cultural institution of the former government, she had not participated in the protests against the Taliban. It is not clear why Forozan and other three civil society activists were killed.

In December 28, 2021, local sources in Balkh told the media that armed men killed Habiba ,21, in Nawabad of Mazar e Sharif. Abulai Sina Balkhi hospital authorities confirmed that the body of the victim had been transferred to the hospital. However, the truth is that Habiba was killed by Taliban.



Habiba was the only daughter of her family. She had already lost her father only had an ill mother. According to the local sources Habiba worked in Rahnaward hospital before Taliban retake control of the country. But She had been fired by Taliban. Taliban also had threatened other employees of Rahnaward hospital.

When Habiba lost her job in the hospital,

she found a job in a beauty salon in Mazar. In the morning of December 27, while she had been in a vehicle with her two friends, and amrmed shot and killed her in Yakatoot of Zeraat, Mazar e Sharif.

In the continuation of the mysterious murders, In April 1, 2021, Taliban killed a midwife and her co-worker in Mazar e Sharif.

Nafisa was 23 years old and Mohammad Ghulam, her colleague, worked in a clinic in Alichpan of Mazar e Sahrif. Mohamd Ghulam was the pharmacist of the mentioned clinic.

They had been stopped in a checkpoint by Taliban in Mazar e Sharif, and they had been



tortured and killed with a knife and shot and killed by the Taliban forces.

## Eye in Eye with Taliban; Words against Whips and Gun

On the morning of October 3, Mazar city looks as if there has been a coup date in the city. Taliban had positioned a military vehicles on all streets and their fighters were on any corner; in fact, there was no coup date or suicide attack. We had protested Kaaj suicide attack, which killed 58 and wounded 126. I and some other protesting women distributed the notices of protest on social media. We protested the deliberate killing of Hazaras, widespread violations of women's rights, exclusion from vital social structures, and girls' ban from school. The military face of the city showed how much the Taliban feared women.

We had planned to start the demonstration from Balkh University, but the Taliban had discovered it and had surrounded the university and imprisoned the girl students in their hostels. So, we changed our plan. We protected our slogans in our sleeves and could pass the Taliban checkpoints.

It was around 9 O'clock that we started the protest; about 50 women and girls had participated in the protest. 6 Balkh university boy students had participated in the protest as well. After one year of Taliban rule, it was the first time that men were beside us to support us.

We started chanting stop Hazaras genocide on the streets. The streets were full of men, and many of the insulted and belittled us. Taliban were afraid of us as if we had attacked them with guns and artilleries

While we only had papers in our hands which our slogans were written on them.

Tens of Taliban armed men had surrounded us in the center of the city. First, Taliban tried to detain the boys but they could escape the scene. A Taliban fighter approached us and asked, what is your problem that you keep shouting on the streets? Then he said, you are women and you shall be at home. I as the representative of the protesters told him, let us read our statement, and you shall listen to our protest as the representative of the government. The Taliban fighter pointed his gun barrel on me, but I started reading the statement denouncing the girl education and work ban and genocide of Hazaras.

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Health workers in Dehrawod say she had been killed due to misuse of medicine. However, the reason of this midwife is not clear yet.

#### Takhar

Local sources say that on 17 June, detained 30 Takhar university students who had gone to a park on Friday. Taliban have provided no clarifications on this.

#### Qundoz

Local sources in Qandahar say unknown men have killed a women named Fariha in her home bathroom in the night. Fariha taught in "Nasrullah Shahid" school in Qundoz. But some media have mentioned her as an employee of the Department of Education.

Local sources say she had been threatened to death by some unknown people in "Chehel Dukhtaran" area of police district 3 of Qundoz. However, some other sources say she had been beheaded due to loving a man, by his family members. when Fariha "local sources said.

#### Faryab

Local sources say that a-19-year-old young woman had been beheaded with a knife by her wife in Faryab province.

#### Kandahar

Local sources say that on 16 June, a man killed his daughter some months ago, and now he has killed 3 members of a family. Local sources say that the young daughter of this man had run away with a man, he caught his daughter 8 months ago and killed her and now he has killed 3 members of the family of the man whom his daughter had run away with him.

## Five young girls killed themselves in 3 days

Silk Way Weekly: local sources reported to Jade Abresham Weekly that on 4 July 2022 a 8-year old gilr was killed in Chahar Qala village of Baraki Barak district of Logar with axe.

Taliban authorities in Baraki Barak district confirmed that the girl was firs suffocatd and then killed with an axe by her sister in law and she has confessed the murder and has been detained.

Local sources in Faryab reported on 5 July 2022 that a 21-year old woman was killed by her husband with a pisto in Chehelgazi area of Qaisar district. The Taliban authorities have not responded on the issue yet.

A 19-year old girl was killed in Dehrawood district of Uruzgan due to no being allowed to attend the wedding party of her friend. She has killed herself by eating poison.

The Taliban local authorities on July 6 2022 that this young girl killed herself in Dehzak district of Uruzgan.



# Obituary of Balkh Girls; We were imprisoned a dark room that smelled of blood

#### Rabia Balkhi (Fake Name) Translated by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

I had read half of the statement, but the angry Taliban fighter told me, I will fire if you continue reading it. I continued reading some words, but the Taliban commander hit with the gun on my head. I stopped reading the statement as my colleagues begged me to do so. "Don't move" the Taliban fighter said. I had predicted that they will torture and prosecute us. I felt a bitter fear in my throat. "What is our fault you keep us here and imprison us" I asked. "We had a peaceful demonstration and it is over now. We shall go home right away." I stated. "You do not know us. We will behead anyone who want to act against us." One of the Taliban said. "Wait here, beside the road." He said. After some moments, Badri Unit of Taliban, which its members include the suicides arrived. "Have we used guns and artilleries against you that you asked for Badri troops to be deployed here?" I asked. "We have nothing but some pieces of papers." I said. "We are the enemy of the prostitutes like you, and you shall die; because all evils are under your feet and you have incited these people to protest." Another Taliban member said. The Taliban commander told us to go the police department. "No, we go home." I said. Badri forces approached us, and made us to go the police station while hitting us with the whips and guns barrels. When we were forcibly moved to the police station, we lost our hope to be released. It was where Frozan Safi and tens of other girls were brought here, and some of them were killed and some others are disappeared yet. First, some Taliban members collected our phones. Then, they noted our names, home addresses, and other information on a piece of paper "You are women, and your men are cowards that allow you to be alive." They repeatedly said.













I felt pain in my head because of the stroke on my head. "Please let us go." I begged the Taliban commander, we cannot stand on our feet. "Do not say anything, you prostitute, we have a lot to do with you!" One of the Taliban said.

After staying for three hours in the police station, facing psychological torture, investigations, and searching our phones, Taliban released us. They made us to delete all the photos and videos we had taken from the protest. They took the information of all girls and women who had participated in the demonstration. I had already had the sensitive contacts before going to the demonstration. When I reached home, my mother looked very nervous because I had participated in the demonstration and my phone was off for 3 hours. After speaking with mother, I checked my messenger and it was full of Taliban threats. As Taliban had taken our information from our mobiles, they had detailed information about

My brothers came home at night. When they saw me, they asked me why I had participated

in demonstration. "I heard you have been detained?" one of my brothers said. "Yes, we our detained for 3 hours." I replied. "If I was the Taliban member, I would have shot and killed you in order not to dare to do so." He said, instead of embracing me and sympathizing with me. When I heard this, I my tears started running without anyone notices and felt disappointed too much. I had run out of city form Taliban fear, but where could I go from the Taliban mentality my brother had. I went to my bed room and checked the social media. One of the girls had written on WhatsApp that Mortaza Karimi had been disappeared. He was one of the journalism faculty students who had participated in the demonstration. He is disappeared yet. Hossain Karimi, a simple laborer, had gone to the Taliban police chief office to ask them to release Karimi, they had beaten him up and killed him.

Talban prosecute the protesters after any protests. They gained more information about us from our mobiles' we are now under prosecution; and our crime is advocating peacefully as our basic right.

## A Land of Brutality and Barbarism; Elaha was arrested by the spokesperson of the Taliban group

#### 31 August 2022

#### By: Asadullah Jafari Pezhman

Every person who has drunk human milk will be saddened to see the clip of that girl named Elaheh Delawarezi. Of course, the miseries and sorrows of the majority of our people and nation from various dimensions, whether in the field of women, economy and security, are endless. But in today's conditions under the rule of the Taliban group, Afghanistan women and girls have become more vulnerable than ever.

#### **Home Confinement**

According to her own claims, she is one of daughters of the national security commanders of Afghanistan in the previous puppet government of Afghanistan. So, how long has it been since Elaha was arrested by the spokesperson of the Taliban group and subjected to repeated sexual assaults and various beatings, and now she is under the house arresting.

#### **Inhumane Treatments**

On the earth of brutality and barbarism inhumane treatments with civilians, women and children has no justification for humanity, and justice, even if it is by any group. But the Taliban group, despite the strict censorship laws against the affiliated and the mafia media of Afghanistan, every now releases horrible pictures of their crimes, which it is very sad!

#### The Feedback of Crime of the National Security Commanders against Mothers and their Families

The zero-1 and zero-2 units of national security were not and are not unfamiliar names and they are the same ones who, after betraying their mother, child and land, are now fighting to survive as war mercenaries in Ukraine against Putin's forces in exchange for food. in the meantime, Section Zero 1 and Zero 2 of Afghanistan's national security during the disgrace of Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai and during the time of the Taliban cultivation by Hamid Karzai, the spiritual father of the Afghan Taliban group. In the eastern provinces of Afghanistan, they betrayed this country as much as possible outside the management circle of the government of Ghani and Hamid Karzai, under the direct management of the CIA organization.

#### The Worthless Prey as a Betrayal

They were one of the trusted and specially supported units of the American forces stationed in Afghanistan, who were quickly transferred to immigration camps in American countries after the dirty Doha agreement under the name of "peaceful transfer of power to the Taliban" and the surrender of combat equipment to the Taliban group. Now that the immigration system of the US government is unable to accept them transparently as fugitive immigrants, they are sending the same units of 01 and 02 to the war in Ukraine, in this scenario, they are looking for a prey, and it hasn't any worth to them.

Eventually, the above-mentioned units were national miscreants and traitors who betrayed the people, the soil, the land, and even their mothers, families and children like Elahas, who are reaping majority of people their misdeeds and betrayals in Afghanistan.

#### Immediate Action to Save Elaha's Lives

The request for rescue, the cries and complaints of Elaheh Delawarezi about cruelty and barbarism are very shocking and disturbing. However, all national and international media, human rights organizations, and especially the UNMA office based in Afghanistan, are seriously requested to put pressure on the Taliban group through the components of human rights defense to save Ms. Elaha immediately. So, share this text for saving her.

The Voice of The War

## Page

## Four women Killed in One Day

16 July 2022

Silk Way Weekly: Four women killed themselves in one day on 3 July, in different provinces of Afghanistan as a sign of a dramatic domestic violence increase against women in the country. It shows women not only have been sidelined from the public sphere by the Taliban but, they face mounting domestic violence at home too.

#### Daikondi

Local sources from Daikondi province say that a girl ,17, killed herself on 3 July, in the Nawgonbad village of Kity district.

Local sources say that the girl had run away with the man she loved but was harshly criticized by her father. The girl had returned to her father's home after her marriage and finally killed herself with a hunting gun.

#### Takhar

Local sources say that a young girl killed herself due to domestic issues on 3 July, in Kalafgan district.

Last week, a young girl killed herself in Ashkamish district of Takhar province.

#### Bamyan

Days ago, a young girl killed herself in Sayed Baba village of Saighan district, hanging up herself in opposing to forced marriage by her parents.

#### Faryab

Local sources say that a woman,80, fell to a water well in Arabha e Quruq village of Qaisar district and died.

#### Urozgan

Local sources in Urozgan province say that a girl ,18, killed herself due to opposing her parents with her marriage to the man she loved in Dehrawood district of Urozgan.

The girl killed herself by eating narcotics on 3 Jul, in Dehzak village.

Local sources say the family of the boy had proposed serval times but the family of the girl had refused it.

#### Herat

Local sources say that a woman has been killed by her wife in Herat.

The incident occurred in police district 9 on 3 Jul. The motive of the murder is not clear yet. The Taliban district governor has arrested the murderer and investigations are going on.

The rate of murders and women suicide has dramatically increased after Kabul fell which it shows a direct link with the Taliban's antiwomen policies in the country.

## A young woman who had newly married killed herself in Faryab

Silk Way Weekly: Local authorities aid on 29 June 2022 that a woman who had newly married hanged herself in Garziwan district.

