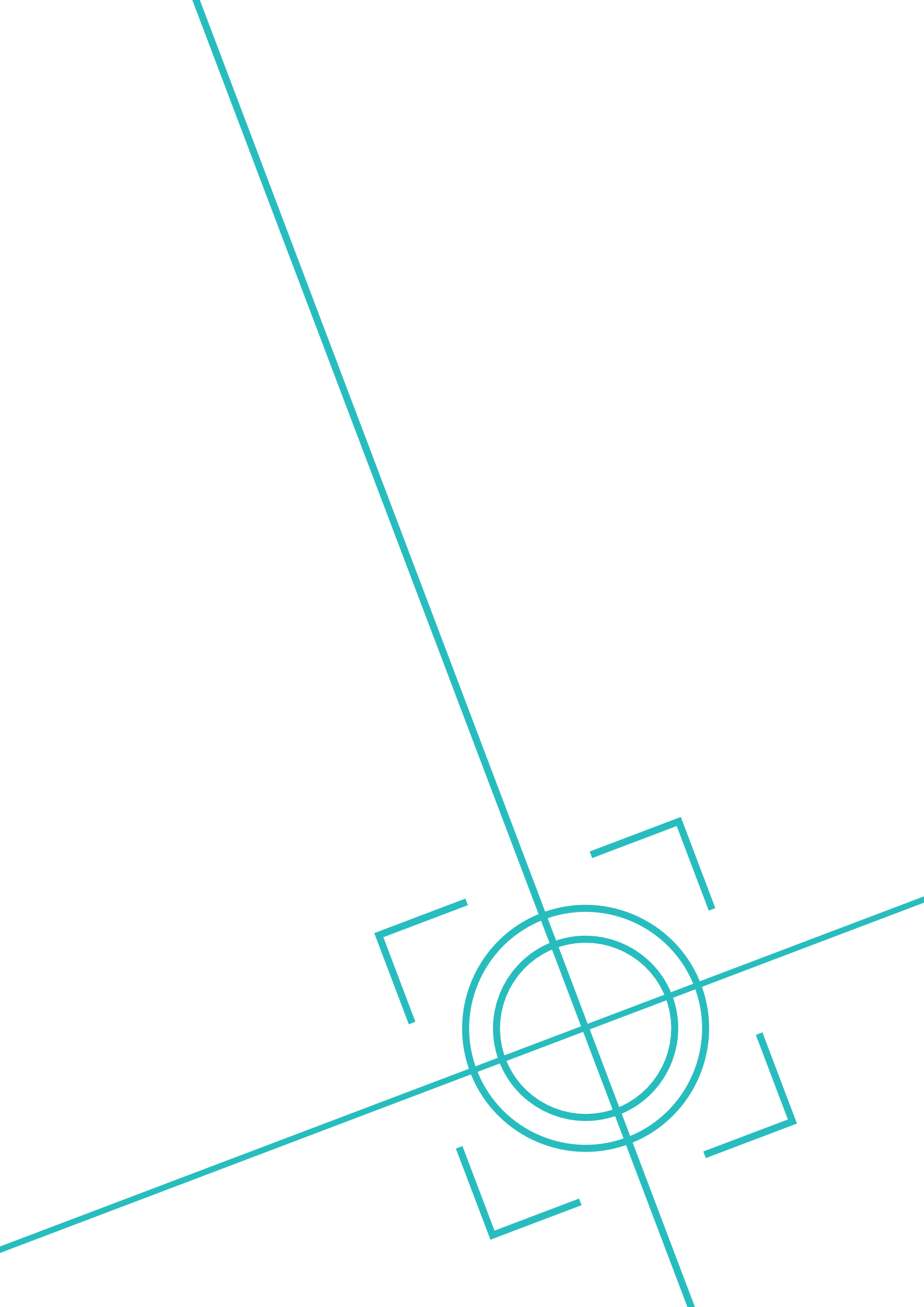


# SURVIVING the STORY

A study on the economic situation  
of slain journalists' families and journalists  
displaced due to security threats



A collaboration of  
Communications Research Strategies (CRS)  
and [JournalismPakistan.com](http://JournalismPakistan.com)



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# ABBREVIATIONS

APNS	All Pakistan Newspapers Society
CPJ	Committee to Protect Journalists
CPNE	Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors
CRS	Communications Research Strategies
DIK	Dera Ismail Khan
FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Area
FN	Freedom Network
IFJ	International Federation of Journalists
JEF	Journalists' Endowment Fund
JP	JournalismPakistan
KhUJ	Khyber Union of Journalists
KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
NJC	National Journalists' Council
NPC	National Press Club
PBA	Pakistan Broadcasters Association
PEMRA	Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority
PFUJ	Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists
PJSF	Pakistan Journalists' Safety Fund
PPF	Pakistan Press Foundation
PTV	Pakistan Television
TUJ	Tribal Union of Journalists
UN	United Nations

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- All Pakistan Newspapers Society
- D.I. Khan Press Club
- Khyber Union of Journalists
- Landi Kotal Press Club
- National Press Club
- Pakistan Broadcasters Association
- Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists
- Peshawar Press Club
- Press Information Department
- Swat Press Club
- Tank Press Club

# INTRODUCTION

The world is becoming increasingly dangerous for journalists. A report by International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) lists 2297 media fatalities due to violence since 1990.<sup>1</sup> According to the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), 79 journalists were killed in 2016. Most of them lost their lives covering the wars (36), politics (18) and corruption (9). Pakistan ranked as the 8th deadliest country for journalists with two killings in 2016.<sup>2</sup>

Pakistan, at the center of changing world politics, geographically and strategically, continues to cope with political and economic crises. The country faces internal and external challenges. Sensitive borders, emerging new regional alliances, religious and sectarian extremism, bad governance, military operations against militants and absence of any law to protect journalists - all make Pakistan a dangerous place for journalists to work in.

Despite these challenges, Pakistani media has played a pivotal role. It stayed in the frontline to inform and connect the public with ground realities. It has done so successfully. However, this role is quite complex and risky in Pakistan's context. Journalists and media workers face encounter many threats; from state actors, political forces, Taliban and Al Qaeda militants, and nationalist groups. At least 105 journalists lost their lives<sup>3</sup> in Pakistan between 2000 and 2016.

This prompted a debate on journalists' safety in Pakistan at national and international levels. Several initiatives aimed at providing protection to news organizations and journalists followed.

Researchers identified threat sources and gaps in safety mechanisms, journalist safety networks emerged; training was imparted to journalists working in war zones along with safety gear.

