

# The Silk Way Weekly

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of The War  
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# STRANGE EXILES

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# Strange Exiles;

## Taliban Tortured Hazara Girls under the Name of Unbelievers and Rejectionists



By: **Mohammad Ahmadi**

Abdul Rahman not only massacred Hazara men, but he also did not show mercy to Hazara women and girls and sold thousands of Hazara women and girls as slaves in the slave markets. His forces usurped thousands of settlements, hundreds of streams and thousands of lands and trees and set them on fire. The same genocidal behavior by the Taliban during the first period of its role was followed and is still being followed now. Of course, these primitive racist policies have been applied to Hazaras by all governments. In the 20 years of the republic, Hazara women and girls suffered countless sufferings and many killings. A systematic discriminatory policy was applied against Hazara women and girls. For example, one of the republic prosecutors in an interview with the silk Way Weekly said a Hazara women was raped in the General Attorney Authority during the republic government.

During Hamid Karzai Rule in 2014, Ministry of Higher Education, expelled 18 Hazara boys and 5 girls from Kabul university to poor provinces. The conflict started when hostel manager of Kabul university had given a broken jam jar to a Hazara female student and she had refused it; but the manager had insulted the girl and beat her. Social media users and free media reacted strongly against expelling Hazara female students. Ali Amiri, former lecturer of Avicenna university, writing an article on this topic titled «Strange Exile» said «Ministry of Higher

Education, following a tension exited by one of the employees of MoHE in the female hostel has expelled 5 female students named Asia, Sharifa, Raihana, Najiba and Shakila from Kabul university to other universities. This edict is contrary to the law. MoHE has no right to change or transform any student arbitrarily. Exile is a punishment and only the authorized court can reinforce it on somebody.»

In Ghani's government, on December 8, 2015, the current terrorist ruling group of Taliban beheaded a 9-year-old Hazara girl along with 7 other civilians, three women, on Kabul-Zabul highway. On December 11 of the same year, thousands of people carried their bodies from Barchi, west of Kabul, to the presidential palace. These demonstrators organized the biggest advocacy movement with the cut throat of Tabassom in the course of history of Afghanistan which is called «Tabassom Movement.» Tabassom is derived from the smile of a girl who was beheaded in Zabul. In October 2017, a female Hazara student, Zahra Khawari, committed suicide against inequality in Kabul university. At that time, the media reported that the reason for Zahra's suicide was not only repeated rejection of her thesis; rather, the sexual abuse of her may have forced to do this. In an attack on Sayd ul Shohada school on May 11, 2021, in Dasht e Barchi, Kabul more than 50 girls were killed more than 100 were injured. Before this attack, many Hazara female students were killed in Kawsar and Mawoud Educational Centers attacks.

Taliban in the second round of its government, started suppressing Hazara girls from attacking on Kaaj Educational Center. According to the UN reports, on September 30, 2022, In a suicide attack on Kaaj Educational Center 54 students were killed and 114 were injured. According to the UNAMA reports, 51 girls were killed and injured. But the local sources reported that 58 were killed and 126 were injured. Two suicide bombers entered the classroom and exploded themselves among the female students. A number of female students held a protest in Kabul university campus on October 2, 2022, but they were poisoned. According to the local reports no girl from other ethnic groups were poisoned. Taliban authorities had ordered to only poison Hazara female students. As a result, 12 Hazara female students were hospitalized. Following this, Taliban expelled more than 100 students from Kabul university, Kabul medical university and Education university or from the hostel. Marzia, not real name, told the Silk Way Weekly that «I had not eaten lunch and when she had dinner she was poisoned. When I was injected in Aliabad hospital, I was paralyzed for two hours, and many students were expelled. They expelled my classmates from the classroom. I heard that Taliban had prepared the list of 100 students to expel them and my name was among them.» Taliban had installed cameras in our rooms and had threatened us if we speak about the poisoning, they will kill us.» A reliable source reported the Silk Way Weekly at the

time, «In the beginning, there were a number of Tajik and Pashtun girls among those who were expelled, but, later, Minister of higher education had allowed them to attend the classes but he did not allow Hazara students to return to their classes.» She said.

After this incident, Taliban had a dual and racist behavior with Hazara protesting girls on the streets and prisons and named them unbelievers and rejectionists and even prostitutes. The Taliban intelligence has taken the most information from Hazara girls and they have been tortured more cruelly than others. One of Hazara female protestors who was detained told the Silk Way Weekly that the most brutality has been inflicted on Hazara female protestors and no attention or cooperation has been given to them. She told us she has been imprisoned as a Hazara woman, and Taliban called her an unbeliever and rejectionist and when she wanted to perform prayers, and asked Taliban for mohr, a piece of clay, to put her head on it, Taliban ridiculed her. She says that Hazara prisoners were openly subjected to racial discrimination, violence and ethnic hatred by the Taliban. Taliban increasingly develop the circle of violence. As a result, Taliban even did not allow the families of Hazara female prisoners to visit them while the families of other ethnic groups could meet them once a week. This case is dedicated to the Hazara girl protestors who were cruelly imprisoned and tortured by the Taliban and strangely exiled from their country.

# Zarifa Yaqubi;

## From Kabul streets to Kabul Prison



By: Khaliq Ebrahimi  
Translated by: Mohammad Rezaie

On Thursday, (November 3, 2022), Zarifa Yaqubi, after having an adventurous day in police district 18, returned to a hotel in Dasht e Barchi where she and her friends wanted to announce Formation of Women Movement for Equality”.

Yaqubi says she had to receive a meeting authorization letter from police district 18 of Kabul. She went there, gave her petition, it was edited for several times, and they told her to wear a proper headscarf, and clothes. Ultimately, she received the permission letter for the first meeting of “Women Movement for Equality”.

Though she received warning phone calls from police district 18 but she didn't take them seriously. She was told to cancel the program because the Taliban intelligence was watching her and would arrest her. “When I reached to the hotel, the guests had arrived, and I had to conduct the meeting” Yaqubi says. The movement was inaugurated, the first statement of the movement was read, and the guests were received with tea.

Meanwhile, two Taliban came to the meeting. They told us to put our phones on the ground. We did so. They asked shouting “Who was Zarifa?” They heard “I am”. They found her and made her to stand in a corner of the hotel. Searching the phones was useless. Zarifa and her companions had learnt to take a picture, send it to their friends and then delete it.

They sent out the guests of the hotel who were mostly the young girls. Taliban hit one of two of them Zarifa objected. They slapped at her face to keep silent. They arrested Zarif and three young boys. Taliban had brought four police women only to arrest Zarifa Yaqubi. They handcuffed her hands and took her with themselves in a separate car.

It was not the first time that Zarifa was arrested by Taliban. She was arrested some days ago when she was returning from a conference on Slow-Norway meeting in water foundation square and was in the custody of police district 9, Kabul, for one night. The made her to confess and then took a guarantee from her relatives and then was released from the prison. Following this, she didn't have pen political activities

on Kabul streets but was mainly focused on organizing the protests and coordinating them.

She was on the streets even when she was “prohibited” by Taliban. When she was not able to take part in the protests on streets, she was busy in managing women protests in Kabul. She played an outstanding role in advocating women's rights and the rights of the minority groups. Taliban watched her everywhere. In Shahre Naw Park, on the street. When she heard there was an attack on Kaaj, she ran to hospital to save the lives of the girls. She hoped to donate blood, but Taliban stopped her.

When more women joined them, they said let's protest. And they protested hoping to open the way for helping those who were injured in Kaaj attack and donate blood for them. But Taliban responded violently. Later on, Zarif Yaqubi and other protesting women were dispersed by Taliban shooting in the air and they just run in the alleys of Kabul to save their lives. Yaqubi couldn't go home on that day but she came to streets tomorrow. Taliban suppressed their protests harshly. They were suppressed anywhere they had a meeting from Kabul university to downstairs, upstairs and anywhere.

She was not alone in any protest; One of the protesting girls accompanied her. As she was not alone in the first week, she was imprisoned in Taliban's intelligence prison. Taliban had allowed her younger sister, Atifa, to be with her in prison. But Taliban investigated Atifa too. One of the 4 policewoman who arrested Yaqubi, put a black sack on her head and then took her directly to Taliban intelligence in Kabul. The they brought Atifa as her chaperone. Taliban only allowed Yaqubi to use her mobile phone in order to find someone to guarantee her. Shaikh Madar Ali Karimi, said he was on the way to the Taliban intelligence. “He has not arrived yet and he will never arrive to the Taliban intelligence to guarantee me.” Yaqubi said.

Madar Ali Karimi, a Hazara deputy Minister for the Ministry of Urban Development of Taliban called Zarifa “Nephew”, because he was a close friend of her father, but Madar did not guarantee her. Her case was sent from intelligence of Kabul to Directorate 40. They handcuffed Zarifa to transfer her to Directorate 40. Her sister was very worried but what she could do when Taliban responded any protest violently. They reached to Directorate 40 after one

hour and half while it only takes 10 minutes. Yaqubi was very disappointed because her case was official now and she had no hope to be released from the prison.

Three women soldiers accompanied, Yaqubi and her sister. Two more soldiers came and took them to the second floor of Directorate 40. The room did not have any window, the chairs in the room were broken and there were two old mattresses.

During the three days they were in the prison of Kabul intelligence, director of intelligence came only one time and offered Yaqubi to release her if she was guaranteed. But in Directorate 40, she was tortured and investigated in groups of 3 nearly every day. Pashtun villagers' men did not know Persian and they had Persian translators and they played the role of prosecutors and investigators.

Yaqubi had nothing to hide now. Because Taliban had watched her for a long time and now, they had discovered anything about her after searching her cell phone. As a result, when Taliban asked any question, she told the truth. She told them about her membership in women's rights protesting groups and her relations with the political leaders and political groups. During second investigation they asked her. Why did you protest? She replied: Bread, work and freedom. And she sharply said after the Taliban takeover 30 edicts have been issued on limiting women's basic rights. Yaqubi lost her job after the first edict and she lost all her political and social rights when other edicts were issued. In addition to consecutive investigations, what made Yaqubi more frustrated was the messy condition of the prison. She ought to pay for nearly everything to the prison guards. “Without paying ransom she even could not go to the toilet.” Zarifa and her sisters had 1,000 afs, she gave 500 afs to her sister to go home and paid the remaining 500 to the prison guards in order to restrict her less. After her sister went home, nobody came to meet her. She spent 15 days in prison with only one pair of clothes. Then, they brought her two more pairs and Zarif could not see who had brought them. She did not know no one was allowed to meet her.

She stayed in prison without meeting anyone for 34 days. When she remembered her family and friends, she though she was no more that brave women who was afraid on no one; she had cried for her family and friends. At 10: A.M, a woman prison guard came and told her to wash her hands and face. Because she had a visitor. It looked incredible. “You are not allowed to say even one word about the condition of the prison.” On that day, One of the protesting girls, and her sister Atifa, had come to meet her. They could meet Zarifa due to Fawzai Kofi's pressures and connections. Kofi had told Taliban if Yaqubi was alive Taliban should allow her family to meet her at least for one time.