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# A rebellious woman from among A deprived minority group

#### By: Khliq Ebrahimi Translated by Mohamad Sakhi Rezaie

Salima Nikbin, in the second wave of escaping from the Taliban rule, was only able to reach Pakistan with her husband and children. A place that sheltered her and her family in the first round of the Taliban regime. In Islamabad, the capital of Pakistan, she did not sit idle until she is granted "resettlement" and she has continuously tried and sued for immigrant children and women. Sailma recalls that in the late 1990s, the biggest issue for Afghan immigrants was access to quality education services.

When she enrolled her children in a school for Afghan immigrants in Islamabad, she encourages the principal to open a new branch of this school in Sadiqabad area of Rawalpindi. The place where Salima lived and studied for six years. She has also activated the overseas branch of Esteghlal and Malali High School there. Nikbin says that the newly created school is supposed to provide educational services to two thousand Hazara families and about 500 families from other ethnic groups. In its first year of operation, it has more than 400 students.

Mrs. Salimah Nikbin was the deputy of social affairs of Kabul Provincial Governor in the last months of Ashraf Ghani's government. She was dealing with IDPs from different provinces, has also has seen days when the camps, mosques and hotels of Kabul could not accommodate the IDPs of the war, and the parks of the city were full of IDPs, but she still tried with hope. She says that on the 15th of August, she was in her office waiting for a meeting to coordinate more with various government and private institutions to settle the war refugees. "I received a call from the office of the second vice president that the ARG has been evacuated, Kabul has fallen and is in the hands of the Taliban." She did not believe it at first and laughed at this news. Moments later, she had to leave her office, hold the hands of her husband and children and go to one of her Pashtun friends' house to be safe from the Taliban.

During her 41 years of life, Salima has grew up in escaping and refuging, she has seen several collapses and changes in Kabul and remembers its effects on her and her family's daily life. She was a worthy student of the seventh grade of "Tajwar Sultana" school when Najib's government fell and with the arrival of the Mujahideen in Kabul, the gates of the schools were closed and it took two years for the situation to return to normal and for the schools to open. After that, she continued to study in this school until the 9th grade and from there, she was introduced to Zarghons High School. A few days before the annual exams, Salima's dream of becoming a doctor disappeared again and life went downhill. Salima says: "We woke up in the morning and found that the Mujahideen had been defeated and Kabul had fallen into the hands of the Taliban."

Salima's father, who was an employee of Najib's government and had a car repair shop in Taimani area of Kabul during the Mujahideen and civil wars, was arrested twice by the Taliban. The first time Salima's father and uncle were released by paying less money, the second time when they took only Salima's father, they also tortured him. Salima says at that time, "Dustom's" money was common and she remembers that her uncles took two bags of money to the Taliban to free Salima's father. After that, the family decided to emigrate because under it was impossible for them to live in Kabul under the Taliban rule.

Salima, in the Sadaqabad district of Rawalpindi, Pakistan, could think about becoming a doctor again, although it looked impossible. A worthy student of the 10th grade of Zarghuna High School was taken to the third grade to learn Urdu and English. The school supported by "Agha Khan" Institute operated according to the educational system of Pakistan and accepted students from the Ismaili people of Afghanistan out of goodwill. They lived in this area for six years and Salima had reached the seventh grade. Of course, with many difficulties.











Mrs. Nikbin's complaints also went nowhere. She says that she went to the second vice president of Ashraf Ghani with her valid documents, even though he had already promised to cooperate and protect the people's votes, after the announcement of the final results, he turned back from his position and said: "Everything is finished". Valid documents of Salima, from the amount of votes and their accuracy, could not return the victory to her and the Ismaili Hazaras. With that, Salima says: "The second vice president stood next to me. He supported me as a Hazara girl.

Salima's father worked in a market for two thousand rupees a month, her brothers could not study and her uncles had a vegetable and fruit shop on the street. One of Salima's uncles, who did not show any interest in migrating to other countries, returned to Kabul first and was later killed in the huge explosion at Zanbaq intersection in Kabul city.

This time, the Taliban were defeated and the era of democracy arrived. Salima's family, which had just returned from emigration, struggled to restart their life in Kabul. Salima used to go from Taimani to Qala e Fathullah again to study at Zarghuna high school. After three interruptions due to the collapse of the ruling systems and disruption of the education system, this time everyone had hope for the future. Salima started from the 10th grade and finally graduated from school in 2004. She could not

prepare to enter a good university to be accepted in the field of medicine; But she was the only girl from the Hazara region of Taimani who got into university, and her father had to take her to Kabul University every morning to study English language and literature, and in the afternoon, he brought her home again so that no one would disturb her.

At Kabul University, Salima heard strange things and became curious. "Why Hazaras should study?!" And she had heard similar sentences many times from her classmates and professors; She had also seen professors who deliberately lowered the scores of Hazara students. Despite these, Salima graduated from Kabul University in late 2007 and received a bachelor's degree in English language and literature. As she had worked as a volunteer in the Agha Khan Consul to the moment, she was employed as an official employee there.

In 2009, she married Hessamuddin Nikzad and with her husband's encouragement, she started political activities. In the parliamentary elections of 2010, she became an independent candidate to get votes from the Ismaili Hazaras and to represent them, and she got 954 votes. She lived in a rental house and she didn't have money so that she wanted not to lose in the competition and she had to get more votes. Salima says: "I got this amount of votes by being persistent and walking among the people to encourage them to vote to me." Salima's rivals were well-known people from wealthy families. From her constituency, Sayed Mansour Naderi, Seyed Davoud Naderi, Farkhunde Zahra Naderi and Jumazadah from the same family entered the parliament. Farkhunde Zahra Naderi, Seyed Mansour Naderi's daughter gained votes and won. But Salima, who wanted to represent the deprived minority of Ismaili Hazaras, failed. She returned to the Agha Khan Institute and continued working there.

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The victim was the resident of Pakhalsoz village of Garziwan district and killed herself not given dwry by her parents.

A young girl killed herself with a gun on 28 June 200 in Eshkamish district of Takhar.

The Taliban local authorities had mentioned domestic violence as the reason behind the murder.

At the same time, Taliban authorities in Takhar had said a woman had killed another woman with wood and stone in Tooran village of Taluqan city.

## Unknown armed men attacked a former employee of Enikass TV in Nangarhar

Silk Way Weekly: Local sources in Nangarhar reported that on 21 July 2022 Salki Ehsas the announcer of Enikass Radio and TV was harshly beaten by unknown men.

According to the local people she had been severely injured with butt stock by armed men and the local people had taken her to the hospital while she has been uncious.

## Under the White Flag; One women killed in Pajshir, Cleric rapes 12year girl in Faryab

18 July 2022

**Silk Way Weekly:** A cleric was detained accused of raping a 12-year-old girl.

Local sources in Faryab say that Taliban detained a cleric accused of raping a 12-year-old child girl.

The event occurred in Shalakto village of Qaisar district on Friday night.

Later, the Taliban intelligence detained the man who has been the guest and had raped the host's girl.

At the same time, there is a report that Taliban shot killed a woman, 35, in Abshar village of Panjshir.

The women, mother of 5, has been a shepherd who took her sheep to the mountains and was killed by Taliban.

## Taliban detained a young boy and girl, accused of fleeing home

18 July 2022

Silk Way Weekly: Obaidullah Abedi, the spokesperson of Konduz chief of police said that they had arrested a young boy who had run away with a young girl, who already was engaged with another boy. They arrested the boy after returning from Balkh province to Konduz.



# A rebellious woman from among A deprived minority group

Mrs. Nikbein turned the defeat in the parliamentary elections into a motivation to continue her campaign for the rights of Ismaili Hazaras and Hazaras in general. She went on to study law and political science and finally got a master's degree in international relations from Ibn Sina University. She now holds two master's degrees and two bachelor's degrees. She also knows foreign languages, English and French, and speaks regional languages such as Urdu, Arabic, and Pashtu. Salima saw merit not in belonging to a wealthy family, but in acquiring political skills and knowledge that would lead to correct political action. From the Agha Khan Institute, she went to the Independent Electoral Complaints Commission and was appointed the head of the office of the secretariat of this commission. In this position, she tried to find a place for women in this commission, created the gender committee, established a library for women, and in the representative office of this commission in Bamyan, she was able to appoint a woman as the head of the secretariat. After that, she joined the Electoral Reforms Commission and became the ERC chief of staff.

Salima studied at night and worked during the day, and she also took care of her children. She says that the Electoral Reforms Commission was started by the decree of Ashraf Ghani and six months later, the activity of this institution was canceled by the order of Ashraf Ghani as well. After that, Salima became an advisor to the provincial governor of Kabul. She was an employee of the Ministry of Justice for some time until the late parliamentary elections were held in 2018. Mrs. Nikbin, this time with more seriousness and with the consultation of her relatives, entered the election campaign from

Kabul province as an independent candidate. "This time I decided to work beyond Ismaili Hazaras," she says. She also started campaigning in Dasht Barchi, west of Kabul, and finally won hundreds of votes from this area. She was among the winners from Kabul by getting a total of 2,800 votes in the preliminary results announced by the Independent Election Commissions. But in the final results, she was dropped from the list again and, according to herself, her vote was ignored. The IT head of the Independent Election Commission had told her that Salima Nikbin was not going to be declared the winner in the preliminary results. Even though Sarwar Danish, the second vice president of the Republic government, had promised her protection of the votes of the Ismaili Hazaras, she ultimately failed.

Mrs. Nikbin's complaints also went nowhere. She says that she went to the second vice president of Ashraf Ghani with her valid documents, even though he had already promised to cooperate and protect the people's votes, after the announcement of the final results, he turned back from his position and said: "Everything is finished". Valid documents of Salima, from the amount of votes and their accuracy, could not return the victory to her and the Ismaili Hazaras. With that, Salima says: "The second vice president stood next to me. He supported me as a Hazara girl. Hawa Alam Nuristani, who was the head of the Independent Election Commission, said to Salima's clients who went to see her to file a lawsuit: "Your candidate was victorious and became a victim." Also, Zohra Bayan Shinwari, the head of the Electoral Complaints Commission and Maulawi Din Mohammad Azimi, the deputy

of the Electoral Complaints Commission, told Salima in a meeting: "You were the winner; But unfortunately, we could not defend your vote." Azimi adds in the same meeting: "I invalidated the 700 fraudulent votes of Mursal Nabizadeh; But she still found a way. We do not know how. "It was really painful."

This time, Salima may have cursed her luck and also learned that without belonging to political parties and currents, as well as a wealthy and powerful family, to reach the position of people's representative is to pass Haftkhwan Rostam, or (too many challenges and difficulties) and even if someone has 2,800 votes or more votes than their rivals.

This time three MPs, Gholam Hosseain Naseri, Ahmad Shah Ramadan and Seyyed Abdul Qayyum Sajjadi, decided to support Salima by writing a proposal and collecting signatures from 72 MPs, they asked Ashraf Ghani to restore justice and because Nikbin had the vote of a winning candidate and her right her was wasted by the powerful candidates, to nominate her as the senator of the Ismaili minority religious group in the Senate. Nikbin sent this request wherever she could; Security Council, Administrative Affairs Office of the president and anywhere else; But luck was not with her. This time, Mohammad Akbari and Siddiqa Balkhi were appointed as senators by Ashraf Ghani. After the presidential election in 2019, Mrs. Nikbeen was offered the position of deputy provincial governor of Kabul, she went and gave an interview and after a year, she was able to go to her office and work. Salima was still in the post of deputy governor of Kabul when the Taliban arrived again and captured Kabul once more without any fighting.

## Wait until your hair is as white as your teeth

#### By: Azar Foladi Translated by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

It is not important for "Sima" whether she can sleep during the night or not because she has fixed her mind clock at 7 am, in order to wake up and then prepare the shoes and hat of her 9 years old son and sends him to school. The only thing that makes her happy is that her son's school is close to her home. Mahdi goes to school in the morning and returns at 2 pm and Sima sits at the back of her sewing machine and puts the teapot and the cup near her hand and then starts working and listening to music; She sometimes takes a sip of tea and sometimes swallows her sorrows. When you listen to the story of her life, contrary to her artificial cheerfulness, she has a sad life full of sorrows.

It was the spring of 2012. She was happy

that had successfully passed the final high school exams and could study at university. She was the second child of a mid-class Hazara family who if could not study I a public university, she could study in a private university. She did not have economic problem and also there was no other barrier on her way; neither a cultural barrier or financial one. Her father was a well-known man and supported her to continue her study. So Sima joined the university, wearing a white uniform, she perceived herself as a doctor. But, it did not last much, and her hope were replaced with a big disappointment in her life.

In one of the nights which "the sky cursed", Sima went behind the door of their guest room and counted the shoes her father's guests. Haji usually had guests and Sima was in charge of the kitchen. When she came to the kitchen to cook dinner, her father came to her and told her that he had some Very important guests. Because

they usually had guests. Her father usually did not come to the kitchen to tell what she shall cook and how it shall be cooked. Sima did not understand what her father mean but did her job in the best way she could do it. She sent full plates of rice and pot raost and they soon were sent her empty. After the gussets were satisfied, and tea was also sent to the them, Sima started cleaning the kitchen. Then, she went to her bedroom to sleep while she was too tired.