However, no attention was paid to the economic insecurity endured by journalists reporting out of hard areas. As well as the families of journalists killed during service.

A research-based advocacy for a comprehensive mechanism that could ensure financial security for journalists, the families of those killed, displaced, or injured, was missing from all efforts that focused on journalists' safety.

'Communications Research Strategies (CRS) and JournalismPakistan.com teamed up to design a project to delve into this. Supported by Open Society Foundation (OSF), it aimed to reach select families of journalists who were killed and interview those who got displaced because of threats or military operations.

The initiative includes:

- A research study on the economic condition of slain journalists' families and displaced journalists to develop a framework for their economic security
- A documentary to create awareness on the issue
- A one-month advocacy campaign around the above mentioned framework in consultation with those displaced, families of slain journalists, and other stakeholders

The project team interviewed five

families of journalists who were killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. They also talked to five journalists who were forced to leave their hometowns. Interviews were also conducted with relevant stakeholders including office-bearers/officials of press clubs and unions, All-Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS), and the Press Information Department (PID).

The purpose of this research study is to identify the challenges related to economic security of slain journalists' families and displaced journalists and advise policy recommendations.

<sup>1</sup> IFJ 25th Report on Journalists and Media Staff Killed Since 1990

<sup>2</sup> Committee to Protect Journalists

<sup>3</sup> Statistics shared by Freedom Network



## About Communications Research Strategies

Communications Research Strategies (CRS) is a full-service strategic communication company that uses stakeholder engagement combined with robust media outreach to deliver desired outcomes for complex and challenging tasks. It has worked on Counter Violent Extremism, Sexual Reproductive Health Rights, Mother & Newborn Child Health, Police reforms among others. It uses its experience of working with corporate, public and nonprofit sector for seamless execution and delivery of the projects that it undertakes.

## About JournalismPakistan.com

JournalismPakistan.com, founded in 2009, is a pioneer in media reporting in Pakistan. Since its inception, it has continued to report objectively on the state of journalism, recording threats to press freedoms and will, or lack of it, of successive governments in addressing them.

Besides, the site has recorded/reported incidents of killings of media workers/journalists, sackings of staff by news organizations, salary delays, cases of sexual harassment in newsrooms and more, making it a site of record that journalists, scholars and researchers in Pakistan and abroad continue to refer to.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Pakistan, ranked eighth in 2016 by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), remains one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists. According to International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) and Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ), over 100 journalists and media workers have been killed in Pakistan since 2000 - an average of one-a-month after 2007. Over 2,000 have been kidnapped, tortured, injured, arrested, detained or intimidated.

Those pioneering reporting in the restive Northwest when military operations were launched against Taliban militants, had no training on how to stay safe. Consequently many got killed and injured. Others had to migrate to safer places following threats.

International organizations introduced trainings in self safety and how not to become the story for the journalist. However the initiatives focused on journalists' physical safety and overlooked the economic security of slain journalists' families as well as those forced to migrate.

This study explores this aspect that has a direct link to the safety of journalists working in life-threatening environments. A pilot initiative, it focuses on small and sensitive areas of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA where 42 journalists have lost their lives since 2000.<sup>4</sup>

The field team reached out to five families of journalists who were killed and interviewed several family members in order to gather evidence on how they were coping with the loss of their

breadwinner. The team also interviewed five journalists who were driven out of their hometowns and villages because of threats or military operations and seek refuge in settled areas. Feedback from various stakeholders including office-bearers of press clubs, unions, and All Pakistan Newspapers Society (APNS) was sought in its quest for facts; the team traveled to Landi Kotal, Dera Ismail Khan, Hangu, Tank, Swat, Peshawar and consulted stakeholders in Islamabad.

The stories thus unfolded reveal irresponsibility and insensitivity of key stakeholders - government, news organizations, unions and press clubs - towards families of slain journalists and those displaced.

Except for a few good examples that go to show such families and journalists can be helped if there is a will, most case studies present a dismal scenario.

The team learned of instances of individuals helping out the families and journalists in distress. While the stakeholders and duty bearers remained indifferent in most cases.

Most appalling has been the gender aspect of this issue. The rare cases in which support was offered to the families of slain journalist, never reached the widows. Those providing such support only met the male members. As a result the women including the widows remained in the dark about the nature of assistance; how much and from where.

There is also confusion over the status of many journalists working out of high-risk areas and smaller districts of Khyber

Pakhtunkhwa and FATA. Most of them work freelance for several organizations and are therefore not on their payroll. They earn their living through other means such as business.

To make matters worse, most news organizations abandon the families of slain and displaced journalists. Only two organizations were found to have entered into proper contracts with their correspondents and pay monthly salary.

The government often made promises but seldom honored them. The press clubs and unions lacked the resources to deliver despite good intentions. International media watchdogs limited their role to the physical security of journalists.

One widow, a mother of five, lived on mealy Rs1600 per month for nearly 10 years. A displaced journalist continues to receive a meagre sum of PRs. 1500 each month from a news agency. Help from family and friends constitute a large portion of financial support.

The displaced journalists interviewed admitted they frequently risked their lives for international news organizations hoping to get good money. However media outlets seldom supported them in case of distress.

Journalists and their families also suffer psychologically. However these are not taken into account while considering welfare and protection of journalists working in conflict zones.

Local journalists and freelancers are the most vulnerable and poorly paid

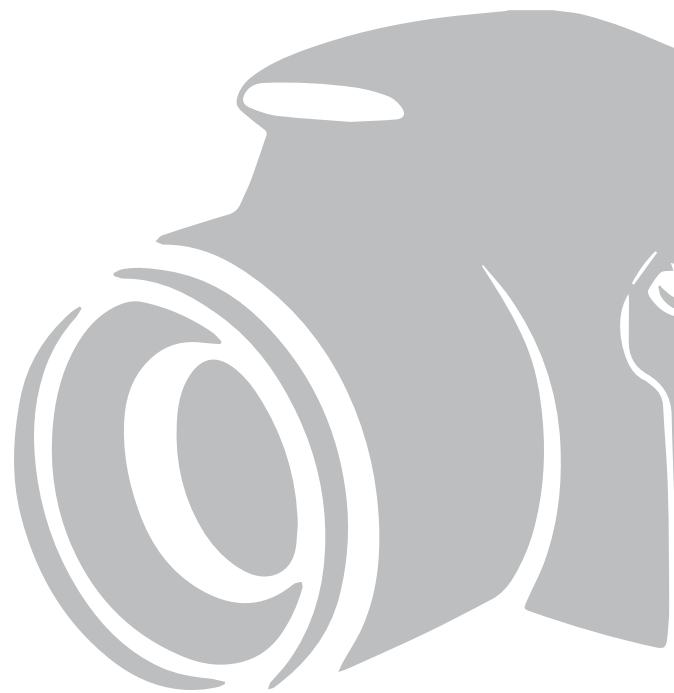
<sup>4</sup> Statistics collected by InterMedia and JournalismPakistan.com

CPJ<sup>5</sup>, for instance, highlight that “Media increasingly rely on international freelancers and local journalists for frontline reporting, and they are often poorly paid and vulnerable.”