On that day, Yaqubi could not tell them it was 43 days that she had not slept well, had not eaten a good breakfast and her individual cell had been changed 4 times so far. She was imprisoned with 400 women, but she was imprisoned in an individual cell. She also could not tell them she was not able to sleep due to the torture of imprisoned women and their sad screams. She also could not tell them Elah Delawarzai and Farhat Popalzai were imprisoned there too. She also could not tell them the prison was cold and its roof was leaking. She could not tell them the guards even interfered in the way she did her prayers as a Shiite Muslim. Atifa, her sister, told her that she had come several times to meet her but they had not allowed her to meet Zarifa.

Four days later, Taliban investigators came at 12: P.M. They handed her a piece of paper; forced confession. Yaqubi resisted to not sign the paper but Taliban threatened her if she did not sign the paper, she would remain in the prison forever. She had no option but to sign the forced confession paper.

Zarif says Taliban poured confusing materials to the prisoner's food which made them to be confused. They had poured such food stuff in Zarifa's food for several times and she had confessed while she had been confused. She did not

feel well and fell down, and when she was conscious, she found she was in the prison saloon on the stair case of the toilet.

Next day, the manager of women department told her she was released. It was unbelievable. She could see something else than darkness after 40 days. For example, she could see the foggy sky of Kabul. She could see the sunrise and sunset of Kabul. She collected her clothes but they did not allow her to take her diary. She tore the notebook into pieces and threw it away in front of one policewoman and three policemen. After waiting for 7 hours, managers of section 72 and 40 of Taliban came to take new commitments from Yaqubi. “Don't think you are released and no one watch you out.” And they offered their first suggestion: Work with us and Yaqubi had said indeed!”

Yaqubi was investigated 7 times by different institutions of Taliban. In addition to noting anything one says during the investigation, Taliban had taken two forced confessions of her. One in the prison and the second one in the Shiite Commission. When she was called on from the prison to the Shiite Commission, they took a picture of her and had another confession before the cameras and Shiite Commission members. She noted that she was released based on a Shiite Commission guarantee.

Yaqubi was told she should immediately have a press conference after her release and she should praise good treatment of Taliban authorities with prisoners. But they did not give back her phoner after she was released. The next day, she went along with 10 members of her relatives to the Shiite Commission to complete her guarantee that she would not take part in the protests anymore. She guaranteed she would not go to the streets. When there is a bloody incident like suicide bombing in Kaaj Educational Center, she must not protest or donate blood the people with injuries. She must not protest when Hazara students are expelled in group from Kabul university or they are poisoned. Yaqubi should say Hazara and Shiite people enjoy their ethnic and religious rights under Taliban in order it gives her a position in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Yaqubi has studied political science and has worked more than 10 years with national and international organizations. She was an active member of Mawj Tahawol “The Wave of Change” the only political party of women chaired by Fawzia Kofi. She had struggled against Taliban on streets after the fall of the republic by protesting against the limitations it has imposed on women. Taliban had offered her a position in the MoFA if Yaqubi worked with them. But Taliban did not give back her telephone on the day she was released and created many

problems for her reconnect with he contacts. Her psychological and mental health deteriorated after she was released and she needed to go consult with a doctor.

After Yaqubi was detained and imprisoned, Afghan women rights protests was was harmed. After she was released, she was in Kabul for three months, but she was not allowed to have political activities and Kabul streets were silent. One day she called her friends and asked them to take to streets. Taliban had told her not to protest from Barchi against Taliban. She was at home, when she heard her friends had been arrested and she went out to help her sister. When she got off the car in Mahtab Qala she was arrested again.

She was taken to police district 6 of Kabul to remind her how much it costs to stand against Taliban. They remind her of 40 days in prison and how she was tortured and had confessed by force. She was released along with One of the protesting girls after being insulted by Taliban. The Shiite Commission had guaranteed her again. Yaqubi struggled nights and days with herself. She had Spain's visa but had not left the country and wanted to stay beside the Afghan women and continue Afghan women rights struggles against Taliban. Homeland looked smaller and intolerable by Taliban suppression. Finally, she decided to leave Afghanistan. “I preferred displacement to slavery.” Yaqubi said.

# Sabera Akbari;

## From handicrafts business to membership of a protesting movement leadership

By: Farhad Kohistani  
Translated by: Mohammad Rezaie

I had gone out of home for buying something; There was chaos in the city. The markets were closed and people were running in a hurry. My husband, Jawad Akbari, called me and said we must get ourselves home. He told me that the security forces were running out of the city and Taliban had entered Kaul. Before the Taliban take over, Sabira Akbari made a living by selling agricultural and handicrafts products online. She had worked in this sector since 2016 and whenever there was an agriculture exhibition, she would have participated in it to exhibit her products. She bought agriculture products from Daikondi and sold them in Kabul.

When Sabera became a mother, she further focused on selling handicrafts online and also about 5-6 other girls worked with her. This situation did not last much and when Taliban captured Kabul everything changed dramatically and her business stopped.

When Taliban imposed restrictions on women, a number of businesswomen, politicians, reporters and women's rights activists formed a WhatsApp group to start civil protests against Taliban restrictions on women and Sabera Akbari joined the group as well. "We discussed in this chat group that if women do not raise their voice Taliban will not respect their rights" she says. Members of this WhatsApp group decided to take to the bloody streets of Kabul to advocate for their rights. Sabera knew very well that Kabul streets had the smell of blood in the throat of Tabassom; the blood of demonstrators of the enlightenment movement has not been wiped from the walls of Dehmazang. She knew the forces of republic responded with bullets to demonstrations but Taliban will respond with suicide vests in order to suppress and torture the demonstrators. Sabera went to the streets with all fears and dangers facing her. On September 3, 2021, a number of women's rights protestors held a protest march in Fawar e Ab square beside the presidential palace and chanted "Education, Work, Freedom! Toward Freedom." Taliban treated the demonstrating women violently. They beat women and broke the cameras of the journalists and photographers. They chased protesting women." Sabera Says. This protest was organized when the all-male and Pashtun ethnic cabinet of Taliban was announced and had no women member and also had abolished Ministry of Women Affairs and Ministry of Ordering to Virtue and Prohibiting from Vice was established to further suppress women. According to Sabera, later those women who had organized this protest were scattered and some of them left Afghanistan.

For a more organized struggle, we formed "Movement of Afghan Justice Seeker Women", Sabera says. The movement has no leader and decisions are made as a group.

On September 5, 2021, Taliban issued a six-point command on restricting women freedom. In response to this order, Movement of Afghan Justice Seeker Women, held a press conference in Pul e Sorkh of Kabul. In addition to this, Movement of Afghan Justice Seeker Women, held a protest march in Shahr e Naw of Kabul which about 50 women and girls had participated in this march. Also, Afghan Women Self-Formed Movement" had participated in the march chanting "Bread, Work, Freedom". According to Sabera Taliban militants violently dispersed the peaceful protest by firing guns into the air and beating the protestors.

Movement of Afghan Justice Seeker Women held a protest march on 28 December 2021 in Pule Sorkh, voicing their support for former national security forces who were killed on purpose by Taliban. "We started our protest march from Habibai High School to Pul e Sorkh." She says. "In Pul e Sorkh, Taliban violently suppressed the protestors and beat the journalists. Taliban took some reports to police district 3 and tortured them." Sabera says. Following this,

she went to police district 3 to urge Taliban to release the reporters. Taliban did not allow her to enter the police district but took her photo and the next day Taliban asked girls in Onchi check point to identify Sabera.

When the protestors went from police district three to Pul e Sorkh, the Taliban special forces accompanied them and surround them. The Taliban special forces insulted and threatened the protestors not to organize such protest march in the future. "They had decided to detain the protestors. I told the girls they must escape and disperse. We had already considered such scenarios. As a result, we wore comfortable shoes. We always had two veils in order to wear them when it was necessary and not to be identified easily. We always had extra veils." Sabera says.

According to Sabera many members of Movement of Afghan Justice Seeker Women were detained and imprisoned by Taliban.

Afghan women's rights activists continue defying Taliban to retake their rights though Taliban increasingly issued restrictive edicts on women.

On January 7, 2022, Afghan women's rights protestors wearing man clothes held a protest program in Sabera's house. These girls protested against Taliban edict not allowing women coming out of home without a chaperone.

When Sabera and her friends lost their patience and found all ways closed on themselves, they started writing on the walls. On 9 January they started protest graffiti wall. "It was very hard to protest at that time. If we kept silent Taliban would have been emboldened. We decided to raise the awareness of the people, protest and express women's demands." Sabera says. Sabera and her friends went out in groups of two or three and wrote on the walls "Bread, Work, Freedom", "Anti-women law shall be abolished" and "Afghan Women do not recognize Taliban."

On 16 January 2022, Sabera and her comrades held a protest march near Kabul university, against Taliban, protesting killing Zainab Abdullahi in Dasht e barchi, disappearance of Alia Azizi and those girls who were shot in Balkh. But Taliban violently dispersed the protestors by spraying pepper shields on their and heads and faces firing guns into the air. Taliban had electric shocks and tried to run over the girls with ranger vehicles.

Sabera and women's right protestors took to street on 17 January 2022 to protest against forced marriage by performing a theatre. Taliban started arresting women's rights protestors on 19 January 2022 again. Women's rights protestors were detained from homes and streets.

When the process of arresting women's rights protestors started by Taliban, organizations involved in the evacuation process, shifted women to shelters until they were sent abroad. Sabera and some other women's rights protestors were transferred to a shelter in Shahr e Naw on 25 January 2022. Sabera remained for 28 days in a shelter. Then another organization which was involved in the evacuation process moved a number of these girls and women to another shelter in Shirpor. Following this, Taliban arrested 29 women and girls along with their family members from the same shelter and imprisoned them. Fariza, Sabera's sister and her husband, were also among the detainees. But most of the detainees were members of Movement of Justice Seeker Afghan women. Evacuation organizations tell Sabera neither contact the detainees and nor reply their contacts. Because it is likely Taliban use their smart phones. Those women's rights protestors who were not detained contacted each other via signal application. When Sabera messaged her sister and her friends they did not answer. The last person she messaged was Hoda Khamosh, and she told Sabera that all women's rights protestors had been detained and imprisoned. Then Sabera received a message from an evacuation organization saying the girls had been imprisoned; and this caused her to be under more psychological pressure.



The organization which had provided facilities for Sabera and other women's rights protestors, moved her from Shirpor to a more secure place in Khairkhana and Sabera remained there for two nights. But Taliban discovered this shelter and Taliban intelligence monitored this place for a day in order to detain the protestors.

In the two days that Sabera was staying in a safe house in Khairkhana, the video of the protestors' forced confession was released to media. Women's rights protestors experienced many mental and physical pressures in the prison. For example, Sabera's sister, Fariza, miscarried her child due to fear from Taliban in the prison.