She had just slept, while her small sister kicked her saying "get up! Get up! Our father married you to someone."

Sima could not believe it; But she listened to the story of her sister and what she had heard while she had been behind the door of the guest room. The she cried loudly. She was sad and she was angry at her father for not consulting her about her marriage and she cursed the unfamiliar guests. The guests were saying congratulations to each other. The Haji tried to justify his decision to his daughter who wanted to become a doctor. The more Haji tried to provide a good picture of the new guests and the groom, the more she was suspicious about them. As her father could not satisfy her, he beaten Sima in order not to oppose to his decision.

The first semester of medical faculty was not over, when she married with a young man who she did not know him. The only thing she could comfort her was what her father and mother told her; you would have a happy and prosperous life. The told her the groom came from a wealthy family and it was a big chance for Sima. In return, her husband told her that he will remain beside Sima forever, he will support Sima to study and help her at home. She did not know that her husband will not stand on his promise. When Sima married, everything changed. Sima wanted to become a doctor but her husband and his family wanted Sima to have child. As such, Sima had a child in the third semester and her dream to become a doctor vanished ever.

The to be doctor is helpless now; Her husband who worked in a pharmacy as a doctor was expelled from the university because of laziness and as a result he lost his job too.



## Taliban Whipped 2 women, 3 men in Zabul

11 August 2022

**Silk Way Weekly:** A video which went viral on social media show many Taliban push to a door where 3 men and 2 women are being whipped by them.

Local sources in Qalat city reported to media that Taliban whipped 3 men and 2 women in the public.

It said that the primary court has considered them criminal and then they were whipped bas on field

According to the local sources 2 women and 1 man were whipped accused of adultery and 2 other men were whipped accused of robbery.

Mawlawi Rahmatullah Hemad Niaze director of Culture and Information of Taliban in Zabul said that they have whipped 21 to 39 times.

2 women and 1 man has been sentenced for 2 years and the 2 thieves have been centenced for 1 year.

At the same time, one day after this incident in Zabul, local people arrested two Taliban soldiers accused on adultery.

The incident occurred in Amaki of Zabul and the Taliban soldiers were arrested in a house. They have confessed after people arrested them

Local sources said that Taliban officials in Zabul PD4, tried to release these soldiers, but people prevented them to be released.

# Three Anti-women incidents in one day in Nangarhar

2 August 2022

**Silk Way Weekly:** The nose of a-16-year-old girl was cut off by her brother who is a member of the Taliban group in Khogiani district, Nangarhar.

Marjana's brother cut off her nose for wearing tight clothes.

Taliban whipped one woman and two men for having illegal intercourse on 31 July in Nangarhar.

Taliban local officials said that the woman and men have confessed to adultery during interrogations and have been whipped 39 times.

At the same time, a woman has been killed by her husband in Nangarhar.

Haji Zabuli, the military spokesperson of Taliban, has confirmed the incident and said that Khalil Janan Khan the murderer of the woman has been arrested in PD8 by Taliban while attempting to flee.

The motives behind the incident is not clear yet.

After Taliban seized power in Kabul on August 15, 2021, women not only have been marginalized from the public space but, they domestic violence against women has increased dramatically too.

## Wait until your hair is as white as your teeth

#### By: Azar Foladi Translated by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

Nobody gave her husband a job because of being expelled from the university. Sima faced a lot of problems in a family she was supposed to be happy. When she talks of her dreams, while crying she says she grew up in prosperity at his father's home. But she was not allowed to lock the door on herself in his husband's house or to talk with her relatives, especially male ones. She was not allowed to invite her relatives to their home and her jobless husband was an extra burden on her. "I made bay diapers out of plastics for Mahdi, my little son." She says.

Disappointed from everywhere, husband decided to join the national army to have an income and mange his family. But Sima disagreed with him. Sima asked her father to send her husband to Saudi Arabia to work. Siam's husband could reach Saudi Arabia after passing hardships in Pakistan. He worked in his father in law hotel as a baker and he gradually improved and had a good salary. But it did not impact positively on the life of Sima because she did not receive any money from her husband. After two years, her husband sent her 20,000 Afghanis; of course without informing his parents, but they finally were informed and were very angry at their son and their daughter in law. "She wants money separately! Does she want to open a bank account? She can't do so until we are alive." They said.

It was too difficult for Sima to live with her husband parents. As a result, she took her little son, without informing her husband's family, she went to her father's house to live with them. Her father said he had made a mistake marrying Sima to such a family and he encouraged his daughter to divorce. But she was a mother and could not leave her son alone. As a result, she waited for two or three years, while her husband was in Saudi Arabia. Her husband came from Saudi Arabia, and Sima went to his husband's family to live with him. But they did not live them to have a peaceful life. They usually reminded the issue of 20,000 afs. Sima's husband could not tolerate it and returned to Saudi Arabia after two months, although she had returned back from Saudi Arabia after five years. Sima could satisfy her husband's family to live separately conditioned to that her husband work for her parents and his brother and sister. She started sewing embroidery and sewing she could make a good living; a life that her classmates hoped to have such a life. But it did not last. Afghanistan republic government collapsed and Taliban retook the control of the country and everyone was puzzled by these developments. Sima's husband was expelled from Saudi Arabia due to fake identification documentations and returned to Afghanistan to live with his wife and son. He had a new plan. "To sell everything they

had to go to Iran and from Iran to go to Brazil, US or maybe Canada. He behaved better after 10 years of mutual life.

Sima had no choice but to agree with her husband for the sake of her son. She was ready to take any risk in order their son lives in a prosperous country. They could hardly get passports after selling all their properties. Going in the hustle and bustle, her husband go to Kandahar to get passports and Sima had no news of her husband for two or three weeks. She calls several times her husband and he finally picks up the telephone. "I wore the trousers you bought me from Barch in my wedding! And I want to live with another woman but will not divorce you. You shall live alone unless your hair is as while as your teeth!" he says. Before doing anything, Sima rushed to check her suitcases. Her husband had taken her passport and their son's passport, he had taken Sima's jewelries, phone and any other valuable belongings they had. As the Taliban policies are against Afghan women, Sima could not file a complaint against her husband. Sima, asked what about your son? "I do not need him." Her husband said. Saima's husband went to Pakistan with his new wife and Sima went to his father's house again. Sima left Afghanistan due to increasingly restricting policies of the Taliban on women. Now, she hopes to be accepted as migration in third country. Currently, she makes a living by sewing to feed his little son and herself.

## Taliban's edicts to further isolate women; Renovation of Dominance by Isolating Women

#### By: Arif Wafayee Translated by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

Taliban has continuously isolated Afghans, especially the Afghan women after they seized power in August 2021. Taliban dissolved Ministry of Women Affairs and Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, the two institutions supporting women rights in the country, and formed institutions as Ordering to good and preventing from the vice to limit the citizens' basic rights in the country.

When Taliban seized power in 2021, they announced Afghan women enjoy all their rights and only hejab would be added to their rights. But after two weeks, they announced women are not allowed to do sports and they announced after one month that women are not allowed to work in public office except in health sector.

School ban on girls above 6 grade and banning women work in public office caused wide spread demonstrations against Taliban across Afghanistan major cities. Afghan women in Kabul, Balkh, Herat and Nangarhar cities pressed Taliban for women participation in political decision making processes. On 30 September 2021, Taliban announced women are not allowed to demonstrate. Women protests in an environment full of torture and killings, is the only voice for freedom of Afghans and on the other hand Taliban are afraid of it. As a result, Taliban have continuously issued verdicts

to sideline women from public office, NGOs and public sphere.

Taliban limited women education on Mezan,13. It included separation of girls' classes, forcing women to wear a hejab, and preventing women from certain fields of education.

Taliban banned series with women role on Afghanistan public and private TV channels. Before the edict, role of women had dramatically decreased in local media, and they had brought many changes in their policies including supporting the Taliban policies, reducing broadcasting foreign series and stopping recreational programs.

On January 1, 2021, Taliban banned women accompanying the patients in hospitals. According to the decree women were not allowed to visit hospitals without their guardians or take their patients to the hospitals. As another restrictive move on women, Taliban announced on 26 December, 2021, all urban transportation should only provide transition service to those women observing Islamic hejab. In addition to this, Taliban ordered all transportation companies and drivers that they are not allowed to provide transportation service for women without their guardians for long travels and provincial travels.

On March 27, 2022, Taliban banned air travel without a mail guardian on women. At the same time schools were suspended girls. Though primary schools were open on girls from first to six grades at the beginning of the educational

year in Afghanistan in some provinces but they issued a suspension edict banning all schools on girls

On April 27, 2022, Taliban announced women should wear burqa while they already had issued a verdict forcing women to wear a hejab in markets, hospitals and community. After two weeks, they announced On June 2022, that women shall not be allowed to government offices.

Although girls schools were closed, national entrance exam was conducted with one year delay on 13 October 2022. According to the Ministry of Higher Education, about 150,000 participated in the entrance exam and about 115 people were admitted to public universities. As it was expected, girls face new restrictions in the national entrance exam as they only could study in certain fields of education. And they were not allowed to study journalism, agriculture, livestock, engineering and economics.

On November 10, 2022, Taliban announced women were not allowed to public parks; public parks were the only place women could get together after Taliban banned schools, universities and public office on women.

On November 10, 2022, Taliban issued a verdict banning women from higher education. And following it, they announced women were not allowed to work in local and international NGOs. Taliban by issuing this verdict completed their restrictive measures on women as they already had suspended girls schools, universities, women work and women presence in the public. Now, they should be imprisoned in the four walls of home. Taliban could isolate women and exclude the from the social life, contrary to the wide condemnations by the UN, Islamic Conference Organization, Women advocacy organizations, human rights organizations, and opposition of the international community and the Islamic world.

After Taliban seized power in August 2021, women challenged them by staging protests and demonstrations and changed to the only active civil movement against the Taliban policies. As a result, Taliban have taken different restrictive measures to sideline women from political, social and economic activities. To do this, Taliban have continuously limited women basic human rights; right to education, work, right to protest, freedom of speech, and even limited women presence in the public sphere and as a result they could exclude women in one year half from most parts of the social life.



## A Man Sells His Wife for 160,000

afs

2 August 2022

Silk Way Weekly: A man named Rasool sold his wife for 160,000 afs in Faryab on 27 July.

The woman has a-4-year old child and suffers from psychological disorders and her wife is addicted to

The incident occurred in Dawlatabd district of Faryab.

Mofti Mohammad Ismaeil, manager of crimes dept of Taliban in Faryab, said they had detained the husband of the woman and another man in relation to this case.

According to him, the main buyer of the woman has espcaped from the area and Taliban are determined to detain him.

Farvab has been the scene of some catastrophic events in terms of women including murdering, forced marriage and suicide.

### Taliban detained a man and woman for having illicit relations in Herat

Silk Way Weekly: Taliban announced on 28 June 2022 that they arrested a man and woman for having illicit relation.

Taliban said the man and woman were actually arrested and were under interrogation. Taliban said the man and woman had confessed

## A girl killed herself eating rat poison in Faryab

Silk Way Weekly: Local sources said the girl was engaged to a boy for one million and two hundred thousand afghanis and her fiancé had paid the money after working for 5 years in Iran but her father has told the fiancé, after returning from Iran to marry the gril, to give him a piece of land too.

Taliban opened fired on a girl name Rita and wounded her on 27 June 2022 in Taluqan city. Taliban forces had opened fire on the girl in a Taliban checkpoint. The hospital authorities mentioned the health condition of Rital as volatile.

Local sources in Faryab reported on 28 June 2022 tht armed had shot and killed a 15-year old girl in Kohistan district of Faryab.

Local sources attributed the indent to the Taliban fighters.

#### **Taliban Rape Two** women in Farkhar **District**

2 August 2022

Silk Way Weekly: Based on a video sent to Silk Way by a girl, she has claimed that Taliban have raped her and her brother's wife in Farkhar district of Takhar.

The girl does not mention the name of Farkhar distirict governor but says they had a legal case and...

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## Full-Blood and Classmates; Narrative of three girls injured in Kaaj Educational Center

#### By: Adila Azin Translated by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

It had arranged a meeting with three girls injured in a Suicide attack on Kaaj Educational Center who are from the same family. But they said they could not talk about that sad and tragic day because they are not feeling well; they were in a bad health condition and they are in a post suicide attack shock. As a result, I talk to Marzai, a woman who takes care of the alone. I had organized a meeting with Marzia in one of the cafes lose to their home to talk about the three injured girls and know about their health and other relevant issues. After passing a while, a pregnant woman approached me with dried lips and sad look and I guess she must be Marzia.