The representatives of journalist community suggest Shaudhaa (Martyr) Package for colleagues who lost their lives in the line of duty. An extensive package, it is currently given to personnel of law enforcement agencies. The status of journalists in conflict areas needs to be determined prior to any legislation related to their welfare or protection.

The journalist leaders demand compatible salary packages including education and healthcare for the family for the journalists reporting out of conflict zones in addition to Hardship/ Hazard allowance. Life and health insurance should also be part of the legislation for the protection and welfare of journalists. They also called for recognizing the status of displaced journalists in the proposed Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill 2016.

They recommend constituting a committee comprising senior journalists to pursue the government and media organizations for honoring their commitments. The committee is proposed to maintain contact with slain journalists’ families.



<sup>5</sup> “The Best Defense: Threats to journalists’ safety demand fresh approach,” (launched on February 21, 2017), CPJ

## BACKGROUND

Pakistan is one of the few democratic countries in the Muslim world. It has managed to develop democratic institutions despite intermittent episodes of military rule, regularly disengaging the evolution of democratic institutions and culture. Constitutionally, it is a democratic parliamentary republic with its political system based on an elected form of governance but the democracies as such remain fragile and inefficient. Pakistan's enduring blend of electoral democracy under the close supervision of a strong and assertive establishment is unique not only in the region but in the entire world.<sup>6</sup>

Free speech, one component of which is a vibrant free media remained a challenge since Pakistan's birth. In recent times the electronic media particularly has improved the diversity of opinion. Many in Pakistan, however, view this as selective freedom. Indeed media's criticism and debate in Pakistan is largely confined to the political government and politicians. Many subjects, ideas, and institutions remain beyond the radar of media analysis and critique. Journalists who dare to speak against the non-political actors and issues of the country have to face dire consequences.

Free media is linked with the security and safety of the journalists. Many organizations in the recent past have tried to address the issue of physical security by training journalists on practices that can ensure their safety. However there has been no or little attention given to the devising policies. Political and non-political, state and non-state actors are reportedly involved in creating life-threatening situations.

Another important dimension is economic security that is seldom discussed. Many media organizations do not pay their employees well. There is no economic and financial support mechanism for families of journalists killed in service. Also, no support system exists for those forced to go into hiding or migrate due to threats or military operations. Most news organizations do not provide safe houses to journalists under threat. They do not pay them if they are unable to work anymore.

Many journalists in Pakistan have lost their lives reporting on issues like terrorism, unjust ethnic/religious dominance and human rights abuses. Journalists, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA are targeted. In most cases, the media industry forgot and disowned slain journalists and their families.

The lack of safety gear for journalists reporting out of war zones further increase their vulnerability. The federal government is working on a Journalist Welfare and Protection Bill 2016. As the name suggests, it aims at ensuring the physical and economic security of journalists.

There is a need for instituting an endowment fund to support journalists and their families who are survivors or victims of violence. Nevertheless there is a lack of clarity on the role of different stakeholders when it comes to an institutionalized support mechanism in such instances.

The government and the media owners need to address the question of

journalists' safety, whether economic or physical. Also, a larger consensus has to be developed on the mechanisms and policy initiative required to achieve this goal.

Without a policy framework, it won't be possible to institute a robust mechanism for journalist safety. This framework will have to have ownership of all stakeholders. But consensus-building becomes challenging as it involves the media owners, the federal and provincial governments and journalists; each safeguarding their own interests. This field study identifies journalists who lost their lives while working in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA since the military operations against the militants began. It also highlights the plight of displaced journalists who had to leave their homes either because of threats or the war.

The study focuses especially on journalists from smaller, less urbanized districts. The correspondents in remote districts are often not well paid. Media organizations rarely own them. If they become victims of the circumstances, their stories remain untold and therefore unheard.

Almost 99 percent of journalists in tribal areas have been compelled to migrate; from Swat, Dir, and Shangla. No support was available when they arrived in settled areas. The government failed to deliver so did their respective organizations.

The displaced journalists left their homes intending to return soon and therefore left their belongings behind. Those from Swat were the lucky ones who were able

<sup>6</sup> SERAS - Southeast Review of Asian Studies Volume 35, 2013: 103-126 Praetorian Democracy, Illiberal but Enduring: Pakistan as Exemplar



to return in a couple of months. Those who migrated from South Waziristan in 2009 have not been able to return till today. They live in low cost rented accommodations suffering hardships. Their children forced to discontinue education and earn to make the ends meet.

The displaced journalists have no health cover and no resource to seek medical help and therefore at the mercy of loans, favours and charity. This compromises their position. The economic security will allow them the freedom to remain truthful, honest, ethical, and impartial.