Sabera stayed in the safe house to go out of the country and when she discovered it was not possible to do so, she decided to find another safe place to stay. "Our landlord found out and wouldn't let us go back there for fear of the Taliban; because we had organized a protest there. Our house was between police district 13 and Onchi check point. Taliban had gone to police district 13 and had taken her husband's brother to police district 13. But he was released after one day detention. These days, Kabul was such small for Sabera that she could find nowhere to be out of reach of Taliban. Sabera's relatives did not allow her to go to their home for fear of the Taliban. "We were in my husband's sister house

for one week and during this time my sister was released from the prison." Sabera says. Now, as Kabul does not provide a shelter to Sabera, she and her family decided to leave their country. They passed Spinboldak passage in Kandahar on March 3, 2022, and wanted to go to Pakistan. But when border police checked their national IDs and know they are Shiites, did not allow them to go to Pakistan. Second time, Sabera and her family told the border police that they were Sayd and Sabera pretended to be sick and lied on a cart and passed the border and went to Pakistan. Sabera stayed for one month in Quetta of Pakistan and then travelled from Karachi to Islamabad.

The Suffering that Sabera suffers from the restrictions imposed on women has made her not to sit quietly in Pakistan but she continues along her comrades the struggles of the Afghan women's Movement for Justice. In the voting held on December 31, 2022, among 60 members of the Afghan women's Movement for Justice, Sabera was elected as the leader of this movement.

But the members of the movement decided to work like the past and decided to establish a decision-making committee and Sabera is a decision-making member of the leadership of the Afghan women's Movement for Justice.

# The wounds of Prison;

## ISIS Girls Tortured Narges Sadat



pectations, they welcomed her with bad words and curses. One of them said that they had been searching her for a long time and finally caught her. Other one asked: Where are you from? When she said she was from Kandahar, a man who was from Kandahar and thought that Narges had disgraced him, poured the hot tea on her face! Her eyes and face burnt, the world looked dark, but her tongue was alive yet. She objected, but she fell down on the ground when they shocked her with an electric shocker.

She was at the police district 3 for a short period and they violently suppressed her there. There was no police woman or any other woman there. After six hours of detention, they handcuffed her, put a black sack on her face and charged her with plotting against the system and took her to one of the most horrible places; Directorate 40. It is where one can hear the sound of breaking the bones of women's rights protestors from long distances.

Narges noticed in Directorate 40 that the employees and women guard of the prison were the sex slaves of Taliban commanders. They also were imprisoned, but the form of imprisonment was different, they neither escaped from there and nor could talk. She was tortured for 22 days and no one was allowed to meet her during this period. Keeping awake, electric shock, whipping and beating with cables, and even keeping open the water tab of her cell for 4 nights in order to keep her wake, are some of the torturing methods used against her. "Except raping, Taliban used all torture methods against me." She said.

Sadat was in an individual cell for 35 days, then they chained her hands and feet and threw her in the room of ISIS prisoners. The two female ISIS prisoners were from Iran Kurdistan and Iraq. When they noticed Sadat was a Shiite Muslim, they beat her to death.

Narges was such tortured that her biggest wish was to die to get rid of the torture. "I think, I was deliberately held by those two ISIS girls so that I would be tortured more." She said. "Don't say ISIS, say the Islamic Caliphate." When Taliban transferred Narges to the public prison after two days, and took her for investigation. She objected to the discriminatory practices of Taliban with prisoners, and asked why they treated ISIS prisoners respectfully, and have specific privileges. One of the Taliban investigators, scolded and said don't say ISIS, say the Islamic Caliphate. "They treated ISIS prisoners respectfully. They had food from outside and had sanitary equipment, while if we had a female problem, Taliban did not pay attention." She said.

Out of the prison, Narges' family was repeatedly threatened her detention must be kept secret and must not be shared with media. Narges's family came to Kabul one week before the republic collapsed. One week ago, a rocket bullet hit their house and they had left Kanda-

har and had come to Kabul that it may be safer than Kandahar, but they were facing direct and serious threats by Taliban in Kabul. Contrary to the Taliban threats, Sadat's imprisonment was shared with media and it helped Sadat a lot. After this, Taliban reduced their anger and violence against Sadat. Because Human rights organizations perused this issue. Narges believes that when her case was shared with media, it caused Taliban to less torture her and not rape her.

Narges Sadat was in prison for 66 days. During this period, every time she wanted to sleep, the screams of the women under the torture of Taliban did not let her rest. She was emotionally hurt. She was so damaged that even though some time has passed since this event, she is still dealing with medicine and treatment. As much as Narges was tortured, her family was threatened and psychologically tortured outside the prison. "When I was released from the prison, it was as if my mother had aged ten years.

Narges claims Taliban tortured her for being a Shiite Muslim. When she was arrested and Taliban took her to police district 3, the first question Taliban asked her was about her religion. "I hate Shiites. I am glad that you are suffering." Arifa Safi, the former employee of the National Assembly, and now, one of the female Taliban torturers was openly torturing Narges due to her religion in Directorate 40. They told me, "If you become a Sunni, we will forgive you and set you free. When I performed prayers, they watched me on the cameras and then harassed me." She said.

After Taliban takeover, Taliban in addition to furthering ethnic, religious and gender gaps, have added language gap too. Although Narges Sadat could speak in Pashtu, she was tortured for speaking in Persian for several times in order to speak in Pashtu. "Although I can speak Pashtu very well, I never failed and did not speak in Pashtu." She Said. Maybe speaking in Pashtu and worshipping like Sunnis would have allowed her to be released from the prison sooner, but she was brave enough to stand up for her values.

Narges Sadat held literacy classes for women in Kandahar, where women had not enjoyed their basic rights under any government, and she advocated for female prisoners. In the school where she studied, Taliban sprinkled acid on the girls' faces so that Kandahar girls would stay at home. Taliban exploded the educational center she studied at and killed her peers and Narges remained alone. When she settled down in Kabul to be the voice of Kandahar girls, she studied literature and worked. She always protested on Kabul streets. And finally, the blackness of Kandahar took over Kabul, and Narges gave an account of all her activities and left Afghanistan.

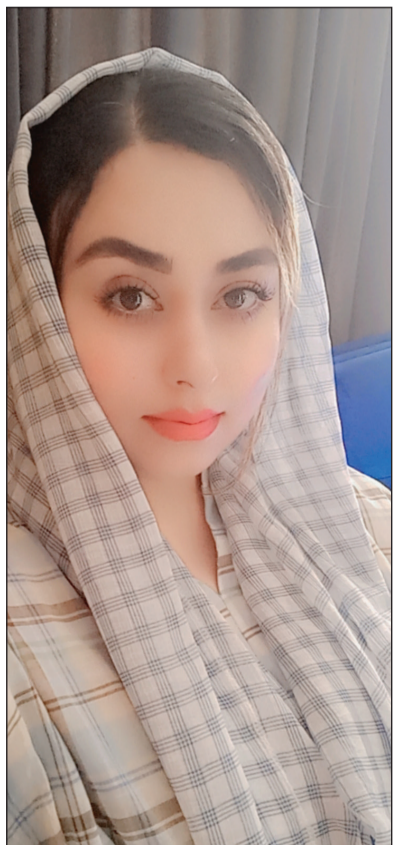
**Khaliq Ebrahimi**  
Translated by: **Mohammad Rezaie**

Narges Sadat was arrested after one and half year of struggles against Taliban on February 9, 2023. She stayed in the prison for 66 days in Kaul. Her eye witness from the breath-taking struggles of Afghan women against the Taliban and their inhumane behavior with imprisoned women is a new story of "Blood and Madness" in Afghanistan.

Taliban had not female police to arrest

Narges Sadat, the Taliban fighters arrested her near "Finest Store, on Pul e Sorkh. They through her into the vehicle. Narges, objected and asked don't you claim your government is a religious one? Where in the religion has said you should imprison men and women in the same place. This, caused the Taliban to place her on the front seat beside the driver. But the barrel of the Taliban gun was on her neck. "If you talk, you will be killed." A Taliban fighter said.

There were about 30 anti-women sitting in a room in police district 3. Contrary to her ex-



# Sumaia Shirzad; A Women's Rights Protestor Whose leg Was Broken But Not Her Determination

By: Adela Azin  
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Mazar Women's Rights Protestors took to the streets on 6, 7 and 8 of September 2021, in Mazar e Sharif, the capital city of Balkh against the gender apartheid and suppressive policies of Taliban and chanted "A single-sex city, stinks."

Sumaia, a resident of Mazar e Sharif, was one of the first girls who took to the street against the anti-women policies of Taliban. She said they formed a messenger group along with a number of other girls and they also formed various committees to print their slogans and share them on social media. "In the September 6 protest, most of the protestors were women and girl students and employees of public and private institutions."

Sumaia and a number of other students took to the streets against the Taliban restrictive policies and chanted "Women can't be isolated". The protest march was started from the Blue Mosque to the Balkh Provincial Governor's Office. Taliban forces arrested a number of the journalists who had come to cover the protest. Taliban also threatened the reporters that if anyone covers the protest, they will arrest them. "They only permitted a number of the international journalists to take photos of the protestors. They showed their IDs to the Taliban forces and they were likely to be the correspondents of reputable international media."

Following this, a number of the women protestors went towards the office of the Balkh Provincial Governor to urge the governor to release the reporters that were detained by the Taliban forces. Taliban forces had told the protestors to talk to the Taliban officials and then stop their protest. "The girls told the Taliban forces that they will not stop their protest unless the reporters are released."

Women's rights protestors, who were about 40 to 50 people, left the Balkh PGO and marched towards Shahid Ahmad Shah Masoud square. According to Sumaia, the protestors wanted to stop their protest there and go home. But Taliban attacked them at Ahmad Shah Masoud square, broke the camera of a reporter and slashed him. "You are those who pollute the society with prostitution and vices. Women's place is at home." They stated.

"A group of women from the center of Mazar e Sharif, the capital city of Balkh province, on 6th September of 2021, in a protest march, demanded the maintenance of the rights and freedoms they have gained in the past two decades." BBC reported. A protestor girl had told BBC that Taliban forces had beaten the protestors and reporters. "They cursed us and told us to disperse. Otherwise, we will beat you to death. They searched us for a while on the way home and told us if you take a film, we will break your mobile phones and will beat you." She said.

September 6 protest ended and the girls returned home, tired and depressed. Next day, another group of women, who all of them were students, took to the street to demand their rights. Sumaia said that they had formed several groups to come to the streets in turn. They had planned not to leave the streets empty and to advocate every day.

Next day the protesting women took to the street. September 7 protest, was held at Ahmad Shah Masoud street in Mazar e Sharif city. The protesting women demanded women's participation. Taliban forces detained one of Sumaia's friends in the protest and then her phone was turned off. She was online about 12. P.M. When Sumaia messaged her, she noticed the messages were read but not replied. I messaged her and it replied, I noticed the voice was strange. I noticed it was a member of Taliban. Then, I was informed by her family members that she had been arrested by Taliban militia." She said.