After greetings, she takes a seat on a chair in front of me. She starts talking, before she takes a sip of tea although she looks very tired. The post Kaaj Suicide attack "trauma" never lefts her behind. While she talks to me, she is worried about Shakiba, her sister. Shakiba has been recently been .... from the hospital but she is in a post suicide attack shock yet.

Marzia, takes care of the three girls injured in the Kaaj attack, but her husband is in Iran, and her mother in law has just come to Marzia's house in Kabul for her treatment.

She was in the last semester of ..., but taking care of the three injured girls and her ill sister had prevented her from attending the university.

Girls are getting ready to go to Kaaj Center

It early morning and Marzia is in the bed yet. But Shakiba, Husnia and Zainab have already prepared for going to the Education Center. They wake up Marzia to prepare their stuff; because they were going to DayKondi after having their fifth preparatory entrance exam to participate in the formal entrance exam there. Marzia, while being half a sleep, tells them it is better not to take the fifth preparatory exam because it maybe late to go to Daykandi. However, they participate in the entrance exam to test their capabilities.

## Marzia receives a call from Kaaj Educational

Marzia receives a call from the educational center after about 2 minutes the girls had left home. On the other side of the line, there is a man, he directly asks Marzia, "how many people from your home study at the educational center?" but Marzia asks the man to introduce himself and the man says he is one of instructors of Kaaj Educational Center. "Three people from our home attend Kaaj". Heaing this, the man says "Allas!" and cuts off the conversation. The Marzia was wooried and wondered what happened to the members of her family and rushed out of the home to Kaaj Educational Center. At the of their home, Marzia meets the wife of their neighbor and she tells Maria that there has been a terrorist attack on Kaaj Educational Center. She walks as fast as possible to the educational center.

Taloban fighter does not allow Marzia to enter the center but she hits Taliban by anything at hand and finally goes inside the course.

#### Marzia finds the calls where three loved ones of her family studied there

Marzia finds a big class, where it looks as a slaughter house; a class that was attacked a suicide attacker and Shakiba, Husnia and Zainab studied there. When Marzia reached to this point of the story, her cheeks were full of tear and her hands were shivering. She pauses for a short time and continues telling about the classroom as saying it was a big classroom, its roof and walls destroyed, the chairs were broken, and there was blood, pieces of meet and bones, and lesson materials anywhere. "It was an unprecedented situation; unprecedented." she says. She checks each of the chairs to find a clue from Shakiba, Husnia and Zainab among the injured people and dead bodies. She becomes after awhile and tells herself all that "all the three members of her family have certainly been killed and I cannot find them." She thinks they may have been such cut to pieces that she cannot identify their bodies among the victims.

There were signs of Shakiba, Husnia and

Zainab but shoes and mobiles

She only finds a pair of shoes that belonged to one of the three members of her family. She finds a bloody pairs of shoes, bigger than other ones; then she was certain it belonged to one of them, Because those three girls had big feet, bigger than more of the other students. Then she finds Shakiba's, her sister, mobile and continues looking for them in other classrooms. People gathered outside the educational center, tell Marzia to go the mosque located across from the course, where many dead bodies were moved there. She looks for Shakiba, Husnia and Zainab but cannot find them. She is more disappointed and thinks all of the three girls have been killed. Then, she remembers her sick mother in law and rushes home. "It is better not to miss this one, I just walked fast and my mother in law had fainted on way to the course. I just walked fast and shouted all the three girls have been killed in the attack." Marzia's neighbors had come to their home and pour water on the face of her to gain her consciousness and then both of them started running agai.

#### Zainab, Marzia's classmate was found full of blood and pieces of meet

Both of them (Marzia and her mother in law), run to the Watan hospital and finds Zainab (Shakiba and Husnia's frined) in a very bad condition. Zainab is on a bed and just says "I am OK." But she does not know where her friends are and how many of them are dead or injured. Zainab, a 19 year old girl wanted to study at university and in order to realize her big dream she had participated at the entrance exam in Daykondi.

#### Shakiba holding the exam paper was shouting "My friends, my friends..."

Marzia could hardly find out Shakiba, her sister, in one of the Watan hospital rooms, standing with bloody clothes, holding her exam books and papers and tornedo bloody bag and was shouting: My friends, my friends.

Shakiba was slightly injured; but she was psychologically damaged. She even thought about the exam in such a moment.

#### Husnia, sister of Marzia's husband, was found in another hospital

While Marzia was soothing Shekiba, her uncle called her from another hospital to tell her Husnia has been found in Kabul Emergency hospital having a very bad health conditions. Marzia asks her neighbors who come to help her to take care of Shekiba and Zainab. Then she goes to the emergency hospital. On the way she feels very happy that two of her friends are alive yet. The roads were blocked on the day of the suicide attack and she could hardly find a taxi. "I told the taxi driver faster and reach me to the hospital. I could answer the questions of the driver. In fact, I could not hear and did not know what the driver said." Marzia says.







When Marzia reaches the hospital, she looks for Husnia room to room. Doctors tell her Husnia is seriously injured and is not feeling well at all. Husnia was transferred to the operations room at 8:am and she was under operations at 11: am. But, she was not able to see Husnia. Husnia's lungs were damaged due to the explosion and doctors told she needed 250 cc blood. Shrapnel hit the left side of Husnia's body and her hands, legs, and lungs lost many blood.

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#### Shekiba and Zainab are moved from Watan hospital to emergency hospital

While Marzia was in emergency hospital to look for Husnia, doctors along with one of Marzia's friends transferred Shekiba and Zainab from Watan hospital to Emergency hospital as they health conditions was not good too. Marzia saw Shekiba at the gate of Emergency hospital saying my heart, my heart. The staff of hospital transfer them to the room and one of the doctors tells Marzia that Shekiba is not injured seriously but she is shocked. Marzia decides to go to Shekiba and comforts her and then she shall take her home. Because, with seeing the injured people, she may gets worse.

#### Shekiba, Marzia's sister, returns home

Marzia, an 8 month pregnant woman, takes Shekiba home while two other injured girls were already at home. Shekiba is holding her book and the bloody papers of the preparatory exam and shouting her friends' names. "I burn these books", Shekiba says. And "the girls will have an entrance exam after some days." She adds. Shekiba returned home, feeling psychologically depressed and wounded, after some days of the suicide attack. But Zainab and Husnia were at the hospital in bed yet. Two friends of these three girls were killed in the suicide attack, an event that bothers them too much. When Shekiba was at home she too worried about her two friends and could hardly sleep for a short moment. When she is a sleep, she dreams the day of the explosion and wakes up. She cannot explain what she had seen in the explosion day. When Marzia brought Shekiba home, she followed up a specific symbol. When they reached to the destination, they found that she has been looking for another branch of Kaaj Educational Center to register in it and continue her lessons. Shekiba, Zainab and Husnia; the three triangles of friendship with inseparable commonalities

These three injured students in Kaaj, have been for many years with each other and have studied together. They have spent many days laughing and crying together. Shekiba and Husnia are 20 and Zainab is 19.

Husnia and Zainab were classmates in Daykondi and if Shekiba's school was not banned by Taliban, she could be in grade 11 now. The look like three branches of a tall pine/Kaaj and they always were top students. They used to study books together. The used to go to the library together to borrow books and read them at home. They studied many books together including the three Daughters of Eve by Elif Shafak, Daughters of Taly by Siamak Herawi, The Last Girl by Nadia Morad, Girl , Wash Your Face by Rachel Hollis.

"We had bough Shekiba a small bookshelf so that she could place her books there." Marzia says. Zainab, on the fourth days after she was injured, had told Marzia to buy her The Nation of Love by Elif Shafak.

They worked hard to learn English in order to study at well known international universities. Though they paid their fees late due to economic problems, they were offered discounts for high marks they obtained. They bough similar clothes, and their stuff were similar. They all sat beside each other but they sat back to each other in the day of preparatory exam.

The dream of these tall branches of the pine/ Kaaj was to study at international universities. But the hands of the enemy changed to an axe on their life ax and they look forward to recover as soon as possible. However, as they are economically poor people and psychologically are badly affected by the terrorist attack, it maybe hard to recover but as they are strongly determined, they certainly recover.

Note: Due to security threats, fake names were used for this story.

She said "there are many cases of raping in Farkhar district but there is no one to support the victims."

The two women have moved from where they lived and Taliban have threatened them not to publicize the case.

## A girl and boy under Taliban prosecution jumped, drawn in Kokcha river

27 August 2022

Silk Way Weekly: A girl and a boy, loving each other, were under Taliban prosecution on 25 August on Faizabad-Kishm road when they jumped into Kokcha river and drowned.



The girl lived in Baluch ha area and the boy lived in Namazgah area of Kishm district and loved each other as cousins. The family of the daughter rejecting the marriage of the two had engaged their daughter to another man.

According to the media relatives of the daughter's fiancé had just learned the issue and when the girl rides in the boys' car, they filmed it and shared it with the Taliban.

The hen Taliban followed them and when they approached the boy and girl, they jumped into Kokcha river fearing the Taliban and drowned. According to the local sources bodies of the two have not been found. Domestic violence and deaths have increased during the second term of Taliban rule.

Also, office of Herat chief of police announced thedetention of 3 girls in an investigation operation with cooperation of policewomen in PD6 and submitting them to judicial authorities. Taliban have cancelled General Directorate of addressing women harassment in order women to have no access to justice in the country.

## Young woman killed in Bamyan

Bamyan -27 September 2022

**Silk Way Weekly:** Local sources reported that a young woman was killed at 11am on 25 September by armed men in Bamyan city.

The motive behind the murder is not clear and the Taliban officials have not responded to the incident yet. After Taliban seized power in Afghanistan the rate of secret killings of women and girls have increased the in the country.

Prior to this incident, several cases of mysterious killings of women and girls have been reported from Bamyan. Beside the mysterious killings of women and girls, the rate of suicide has increased among women in Afghanistan too.

## The Decline of Arts; An Interview with Mahbubah Haidari, A leading Hazara Singer

#### Interviewer: Adela Azin Translated by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

Mhbubah Haidari, a leading singer and Dambura player, has produced more than 50 art works, which most of them are in Hazara dialects. She studied acting in Kabul University and studied singing and playing dambura for two years in Agha Khan Foundation. Haidari fled to Iran after the collapse of the elected government of Afghanistan and is living in Iran there now.

## Azin: What major feature you remember from your childhood about singing?

Haidari: I liked reciting Quran and singing nawha (religious sad song) when I was a child. When I was a child I attended home school and in addition to studying my lessons and I took part in singing groups; we sang "Duie", "Bulbi" and Hazaragi ghazal and I really enjoyed them a lot.

## A: How could you form an art group and what were your major achievements?

H:I had a formed an art group named "Shamama" supported by Wahid Qasemi. It included Hazara girls and we had named it after one of the Buddha statues with a female nature, in Bamyan. Shamma has a profound historical value. Our first song produced in Barbod Studio was "Duei Bulbi" and was broadcasted by Tolo TV. Dawood Sarkhosh had already sang it originally and was named "Oh God! You may had given us wings and feathers" and we reproduced it and performed it in two ceremonies, we first performed it in Nawruz celebration and the second time At Chaman Hozori at the final ceremony of Afghanistan Football Champions league, during the Republic era after 8 years and it was the first and last Hazara song by Hazara singers performed there. Shamam was invited for the final announcement of the 12th round of Afghan Star program as a honorary guest and we performed the "Mother song" on International Women's Day. They we performed "marriage proposal song and Hazaragi sorrow or Makhta" on Afghan national TV during the music festival. We also participated in Bamuyan Dambura Festival.

## A: How was your life before the collapse of the elected government?

H: After I was graduated from Kabul University, I studied singing and playing Dambura in Agha Khan Cultural Foundation for 2 years and was graduated. Then I was introduced as a singer and Dambur player to Afghanistan Music Production Directorate and joined Hazara music production unit. My first song was "My Beloved" and was aired live on Afghanistan National TV. Soon the elected government collapsed and the Taliban seized power in Afghanistan.

#### A: What is your definition of life with art?

B: Arts is part of the life of each individual; it means arts play a role in our life directly or indirectly. However, as in our society a number of people had emerged as armature, they had portrayed a week and degusting picture of arts and as a result the people did not have a positive image of art. When I started working as a woman artist it was a taboo in the society and nearly no girl could dare to work as an artist. As a result, I experienced the toughest situation in order to pave the way for other women to join enter to this domain. Thus, after formation of Shmama, other girls' art groups were formed in the country.

Life is beautiful; though it is full of hardships. Because it has been a struggle rewarding success to me. In other words; living with arts is fantastic. But it is very challenging in a traditional society like Afghanistan. When we performed TVs or we had concerts, they also were broadcasted on social media and as most Afghans do not have a proper culture to use social media, the usually insulted as.