# SITUATION ANALYSIS

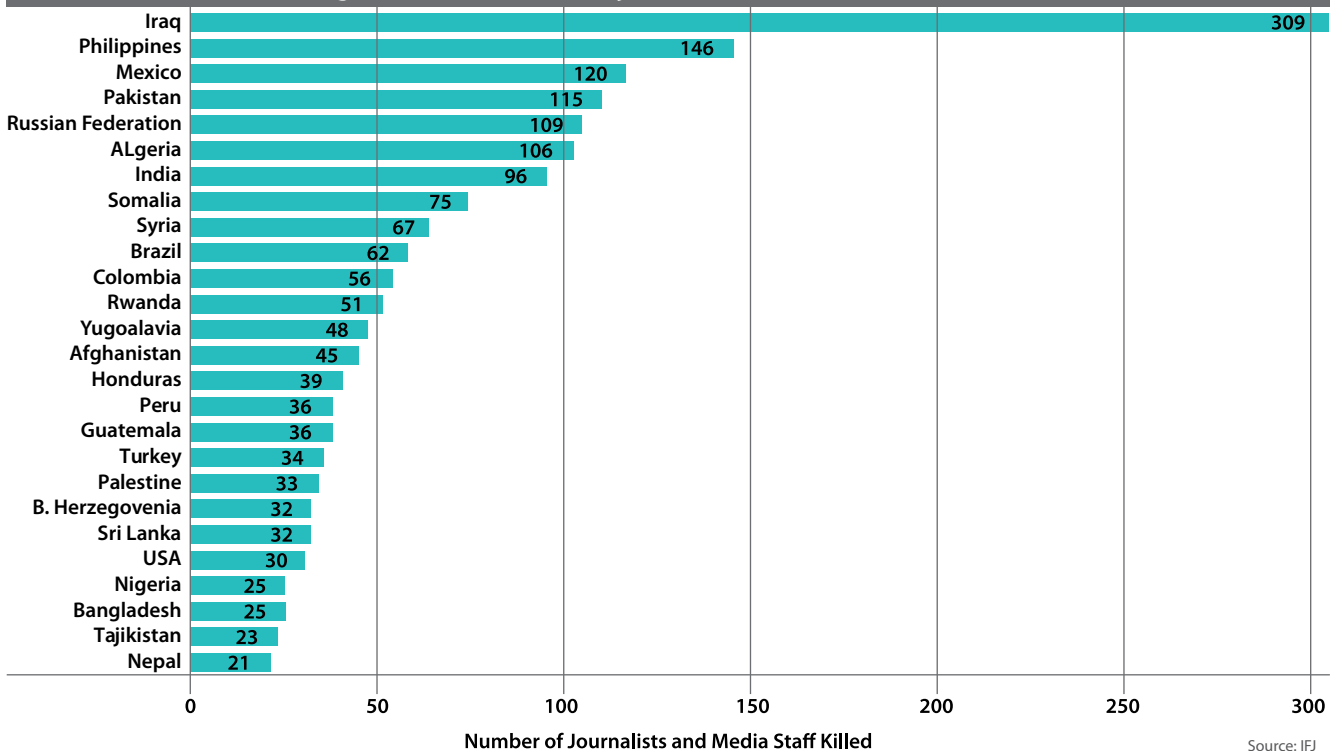
## 4.1 Alarming Statistics

**4** is the number of Pakistan on the list of the deadliest countries in the world for journalists behind Mexico, the Philippines and Iraq according to an International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) report launched on February 4, 2016. The report which chronicles journalist deaths since 1990, says that at least 2,297 journalists and media workers have been killed in the last 25 years, with Iraq ranking as the deadliest country with 309 killings followed by the Philippines (146), Mexico (120), and Pakistan (115).

**17** journalists were injured from December 2016 to February 2017 in various incidents in Pakistan while eight received verbal death threats; at least 105 were killed between 2000 and 2016 in the line of duty.<sup>7</sup>

- The conviction rate of journalists' murderers is alarmingly low. The killers have been identified and prosecuted in only three cases including those of Daniel Pearl, Wali Khan Babar and Ayub Khattak.<sup>8</sup>

Most dangerous countries for journalists and media staff 1990-2015



<sup>7</sup> Iqbal Khattak, Representative of Reporters without Borders, speaking at a seminar organized by Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) to pay tribute to martyred journalists on April 6, 2017

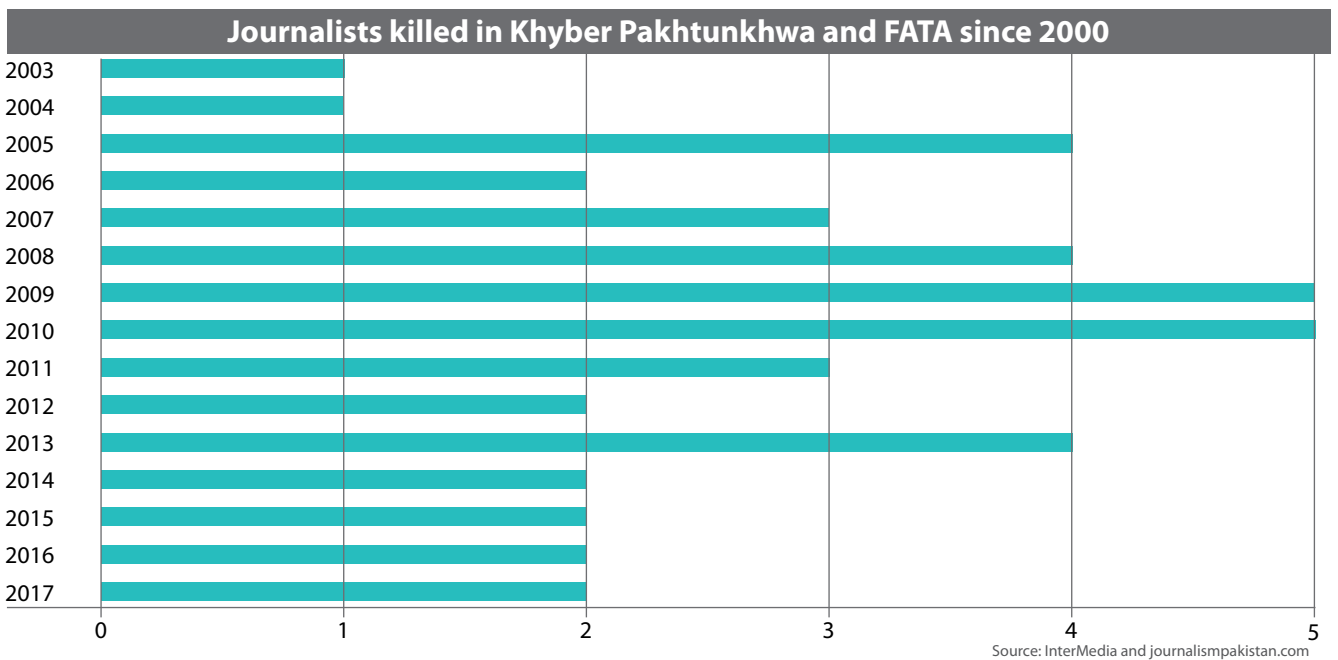
<sup>8</sup> Draft of 'Pakistani Initiatives on Safety of Journalists-Key Case Studies' (January 2017), a Pakistan-focused study conducted for International Media Support as part of a global mapping



2017 bar updated to include the October 12 murder of journalist Haroon Khan in KP

# 42

journalists have lost their lives in KP and FATA since 2000 according to statistics compiled by InterMedia and journalism Pakistan.com.



2017 bar updated to include the October 12 murder of journalist Haroon Khan in KP



## 4.2 Variation of Statistics

Along with occasional media reports, there are at least three indigenous data sets available on the plight of journalists and the media in Pakistan. The available data has been quite meticulously collected and compiled by the Freedom Network, Pakistan Press Foundation and the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. There are at least four international organizations which collect and compile facts and figures on violence against journalists especially those who are killed because of their work all over the world including Pakistan. These organizations include Committee to Protect Journalists, International Federation of Journalists, Reporters without Borders and IFEX.