In September protest 8, The third group of women's rights protestors, including students, former security forces, and women employees, protested against Taliban's anti-women policies. This caused Taliban to conclude it may lead the

people of Mazar e Sharif to uprising against the group. Because it was three days that women consecutively took to the street. On the other side, Taliban did not have a good memory of the first round of their rule from Mazar e Sharif. Taliban were afraid of the people, and the people also had deep wounds in their chests and memories from the previous era of the groups' rule. Mazar e Sharif massacre in 1988, has not yet been erased from the historical memory of Hazaras and the Shiites of this city. Everyone remembered those bitter and terrible days.

Sumaia Shirzad said that the city was under martial law and the Taliban forces were positioned everywhere. "Mazar e Sharif had become a city of terror. A city full of terrorists; similar to the ghost town." She said. On this day, the protesting girls gathered on Masoud Road and holding banners, chanted against Taliban. "Inclusive government, without participation of women is meaningless." Another banner said "We don't wear a veil. Our face is our identity." "Taliban had surrounded us from four sides and we were like the birds caught in a cage." Sumaia said. "They had cables that people do not beat animals with them, but Taliban beaten women's rights protestors with them." She noted.

Sumaia has been supported by her family members, especially her mother, in all protests. In September 8 protest, her brother brought her by bicycle to the protest place. Sumaia said Taliban had circled around the protesting girls and it was very difficult to join them. Her friend, Atifa, also had the same problem. Her leg was broken and she was holding a wooden stick and Taliban did not let her to join the women's rights protestors. According to Sumaia, Taliban prevented Atifa with cable and whip to join the protestors. Sumaia, while holding a banner, tried to take photos and films from the Taliban violence; but could not. She said the camera of her smart phone was in a selfie photo style and she could not adjust it because her hands were shaking from fear of Taliban. But she finally could take some photos and videos from the protest; However, Taliban forces noticed it. "Taliban forces beaten me by a cable. I ran away. But when he hit me with the gun butt, I fell on my face. My glass knee hit the rocks of the road and my legs were injured. Then he cursed me in Pashtu and hit me with a cable. My legs got week. I pulled myself to a corner. I got into a passenger car and ran home." Sumaia said.

Sumaia, with a broken heart and leg from this protest, went home. Her brother and mother consoled and caressed her. "You are the voice of the people. The voice of the oppressed and deprived women. Silence is betrayal and accepting the oppression of a tyrant is a greater betrayal. I am happy my daughter has raised the voice of justice." Her mother said.

Sumaia said while running away she noticed Taliban had arrested a number of the protesting girls, and transferred them to an unknown place. "While the protesting girls held a banner, the Taliban forces took the girls in groups to private cars and military rangers and took them away. I filmed this scene, Taliban noticed it but I ran away." She said. The photos Sumaia has shared with the Silk Way Weekly portray Taliban taking the protesting girls to the vehicles.

While Sumaia's legs were broken and needed to be treated, she could not go to a hospital because she was afraid of being arrested by Taliban. Although she suffered from pain in her legs, she remained at home. She hugged her knees; teared her wounds and every moment she remembered the dark nights of the girls who were detained by Taliban. Sumaia who had been whipped by Taliban on the street, thought at home about the girls in the Taliban prison, and what a sad and terrible fate they would have. The pain in her legs increased and she went to an orthopedic doctor. One of her friends had heard that Taliban had broken Sumaia's legs and took her to a private hospital and treated her legs. While she still suffered from the leg pain, she continued her protests against the apartheid regime of Taliban.

When the pain in her legs subsided a little, she started protesting against Taliban from home and chanted "Women are not a second-degree human." Sumaia spent very bad days in Mazar e Sharif and even her friends and relatives abandoned her and when she greeted them, they did not return it. And when she asked for a safe place, they refused it.

Sumaia's relatives not only did not provide her a safe place, but ridiculed her, they said sarcasm and called her "the protestor gains the system". These days turned to bad days for Sumaia that they have no equivalent in her life. The scream that is suffocated in her voice, makes Mazar to look too small for her and her child. Sumaia left Mazar with her affections and longings and went to Kabul; where the senior Taliban leaders of the Taliban have occupied the government offices and are ruling by cruelty on the oppressed people; they suppress the free media and imprison and suppress the women's rights protestors and torture and kill them.

Women's rights protestors, in Kabul, tell Sumaia to come to Kabul, because it is a big city and Taliban can't identify and search her easily. She remained for a while in the house of one of her friends and then was moved to a safe house in Kabul. When Sumaia was moved to a safe house, Taliban were informed that some of

women's rights protestors had come from Mazar to Kabul. Then, Taliban arrested 29 female protestors from a safe house in Shirpor, Kabul, including Sumaia and all of them were imprisoned. "They remained in the prison for 15 days. I was released on bail by my mother and father. When I was imprisoned in Kabul, they were informed and came from Mazar to Kabul to release me." She said. Sumaia says that she can't express what she has experienced in the Taliban prison in Kabul.

After Sumaia was released, she stayed in the house of one of her friends in Kabul. She stayed there for a while; but, then, they ask her to leave their house because they may be punished for Sumaia's crime; the crime of advocating for justice and human rights of women. Sumaia is forced to return to Mazar. And then makes her final decision. She returned to Kabul after 3 days. And she remained in the ghost city of Kabul. The next step was to be deported from the country.

Sumaia worked in an international organization before the republic collapsed and she also took part in humanitarian activities voluntarily. She has worked to conduct a short survey of the child labor on the streets of Mazar e Sharif. According to her, it has been one of the best and sweetest moments of her life.



# Ruqeia SAAi; A protesting woman imprisoned two times by Taliban

By: Adel Azin  
Translated by: Mohammad Rezaie

It was 27 August 2020. and Ruqeia Saai had a ceremony of reciting the Holy Quran at her home for the first anniversary of the death of her husband. Suddenly, there was a Rumer that Taliban had captured Kabul and raised their flag on the top of "Chehel Dukhtaran" mountain. When the guests heard the news, all of them left the house and dispersed. People whispered saying everyone was going to the airport and evacuation was going on. The news of Taliban takeover, was like a clock bomb that was exploding in her mind every second. Taliban had killed her husband one year ago. Taliban had passed from villages and cities to Kabul by killing the people ruthlessly and looting their properties. Saai's husband was a 2nd lieutenant in Afghanistan Air Force. He had served for 11 years in AAF. He had been injured on Kabul-Paktia highway while he was on duty and he died due to severe injuries inflicting by the attack. Saai accuses the republic government of not paying enough attention for treatment of her husband, he had been hospitalized in Paktia central hospital and when he did not recover, he had returned home. Then, he was terminated and finally passed away on 27 August 2020. Saai says Taliban injured her wife and republic government sacked him. "These two caused his death." She says. After his death, Saai and her two children were left alone.

When the cabinet of the Taliban government was formed, it replaced Ministry for Women with Ministry for propagation of virtue and the prevention of vice, this decision changed Saai to a protesting woman. She already had suffered a lot when she had lost her husband, and the new decision of Taliban added to her pains. As a result, she had to do something. Thus, She and some other girls took to the streets against Tali-

ban. Saai has protested against restricting edicts of Taliban on women's rights along with other women's rights protestors. After women's rights movements were established, Saai and Zarifa Yaqubi and some other women's rights protestors formed "Afghanistan Women Movement for Equality" on October 4, 2022. Zarifa Yaqubi and her four coworkers, 4 young male civil society actors and media activists, were detained in Kabul after they had participated in the inauguration ceremony of "Afghanistan Women Movement for Equality". On gone earlier to the conference venue of the meeting and then she had called Zarif Yaqubi in order to know where she was and Yaqubi had told her she was in the police district office and the security officials do not permit formation of "Afghanistan Women Movement for Equality". Then Yaqubi asks Saai to guide the guests to the venue of the meeting. "Taliban had come to the meeting and did not allow media to enter the gathering. Taliban forces were such equipped that one thought they had come to suppress the republic. There were about 19 or 20 ranger vehicles. The program was going on when Veild female Taliban entered the gathering. According to Saai, female Taliban collected the cell phones of female participants and checked them. When Saai resisted, one of the female Taliban slapped her on the face, and then took Yaqubi and four other participants to Taliban intelligence and then moved them to Directorate 40. Ms. Yaqubi and her 4 media co-workers were imprisoned for 40 days.

On April 19, 2022, suicide bombings killed many boys and girls school children in Abdul Rahim Shahid school, west of Kabul. Saai and a number of other rights activists rushed to donate blood to the victims. But Taliban attacked them and did not allow them to donate blood. She said Taliban acted brutally and even beat the families of the victims. After that, Saai and a number of other rights activists protested

against the harsh behavior of the Taliban and following it, Taliban suppressed them.

When suicide bombers attacked Kaaj educational Center, Saai and Yaqubi rushed to Mohammad Ali Jenah hospital to donate blood. But Taliban did not allow them to do so. Taliban even did not allow the victims' families to receive their injured and killed members. Again, Saai and Yaqubi staged a protest against Taliban but they were suppressed. "It was a very painful day. I never forget it. Taliban did not respect our dead and alive." Saai says.

On the last days of October, 2022, when Taliban expelled about 100 Hazara students from Kabul university, Saai and her comrades filed a lawsuit against Taliban in front of Kabul University and Taliban suppressed it with firing in the air, beating the protestors and using tear gas. On December 19, 2022, Ruqeia Saai, Zarifa Yaqubi and other protesting girls took to the streets to protest against the edict on women education and work ban edict in Chahar Rahi Dehbori and again Taliban beat them and dispersed their protest. "They had decided to take some girls with themselves. We all fled the scene. I saw myself Taliban grabbed they hair of two girls and forced them to ride on a ranger vehicle. It was a terrible scene. No body could help. I took a taxi. We went a little forward. But the Taliban ranger blocked our way. Taliban told me to get off the taxi. They searched my bag." Saai says. Then Taliban took Saai's smart phone by force and check it. After searching her smart phone, Taliban says "She is a western spy and is a prostitute."

Saai hardly could contact other women's rights protesting girls, and one of them tells Saai that a number of the girls have been detained by Taliban. After this, Taliban takes her phone, grabs her hair and wants to force her to get on the ranger vehicle. But Saai resists, and asks the people to help her. But nobody helps her. Taliban beats her and puts her in a ranger vehicle and puts a black sack on her and Saai tells them "I can't breathe. I told you that I am not a terrorist. I am not a criminal too. The handcuff is enough". Ms. Saai's hands were injured from the rubbing of handcuffs, have not healed well yet. Taliban moves her to the second police district office and asks her who she works for and where does she receive money from and how she has received for organizing the protest? She tells the Taliban fighters that "Money is not the issue. You have taken all of our rights. You have victimized the people." Saai continues saying her husband has been a former member of the national security forces and he has passed away and she has two children and she has to work to feed them. This incites Taliban, one of them slaps her and the other kick her and they tell her "You are a prostitute who comes to streets, and you have sold yourselves to the west." After some minutes, Taliban takes her to another room and then moves her to an unknown place. There, in addition to beating Saai, Taliban threatens her to stoning and death. Saai loses hope and thought she would be killed. "I was not afraid of death. But I was worried about my honor." She says. When her father was informed, he comes with a number of elders and members of their family and releases her on a bail conditioned to not protesting again. Taliban forces her to confess and promise to take no actions against Taliban. Although, Saai had accepted to keep silent by force, she had lost her peace and was having nightmares. She was silent for the cause of her children and family members and could say nothing.