## A: What did you experience under the Taliban rule?

I lost membership to Afghanistan Directorate of Music; a status I had fought for several years to achieve it as a representative of Hazara woman. When I was in Afghanistan, I lived in secret and I usually changed my

residential place fearing the Taliban may detain me. I also faced mounting economic problems as I had lost my job.

## A: What could happen if you had remained in Afghanistan?

H: I was informed my name was on the list of Afghan Rights activists girls and Taliban searched to arrest me. As a result, I was frightened and could not sleep during the nights and feared my family and husband maybe harmed for me. It was very dangerous for me to remain in Afghanistan due to art activities and revolutionary songs I has san to awaken the people on their rights.

## A: What you lost after the Taliban resurgence?

H: Unfortunately, I lost art programs, art and media projects and all plans I had for Hazara culture and community.

## A: What could happen if democratic government did not collapse?

Hazara women artists and music had recently achieved a good status in Afghanistan. Arts and music was not considered as a crime for Hazara women. For example, Abe Mirza was oppressed as a woman singer in the past. But I grew in Afghanistan without coming form other country and could achieve a high status as the

first Hazara woman singer in short period. I started my career from and dared to step in the art profession. I experienced what Abe Mirxa did, but did not surrender to the enemies of art. I passed my childhood being insulted. Those who insulted me when I just started working as a singer, after 10 or 11 years, they finally respected me. Because I could provide the true meaning of the arts to them and could pave the way for other Hazara women to start working as a women artist. In the past, as playing Dambura, was considered a negative profession, no girl could dare to play it but I performed my first son with playing Dambura on social media. After some years, some other Hazara girls appeared on social media playing Dambura.

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#### How did find migration?

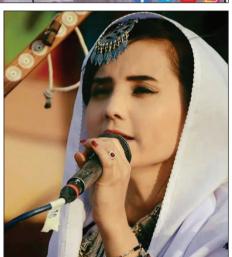
It is clear that living as a refugee is the most difficult life. However, I left Afghanistan to save life, dreams and to work for my people and I my future is unknown now.

## A: What do you envision for the future of Art in Afghanistan?

H: If the current situation continues, arts may vanish in Afghanistan. There is no hope for arts and artists in the current situation of the country.











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## Young woman killed by unknown men with a knife in Ghazni

Silk Way Weekly: Local sources reported on 21 September 2022 that a young woman was killed in her house located in Sulaimanzai village of Dehyak district by unknown men.

Two women and three men killed in family dispute in Lagham

Local sources reported on 22 September 2022 that two women three men were killed in a family dispute in Laghman.

The incident occurred in Dawlat Shah district and it is not clear whether the casualties belong to one family of two familes.

The Taliban district governor, Abdul Qadir Motawakil, confirmed the incident and said the police is searching to detain the perpetrators.

## Taliban shot dead a woman in Samangan

Samangan-12 June 2022

Silk Way Weekly: On 6 June 2022, the Taliban shot dead a woman aged 30 before the eyes of her children in the Daresuf Paeen district of Samangan.

Local sources say Sharifa had a 9-year-old daughter and an 11-yearold son.

According to the local sources, Sharifa's husband is in Iran. Taliban shot killed her charging her for having illegal affairs with another man. The man is a driver who used to bring the shopping of the women from a local village market. The local people say they had no affairs.

The Taliban is the only group that rules beyond the law. Taliban forces are famous in hanging the people and killing them by extra-judicial practices.

Now according to genocide characteristics, attributes and definitions, it shall have been clear to the human rights organizations, United Nation, and especially the International Criminal Court that genocide is ongoing in Afghanistan and the main perpetrators of these cruel crimes are the Taliban.

### A woman gangraped by Taliban

15 January 2023

**Silk Way Weekly:** In a video that went viral (today) on social media, a woman says that she has been gangraped by Taliban.

The young woman said she wanted to kill herself, but she has changed her mind due to a one year child she has to care of.

According to local sources, the incident has occurred in Makrorian Kohna (Old Makrorian) of Kabul.

There has been various reports of gang-rapping women by Taliban in the past on media.

Taliban also have accused of gangraping women and girls in Panjshir and Balkh provinces.

# women's rights in Afghanistan in deciding for their health, especially testing for HIV and procreation – then and now

20 July 2022 by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

The Republic Constitution of Afghanistan viewed women's rights as an element of human rights, one of whose purposes is the attainment of justice, fairness, and dignity for all human beings. Women's rights were also supported by Afghan legal precedent, evident in the 1964 Constitution and subsequent constitutions, as well as the ratification by Afghanistan of several international treaties.

However, after Kabul fell, the Taliban attempted to neglect all of the basic rights of the Afghan citizens including women based on their harsh ideological perspective on women and their rights. As a result, the Taliban regime, a radical Islamic movement that took control of Kabul in August 2021, has extraordinary health consequences for Afghan women.

"The Islamic Emirate and its system" as the roadmap of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan clearly has defined the viewpoint of the Taliban on women's rights. In the section "Government of Women", it states, "If a woman takes office she shall lead the affairs herself. And this requires mixing with men, while Sharia has prohibited women from mixing with men."

Considering the viewpoints of the Republic and Emirate systems on women's rights enshrined in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Constitution and the Islamic Emirate System, it was not unpredictable that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan will start limiting women's rights as its top priority.

As a result, a survey conducted by PHR in 2001 showed that "Women in the Taliban controlled areas surveyed by PHR almost unanimously expressed that the Taliban had made their life "much worse" (94-98%). These women reported worse physical (84% vs. 63%) and mental health (85% vs. 54%), including extremely high rates of major depression (76% vs. 28%) and suicide (16% vs. 9%), compared to women living in non-Taliban controlled areas. In fact, the majority of women (65-94%) who were exposed to Taliban edicts attributed their depression to official Taliban policy.

Imposing Restrictions on Women on the



First Days of Capturing the Districts

According to Rukhshan Media, the Taliban tacked a note on 2 March 2002, saying: "From now on," it reads, "no women can come to health centers without a mahram." According to the Daily Outlook of Afghanistan, "The number of widows in Afghanistan is estimated to be from 600,000 to two million (2M), one of the highest in the world." And there are many women whose husbands and or mahrams are out of the country, and if they need to go to the health facilities they will surely face serious problems and if they do not go to health facilities they may risk their lives.

Based on the new rules of procedures issued by the Taliban Ministry of Ordering to Virtue and Preventing of Vice, thousands of women have been deprived of their rights to access health care. According to Sohail (fake name), "Two women brought an infant to the Dehdadi clinic for treatment, when the Taliban noticed they had no mahram with them, the Taliban kick them out of the clinic and then hit them with the butt stock."

According to Dr. Jamal (fake name), who

works in Istiqlal hospital of Kabul, "women's access to health care is increasingly restricted. Women face serious challenges accessing health care, especially testing for HIV and procreation."

All the Laws Contradicting Sharia to be Repealed

"A Perfect Islamic system is established in Afghanistan and all the laws contradicting Sharia and passed during Karzai and Ashraf Ghani must be repealed," Mullah Habatullah the Taliban leader said during Edi Prayers in Kandahar Eidgah mosque.

This decision paves the way for repealing nearly all laws that consider the human rights of the minority religious and ethnic groups and women's rights in the country.

Conclusions: The current women's rights status shows that the combined effects of Women's rights abuse by Taliban officials have a profound effect on Afghan women's health. Moreover, support for women's human rights by Afghan women indicates that Taliban policies regarding women's rights to health care are incommensurate with the interests, needs, and health of Afghan women.

## Women suicide rate increase in Afghanistan

30 June 2022 Adela Azin Nazari

Local sources in Takhar say that on 29 June, a girl, 16, shot and killed herself in Eshkamish district of Takhar.

Lal Mohammad Zarqawi, The Taliban district governor in Eshkamish said she had killed her due to domestic violence.

Last week, a girl hanged her in Siaghan district of Bamyan objecting to forced marriage. The local sources say that the parents of the girl wanted her to marry her aunt's son but, she objected it.

In addition to women suicide, mysterious killings have dramatically increased in Afghanistan. A woman was killed mysteriously two days ago in Badsghis province by unknown armed men. The motive behind the murder is not known yet. Taliban officials in Badghis confirmed the death of the woman.

Sediqullah Sediqi the spokesperson of Taliban chief of Police in Badghsi say that one person has been detained in connection to this case and the case will be investigated.

At the same time, Nooria, a young woman, was first threatened and then kidnapped and killed in Khost province. The local sources say she had already been threatened by Taliban, and then she was kidnapped and killed. Nooria worked in Khost Tawhid center and was sacked by Taliban. She then worked for a while in ADI and Taliban had threatened her repeatedly to leave her job, and she then was killed and her dead body was sent to her family in a plastic bag.

Taliban intelligence has warned Nooria's

family not to reveal the case and msut not talk to media. Three other colleagues of Nooria have been sacked and they have been summoned to the intelligence department for several times.

On 26 June, Taliban attacked Moradi's house, a local former public uprising commander, killing him and his two young daughters, Zarin and Tajgul.

Last week, the dead body of a woman was found from Panjshir river and also the dead body of a woman was found in a water well in Bamyan, Taliban are blamed for such murders.

On 27 June, Taliban shoot wife of Abdul Ghafoor Mahmoudy, a former public uprising commander, before the eyes of her children in Badghis.

Local sources say Abdul Ghafoor was one of

the local uprising commanders under Isameil Khan who fled to Iran after the Kabul fell.

After the Kabul fell, the rate of women suicide and mysterious killings has increased and the perpetrators are not brought to justice. Even the suicide cases look mysterious and their families hide the reason of the death. It is likely the perpetrators are Taliban and the families of the victims fear to reveal them.

The world only condemns such killings but they do not take any serious measures against Taliban atrocities. Rina Amiri, the special representative of the United States on Women and Human Right Affairs in a twitt said, the world shall take a unified stance on supporting women and vulnerable groups in Afghanistan.



## Two women committed suicide in Bamyan

**Silk Way Weekly:** Local sources in Bamyan said a 50-year old woman killed herself on 23 January 2023, in Yakawlang district and 1 16- year old girl killed herself with eating rat poison in saighan district.

The Taliban's Bamyan provincial governor, Abdul Saboor Farzan, confirmed the incident.

Local sources also reported two other women committing suicide with eating rat poison.

The authorities of Bamyan provincial hospital said they were not in a good condition.

## Mursal Nabizada, the former member of Wolsi Jirga, Killed by Unknown Armed Men

15 January 2023

Silk Way Weekly: Reliable sources in Kabul report that Mursal Nabizada, , the former member of Wolsi Jirga, has been Killed by Unknown Armed Men in Kabul on January, 22, 2023.

According to the local sources, Ms. Nabizada has been shot and killed in her home in PD 12, Kabul.

Kabul police spokesperson Khalid Zadran said that investigations have been started to identify the causes of the attack.

Nabizada's bodyguard has been killed and her brother has been injured in the attack too.

## A young girl killed herself in Ghor

**Silk Way Weekly:** local sources in Ghor reported a young girl killed herself in west of Firuzkoh the center of Ghor with a gun shot.

Local sources reported the girl was the resident of Ahangaran village of in west of Firuzkoh city and killed herself on 26 February 2022 due to domestic violence. Local authorities have not confirmed the incident yet.

In addition to this, two young girls killed themselves in Badghis and Kundoz provinces. According to the media reports 47 women have killed themselves in different provinces of Afghanistan.

Forced marriage, domestic violence and increasingly restrictions of Taliban to sideline women from the social life are cited as the main causes of women committing suicide.

## Taliban killed a woman on the day of her wedding party in Nangarhar

**Silw Way Weekly:** Local media reported that the Taliban forces in Kozkonar district of Nangarhar shot and killed a bride on her wedding day.

# Findings of a research; banning women from work has forced them to do Hard Work

By: Aref Wafaei Translated by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

As another step to further isolate women, Ministry of economy issued an edict on December, 24, 2022, banning women to work in local and international NGOs. The edict reads, "Until the second instance, all local and international NGOs must suspend women employees." It added that "If any organization dose not abide by the rule, their work permit issued by the ministry will be cancelled."

After seizing power in August, Taliban suspended parts of women rights including the right to education and socio-political rights. Suspending women work will further the exclusion of women and make them more vulnerable

More than 120,000 people have been killed from 2001 to 2021 in the war between Taliban and the republican system. Further, about 110,037 people were disabled in the war, suicide bombings, and road side bombings, which the Taliban group are blamed for most of them.

According to the reports of the ministry of economy, in a survey 2020 titled income, consumption and work force, conducted by the ministry showed that about 1.6 of the families had a female head. In other words 70,468 families have women head. Another survey conducted by the ministry of economy titled "Survey of life conditions in Afghanistan, 2016" about 569,324 have lost their husbands. In other words about 3.99 percent of Afghan women had lost their husbands or have not married after they divorced. In addition to this, according to the statistics of the Independent Authority of Martyrs and people with Disabilities conducted in 2016, there is about 155,000 families of martyrs in Afghanistan and women are the head of these families.