## 4.3 Ever-expanding Media Industry in Pakistan

During the last decade, Pakistan has experienced a media revolution. The country has around 91 satellite television channels, 141 FM radio stations, around 2000 daily newspapers, weeklies, and monthlies. The growth of cyber-mediums like the World Wide Web and other social applications is equally impressive with the resultant increase in the number of media persons. The Freedom Network estimates their number to be 18,000-plus. In this age of media abundance, quite shockingly, the average age of journalists has dropped from 47 in 2002 to 23 in 2015 against the national average age of 66.7. These statistics are

testimony to the risks involved in the professional life of a journalist in the country.<sup>9</sup>

## 4.4 Sources of Threat

Journalists receive threats from multiple sources. The rise of extremism and terrorism in the country after 9/11 has enhanced the risks. The threat, intimidation, and violence come from both state and non-state actors. Besides government officials, civilians and military security forces and intelligence agencies, the threat comes from political parties, religious leaders, feudal lords, nationalist insurgents, drug and land-grabbing mafia, and other organized and unorganized criminal activities, among others.<sup>10</sup>

## 4.5 UN Plan of Action for Safety of Journalists and Issue of Impunity

The UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity was endorsed by the UN Chief Executives Board on April 12, 2012. The Plan of Action aims at creating a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers, both in conflict and non-conflict situations, with a view to strengthening peace, democracy, and development worldwide. Its measures include the establishment of a coordinated inter-agency mechanism to handle issues related to the safety of journalists as well as assisting countries to develop legislation and mechanisms favorable to freedom of expression and information and supporting their efforts to

implement existing international rules and principles.

To further reinforce prevention, the plan recommends working in cooperation with governments, media houses, professional associations, and NGOs to conduct awareness-raising campaigns on a wide range of issues such as existing international instruments and conventions, the growing dangers posed by emerging threats to media professionals, including non-state actors, as well as various existing practical guides on the safety of journalists. Pakistan is one of the five pilot countries, for the implementation of the UN Plan of Action and enjoys the government's endorsement and commitment to implement the plan. The UN Plan of action has gone beyond merely identifying measures to challenge impunity for crime against journalists, proposing detailed Journalist Safety Indicators for detailed mapping of the state impunity and proposed actions. Conversely, the emphasis in the Journalists' Safety Indicators is on a narrow definition of safety, relating to physical and psychological security, and to the related problem of impunity for those who violate these aspects of the life of a journalist.<sup>11</sup>

## 4.6 Freelancers and Local Journalists: The Most Vulnerable Group

In its recent report titled 'Best Defense: Threats to Journalists' Safety Demand Fresh Approach', the Committee to Protect Journalists admits that reliance on international freelancers and local

<sup>9</sup> A brief study on Safety and Security of the Journalists and the Media in Pakistan, launched by Human Rights Commission of Pakistan on December 29, 2015

<sup>10</sup> Draft of 'Pakistani Initiatives on Safety of Journalists - Key Case Studies', (January 2017), a Pakistan-focused study conducted for International Media Support as part of a global mapping

<sup>11</sup> UNESCO, and Draft of 'Pakistani Initiatives on Safety of Journalists-Key Case Studies' (January 2017), a Pakistan-focused study conducted for International Media Support as part of a global mapping



journalists for frontline reporting is increasing and they are often poorly paid and vulnerable.

It discloses that the past six years have been the deadliest and most dangerous for journalists particularly with new threats by violent political and religious groups and organized crime. It emphasizes the need to improve journalists' security in the face of unprecedented threats, including the spread of violent non-state actors, the shrinking rule of law, resurgent authoritarianism, and an industry shift toward reliance on freelancers. The report stipulates that demand for freelance work has grown globally because legacy media companies have shrunk expensive foreign bureau networks and new digital media outlets are voracious consumers of content. A whole raft of people is either new to journalism or new to covering foreign conflicts. They are going out because of necessity or interest or because they see it as helping them further their career. They are willing to take high risks often without being fully informed of the nature of the risks.<sup>12</sup>

#### 4.7 The Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service Act) 1973

The Act<sup>13</sup> protects the rights of print media employees and provides in detail the legal obligations for newspaper employers like a written contract, provident fund, wage board etc. Unfortunately, very few news organizations comply with the law.

#### 4.8 Draft Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill 2016

The draft Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill 2016 is under consultation at this stage. The National Assembly Standing Committee had directed the Ministry of Information and National Heritage to complete the consultation as early as possible in its meeting on June 21, 2017. The Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists has rejected the proposed final draft prepared by the ministry as it "neither provides protection framework for journalists nor any punishment for those involved in the killing of journalists."<sup>14</sup>

The PFUJ stance is that the government has completely ignored several amendments proposed by PFUJ. The Bill proposes safety measures to be taken for protection of journalists, establishment of a Journalists' Endowment Fund, provision of facilities, establishment of National Journalists' Council for timely redress of the problems faced by the media persons by providing financial aid to the families of journalists who lose their lives, get injured, tortured or kidnapped in the line of duty.<sup>15</sup>

The PFUJ has proposed the following amendments to the draft bill:

- PFUJ wants the word 'journalist' to be replaced by 'media person' in the preamble as those under threat are also the support staff and camera persons.
- The proposed law states it will be applicable to journalists 'who have Press Information Department's

(PID) accredited card on the basis of information provided by their employers about them being a valid journalist.'

The PFUJ insists this to be completely removed as the majority of journalists do not possess PID accreditation card.

- PFUJ has proposed addition to in Section 4 where the role of media owners and employers is described: 'all the employers and media owners shall provide life insurance to all the field employees including reporters, camera persons, photographers, DSNG staff, and drivers. The insurance amount for all the field staff shall not be less than Rs5 million and the employers and media organizations shall provide gear like bulletproof jackets, helmets, and other related safety equipment to all the field employees sent for coverage of all armed conflicts, arson or war coverage.' Where the law ensures free education for the children of a journalist killed in the line of duty for up to 14 years, PFUJ recommends that education must be guaranteed in the 'same institution where they were studying before the death of their father.'

- Where the government mentions 'suitable compensation' for the family of deceased/martyred journalists, PFUJ demands specifying 'not less than Rs10 million.'

- The PFUJ rejects the clause which makes it obligatory for the media organization to get NOC before sending their reporter to the war or conflict zone.