"First time, I was detained at 11: AM, and I was in detention center until afternoon. Then they put a black sack on my head and took me to an unknown place and kept her there for 3 nights. "On the first night they investigated a lot. I had access to nothing: neither to a lawyer nor to my family. I kept saying I had not taken money from no one. I only protest to my rights" Saai says. But they kept beating me with a rough pipe. She was on her period when she was detained. But she had access to no hygiene. After that I got very sick. It was really terrible." Saai says.

This time, Saai kept silent and only participated in protest in closed places with covered face. Days and months passed, and the new educational year started. But girl students above grade 6 were not allowed to go to school. Saai says it was in the morning of one of the days after new educational year, and I met a neighboring girl who talked of school while crying sadly. Saai, after soothing her, suggest her to take online courses.

At this time, girls' protestors were coordinated and took to the streets again. The protestors had planned to start their march from Shahid Mazari Square to Asif Maeil school and read their statement there. But Ms. Saai was detained for the second time by Taliban. She was one of the leading women who had organized the protest and was holding a loud speaker and was chanting when Taliban ambushed at the protestors. Other girls were released earlier. But Taliban took her to the sixth police district. At the same time, Fatima and Malalai, two other women's rights protestors, were arrested too. "They asked me the same questions. How much money have you received? Who do you work for? I don't know where they had received the information that it was the second time that I protest and have been detained." Saai says. Taliban was ordered to take me to Directorate 40 and then move her to an unknown place where some other girls were imprisoned too. She was interrogated again in Directorate 40. When her family were informed, they along with Elders of Barchi went to visit her in the prison. "It was Ramdan month and they had brought my children and had released me on bail conditioned to not to take to the street again." She says. This time, Taliban told Saai if she takes part in any protest, they are free to execute any order on her and she must sign it. She was released after 24 hours. But she had been tortured severely. "I was confused. A Taliban fighter kicked at my back and told me get up! A number of your scoundrels have come and guaranteed you." Saai says. Saai was silent after she was detained for three times. Although she had promised herself, she must never surrender to Taliban. "After I was released from Directorate 40, my body was free; but my soul wasn't." Saai says. Taliban had my home address and phone number. They harassed me every day. Taliban contacted every two or three days and asked where I was. Taliban also harassed those who had guaranteed me. After that I had neither the opportunity and nor the courage to take to the streets to protest. I kept silent; but my silence doesn't mean surrender to Taliban." Saai says.

Ultimately, Ruqeia Saai, the women's rights protestor and advocator, could go to Pakistan with the cooperation of one of her relatives, after facing numerous obstacles and having no chaperone while Taliban had forbidden her to go out. Although her two children do not have access to education and have an unclear fate, she cooperates with Afghan women's rights protestors and advocates for freedom and justice.

Saai's philosophy of struggle is to get the world to understand that people of Afghanistan do not want a terrorist group. They an inclusive government. During the two past years, Afghan women's rights activists during the republic who have fled abroad, had no cooperation with Saai and other women's rights protestors. Hazara women's rights activists have been neglected very much and no organization have cooperated with them. According to Saai there was discrimination between Hazara women rights protestors and other protestors in the Taliban prison. Taliban called her a rejectionist or "Rafezi" and when she asked them for a piece of clay for prayers, they ridiculed her. When Zarifa Yaqubi was in prison for 40 days, her family members had only met her one time but Farhat Popalzai's family had met her 3 times.

Saai has studied until 11th grade and hoped to continue her education and serves the government along with her husband; but when her husband was killed by Taliban and Kabul collapsed, all her dreams were ruined and a destiny was made for her that she never imagined 3 years ago.



# Arezo Ahmadi “In Search of Gold”, From Wazirabad of Kabul to the World Stages

By: Khaliq Ebrahimi

Translated By: Mohammad Rezaie

Arezo, 17, champion of Jujitsu athletic sports, has won 70 gold medals. She has won these medals in local, national and international contests.

Arezo started her career path from a ghetto in north of Kabul to big achievements. She is the main resident of Behsod district, Maidan Wardak province. She spent her childhood in Chahar Qala of wazirabad, Kabul. Hazaras form the majority of the residents of Chahar Qala of wazirabad, and has passed her path of success after one another.

Chahar Qala of wazirabad, contrary to its chick name, is a ghetto near Share Naw of Wazir Akbarkhan. Dusty streets and muddy houses of Chahar Qala of wazirabad, are the clear signs that show it is a real ghetto. But life has not been always here a misery, and it had happy moments the rich areas of Kabul may have seen few of them; Luckiness like freedom.

Arezo says her father and some of teachers have played a key role in her success. She does not say about freedom. But it is clear she had no problem to pursue her career from her family and community. Her father has never said “You are a daughter, and you should stay at home.” Or the people did not prevent her from going to sports clubs, but they encouraged her.

Arezo started skating beside her education when she was 5. She says she learned skating very soon and was member of Scate Zone of Kabul and practices in Skatistan of Kabul and then became a skate trainer. “Skate was good, Afghan government and international community sup-

ported it.” She said. She has worked for 9 years as a skate trainer.

Beside schooling and skating, Arezo started martial arts when she was 8. She practiced Taekwondo for a while, but certain barriers for girls in Afghanistan Athletic Federation disappointed her. The she joined Hafizullah Abbasi’s private club to practice Jujitsu.

Jujitsu is dubbed as mother of martial arts. Jujitsu is a Japanese classic sport that has a lot of fans today and they call it “Soft art” or “the art of surrender”, but they say it technics are murderous. Jujitsu was not popular among girls and Arezo was one of the fans of Jujitsu in Afghanistan. Arezo has worked for 9 years in Jujitsu filed. She has participated in 70 sports events including clubs, national and international matches and she has won all the matches. Out of 70 medals, 10 medals are honorary medals. She has won them for her athletic ethics. She also has won 10 medals as the best Jujitsu fighter.

Arezo has missed several matches due to financial problems or younger age. She has not been able to participate in Emirates, India and Kazakhstan. She has participated in 15 expertise contests and five contests out of Afghanistan. Her last match was in May, 2022, which had some unexpected sideline issues.

She had participated in Karachi contest, as the representative of Afghanistan and defeated 3 athletes from Pakistan, Canada and the US and won a gold medal. Two days later, when she was returning from Karachi to Islamabad, Pakistan police detained her and her trainer. She was released after 7 hours but her trainer is im-

prisoned yet.

Arezo says, Pakistan highway police detained them in “Khaipor” between Karachi and Islamabad, due to not having legal documents while both of them had UNHCR registration documents. She says she has been released by mediation of UNHCR because under age but she is worried about her master because he may be deported from Pakistan.

She has lived alone for 9 months in Islamabad. But Pakistani clubs has not allowed her to practice in those clubs because she is a refugee and she only practiced under her master with limited facilities they had. She had been informed of Karachi contests via social media networks and then had jointed it. Currently, Arezo’s family has joined her in Rawalpindi of Pakistan.

Though Arezo has never been defeated in sports contests, she has been defeated in other field; 15 August, 2021.

When the former corrupt officials fled Afghanistan and Kabul was seized by Taliban. She was in Dashte barchi, West of Kabul, and was getting ready to take part in a TV show. But she went home on foot. On the next day, she was going to Pakistan for a contest, but it was cancelled.

Later on, everything was cancelling. Arezo was in the 11 grade of Queen Soraya high school, but after passing some months, Taliban banned education of girls above grade 6. Later on, Arezo was banned from going to the sports club. Her teacher was threatened. But she practiced martial arts secretly. Then, one day Taliban came to their sports club, and too a written guaran-

tee letter stating he will not accept girl pupils anymore. But they continued practicing martial arts.

Arezo says Pakistan contests were conducted after several months delay in Dere Ismail Khan. She won on 6, February 2022, a gold belt, the highest medal and raised the three-color flag of Afghanistan in the stadium. At that moment, she had forgotten the flag of Afghanistan was changed and raising the national flag of Afghanistan has severe consequences for her.

Out of 25 champions of Afghanistan only 4 of them participated in Pakistan contests; two boys and two girls. The two boys who had come earlier than Arezo and her master, had given Arezo and her master’s phone numbers to Taliban. “When I returned to Kabul, no body received me.” Arezo said. She was not only a disappointed champion in Kabul, but she was harassed and threatened by Taliban. “I and my master repeatedly received threatening calls. They told us why you participated as the representative of Afghanistan in the contest in Pakistan and why you raised the three-color national flag on the stage?” She denoted.

Arezo and her master only stayed in Kabul for 24 hours. Then, they left Kabul and went to Pakistan, the closest shelter to the refugees of Afghanistan. They faced new limitation as a refugee in Islamabad; including limitation in practicing martial arts and walking outside. Arezo says these limitations did not disappoint me and even when her migration case was rejected by Spain could not disappoint her. She is determined to take part in the next contest although she is alone and have no trainer.







# Zohra's story from the bullet of the republic to suicide vets of Emirate

By: Binazir Tahirian  
Translated by: Mohammad Rezaie

She has accompanied the cut throat of Tannassom to the presidential palace, the center of power of Afghraf Ghani, the escaping president of Afghanistan and is one of the survivors of Dehmazang bloody suicide attack. Zohra is graduated from high school from one of Jagh-hori disticts, Ghazni province, and came to Kabul, the adventurous city, in 2015 to continue her higher education. In Kabul, she realized Ashraf Ghani had a dual and discriminatory behavior towards Hazaras; a policy that dragged her to street protests.

In 2016, when the Enlightenment Movement was formed against the discriminatory decision of the National Unity government on changing the route of TUTAP project from Bamyán to Salang, Zohra participated in the objection programs of the movement from the beginning to the end. She was on the day of the bloody suicide attack on the Enlightenment in the seventh line of the protestors near the containers in Dehmazang. Zohra says amid the explosion the security forces shot on the protestors from the top of buildings and the protestors were falling down. She tried to get to the closest alley to avoid the bullets. "When the suicide bomb went off, I was on the seventh line. Everyone was dispersed. There was a container on our left. I stayed beside the container for a while. I noticed that the soldiers were shooting on the protestors from the top of buildings. I rushed to the alley and fled the scene." She says.

After the deadly suicide explosion, Zohra started working as a volunteer with "Labkhand Etematd" charity and delivered the aid for the war victims of the west of Kabul for one and a half year.

After the suicide attack on Sayed ul Shohada girls school in Dasht e Barchi, west of Kabul, killing and injuring a number of the students and ruining the school, Zohra prepared pens and notebooks for the students and helped to repair damaged chairs and building of the school.

Zohra had studied nursing in a private university in Kabul, and had a job in a public hospital after passing the employment competitive process. When she received her first salary, she

established "Ketabkhanah e Mehrbani" The Kindness Library, in Bahar Sarab Business Center to provide free books for school and university students. Intellectuals gather in this library, read books and sing poems.