Women who are the head of families work in public offices or local and international NGOs. Based on this, the former government has allocated certain incentives for women employment in public offices. Based on such incentives, many women were employed in public offices by IARCSC. According to the reports of the ministry of economy in 2020, women constituted about 16.5 percent of the total work force of the country in the public and private originations.

The former government established a specific cooperation mechanism with female family head and provided specific supports for them through Ministry of women, independent Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Martyrs and People with Disabilities and Afghanistan Natural Disaster Management Authority. These institutions provided social protection to the families and especially to the families headed by women. After Taliban seized the power for the second time in Afghanistan, their leadership banned these institutions as their first step for marginalizing women. After these agencies were eliminated, many women lost their jobs. However, Taliban has continually excluded women and they recently banned women work to public offices, national and international NGOs.

In a situation that the government social protection systems have collapsed and the prices of the basic needs and food has increased, banning women head families to work in local and international NGOs will add up to their problems. Government agencies including Ministry of Martyrs and Disabled, have cut off providing service to the former government security forces (martyrs and Disabled families) as an oppressive policy. All such measures have further made vulnerable the poor families, especially female headed families and they face food insecurity and poverty in the country.

At the same time, A new UN women report show after Taliban suspended women to work 94 percent of the organization led by women have stopped their activities. The report added that after Taliban banned women work on December 24, 2022, humanitarian and economic crises increased in the country. According to the report, "11.6 million women and girls will need aid in 20223 and 97 percent of the Afghanistan population are under poverty line."

Jade Abresham Weekly examined consequences of women ban to work on female headed families on whatsApp and Facebook in January 2023. A questionnaire was distributed among 13 female headed families. Women from Kabul, Ghor, Sar e Pul, Jawzjan, Maidan Wardak and Ghazni provinces participated in the assessment without mentioning their names. Most of these women had lost their husbands due to war, illness, divorce, and addiction and traffic accidents. 15 percent of these women said their husbands were killed during the war by Taliban.

Most of the women reported banning women to work has negative impacts on them. One of the women said, by banning women to work in local and international NGOs, her family income has reached to Zero. Another women said, "Women have no income and I do not know how to afford my family." One of the other women stated, "I worked then and I am unemployed now. I face a lot of problems. I work at homes of the people as a servant." Condemning Taliban decision, these women said their fate is uncertain now. Another women said, "My mother worked in an NGO. We lost our income by Taliban edict. Our future is uncertain now." "Our brothers quitted school to work and afford the family. If not so, we should have begged for a piece of bread or work as a sex worker." And one of the other respondents said "I and my sister lost our jobs and we are too worried now."

Female respondents to JAW questionnaire complained of poverty, inability to pay their rents, affording their meals and paying their daily expenses as the most economic problems they have faced after the Taliban ban women to work. "I face mounting problems. I did my best to educate my children, but five of them have been deprived of education and all my efforts have been wasted." One of the respondents said. Another participant said she does hard work to afford her family. But living in a rental house, makes life harder for them day by day.

25 percent of the respondent make a living by working in NGOs, 16.67 were self employed, and 25 percent did hard work and worked as servants, 16.6 made a living by working as a beggar. Most of the families 34.46 percent between 3 to 5, 30.7 percent between 5 to 7, 23 percent between 7 to 10, and 7.69 percent have more than 10 members, most of them children and women.

## Flying in the Cage

#### By: Zahra, Grade 12 Translated by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

It doesn't matter how wide the sky is; but it matters how high you may fly. My story started 12 years ago when I put my feet on the school campus. School looked as a d. ream for me as 7-year-old girl. It was where hundreds of girls like me sought hope for a prosperous future. For me, school period was one of the most valued periods of my life. Because I learnt the alphabet of the life on the blackboard of the classroom for a bright future. But the main story started from grade 7 onward. When I was announced as the top student in the class with a new dream to become a doctor and treat fairly the people. However, my family, and especially my mother and father, they have grown the seeds of such a dream in me; Parents are those heroes who are never tired of hardworking to shape a better future for their children. When I looked at my parents, I was disproportionately motivated to work hard and study. I was always dreamed to become a doctor. To open a hospital and treat the patients for free in order they do not lose hope for a life due to poverty and inability to pay for medicine.

Life looked usual for me until grade 9 and it did not matter whether our economic situation was good and I studied in the most difficult situations; while Lalwasarjangal cod weather is famous, I did not care about it; because I had set specific goals for my future and was highly determined to pursue and realize them. I had just started grade 10 when everything in my life changed; When Covid 19 shaken the world and undermined the scientific knowledge of the human being. In a short time, schools, airports, streets, parks and all public spaces were closed

on the people. Quarantine, for the first time, was a reason to be far from school and stay at home; but I continued studying my lessons. Because I had planned when the school was open for the students, to grade 12 while I had access to very limited resources, I studied hard and obtained good results and could pass the exams of grade 10. But in grade 11, the path of my life totally changed; the Republican system collapsed and Taliban suspended school on girls and I was isolated at home. I was worried about my future and impatiently waiting to hear the news that school suspension on girls have been removed. But, I tried to be hopeful and continued my efforts to study for a better future. But what shattered my dreams was the suspension of girls schools for an unknown period. Though school doors were closed on girls in 2022, I hoped to skip grade 12 and participate in the national entrance exam. As a result, I travelled to Kabul to study and have a better result in national entrance exam. It nearly took one year planning to study at one of the best educational centers which I always dreamed studying at it. I quarreled at home for coming to Kabul. I came to Kabul in the face of difficult situation, bad economic situation and the political uncertainty in the counter. I came to Kabul and reregistered in preparatory entrance exams. There were many challenges on the way to my goal. The first problem was finding a room; because the landlords did not rent houses for the girls without their guardians. Finally, I and my five friends could find a house paying 5000 afs as a guarantee and paying 5000 afs in advance as the rent for each month. After such struggles, I registered at an educational center in Kabul and started studying the preparatory exam course with enthusiasm. In less a week, Taliban suspended schools, universities and

educational centers for girls. Next day, when I went to the educational center, the guards of the educational center did not allow the girls told us the education of the girls have been suspended for the second matter by Taliban. I do not know how I returned home; the world looked like the doomed day and I thought all my dreams have gone with the wind. The following days, we went until the door of the educational center, but the guards did not allow us. After struggling for several days and getting no result to continue our preparatory exam class, we were disappointed and asked the course to pay back our fees. But the course refused paying our fees and told us that suspending the educational centers on girls was not decided by the courses, but decided by Taliban Take Care government. Struggling with such disappointments, there were rumors that there will be online classes for the girls. While it cost us more including the internet fees and low quality of education but it was the only hope for us. One week passed in such uncertainty and then we faced another serious problem. We were informed that Taliban will punish girls without their guardians if they have rented a house or room. As a result, I was forced to return back home from Kabul. When I think about the problems and costs my poor family experienced for me to study, I feel ashamed and guilty.

I may be able to tolerate all these hardships but quitting my education is something I neither like nor is acceptable for me. What is our sin? We only want to continue our education and build our country. Is it a big sin? Why we shall be deprived of our basic human rights? Can a society progress while half of its members are not allowed to study and work? These are questions that I have no answer for them now. But imagining the continuation of such suspensions drive me and people like me mad.

I do not know how long they will keep the birds full of hope and dream of flying in the cages and suppress them?

Local sources said the incident occurred on Friday, March 10, 2023, in Shagai village of Kozkunar district.

According to the local sources Taliban had stopped the vehicle carrying the bride and groom due to playing music and then there has been a verbal argument amng the Taliban, the driver and the groom. And following the argument, the Taliban shot on the head of the bride and kill her.

Local authorities of Taliban said they were investigating the incident. In addition to this, Taliban killed a bride in sorkhrod district of Nangarhar last year.

#### A woman was stoned by Taliban in Ghor

Silk Way Weekly: Local sources in Lalwasarjangal said Taliban on March 8, 2023, on the International Women Day, stonned a woman in this district for having illicit relation with a man and was detained from Lalwasarjangal district hospital.

They added that she had an abortion and had visited the district central hospital for severe bleeding she had after the abortion and was arrested by Taliban.

The victim was a resident of Joibadal village of Lalwasarjangal district. Also a man has been arrested for having illicit relations with the woman and they have issued a letter of appeal for other 15 persons.

Taliban have repeatedly accused young women of having illicit relations, exceuted them in the field courts and stoning them. Women have been stoned in Ghor for several times. Rokhshana was brutally stoned last year in Ghor.

## Taliban detained a women's rights protestor and her father in Ghor

Silk Way Weekly: Taliban dispersed Ghor women rights protestors who had taken to the street on March 8, the International Women Day, in Firuzkoh and detained a protesting woman and

A women's rights protestor, Habiba Sharif, had individually come to the street with her brother to protest the Taliban restrictive policies on women and they were detained by

Local sources said a number of other women's rights protestors had joined Habiba across from the door of the office of Ghor provincial governor chanting "Banning education on women is a crime", Silence is violence", Education, work and social justice is our right" and "No to discrimination" and "Long life equality".

Taliban dispersed the peaceful demonstration of these women after some moments.

On today, a number of women took to the streets in different provinces of Afghanistan chanting "No to gender apartheid" and "Bread, work and freedom" condemning the suppressive policies of the Taliban on women.

# "A Night with Buddha";

## Taliban have destroyed ancient and historical sites of Bamyan

An Interview with Zahra Hussaini one of organizers of "A Night with Buddhas Art and Cultural Festival"

Translated By: Mohammad sakhi Rezaie

Notice: Zahra has been in charge of "A Night with Buddhas Art and Cultural Festival" since 2016 and before this, she was one of the organizers of this festival. After the Taliban take over, Ms. Hussaini immigrated to Sweden and she has conducted this festival for the last two years in Sweden in collaboration with some other cultural activists in Sweden. On the anniversary of destruction of Buddhas Staues in Bamyan by the Taliban group and also the anniversary of The "A Night with Buddhas Art and Cultural Festival", the Silk Way Weekly has conducted an interview with Ms. Huusaini.

Silk Way Weekly: When "A Night with **Buddhas Art and Cultural Festival" started** and why?

Zahra Hussaini: I would like to thank the Silk Way Weekly that covers cultural programs and voices the concerns of the people, especially the concerns about the historical and ancient sites of Bamyan.

"A Night with Buddha Art and Cultural Festival" started in 2013. The main motive behind this initiative was to put an end to the enmity with the cultural and historical heritage of Afghanistan and our country does not experience the destruction of Afghanistan cultural and civilization works. As you know, destruction of Buddha Statues of Bamyan was in fact a big cultural crime and in order to prevent such crimes we need to advocate for them and we did so by conducting "A Night with Buddhas Art and Cultural Festival" and other art and cultural programs and we still continue doing them. On one hand we expected those who destructed Buddha Statues to be brought to justice and on the other hand we see the opposite; they have retaken power in Afghanistan.

SWW: What was your role in organizing "A Night with Buddhas Art and Cultural



Festival"?

Zahra: I was a member of the group for organizing "A Night with Buddhas Art and Cultural Festival" from 2013 to 2016 and from 2016 I was in charge of organizing this important event. After the Taliban take over, I have been in charge of conducting "A Night with Buddhas Art and Cultural Festival" in Sweden.

SWW: In the past, during the republic government, "where and how A Night with Buddha Art and Cultural Festival" was

Zahra: In the past, "A Night with Buddhas Art and Cultural Festival" was conducted in Bamyan, Kabul, Herat and other provinces of Afghanistan. It was a diverse program and we aimed to raise public awareness about the importance of the historical and cultural heritage of Afghanistan. The debate how to preserve the historical and cultural heritage constituted one of the main parts of the program. Besides that,

organizing handicrafts exhibition, local food and local music exhibitions were conducted to empower the cultures of the local communities and preserve them. It played a major role in improving and increasing the tourism industry of in Bamyan. We not only wanted improve the local culture, but also aimed to protect the historical and civilization heritage of the country by lighting their significance to the people of Afghanistan and the international community and to bring to justice those who destroyed Buddha Statues.

#### SWW: Considering the objectives of "A Night with Buddha Art and Cultural Festival", what have been your achievements so far?

Zahra: We are happy that we are able to conduct "A Night with Buddha Art and Cultural Festival" even now. We conducted the 11 "A Night with Buddha Art and Cultural Festival". As I have already mentioned, increasing public awareness was one of the main goal of this festival that we have had good achievements in this part. We conducted debates during this festival and they could raise the awareness of the people about the cultural heritage of Afghanistan and its historical monuments and people have been encouraged to protect them. On the other hand, reflecting on cultural program by media not only highlighted the role of the individuals and groups like the Taliban in destruction of the cultural and historical heritage of Afghanistan but they also showed the sensitivity of the people and international community towards protecting the cultural and historical heritage of the country, especially the Buddha Statues in Bamyan.