- The union demands adding: 'The government in consultation with PFUJ, PBA, APNS, CPNE, and PEMRA shall recommend and make rules for safety protocol for protection of journalists. These rules should fix the responsibility of someone within the media

<sup>12</sup> Best Defense: Threats to Journalists' Safety Demand Fresh Approach', launched on February 21, 2017, by Committee to Protect Journalists

<sup>13</sup> The Newspaper Employees [Conditions of Service Act] 1973

<sup>14</sup> The News, June 22, 2017

<sup>15</sup> Draft Bill, Annexure 1

organization to look after the safety and security of media persons.’

■ PFUJ also stresses adding: ‘Any incidence of violence against media person or damage or loss of property of media person or media institution shall be punishable and the offender shall be liable to pay compensation for damage or loss of the property as well as medical expenditure incurred by the victim journalist or his organization.’

■ PFUJ seeks another amendment in the draft bill where it states ‘any act of violence against any media person/ organization shall be investigated by a police officer not less than the rank of superintendent of police and it shall be tried under the Anti-Terrorism Act. Any telephonic threat to journalists from known or unknown number shall be thoroughly investigated and the case shall be registered against the offenders even if they are officials of civil or military intelligence.’

■ PFUJ objects to the composition of the National Journalists’ Council to administer the Journalists’ Endowment Fund and has demanded inclusion of two journalists nominated by PFUJ.

The Bill is a continuation of the process which started in October 2011 when 22 senators belonging to seven political parties and an independent, tabled a private member bill titled ‘Journalists Protection and Welfare Bill’ aimed at providing protection, security, and relief to the journalists.

Interestingly, after four years when this Bill was finally taken up by the Senate’s Sub-committee on Information, Broadcasting and National Heritage on December 14, 2015, it reached the conclusion that most of the proposals

articulated in the Bill were irrelevant. The senate sub-committee chaired by Senator Mushahidullah Khan observed that a number of proposals made in the Bill were within the purview of the media houses and it was impossible for the government to implement some of the recommendations.<sup>16</sup>

The law proposes the establishment of a Journalists’ Endowment Fund (JEF) jointly by the federal government and media organizations/employers to help journalists and their families in case of death, injury and illness as defined in the rules framed under the law. Subscription to the JEF would be compulsory for all media entities and journalists as provided under the Bill. The federal government would notify the members of the National Journalists’ Council (NJC) that would administer JEF and would include the government as well as representative bodies of journalists/ media owners including APNS, CPNE, PBA, PFUJ, NPC etc.

Initially, the federal government would contribute Rs200 million to establish JEF but every media entity would be bound to make contributions to run the fund on a permanent basis. The compensation would be made from JEF according to the Journalist Welfare Fund Regulation 2013.<sup>17</sup> The JEF would ensure registration of every journalist and his/her family in Pakistan, who have a valid accreditation card.<sup>18</sup>

The welfare mechanism has been criticized for having no journalist on the NJC and making accreditation card a prerequisite for registration with JEF. Also, there is no gender balance defined

by the law in NJC to protect the rights of women journalists and widows, and it has a seemingly difficult to implement procedure for seeking contributions from media organizations.

## 4.9 Journalists Welfare Endowment Act 2014 for Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

The journalists’ endowment fund was introduced in the mid-80s when Arbab Mohammad Jehangir was the chief minister. At that time, the fund was opened with an amount of Rs1 million but later on, the amount was increased to Rs10 million.

A committee of three senior journalists (owners of local newspapers) was entrusted to disburse money to those with health issues, unfortunately nepotism and personal likes, and dislikes took over.

The system was streamlined in 1997 when Sardar Mehtab, the then chief minister, ordered establishing a committee, comprising working journalists with secretary information as its chairman and director information as the secretary. During the Muttahida Majlis Amal government, the system was further streamlined when the president and general secretary of both the Peshawar Press Club and the Khyber Union of Journalists (KhUJ) were made committee members.

Until 2014, the endowment fund was meant only for members of the Peshawar Press Club and the KhUJ as the majority of correspondents in different districts

<sup>16</sup> A brief study on Safety and Security of the Journalists and the Media in Pakistan’ launched by Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, 2015

<sup>17</sup> Annexure 2

<sup>18</sup> Draft Bill, Annexure 1



and towns of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa were not full-time journalists. However, in 2014 during the present government of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf -led coalition, an amount of PRs 50 million was added to the fund. The journalists from all over KP were made eligible to benefit from it.

The KP government has formally made legislation, in this regard, the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Endowment Fund for Journalists Act 2014, for distribution and disbursement of money. The fund amounts to Rs64 million with annual income from PRs 5.1 million to PRs 5.2 million. It is which is disbursed in accordance with the formula set out in the act.

Money from the fund is paid to the journalists for health and medical services. The minimum amount dispersed is Rs20, 000 while maximum is Rs100, 000. However, the procedure for getting assistance is complex. The journalists need to submit applications in a prescribed format, signed by the presidents of both the Peshawar Press Club and the KhUJ or regional representatives (Dera Ismail Khan and Abbottabad authorized by the Information Department). All the doctors' prescriptions, receipts of medicines etc. are required to be signed by the doctors.

In the 2014 act, it was decided that heirs of a journalist who fell victim to terror would receive Rs1 million (only once). But so far no family has received such assistance.

In case of permanent disability, (because of accident, violence, terror or illness) the journalist would receive Rs200, 000

and in case of death (journalist, wife, son, daughter and dependent parents) an amount of Rs20, 000 would be provided as funeral expenses.

During the PTI government around 350 journalists have benefited from the endowment fund. However, there is no complete record of beneficiaries since the mid-80s. According to the act, the committee needs to have quarterly sessions for disbursement of the amount. Most importantly, the fund is only for journalists in KP and not for those in FATA.<sup>19</sup>

#### 4.10 National Press Club Endowment Fund

The National Press Club (NPC), Islamabad established a 'National Press Club Endowment Fund' in 2016 with the donation of senior journalists amounting to Rs30 million for health and education of the orphans and widows of journalists. It is not functional yet and no Standard Operating Procedures have been developed.

However, on April 6, 2017, cheques for Rs300, 000 each were presented to families of five slain journalists from different parts of the country in an event organized by PFUJ and NPC. The money was donated by senior journalist Hamid Mir who received it as cash prize for an international award.<sup>20</sup>

#### 4.11 Pakistan Journalists Safety Fund (PJSF)

The Pakistan Journalists Safety Fund is a short-term rapid response mechanism to help protect media practitioners in distress, particularly those based in conflict regions, against harm and for urgent security needs. Established in 2011, the fund provides assistance that can take the form of short-term relocation within Pakistan, coverage of the cost of medical aid for injured journalists, legal aid to pursue court cases for justice against harm and harassment and financial assistance for families of journalists killed in the line of duty. The fund has been established and administered by Freedom Network, International Media Support, and Open Society Foundation.