## Kabul Fell and Initiation of Zohra's Protests

Kabul collapsed on 15 August 2021, without no major resistance by ANSF and republic government was toppled. After that, a regime was in power in Afghanistan that its senior officials were on the UN black list and it was recognized as a terrorist group.

The Taliban group initiates anti women policies after it takes power for the second round in Afghanistan and restricts their freedoms. After retaking power, in a short period, Taliban abolished Ministry of Women Affairs and introduced its all-male, terrorist and Pashtun ethnic-oriented cabinet. Based on the UN Taliban has issued more than 50 edicts to restrict women's freedoms in Afghanistan from September 2021 to May 2023. Issuing consecutive restrictive edicts on women is a clear sign of the Taliban structured discrimination against women and gender apartheid.

Zohra says that she could not remain silent about the Taliban's crimes against women and accept the group's strict rules. "Taliban imposed restrictions on women in hospitals. Taliban appointed their members in oversight and checking sections. They told us we should not come out of the curtain. We could treat emergency cases. Before Taliban, male and female doctors worked together in the emergency room." She says.

Over time, Taliban criticizes women's hejab in Isteqlal hospital. This situation puts Zahra in more trouble and this causes her to join the group of protesting girls. She messages to one of the women's rights protestors and says she wants to join the protests against Taliban. First, she met them in a library in Pul e Sorkh of Kabul and then she joins the street protests.

For the first time, Zohra joined a protest against the Taliban in March 2021, starting from Pul e Khoshk of Barchi and ending in Shaid Mazari Mausoleum. "I organized the protest of March the 8th. I messaged my friends. I made a chat group. 20 girls were added to the group. Then we came to the street." Zohra says. Ms. Naeibi told us that she had organized

this protest against the all-male and Pashtun oriented cabinet of Taliban which no women were among the cabinet members. But Taliban scattered the protestors by firing into the air and suppressing them. According to Zohra, "at the same time, some girls had held a protest in Pul e Sorkh which Taliban had detained some of the journalists and tortured them. Taliban did not allow the two groups protesting to join each other."

She held the second protest march in front of Habibia high school to urge Taliban to release Alia Azizi and end killing the former security forces and observe the general amnesty. But Taliban violently suppressed the protest and searched Hazara protesting girls from street to street in west of Kabul. After this incident, the protesting girls decided to organize their protests in a protesting movement. As a result, the Movement of Afghan Justice Seeker Women was formed. Zohra joined the movement and organized the protest of Shahr e Naw of Kabul along with some other women's rights protestors. On those days, Taliban had shot, killed Zainab Abdullahi in Dasht e Barchi, Kabul. The protestors in Shahr e Naw, Kabul asked Taliban to identify the perpetrators of Zainab Abdullahi's murder. But Taliban responded with suicide vests and firing into the air. Zohra told us the girl protestors fled towards UNAMA office from the fear of Taliban but UNAMA closed its door on them.

When the women's rights protestors were violently suppressed on streets, they changed their struggle approach; they organized their protest in a closed area and writing graffiti. According to Zohra a number of the girls gathered in Hoda Khamosh's house on the night of Yalda, ...!?

Taliban also issued an edict banning women from coming outside of the home without a male chaperone. Taliban warned taxi drivers not to give a ride to such women and not to take them from one side of the city to other side or from city to another one. To enforce its new policy, Taliban beat and detained some drivers in different cities of Afghanistan. Zohra says to protest against this decision of Taliban, we gathered in the house of one of our friends and were male's clothes. In order to tell Taliban, women without a chaperone must come wearing the male's clothes. Zohra told us she had an interview with

BBC after this protest. After the interview, Taliban had found Zohra's mobile phone number and had repeatedly contacted and threatened her. "Taliban searched me. Contacted me. I was forced to go to Ghazni. I was there for 4 days. Then, I returned to Kabul and Started the protests against Taliban again." She says.

When Zohra returned from Ghazni she discovered that Taliban had expelled a number of Hazara female students from Kabul university and poisoned some others on baseless ground. The Women's rights protestors gathered near Kabul university and chanted "Education is our red line." According to Zohra, contrary to previous protests, Taliban did not fire into the air but took photo of each of them. After the protest, Parwana Ebrahimkhil, Tamana Pariani and her sister were arrested by Taliban.

The last protest Zohra took part was against unfair distribution of the aids in the west of Kabul by Taliban and it was violently suppressed again. According to Zohra, Taliban searched her after the protest and threatened her via phone calls. As a result, Zohra went to Ghazni again and when she returned from Ghazni to Kabul, she was moved to a safe house in Kabul. "When I returned from Ghazni, they moved me to a safe house. I stayed for one month there. 29 women and girl protestors were shifted to another place. It was planned to take them to the US but Taliban arrested them. Then, we also were shifted to another place. But Taliban identified it. Then, we went to another place. We were evacuated to Pakistan in February and we are here yet." She says.

According to Zohra Taliban had a double treatment with the female protestors. During the protests, Taliban only chased Hazara protesting girls and took confession by force from them. She says that during one of the protests, Taliban chased and harassed Hazara girls from alley to alley and forced them to confess. But they had nothing to do with other protestors. Out of 29 women and girls who were detained by Taliban from a safe house, Taliban only tortured Hazara girls." She says. Taliban told Hazara girls that they are unbelievers and rejectionists. When they contacted me, they told me you are unbelievers. They insulted us. Some Pashtun girls had protested against Taliban policies. But they are still in Kabul. They have jobs and are very happy now." Zohra says.

# An Endless Sorrow

By: Qadria Azaranosh  
Translated by: Mohammad Rezaie

When I was 15, I wished to become a president and at that time, I found a job in a TV channel as an intern. Though I was very young, I had big dreams. Beside working, I was a student and read history and geography subjects more than other ones. The history books of school were full of suppressive narratives and stories. It was not a subject to enjoy reading it except the adventure of murdering Nader Shah by Khaliq Hazara; I had put myself in place of Khaliq for several times. From that time, I decided to study hard at school, learn a foreign language, and go to another country, get a bachelor's degree and then return back to Afghanistan and clean it from a dirty, mud and corrupt and a male history.

Very soon, I was studying at university; I gradually realized that the childhood dreams were not that much sweet that I thought because realizing them needed to face many challenges. It was not easy for a woman from Hazara ethnic group to become a president in a structure full of gender and ethnic based discriminations. It

was a reality that I tried to accept it. However, the hope to become a president was a live in my heart until when I and my friends gathered in Pul e Sorkh square in a spring day. All of us were worried. One of us had received Iran's visa and had packed her back pack, the other one was worried about her passport and the last one did not know which one of her concerns shall be prioritized. "Kabul will collapse soon. We shall leave Kabul before it collapses. Because Taliban will kill all of us on the first day." One of my friends stated. "You are right but what shall we do? Where shall we go? Another friend inquires. My other friend is more optimistic "Kabul will not collapse this soon. It is not such easy." She says. All of us drank our coffees and went home. The next day was August 15. A tragic event had happened! Kabul had collapsed. It was hard to accept it. I had lost the time and kept telling myself "It is a nightmare and is not a fact." All of the people were disappointed and hopeless. Struggling in the mid of this unbelievable truth made the men to ride on the wing of an airplane evacuating the people which portrayed a picture of Armageddon.

On the night of 15 August, Dr. Abdullah an-

nounced on media that Ashraf Ghani had fled the country and Taliban had seized Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan.

After the Taliban takeover, I stayed in Kabul for 4 months and during this period my friends were leaving Kabul one after another. I did not go out; because I did not like to wear that long black dress and also, I kept saying to myself we must stand against Taliban and do not allow it to Talibanize Afghanistan and create a monotonicity country. We shall stay together; because living in a swamp will smear us with mud and does not ensure security in the country.

We were a generation that laughed, cried, and protested, and was killed and sometimes was attacked by suicide bombers with no objections. When we just said equality, we were sidelined. Though we had no share of political power, but were beheaded in happiness and sorrow of the politicians.

On the other hand, in a land that patriarchy, mis treatment of women and injustice against women has a long history, violence is the eminent part of women's lives; women who are born with violence, grow with violence and die with it. How one can continue in such a situa-

tion!?

Now, after two years of the collapse of republic, home is the only safe haven for women and every night, I instead of dreaming to become a president, hear the cries of my nephews and sisters who no longer can go to school or university.



# Arefa; Protest and Exile

By: Aziz Usian  
Translated by: Mohammad Rezaie

When Daikondi collapsed, Arefa was in Nili center of this province and there were rumors that Taliban will enter the Nili city. It was 4:P.M, when Arefa left Nili to go to Shahrستان district and she noticed the local security forces looked disappointed and wanted to find a way to flee from their posts. Arefa had a room in Chaprasak market and she arrived there at 10: P.M. Arefa stayed in Chaprasak with her roommate and she heard the next day from the social media networks that Daikondi had collapsed and there was no hope to defend this province anymore. Arefa went to the Citizens Charter Office, where she worked, and the guards told her she should not have come to the office with such clothes. "You know the Taliban law. You should not have come without hejab. I told them that before Taliban, you are criticizing me for my clothes. While my clothes were normal and according to the customs of there." Arefa Said.

When Arefa Rezaie entered into the office, she saw that only a few numbers of her coworkers were there. One of them told Arefa that, now, the Taliban have seized power and only men are allowed to work in the organizations. They told Arefa that Taliban have sent an official letter banning women from work. Arefa sat behind her desk for a while and then left the office with disappointment. "I even did not pick up my coffee cup." She said.

Arefa stayed in Shirma village at her home, hoping Taliban my change their mind and al-

low women to return to work. She contacted her manager at the end of the week and asked him about the office. Her manager said there has been no change and all female employees shall stay home until the second notice. "I contacted our provincial manager and asked what will happen to us; and he said there was no news yet. Stay at home." He said.

Arefa's frined, one her close friends, went in Kabul and contacted her the people were e actuated from Kabul airport to other countries. Arefa decided to go to Kabul. But transportation agencies did not give her a ticket because Taliban had told them they should not send ticket to women without a chaperone. "I accept its responsibility. When I reached Bamyan, Taliban stopped me and asked about my male chaperone. I had no choice and pointed to a man and said he is my chaperone." Arefa Said. Arefa noticed in Kabul that many of her friends were evacuated from Kabul airport to other countries. She was alone in Kabul and did not know what to do; she even could not return to Shahrستان. Arefa was an employee of Citizens Charter Program on gender awareness. She travelled to different Daikondi districts to provide women on their basic rights. She had been threatened several times by the local Taliban fighters and had issued threat letters against her, threatening her to stop her activities.

Arefa chosen the street from all the deadlocks facing her and joined Kabul women's rights protestors and participated in all protests against Taliban. Arefa Rezaie is one of the

founders of, the Movement of Afghan Justice Seeker Women's and has played an important role in protests of this movement against Taliban. When women's rights protestors were suppressed in a protest in front of Kabul, Arefa's eye was hurt due to tear gas used by Taliban to disperse the protestors. "I was for one hour in the hospital for treatment of my eyes." She said.