Advocating was one of our goals in order to prevent the similar cultural crimes. As a result, after the Taliban take over for the second time. they could follow their destructive policies on cultural and historical heritage as they did during the first round of the rule on Afghanistan in 1990s.

#### SWW: How much did the former republic government and international community cooperate with you to protect they cultural and historical heritage of Afghanistan?

Zahra: The former government UNESCO did not cooperate systematically with us; but the local governor's office of Bamyan and recently the Ministry of Culture and Information and UNESCO in Bamyan and Kabul, cooperated with us. Their cooperation played an effective role in conducting our programs.

SWW: The Taliban group destroyed two statues of Buddha in 2001. After they retook the control of Afghanistan, there were reports about destruction of the historical sites of Bamvan, especially digging around **Buddha Statues.** 



#### Volume 8, Edition 2, No 192, Monday, March 20, 2023

# "A Night with Buddha";

## Taliban have destroyed ancient and historical sites of Bamyan

From your viewpoint, what is the main reason behind the destruction and looting of Afghanistan cultural and historical monuments by Taliban?

Zahra: They have various goals and motives; But their perception on culture, history and identity of cultural and historical monuments of Afghanistan has not changed. Taliban is alien to human culture and civilization heritages and they have destroyed and looted them for years. Above all, Taliban do not have any relations with the cultural and historical heritage of the country. They belong to those who live beside them. Therefore, Taliban have continuously destructed and looted them

SWW: Do you conduct "A Night with Buddha Art and Cultural Festival" after the collapse of the republic government? If yes, how and where do you hold it?

**Zahra:** "A Night with Buddha Art and Cultural Festival" has been held in Sweden and Norway so far. We have held it twice in Sweden.

SWW: Do you think if it is possible to hold "A Night with Buddha Art and Cultural Festival" under the Taliban in Afghanistan?

Zahra: It is impossible to hold "A Night

with Buddha Art and Cultural Festival" under the Taliban; because such programs disclose the atrocities and crimes of the Taliban group. They will not allow such programs to be conducted in Afghanistan to disclose their crimes at the international level. Taliban is alien to human culture and civilization.

SWW: How much are worried about diggings around Buddha Statues?

Zahra: We have reliable reports that show Taliban are destroying Bamyan ancient and historical sites. We are gravely concerned about these moves of the Taliban and advocate through "A Night with Buddha Art and Cultural Festival" and other similar programs to stop Taliban from further destruction of cultural and civilization identity of Bamyan and stop looting them.

SWW: In your viewpoint, the international community, especially the agencies in charge of protecting the cultural and historical heritages, can play to protect Bamyan historical and civilization heritages under the Taliban?

**Zahra:** Yes, the international community especially UNESCO can play a vital role in protecting Bamyan cultural and historical

heritages. UNECO can further press the Taliban in order to stop further destruction of Bamyan cultural and heritage sites. In the past, UNESCO and other relevant organizations have tried to stop Taliban from destroying the Buddha Statues but unfortunately they failed; because Taliban did not pay any attention to the concerns and demands of these organizations. But these organizations currently are very sensitive about the Taliban considering their past actions including destruction of Buddha Statues.

SWW: In your opinion, how Taliban can be pressed in order to stop them from further destruction of Bamyan historical and civilization in Afghanistan?

Zahra: International community can press Taliban to protect the historical and cultural sites and act responsibly. However, it is very difficult to expect Taliban to protect such sites. Anyhow, pressure of the international community is one of the most effective ways to prevent Taliban from recommitting such cultural crimes. On the other hand, holding cultural festivals such as a night with Buddha out of Afghanistan show the sensitivity of the people and their perceptions about the historical and cultural heritage of Afghanistan.

Through this program and other similar programs, we try to sue to protect Afghanistan cultural and historical heritages. Advocating for and awareness raising about the historical and cultural heritages of Afghanistan, especially Bamyan, is one of the very effective ways to prevent looting and destruction of the historical and cultural heritages of Afghanistan.



## Two members of the Taliban sexually abused a mother and her two daughters

**Silk Way Weekly:** Local sources reported Taliban sexually abused a woman and her tow daughter aged 12 and 14, in Suzmaqala district of Sar e Pul.

Local sources reported Mohammad Ebrahim, the man of the family, has been on a trip and the Taliban members knowing this had come to Ebrahim's house at 11 pm on 10 March 2023, and had raped his wife and two girls for several times during the night.

The local sources said the neighbors of Ebrahim had opened the tied hands and mouths of his wife and two girls in the morning. Local sources added the 12-year old girl of Ebrahim has bleeder seriously was hospitalized in the hospital.

The video tapes released on social media show Ebrahim's wofe crying and saying two Taliban members have sexually abused her and her two daughters.

After this incident, the local inflencials of Khanqah village had gone to the office of the Sare Pul provincial governor and have logged an appeal but he has not paid attention to their complaints.

The Taliban perpetrators names were Taher and Nadir who are close to the Taliban provincial governor.

After the fall of the elected government and resurgence of the Taliban, the members of Taliban group have sexually abused women and girls for several times.

During more than one and half year of the Taliban take over, Taliban have only accepted the sexual abuse of their members on a woman in Panjshir but they have not taken any measures to punish them yet.

# Bamyan Under the Rule of Taliban; Historical Monuments stolen from the Bamyan Museum

#### Ali Zahak Translated By: Mohammad sakhi Rezaie

On the first days of the Taliban take over, the police protection Unit (02) protecting Bamyan historical and ancient site was disarmed and some important stuff were also looted from the museum. Following this, Taliban started digging near Buddha Statues in March 2021 and no one, even the reporters, were allowed to visit the site.

In another move Taliban started rebuilding of the old market of Bamyan; the market is just loclated in front of Buddha destroyed Statues, Salsal and Shamam. According to the Bamyan Cultural master plan, this area is the red area, and any construction is prohibited in this area. Following this, Taliban removed the Tables of the historical sites of Kakrak Buddha in the

center of Bamyan.

When I was assessing the situation of Bamyan historical and ancient sites, I noticed the number of the visitors of the ancient and historical sites of Bamyan has increased about 50 percent. Though, tickets are distributed to the visitors as before, visits are not controlled. Once sources who due security conditions sought anonymity, said the income of the sites was wasted. Another source confirmed that 8 family members of Saiful Rahman Mohammadi, the director of Cultural and information of Bamyan, who had collected the incomes of these sites had not deposited the incomes into the account of this directorate. Another source who did not disclose his name told the Silk Way Weekly diggings around Buddha Statues of Bamyan, had stopped but illegal constructions continued around the green area of Bamyan and parts of the site has been destroyed during one and half

a year. According to him, destruction of the red area of Bamyan would cause delisting of Bamyan historical sites from UNESCO. It has been shared with the Taliban authorities for several times but they have not paid heed attention to it. During archeology research and explorations in Bamyan, tens of historical and ancient works were discovered including small statues, parts of the remains of Buddha destroyed Statues, oil paintings and other works which were restored in Bamyan museum.

At the same time, another source told the Silk Way Weekly parts of the works kept in Bamyan museum has been looted after the Taliban take over and nobody has information about them. According to this source, nobody is in picture, except the Taliban authorities and director of culture and information of the Taliban, about is going on in the Bamyan musem and how many works have been looted.

The Taliban governor for Bamyan, confirming the disappearance of a part of historical works of Bamyan, said the group has not damaged any antique works and historical sites, and if some people have do so misusing the Taliban name, they would be prosecuted by the group.

Arbitrary constructions in red and green areas of Bamyan is going on. Due to lack of supervision and international pressures, parts part of Bamyan monuments maybe destroyed by natural disasters. As such, a part of Bamyan historical sites maybe destroyed due to illegal explorations.

Considering the perception of the Taliban about the historical and ancient sites of Bamyan, and also considering the background of the group in terms of destruction of Buddha Statues in 2001, it is conduced that, historical and cultural sites of Bamyan is not important for Taliban and the group practically showed by digging in these sites that they pursue total destruction of the historical and cultural heritage of Bamyan.

It is worthy to mention the areas of Buddha Statues of Salsal and Shamama, Zahak historical city, Ghulhula city, Kakrak valley, Kaferi Fort, Ghomai valley, Akram fort, eight historical and cultural sites of bamyan that were announced as the areas in danger and registered with UNESCO, are exposed to serious risk. Continued neglect to protect the Bamyan historical and cultural heritage, increases the risk of their removal from the UNESCO list.



## Detention, Torture and Forced Confession

#### By: Adela Azin Translate by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

The panic caused by the threat of the Taliban have made very women to not share their experience in the Taliban prisons. Those women and girls who have been released with bail of their families, and it is likely they may be detained again by the group. There is a potential threat and the violence machine of the Taliban has caused even those women who have left Afghanistan to keep silent and to not share their experience with the media; because their families are Afghanistan yet. Above all, the human rights watch organization, has explained in details the experience of three women who had been detained and "they had undergone violent torture and misbehavior in the Taliban prisons". The report concluded that the Taliban worked hard to stop women rights movement in Afghanistan.

Whaida Amiri, Somaia Shirzad, Morsal Ayar, Tmana Zaryab Pariani, Zarifa Yaqubi, Narges Sadat and tens of other women and girls have bitter experiences from the Taliban prisons. But they rarely share their experience with the media.

Taliban attacked on Balkh women's rights protesters on September 7 and 8, 2021, in Mazar e Sharif and detained more than 70 women's rights protesters including 40 girls. One week after this incident, the dead bodies of 8 of the detained protesters were discovered on the streets of Mazar e Sharif. The remaining protesters, boys and girls, were released after 45 days due to follow ups by their families; but there is no news from 9 of them yet while 5 girls were killed by their families after they were released. These cases were not shared with media and after 4 months some sources



disclosed them.

In February of 2021, Taliban posted a video on social media showing they had prosecuted and detained 40 women's rights protesters in a house. The video was posted on social media entitled "Confessions". Some sources said about 29 women and children were among the detainees. Taliban had forced these women to confess and released after some days on bail and had threatened them to not part in the

protests any more. As a result, they have taken in no protest to the moment and we also could not talk to them for this report.

Tamana Zaryab and her 3 sisters Zarmina, Kreshma and Shafiqa were detained in the night from their house by the Taliban and were released after 26 days and they finally they became refugees in Germany.

Parwana Ebrahim Khil was detained in February and was released in February 11.

Another women's rights protester, Morsal Ayar, was detained in February 2, from her house Kabul.

Parwana Ebrahim Khil, Zahra Mohammadi and Morsal Ayar were consecutively released On Friday afternoon, in February 11.

Zahra Mohammadi , women's rights protester and medical doctor, and the head of Women unity and solidarity team, was detained in February 3, from her clinic in Karte Parwan by the Taliban.

Zarifa Yaqubi had participated in the opening ceremony of a new women's rights movement in November 3 and was detained along with four men and was released after forty days on November 12 2022.

Farhat Popalzai, another women's rights protester, was detained on 8 December 2022 by the Taliban and was released after two months on \* January 2022.

Homaira Yousuf, a human rights activist, was detained on November 10, 2022 from Abdullah Khil village in Panjshir .

Parisa Mobarez, Founder of Takhar women movement, was detained on 11 Februray 2022 from her house and was released on bail on 12 Februray 2022 and guarantee of the local influential leaders.

Narges Sadat was detained on on 12 Februray 2022 from Pul e Sorkh of Kabul by the Taliban.

According to Naji Hazara, a women's rights protester, detention, torture and misbehavior women show the fundamentalist group of Taliban fear from women's protests and voice. Violence, extra judicial detentions and courts, are all as tools to deprive women from their basic rights; freedom, work, and education in order to keep them illiterate and with no hope to future to obey the Talban as they wish.

## A Student Shepherd; Girls who have been deprived of education

#### By: Sina Translate by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

She is wearing a yellow veil; similar to the fall color. Her chignons are splashed on two sides of her chicks from under her veil. The collar of her black cloth has a flower. Embroiled flowers with thread. Maybe she has embroiled the flowers of her clothes or maybe her mother has embroiled them. The flowers of her clothes distanced her from others. There is a bag on her back which is written on it "UNICEF" in English. But, now a days no one support

her and other girls and education for girls is considered as a big crime. If someone support them, he or she would strongly suppressed. Her bag is on her back, but she does not go to school. Maybe it would be better to say, they don't allow her to go to school. Schools doors are closed to them and they have been deprived of their right to education as a basic human right. She has placed bread and water in her bag and has taken some sheep to the pasture. Now, it is 12 o'clock and she has brought her sheep under the shade of a tree.

She eats her bread and drinks her water

beside the spring. Then she opens Dari's literature book and starts turning its pages:

I ask her about her school and her classmates. "Well I remember, we studied biology. The system of parts of body was our last lesson. I was to get ready for my homework to present it to the class.