The short-term nature of the interventions is a serious limitation of the fund. The relocation of the journalists is limited initially for a month that can be extended to a maximum of three months of support. However, the threat that compels a journalist to move from a certain area and go into hiding does not usually disappear in a month or even three months. Journalists who cannot work due to displacement require financial support during the period of relocation.<sup>21</sup>

#### 4.12 Best Practices in the World

The welfare activities for journalists around the world, especially in

<sup>19</sup> Information collected by senior journalist and former President Peshawar Press Club, Shamim Shahid; Journalists and Welfare Endowment Act 2014, Annexure 3

<sup>20</sup> Seminar organized by PFUJ to pay tribute to martyred journalists on April 6, 2017, Associated Press Service; Endowment Fund for Journalists set up, The News, August 16, 2016

<sup>21</sup> Draft of 'Pakistani Initiatives on Safety of Journalists-Key Case Studies' (January 2017), a Pakistan-focused study conducted for IMS as part of a global mapping

developing countries, are mostly managed by endowment funds created under the information departments of central or provincial government or under the press clubs. Two examples are of Telangana Working Journalists Welfare Fund, India, set up in 2016 under the information department of Telangana,<sup>22</sup> and the Journalist Welfare Fund established in 2007 under the National Press Club, Malaysia.<sup>23</sup> The assistance extended under these funds is limited and short-term.

Very few countries have laws that provide protection and provide economic security to journalists such as the law in Mexico City titled Ley de Protección a Personas Defensoras de Derechos Humanos y Periodistas del Distrito Federal (Protecting human rights defenders and journalists in effect in Mexico's federal district Mexico City).<sup>24</sup>

The law, promulgated by Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera on August 10, 2015, recognizes the promotion and defense of journalism and human rights as activities that are in the public interest. It guarantees the physical, psychological, moral and economic integrity of journalists when they are in danger, and guarantees the same rights and protection to the families and assistants of endangered journalists. It also guarantees similar rights and protection to journalists who flee to Mexico City from other regions where they have been the targets of violence or threats. The creation of an emergency fund from which disbursements can be made within 24 hours is also envisaged – above all to provide journalists with food and accommodation in emergencies.

The implementation of these laws has always been a challenge for developing countries.

There have been attempts at linking protection of journalists to welfare such as in 2010, JV Ejercito of the House of Representatives, Philippines, presented the Journalist Welfare and Protection Act of 2010<sup>25</sup> to protect newsmen against exploitation commonly by their employers.

The Bill provides the formulation of a Code of Professional Conduct for Journalists, to protect the welfare of journalists by instituting a comprehensive benefits and compensation package including exemption from travel tax and terminal fees and payment of hazard allowances.

It also seeks to extend to journalists the freedom against interference and coercion as it imposes a five to ten-year prison sentence and a maximum fine of Peso 100,000 on those guilty of willfully interfering to restrain or coerce a newsman from exercising his duties. The Bill also provides that newsmen must work only eight hours per day and be entitled to overtime pay if work is done beyond the normal period and hazard pay. It also makes it mandatory that journalists be given rest day and to receive night shift differential. Their salaries should be comparable to those received by professionals with the same degree of training and qualifications. The Bill also allows for creating a National Journalists Coordinating Council “to initiate policies and programs to protect journalists and institutionalize mechanisms to upgrade the working

conditions and salaries of journalists.” The legislation is still pending in the Senate.

<sup>22</sup> Telangana Working Journalists Welfare Fund 2016

<sup>23</sup> National Press Club Malaysia

<sup>24</sup> Law protecting journalists in Mexico City

<sup>25</sup> Philippines Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill

# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

As the risks for journalists grew in Pakistan following the insurgency of armed militant groups and subsequent military operations against them from 2004, the focus of all media-related initiatives shifted to training and facilitating journalists for their safety.

There has also been a movement to promote Canons of journalism / professional code of ethics among journalists as the news media in particular the electronic media witnessed a decline in this area with the growth of the industry. Unfortunately, the majority of these initiatives failed to link the journalists' economic situation and safety to the ethical journalism.

The economic support mechanism for the displaced journalists or the families of those killed is an area deliberated for the first time in Pakistan. Various studies touched upon the working condition of journalists. However none of them advocate for a mechanism to support the families/journalists in distress.

The research methodology of this study was designed to reach out to journalists and the families in trouble and highlight their plight in order to build pressure on relevant stakeholders to develop a comprehensive support mechanism for them at the national and provincial levels.

## Selection of Geographical Areas for Field Study

As a pilot initiative, the field research was restricted to Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and FATA – the regions where 42 journalists lost their lives since 2000.<sup>26</sup>

The project team believed that learning from these areas would help ascertain why the stakeholders do not take responsibility for providing an economically secure environment to journalists.

Considering the fact that new policy initiatives and legislation for protection and welfare of journalists are under consultation at the federal level, the team conducted interviews with displaced journalists now based in Islamabad, and representatives of media bodies.

## Study Sample

In consultation with senior KP journalists, 10 families/journalists were identified in areas most affected by terrorism including Dera Ismail Khan, Tank, Landi Kotal, Hangu, Peshawar, and Swat. Among them, five were families of journalists killed. The other five case studies focused on journalists forced to leave their native towns and villages due to threats or the military operations.

The sample size selected for journalists killed in the field represents 12 percent of the total number whereas no data was available for the displaced journalists. The sample size was kept small due to

financial limitations of the project.

The criterion adopted for the selection of the case studies ensure representation of the journalists from both the print and electronic media; those working in rural or less urbanized districts most affected by terrorism and extremism; journalists from the national, international or regional media, and those writing/ reporting in either English, Urdu or regional language.

## Research Methodology

■ **Desk review:** The research started with a desk review to study the overall situation of the media persons and the existing mechanisms for journalists' welfare.

■ **Pre-fieldwork consultation:** The desk review was followed by a consultation with the stakeholders of the media industry including the government, unions, press clubs, journalists and researchers belonging to KP and Islamabad.

■ **Questionnaire:** The next stage was to develop a questionnaire encompassing the issues identified during desk review and the consultation.

■ **Fieldwork:** The research team used both primary (visits to the native towns, direct interviews, focus group discussions) and secondary sources (reports, internet, newspapers, and articles) to collect as much information as possible with a major reliance on the information sought through primary sources.

The field work aimed at identifying the gaps that exist in the institutional mechanism of the media industry and its

<sup>26</sup> Statistics collected by InterMedia and JournalismPakistan.com



regulatory bodies in acknowledging and supporting journalists and their families who face economic insecurity.