Area continued organizing protest marches against Taliban and she organized one of the major protests against Taliban in Dashte Barchi when the group killed Zainab Abdullahi. But Taliban violently suppressed the protest by shooting into the air. Area said that when Morsal Ayar and Parwana Ebrahim Khil were arrested, I noticed some women's rights organizations were shifting protestors women to safe houses and some of them were already moved into these houses. Then, Arefa heard another bad news. One of Arefa's friends contacted her and told some of the women's rights protestors had been arrested from the safe houses. "My friend told me that Taliban had arrested some of women's rights protestors; especially those who were in the first line of the protests. She also said that my photo has been in the hand of Taliban. Be careful not to be detained by Taliban." She told me.

Arefa siad that there was a checkpoint of Taliban just on the alley they lived and it was likely to be arrested by Taliban. Before this, Arefa lived in her uncle's house, but after participating in the protests, her uncle told her to leave his house and live somewhere else.

When Arefa noticed that Taliban had de-

cidied to arrest her, she contacted her aunts' daughter to stay the night at her house. On the same night, Arefa's landlord contacted her and said Taliban had asked him about the house of the protesting girls. "He told me, I wonder if you are one of the protesting girls and I said no I am not." She said.

On those days, the movement told the protesting girls to change their houses. Arefa said that she had been looking for a safe place for one week and she finally contacted Hoda Khamosh in Norway and told her it was impossible to find a safe place in Kabul. Then Hoda Khamosh had told her, she would contact a women's rights protestor organization to shift her to a safe house in Kabul. But, next day, Arefa was informed that about 29 women's rights protestors had been arrested from a safe house in Kabul.

Arefa was forced to go to the house of one of her friends in Haji Nabi Township. The women's rights organization told Arefa she needed to have a passport to be evacuated from Kabul to abroad. Arefa said that she was in trouble, and as a result, she married a man they had already agreed to marry without having a marriage ceremony. Arefa said that she feared to be arrested by Taliban and in that case, she needed to have a male chaperone to get out of Afghanistan.

The hard life of Afghan women, especially those who like Arefa have stood against the Taliban polices during the past two years, has made many Afghan women and girls to take the path of unwanted migration in order to survive. A way that internalizes the pain of living in another way for them.





# Hura Sadat's Murder;

## Has Taliban Murdered Her or Unknow Men?

By: Shirin Shabnam

Translated: By Mohammad Rezaie

Hura Sadat's horrific death, young Afghan media activist and YouTuber, was a news that was publicized later than usual on social media. Social media and human rights activists, considering different information about Ms. Sadat's death, say there is a mystery behind her death that her family does not express it. Hura was killed around 6: A.M on Monday, August 15, 2023, in police district 18, Dasht e Barchi of Kabul. Her death was publicized two days later and then her family confirmed her death. So far, there has been controversial news about Hura Sadat's death on mass media.

Khalid Zadrán, the Taliban's spokesperson for Ministry of Interior in Kabul, in a message on X said Hura Sadat was killed 3 days ago in police district 18 of Kabul. He said three people including one woman has been arrested in connection with Sadat's death. But social media users rejected Zadrán's statements on Saturday saying Sadat was killed due to rejecting a marriage proposal of one of the Taliban officials. Some local sources say Qari Bilal Logari, a powerful Taliban official, is behind Sadat's death. Before this hypothesis, nearly all sources cited the murder as suspicious and Ahmad Hamim Dawran, a social media user, said "She was killed, was buried mysteriously and it is suspicious and "there was bowl and under half bowl".

The "Movement of Strong Women of Afghanistan" issuing a statement on this week said Taliban was behind such murders and added that during the two past years of Taliban rule, tens of "women's rights activists" have been killed in Kabul and other cities of Afghanistan in a "suspicious and target way" by Taliban. But Taliban has said "unknown armed men" were behind the killings. The movement added Taliban buried Ms. Sadat's body secretly and without presence of her family members in Kart e Sakhi of Kabul. The "Movement of Strong

Women of Afghanistan" urged the international community and human rights organizations to bring Taliban to Hague International Criminal Court.

In a video published on social media network, a young man that is said is Hura's brother, says her sister has been killed in a sad incident.

Mazda Mehrgan, a poet, wrote on Facebook, "Hura was killed. She didn't marry with a Taliban official and was a victim of Taliban's mindset like many other Afghan women." Hura with such beauty, was forced to work to feed her family and it was her only crime." He added "Her crime was her beauty, being a woman, her courage and feeling responsibility to her family.

Shikib Musadeq, singer, sharing a photo of Hura Sadat in Afghan Star recording program, wrote on his Facebook account that Hura Sadat contacted me one night before her death and told me she wanted to tell me an important issue. But when I left her a message, I didn't receive any because she was already dead. He added Hura had a quarrel with a Taliban militia and they had taken her to police district office.

There are many ambiguities about Hura Sadat's death. One narrative says she had been at home of one of her friends at night and she had given her poison in the early morning. Another story says published on social media says after Hura Sadat has been poisoned, she had come home and her family members had taken her to a hospital, but due to her health condition the hospital had rejected her and her family had taken her to another hospital and she has died there. But some other wrote on social media that Sadat has been taken to hospital by her friends but she has not been able to talk to tell who has behind her murder. On the other hand, social media users say Hura was raped in group before she was killed.

In voice tape deemed to be Hura's father, he claims her daughter has been murdered by her friends. Hura's father added with sad voice. "It was planned. Her god sisters. And some others,

had deceived her. We went and detained them." Her father added Hura Sadat was killed by rat poison. "It was rat poison, what it was, it was something that killed her in less than ten minutes. She died in the hospital."

Claiming she died in less than 10 minutes is an exaggeration as it is not clear how far is their home from the hospital. It looks suspicious. In a voice claimed to be one of Hura Sadat's friends on social media, she says Sadat has been her guest at night and has left her home early morning. Sadat's god sister in voice tape says "By the way, I don't have contact with her, they were at my home last night. Hura was here. I was a little sick. They had come to visit me." She added, "They went out in the morning. I had some problem, I had to move from the house I lived in, they left the house in the early morning for that reason. Then, I didn't call her. Because I don't have credit to call her. Her internet is off."

Another claim says Sadat's family is involved in her murder. Because it says Sadat had family issues with her family in the last days of her life. It looks it is about her marriage because she was running a YouTube channel named "Kabul Fans" with Latif Razban her Hazara and it was very famous lately. They announced on social media they were enraged but after some months they announced they had separated due to personal issues.

They said on social media they had been threatened, likely by Sadat's family members and they just pretended they had broken but they just spent their engagement period.

After the apparently broke, Sadat went to Iran and she returned to Afghanistan after a while and then started her own YouTube channel and run it herself. In a voice clip related to Sadat's mother on social media, she says Latif was poor and they had engaged Sadat with an old and rich man who had two other wives and lived in Europe. Her mother said Hura Sadat was pregnant by Latif.

Now, many believe there has been in serious

issue in Sadat's life, a media activist debating social issues, and she had felt the warning shot. Another clue is that she had left her previous house in police district 18. It looks leaving her previous house was not effective and she was killed on early morning on Monday. In voice clip related to Hura Sadat's sister... she says she has left her house and it is not clear whether she is the woman Taliban claims the group has arrested her charged with Sadat's death or not. Mysterious death and burring of her is questionable and after one week there is no clear comment of Sadat's murder, people have many questions and Taliban does not share the truth with the people.

By the way, Saima Sultani, women rights activist" has raised a number of questions: "Why oppression, belittling, discrimination, insult, suppression, rape, murder is not seen in murdering women? Why all oppressions and injustice are more visible on the face a man than a woman and other gender groups?"

Many other women have been murdered before Hura Sadat and the reality of their murder and the criminal edicts issued on their murder have not been shared with the people and media. Mursal Nabi Zada, member of former National Assembly, Halimam Imami in Bamyan, Negar, a police officer, and many other women have been killed in a mysterious way. Taliba has been accused of killing many civilians and especially killing of women and even Taliban is considered the perpetrator of the death of those women who have killed themselves.

Shameful silence of human rights organizations and international community towards the mysterious murder of the people of Afghanistan, has caused the strong response of women rights activists and "Movement of Justice Seeker Women of Afghanistan" accuses women rights advocating organizations, human rights organizations and Journalists without borders keeping silent on these murders and is worried Sadat's murder and other similar cases may not be followed up by the relevant organizations.

# Naera Kohistani;

## The Narrator of a Burnt Land

By: Mohammad Ahmadi  
Translated by: Mohamad Rezaie

Yet, she was a child when her family moved to Kohistan district, Kapisa from the fear of Taliban. In September 1996, When Taliban entered Kabul from the mountains and executed the president Najibullah, and they feared Taliban may kill her father too because Khilda's father served in Khaad, the intelligence of Dr. Najib government. Her father who had witnessed Najib's execution, had escaped from Kabul to Kapisa and then had called his family members to come to Kapisa as soon as possible and join him there. "My father told us he has been on his way to the office when he saw Taliban executing Dr. Najib on Aryana square, in front of the presidential palace." Naera said.

Nadira said Taliban arrested her father after a while and he was in the prison for 40 days. "They had arrested my father. He was tortured for 40 days. When he came home, it was difficult to recognize him. His stomach had... and they had shaved his head. one part of his head was torn. He could not walk and was on the bed. Then my father fled to Iran." Naera said.

### Taliban and the fame of burnt land.

Naera is the narrator of the black history, burnt land and forbidden land of Shamali (Northern Afghanistan); a land that Taliban had announced its grapes haram and its sparrows as enemies. Taliban in the first period of their dark rule on Afghanistan, attacked on Shamali, killed its men, women and children, set on fire the gardens, harvests, jangles, and grape yards, and destroyed its water canals and bombed its walls. In another word, about 200,000 from Parwan, Kapisa and north of Kabul were displaced and went to Panjshir and many people disappeared. According to the UN Taliban had forced about 400,000 people from their homes. Jibrit Komin the then UN spokesperson on refugees had said in Genva "Taliban force these people to get on buses and trucks, and go to Kabul and Jalalabad. Taliban separated women and children from men."

Naera remembers well when Taliban were sending their troops to Shamali and she and her mother had escaped to Pnjshir from the fear of Taliban. Naera said Taliban had planted a hand bomb in their house and parts of it had been destroyed. "It was late at night, when we were informed by the mosque Taliban had entered Kapisa. People left their houses and moved to Panjshir along with their family and cuttles. We arrived in Panjshir in the morning. Some of the cuttles of the people sank in the water. The valley was narrow and many people were pushing to Panjshir. Naera said.

There were many tragic events on the way when the oppressed people of Shamali were going to Panjshir. Naera said she and her mother saw an 8 old girl and an infant child and no other their family members with them. The girl told Naera's mother her mother and brother had fallen into the river and killed, and she was left

alone with this little hungry and thirsty infant. "The infant child had not drunk milk. The girl had asked my mother to milk the infant. Then she had told my mother she could not carry the infant with her and she may throw the child into the river. Then my mother give milk to the child. After that, I don't know what happened to the infant child because everyone tried to save themselves." Naera said.