Lesson 24. She says she studies besides taking the sheep to the pasture. "It is the second time that I have reviewed all my books. I study during the night at home and during the days in the mountains, should have time. Though the schools' doors are closed on us we don't quit.

Farzana is grade 7 although she is likely 17. She does not know her exact age. "The previous was the worst year in my life." She says. It was a plaguy year. All our hops vanished last year. It was full of hatred and the beginning to stay at home as a prisoner and to be deprived of your basic right; the right to education and missing the classroom and your classmates.

Listening to Farzana, and considering her unclear future, I have nothing to say; especially when more than one year has passed and school doors are closed to her and other girls in Afghanistan.

I ask her opinion about the Taliban Acting Minister of Education on Girls' school ban. Noorullah Munir, the Taliban's Acting Minister of Education, stated that people do not want to send their 16-year-old daughters to school because of the current circumstances.

She say while her home is very far from the school in the village, but she loves to go to school. Her family also loves education and they support her and her two sisters to go to school. Farzana is interested in medical sciences and wants to be a doctor in the future. Now, I think about good days that will come; the days that school doors are open to girls and we think of realizing our hops in the future.

I ask her about her school and her classmates. "Well I remember, we studied biology. The system of parts of body was our last lesson. I was to get ready for my homework to present it to the class. Next day, when we went to school. We saw the school door was closed. And it remained closed until now. More than one year has passed from that dark day.



# An interview with Hoda Khmoush: Taliban Resorting to Different Excuses to Sideline Women totally



#### By: Adela Azin Nazari Translate by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

Note: Hoda Khamoush along with some of her comrades had a central role in shaping the protesting movements against the Taliban when the group seized Kabul. She practically advocated for the right of education, work and civil rights and freedom of women and girlscalle. To do so, she called on other girls and women to stand beside her and encouraged them to protest and she finally formed a movement named "Movement of Afghan Justice Seeker Women". She currently leads the movement along with some other women. She was invited to Slow Conference on January 2021 as the representative of the women's rights protesters and clearly outlined the demands of the Afghan civil society and women activists in her speech at the conference. The conference was held just when some protesting girls were imprisoned by the Taliban and calling Mawlaw Mottaqi the Acting Minister of Taliban told him: Release immediately the protesting girls. According to BBC, Mawlawi Mottaqi called on Kabul during the conference and urged the relevant authorities to purse it. Hoda Khmaosh was on the 2022 Time 100 List. She is a poet and her published works include "I Kiss You" and "Spilled Virginity".

In this interview, you will be familiar with her struggles and goals.

#### Adela Azin: How did you start your struggles after Taliban seized power in the country?

Hoda Khamosh: Those days, were bitter and deathful days. Everyone was going to the airport. And Taliban restrictive directions were broadcasted widely to place women in a framework, then women stood up. When Taliban announced their cabinet, we noticed the total elimination of women from the political and social structures. As a result, Herat women came to the streets chanting, "don't be scared, don't be scared, we are all together". And all women, being in different groups, we showed up our presence and joined the protests in the next day to the surrendered society by Taliban based on women elimination and it was the only reason not to let them to eliminate and ignore us.

#### Adela Azin: Were Taliban the same as your mental image?

Hoda Khamosh: I was a child during the first government of the Taliban and had heard of their violence toward women during that period. As a result, when women were forced to stay at home, I was afraid to go back with a generation and to be targeted for elimination from all the scenes. The mental image I had of the Taliban was realized when they seized power and it made me not keep silent and must have stood beside men and women to raise their voices.

Adela Azin; How "the Justice movement" was formed?

Hoda Khamosh: We were formed of small groups and came to the streets. When the situation intensified and the restrictions increased, we could not go out of home. Thus we decided to continue our struggles and protests through social media against the Taliban's tyranny.

Adela Azin: What threats did you face during the protests?



Hoda Khamosh: They posed various limitations on the way of the movements. These restrictions range from preventing women by tear gas, using pepper spray, and electric shock to imprisoning women and psychological torture. They used profanity language and even followed women to doors of their homes, but women continued their struggles.

Adela Azin: What is the current



I was a child during the first government of the Taliban and had heard of their violence toward women during that period. As a result, when women were forced to stay at home, I was afraid to go back with a generation and to be targeted for elimination from all the scenes. The mental image I had of the Taliban was realized when they seized power and it made me not keep silent and must have stood beside men and women to raise their voices.

#### situation of the women's movement?

Hoda Khamosh: Movements are stable and we pursue new approaches to overcome women problems. Now the resistance is stronger and bigger than before against the Taliban and its roots have been extended to the borders of distanced countries and I am optimistic about it.

#### Adela Azin: How do you assess the current political situation of the country?

Hoda Khamosh: There are no good conditions and policy in Afghanistan politics after the collapse of the republic and submitting the country to the Taliban. Taliban even could not find a way to be recognized during the last year. They do not want a modern Afghanistan with the presence of women. I believe if such situation continues, we would face further political and civil deadlock and reversal would be very challenging.

#### Adela Azin: How do you assess the Taliban approach to women's rights?

As their approach has been assessed in the past, they want to further isolate women and have implemented restrictive policies on women in terms of their presence in society and they pursue to eliminate them from society fully.

#### Adela Azin: What achievements have Afghan women rights advocates had so far?

Hoda Khamosh: To show the real face of the Taliban to the world, that the group has not changed, is one of our major achievements. We could show through our advocacy to the world that our society is imprisoned in order to prevent their further atrocities on the people. Our ultimate achievement would be when we cut off the feet of the Taliban from Afghanistan.

#### Adela Azin: How are the women movements and in general women struggles in Afghanistan?

Hoda Khamosh: The image I have from women is that they have stood up for their rights and have advocated to ensure them. It means women have reached self awareness and it is the path to transform from a traditional and patriarchal society to a modern one. They struggle with different ideas and decisions and work hard to find a new approach for presence

#### Adela Azin: What the history will write about the women of our era some years

Hoda Khamosh: We will leave the lessons of not quitting, rejecting oppression and standing against the oppression to the next generations of Afghanistan. The history will write about the struggles of Afghan women and it will be one of those things that remains in the history. I hope the big day of victory arrives and have a free Afghanistan with the sacrifices Afghan women have made to achieve

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## Nazdana Ebrahimi; A Bookkeeper Who Provides Books for Rent

#### By: Adela Azin Nazari Translate by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

Notice: Jaghori district is one of the 18 districts of Ghazni province. Ghazni has two major markets or bazar; Ghojor and Sangmasha markets. Women play an active role in Jaghori markets; there are saleswomen, industrialist women, pharmacists, librarians, and women drivers. Taliban have invited women teachers and government women employees working in Jaghor public office and have told them they shall observe the dress code issued by the Taliban. But these women have told the Taliban that their dress code is according to Islamic teachings and they will continue observing it.

Nazdana Ebrahimi is one the Jaghori women who is working as a book seller for last five years. Jade Abresham Weekly had an interview with Ms. Ebrahim on her career which is discussed in the following lines.

## JAW: How long have you been working as a bookseller?

**Nazdana Abrahimi:** When I graduated, I married and then had a child. As I could not continue my education, I asked my wife to help me start a business. After giving it a good thought, I decided to have a bookshop. My husband supported me financially to open this bookshop.

## JAW: Why did you open a bookshop? What was the main reason?

**NA:** I knew investing in other sectors is more profitable but, I decided to buy and sell books and stationery. I also intent to serve the people and consider it enabling the cultural

promotion and development.

## JAW: We have heard from your clients you lend books. How do you do it?

**NA:** I lend books to those clients who can't buy books. I know selling books is more profitable but started lending books to enable people read books in a cheap price. We take some money as guarantee from the clients and then lend them books against a small amount of money.

## JAW: Did people Warmly welcome your initiative?

**NA:** Yes, they did. Fortunately, many people buy books and stationery. School and university students lend books. I think women treat better their clients than men and the attract more customers.

## JAW: How is the presence of Jaghori women in the market and who do you foresee their career in the future?

**NA:** Currently, there are many women working here. They are working as tailors, handicrafts, pharmacists and etc.

## handicrafts, pharmacists and etc. JAW: Have you ever faced misbehavior?

NA: Rarely. But, the majority of the people have a positive perception about my job and they encourage me. There are times that people underestimate my job. Because they think it was better for me if I was working in industry or had another job. Some people even are against women to work but, they are a few ones.

# JAW: Do read books while you are here? NA: Yes, I do. When there are no customers, I study. Actually, I study several books in a week.

JAW: Do you want to continue your

#### education?

**NA:** When my child grew up, I want to continue my higher education and until then I read books

## JAW: Have you ever held book reading contests?

**NA:** We have conducted one book reading contest and one street book exhibition in our district. Many people participated in the book reading contest and I am very happy about conducting it. Many people participated in the street book exhibition as well. We gave books as gifts to some school teachers some months

## JAW: Do you want to implement such programs in the future?

**NA:** Yes, we will conduct such programs

when there are good opportunities.

## JAW: who are most of your customers, men or women?

**NA:** Women. Men usually buy books for school and university subjects but, women and girls buy supplementary books to read them. I have noticed women have less access to money that's why I initiated the lending approach

## JAW: How did the Kabul fell impacted on your job?

NA: Before Kabul fell, people were more motivated and read books. We lent more than 25 books; but, now we lend about 25 books in a month. Kabul fell had severe negative impacts on our business and I hope the situation improves soon.



# Afghan Women Rights Activist Fights Under Taliban Rule

#### By: Adela Azin Nazari Translate by: Mohammad Sakhi Rezaie

#### **Education and Work**

The women name in abbreviations (Kh.F.J) is one of Afghan women rights activists who lives in her city (Kabul), hiding in secret, though she plays a major role in women rights avocation. She was born in a democrat family of an army officer, and grown in one of the cities of Pakistan and studied there. She was graduated in 2007 from Natural Sciences Department of Educational University of Kabul. She has worked for 15 years in the Ministry of Education, and was the presenter of an English program in Radio Sulh and also taught a group of girls and women who had been deprived of education.

#### How she was informed of Kbul fell

About the shocking news of Kabul fell she said, "I was working in the ministry and

after hearing the news all the employees were frightened and confused. I asked them, what's up? They told me hurry up, Taliban have captured Kabul! I was such shocked that could not speak. Everyone tried to reach home. It was 15 August 2021, the start again of the misery of Afghan women."

#### What Taliban Brought Her as a Gift

She immediately lost her job in the ministry she worked and was forced to stay at home. Her friends scattered and various restrictions was imposed on her and other women. She is familiar with the Taliban government from the first time they ruled Kabul. When Taliban captured Kabul in 90s she left the country but for the second time she was deeply grieved. "I noticed girls and women will be the first victims of the new regime and it happened!" she says.

Time to Join Women Rights Protest

#### Movement

Women Rights Protest Movement was spontaneous and she soon get in touch with some of them and also some of the women contacted her. She finally joined the movement and is an active member of the movement yet.

## Reaction of Her family to her protesting Activities

His family lives in Afghanistan and are concerned about her safety and security. As a result, they prevent her of joining the protests and giving interviews, but her relatives who are in abroad encourage and support her.

#### **Current Situation**

"It is several months that I live in secret. One of the UN agencies knows this and they have not taken any practical measures to save me." She continues her struggles beside other women and she knows well how dangerous it is if she is caught by Taliban." She adds, "They may put me in trouble any moment. But I have nothing to lose! I have lost my job and bread. My name is in the list of Taliban and I expect something bad any moment."

#### Hoe she assesses Afghan Women

Today Afghan women are informed and brave women. Afghan girls are educated and want their rights. Half of the Afghan society, 20 million people, want to think about their future and decide about it. Afghan women came to streets to protect their gender rights. Afghan women rights movement is at its first stage, and bravery and awareness is the main characteristics of this movement.

#### How She Assesses Taliban Behavior Against Women

She as a women rights activist believes women are considered as convicted, slave, booty and sinful people. The do not have right to education and work and they shall be forcibly married. The situation of women is not a dignified one and they shall gradually die. And there is no breakthrough in their fate visible in the near future.

## Why Men are not Beside Women Rights

According to her, men are afraid of Taliban. If Taliban notice men are advocating for women, they will arrest men and kill them.

#### How long She Would Advocate

"Until there is despotism and violence against women, we would advocate and resist against such unjust measures. But according to the situation, the type our protest may change"

Afghan women stood against Taliban policies in Kabul, Mazar e Sharif and some other major cities; but Taliban tried to silence them through delegitimizing women civil protests and banning women coming out of home. However, women protests continue in corners of Kabul and they continue to preserve it.

"It is several months that I live in secret. One of the UN agencies knows this and they have not taken any practical measures to save me." She continues her struggles beside other women and she knows well how dangerous it is if she is caught by Taliban." She adds, "They may put me in trouble any moment. But I have nothing to lose! I have lost my job and bread. My name is in the list of Taliban and I expect something bad any moment."



