

PRESS FREEDOMS ALERT



The International Association for Women in Radio and Television (IAWRT) is a global organization formed by professional women working in electronic and allied media with a mission to strengthen initiatives towards ensuring that women's views and values are an integral part of programming and to advance the impact of women in the media. IAWRT is a non-government organization in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). IAWRT has more than 400 members in 55 countries and 14 country chapters across the globe.

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN IN RADIO & TELEVISION-INTERNATIONAL



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LOCATION

AFGHANISTAN & PAKISTAN, ISLAMABAD

CRITICAL ISSUES

Relocation/VISA
Emergency Extraction
Financial/Legal Supports

SUMMARY

The International association of Women in Radio and Television (Afghanistan Chapter) is concerned about the arrests and the situation of Afghan journalists in Pakistan.

We have received reliable information that includes the arrest of migrants Afghan journalists arrested by the Pakistani police in Islamabad. Arresting people who reside in a country with visas and legal documents and examining and inspecting their belongings is against all international norms, is a violation of international agreements and is considered harassment.

The International Union of Women in Radio and Television (Afghanistan Chapter) asks the government and civil society of Pakistan to pay serious attention to this issue and provide a

safe living environment for all immigrants, especially journalists, in accordance with international norms, and to treat the arrested persons release soon.

IAWRT Afghanistan

EYEWITNESS REPORT 4 FEBRUARY 2023 (ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN):

"We became so vulnerable in the current situation in Pakistan. Our cases for asylum do not move forward and we are stuck here with no financial support and no legal protection."

My family and I and the two other colleagues of IAWRT Afghanistan are in desperate need of assistance, but nobody cares about it.

We are imprisoned in our houses because of the chaotic situation in Islamabad. Members of my family and my kids are worried and their tensions are growing because of the restrictions and pressure imposed by the Pakistani police.

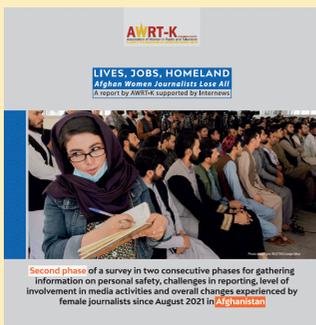
We are stunned and do not know what to do. The situation is getting worse and we have no legal means to defend ourselves.

Our visas are expired and we can not renew them until we leave the country or pay a lot of fine and bribe to get our visa extensions at least for three months.

Thank you again for approaching me and asking about our status in these chaotic days.

OUR DATA

REPORT: LIVES, JOBS, HOMELAND: AFGHAN WOMEN JOURNALISTS LOSE ALL



As women disappear from the public sphere, Afghan women journalists are vanishing at a rapid pace. Of the total number of women journalists in 2020, only 5% live and work in Kabul since the de facto authorities took back the political power. These displaced journalists are in hiding or have fled to Pakistan and other countries, where their safety is still fragile and their livelihoods have been lost.

READ MORE ON OUR REPORT:

- **67.86% of the respondents lost their jobs since the Taliban takeover in August 2021.**



- 80.52% of the respondents said that Afghan media today is 'very restricted.'



- 46.75% respondents said that spokespersons of the authorities do not respond to female journalists.

IAWRT-INTERNATIONAL

IAWRT envisages a global environment where the role and space of women in the media is fully recognized, is safe and secure, ensures freedom of speech without fear of online or offline trolling, where the portrayal and image of women is balanced and fair and where women have an equal share of positions at all levels in mainstream, digital and community media.

Furthermore, IAWRT envisions a world where women have an equal voice, and space in community media (rural and urban), as citizen journalists and equal partners in agenda-setting, dialogue and debate.