Taliban had changed Shamali to a burnt place with hungry people. Naera said Shamali people faced a severe draught after Taliban attacked Shamali and set on fire the gardens and vineyard of the people. There were times that there was no bread on the table of the people and the children cried for a piece of bread or smelling the cooking rice. And many children died of malnutrition. Naera said what helped the people remain alive was berry. "The only food was plenty available was berry. It was both food and fruit of the people." She said.

Naera Kohistani has been a history teacher. Having a critical view on the history of Afghanistan, she says the history of Afghanistan is full of lies, forgery and distortion. According to Naera, atrocities of Taliban during the first period of the rule of this groups, has not been documented. She said she had read nowhere about kidnapping the girls by Taliban in Kapisa and they never returned to their homes once they were kidnapped. Sometimes, Taliban kidnapped the girls under the name of the Red Cross and I don't know whether they were sold to Pakistanis or Saudis." She said. Naera has studied the first class in three years; because Taliban fired on the school now and then. These rockets caused Naera to finish the first class when she was 9 years old. She said when the area was under the control of Afghanistan United Front led by commander Masoud, the doors of schools were open and they could go to school with no fear. "When I was in Kapisa, sometimes parts of the province were captured by Masoud forces. Then the schools were open. But when Taliban captured the area, they fired on schools and schools were closed for a long time." She said.

### The Fall of Taliban; The Rise of Life

The Taliban government was toppled by NATO forces in 2001 and the republic replaced the Emirate in Afghanistan. After he collapse of Taliban, Naera's father returned from Iran and started a private business. An official who had worked in Khad during the Najib's government, now was working as an electrician. Naera and her mother also returned from Kapisa to Kabul and started everything from the scratch. Naera finished school and university in Kabul and then married. She taught in a private school in Kabul and she wished to become a professional athlete to win medals and gain honor for Afghan women. "I was in grade 10, and joined the team of our high school. There was a stadium in our high school and during the first period of Taliban, it was used for stoning men and women. I loved to hold athletic events there and win medals." Naera said.

### Fifteen of August; the Decline of Life

Naera has been teaching history when the head master came, knocked and whispered Kabul had collapsed and Taliban had entered the city. The head master emphasizes, no one shall leave the school before the students are evacuated. Naera who had experienced the first round of the Taliban government, hearing the sad news, fainted. She hardly could get up. The head master told Naera to take a taxi and go home. But she refused it and said, first the students shall go home. After all children went home, she went home while she was in horrific mode and was afraid of Taliban.

Nadera said, on the first days of Taliban takeover, Evacuation process was going on and the western countries were evacuating those whose lives were in danger from Kabul airport. Naera's father who had experienced the prison of Taliban, decided to leave the country. As a result, Naera went to the Passport Directorate to get a passport. Naera said there were too many people to get passports. Taliban beat people with cable wires to align their lines. Taliban even beat women and children. Naera said when she was in the line of passport, a Taliban fighter hit with cable on her shoulders and she fell on the ground due to the pain. She hardly could take her out of the crowd and took a taxi and went home in Sara e Shamali. "When I get to home, my mother opened the door, and I fell to the ground. I regained consciousness. There was blood in the place of cable. Naera decided to fight against Taliban on Kabul streets. "This pain caused me to go to Kabul streets. I warned my family not to interrupt me. I thought I was alone. I found some other protesting girls and joined them. Hoda Khamosh added me to the WhatsApp group of the women's rights protesting girls. Next day I went to the street. I had nothing to lose; I neither had a palace nor a building. I had no jewelries and ornaments. I was just a teacher and Taliban also had taken this one from me." She said.

Some women's rights protestors decided to hold a protest in Kabul on education ban on girls above seven grade. Naera said she was the first protestor who left home at 6: A.M in the morning and moved towards Shahre Naw of Kabul and reached there at 8: A.M. On that day she only had 50 afghanis. Other women's rights protestors joined Naera after 45 minutes. And the started their protest march chanting "Bread, Work and Freedom." Taliban violently suppressed the women's rights protest and the protestors were scattered and went home.

Naera said in addition to street protests against Taliban, she has been active on X (former Twitter) and I drank coffee some nights in order not to fall asleep and do more twits against the Taliban group. "We were active on twitter at nights. We conducted twitter spaces. We talked about our goals and programs. We talked about the threats facing us. We drank coffee no to go to sleep. When we took to the streets, we usually took several clothes and head scarves in order to change our appearance. When the protested

ended, we went home from different directions." She said.

Naera continued her street protests against the Taliban group until she is identified and searched by the Taliban intelligence. She had to change where she lived. But she never surrenders to Taliban and continues disclosing Taliban policies. "I was in Kabul until March 2022. I participated in 5 street protests. We held news conferences and cultural programs. We said no to the forced hejab." She said.

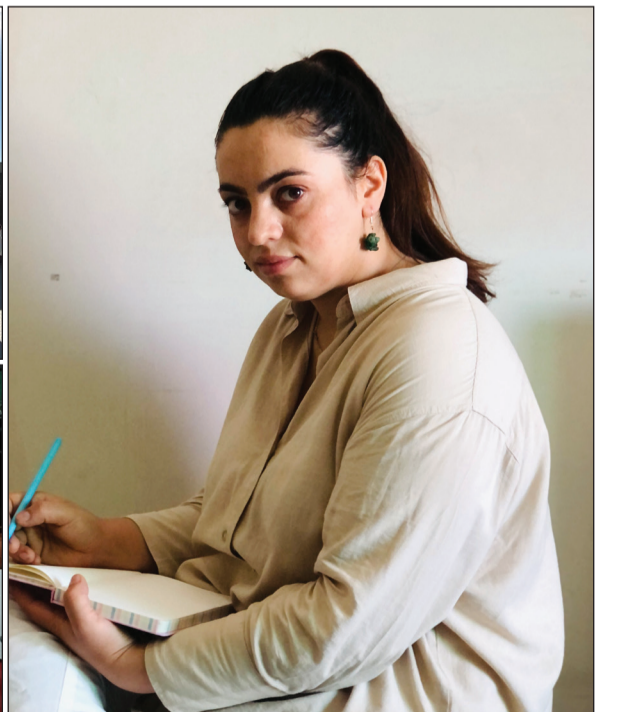
Naera said, When Taliban arrested Tamana Pariani and her sisters, I talked with BBC and the BBC reporter asked me about the videos shared by Pariani. When Taliban broke into Pariani's house, she shared a video and asked the people to help her and kept saying Taliban wanted to break into her house.

In the mid of interview, Naera was informed by her husband that several Taliban Ranger military vehicles were in their alley and may arrest her. On the same night, Pariani's twitter was hacked by Taliban and Taliban intelligence may had found her home address from the twitter. Naera said she went to one of her neighbors house and then one of the organizations which worked to protect the women's rights protestors, had taken Naera and some other protestors to a safe house in Shahre Naw of Kabul. According to Naera, Moorsal Ayar, one of other women's rights activists used to come there and Taliban arrested Ayar from her house. According to Naera, they had changed her locations for seven times. And finally, they moved her to a safe house in Shirpoor of Kabul where Naera and some other women's rights protestors were arrested from there. "Shirpoor was the seven house we were moved in. Taliban arrested us from there. I was in the prison for 15 days along with my husband and two children. They had beaten and tortured my husband a lot. He bled." She said.

When Naera was released from the prison, she had an interview with Persian Independent about the prison and arresting women. It further incited the Taliban. Then she decided to leave Afghanistan. Naera said she left home with her son at 4: A.M. and moved towards Torkam border. "I left home at 4 o'clock. I had taken one book, a pair of clothes and my son. My wife and daughter remained in Kabul. They did not have passports. My daughter, who is still a child, joined me after six months. After 8 months, my wife also joined us." She said.

Homelessness in Pakistan for Naera is the same as the cemetery Taliban had created for Near in Kapisa and Kohdaman in 1998. Naera an other Afghan women experience a similar pain they experienced in Afghanistan. The only difference is that they experience the same pain in a different geographical location.

Difficulties and hurdles of migration can't stop Naera from protesting Against the Taliban policies. She went on a hunger strike with some other Afghan women. Hunger protest was organized by Tamana Pariani, one of Afghan women's rights protestors.



# Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Committee; Expelling Afghan Refugees is like Pakistan's Cooperation with the Taliban to Suppress them



© Sweeta Sadat



**Silk Way Weekly:** Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Committee has expressed concerns over Expelling Afghan Refugees from Pakistan and has termed it as cooperation of Pakistan with the Taliban.

The committee issued a statement late on Thursday that the visas of most Afghan refugees in Pakistan have expired and no timeline has been identified to extend them.

Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Committee was established by 48 national and international organizations in 2015 led by Afghans and UNAMA and The European Union and Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission are the oversight members of the committee.

Pakistan government ordered deporting all illegal refugees in Pakistan on October 3, which 1.7 million of them are Afghans. They shall leave Pakistan by end of October, if they don't leave Pakistan, then they will be deported.

The committee said the decision of Pakistan government will put in danger the lives of hundreds of human rights activists, prosecutors, judges, lawyers, medica activists, for government civilian and security employees, who have fled Afghanistan due to discrimination and prejudice.

Expelling by force and making them to leave Pakistan is like cooperation of Pakistan with the Taliban to suppress them.

The committee referring to the new UNAMA report about killing, arresting

and torturing the former security members by the Taliban said the international committee has no plan for the Afghan refugees and processing their cases in Turkey, Iran and Pakistan and it is questionable.

Afghanistan Human Rights Defenders Committee has emphasized in the basic rights of Afghan refugees and has urged Pakistan to treat them in a dignified manner.

This committee has also stated that those Afghan refugees who have travelled to a third country to pursue their cases which their visas have expired, face heavy fines and maybe deported. As a result, it is required the UNHCR to negotiate with the mentioned countries to find a logical, legal and lasting solution to these prob-

lems.

"Those countries involved in the evacuation process, should immediately expediate the process of their cases and save them. We ask the host states and countries to observe the neighborhood rights and treat the refugees based on customs and culture of good neighborhood." The statement said.

After the Taliban takeover on August 15, 2021, many Afghans, fearing to be imprisoned and tortured by the Taliban, left Afghanistan and most of them went to Pakistan, Iran and Turkey, holding validated visas.

But due to slow processing of their cases by the third countries, most of these refugees face legal problems in these three countries.

## Zahra Joya won the 2023 World Forum of Young Leaders Award

Silk Way Weekly: Zahra Joya, the founder of Rokhshanah Media, received the award of the best young journalist in the world of 2023 from the world Forum of young Leaders (One Young World).

This award was given to five young journalist of the world, including Zahra Joya from Afghanistan, and four journalists from Belarus, Palestine and Cuba at the summit in the city of Belfast, Northern Ireland, with the presence of representatives of 196 countries.

At the awards ceremony Zahra Joya said «I present this honor to the brave women journalists who continue working hard and facing the most violent misogynist regime in the world (Taliban)».



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**The Voice  
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Victims**

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