During the field visits, the research team met the displaced journalists and the families of journalists killed. The team conducted extensive interviews on the basis of a questionnaire designed to obtain maximum quantitative and qualitative information needed to understand the condition and needs of such families. The objective was to gather information about the problems such families faced and the support, if any, extended by media organizations, unions, press clubs, and the government. The team also recorded the demands and suggestions made by the affected families.

■ **Post-fieldwork consultation:** The research team held meetings with the stakeholders including representatives of unions and press clubs and government officials at the national and provincial levels. The team also met senior journalists and the representatives of APNS and PBA to share the findings of the fieldwork. The objective was to collect recommendations and answers from the relevant organizations and departments.

## Gender

The field team made all efforts to include women journalists in the study but couldn't find any case involving a woman in KP. To cover the gender side of the issue, the team especially focused on women family members of journalists killed or displaced. Wives and mothers of seven journalists were interviewed during the field visits in order to try and understand their suffering and plight as well as psychological trauma.

# CASE STUDIES

To get first-hand knowledge about the families of journalists killed or those displaced, the research team visited different parts of KP and interviewed the members of such families and representatives of press clubs and unions.

Interviews revealed that the journalists and their families face grave financial difficulties and psychological issues with no support mechanism in place to address their plight.

This section comprises stories based on direct interviews and focus group discussions conducted by the research team during the field visits.

## 6.1



### Saleem Tahir *A tragic misfortune*

Organization: Columnist for several newspapers and owner of **Weekly Chitan**

Killed: **January 4, 2009**, D. I. Khan

Saleem Tahir, a local journalist, was among the first to reach the site of a bomb blast in Dera Ismail Khan on January 4, 2009. The security personnel turned away many people but the 46-year-old used his journalist ID to get close access to the scene. Unfortunately another explosion followed at a roadside hotel. A suicide bomber blew himself up, killing Tahir and many others.

“He used to cover bomb blasts all the time, I could never imagine he would get killed,” Tahir’s widow Zahida Parveen says sobbing.

The death in the sacred month of Moharram left the family shocked. “My parents were shattered to hear the news,” says Abdul Rasheed, the slain journalist’s elder brother. “My mother lost her senses, unable to recognize anyone for almost seven years.” Tahir’s father fell ill too, remaining bed-ridden for nine months before passing away. His mother died last August.

According to a report by United States Institute of Peace (USIP), D. I. Khan witnessed 63 sectarian attacks in 2008 and 2009 in which 135 people were killed. Known for his bold writing, Tahir wrote columns for several newspapers and also owned *Weekly Chitan*.

His daring writing style was often the topic of discussion at home. “My father used to ask me why I did not tell my husband to stop writing so fearlessly. He even spoke to him a few times, reminding him he had small children and that he was a government servant,” Parveen says.

Tahir would laugh off such calls, pointing out journalism meant reporting honestly. “I also told him to stop but he wouldn’t listen,” recalls Parveen.

Journalists in Pakistan’s remote districts are often poorly paid or do not get paid at all. It is for this reason they have to look for other sources of income.

Tahir had a low-scale government job. He also ran a homeopathic clinic, treating the needy. But his first and last love was journalism. It was this love that took his life. “He had newspaper clippings of a previous bomb blast in his pocket when he got killed. I still have those blood-stained cuttings,” Parveen says, holding back her tears. Her son Ahmad Saleem, now 26, works as a clerk in the Deputy Commissioner’s office. He says he knew practicing journalism was full of risks. “Writing the truth is not easy.” He recalls his father telling him in 2008 that things were becoming difficult for journalists.

Little did Saleem know life would be so hard, with his father dead, he had to shoulder responsibilities at a very young age to help the family get back on its feet. “We faced a lot of problems after his death; the greatest being the expenditure of my siblings’ education. My uncles help but it is hard to ask.”

Saleem is lucky to get a job, thanks to the efforts of the local journalists and the

chief minister. Despite job, the family face financial hardship. There was no support forthcoming from any organization - only sympathies. The news organizations Tahir worked for offered no monetary help, nor did the government. It was a financial nightmare.

Parveen had submitted her papers for a job as a health worker when her husband was alive. "I was called for four-month training after his death. I had never ventured out of the home before and it was tough for me; also because the kids were small.

The biggest issue for her was the children's education. "Educating the kids was a challenge, and it was difficult to make ends meet due to inflation." Had they received her husband's full pay, she retorts, as the families of slain security forces personnel do, it would not have been so distressing.

Parveen demands the government provide support to her children considering Tahir was killed in line the of duty. **"We deserve assistance and my children support with their education."**

On February 18, 2009, journalist Esa Khankhel sent a ticker to Geo Television about a dead body found in Matta, a small town in Swat district. Little did he know the corpse was that of his elder brother Musa Khankhel. That tragic day Musa, also a journalist was busy covering a peace rally when he was abducted and later killed. The assailants shot him many times.

"I used to give tickers to Geo in his absence," says Esa, hired by the channel following his brother's killing.

Cleric Sufi Muhammad led the peace rally after a truce between the government and the militants. The security situation was quite bad in Swat Valley back then. "My brother used to receive threats all the time because he reported the truth, and he knew he would be killed."

Their father Abdul Ghani, a prayer leader at a local mosque, has no clue who was behind his son's cold-blooded murder. "We don't know who did it but we are waiting; Allah will expose them and we will get justice."

He praises the military for cleansing the valley off the Taliban. "I appreciate them and I am proud that my son played his part as a journalist in that process." His wife Hajra Bibi, a mother of seven children, is devastated; she couldn't recall the events the day her son got killed - a flood of tears rolling down her eyes. Speaking with the help of an interpreter, she tells she knew her son was in a dangerous profession. "At times, I used to tell him to leave it but he believed life and death are in Allah's hands."

Musa's journalist friends, covering the same rally that fateful day, tell Esa they lost track

## 6.2



**Musa Khankhel**  
*Truth silenced*

Organization: Geo  
Killed: February 18, 2009, in Matta (Swat)



of him after the event ended. It was at 5.30pm when a source informed Esa of the dead body in Matta. Later, one of his friends called up to disclose the body was Musa's. Esa happened to be in Swat by chance that day. He had left the area 10 days before the incident and was staying with a cousin in Islamabad. "I came to visit and planned to leave on February 19 but this happened."

He then chose to stay and report from Swat for Geo. "It was very tough at that time; journalists had no training. Now when I look back, I realize I took many risks but Allah saved me." He points out Swat is still not safe for journalists and thinks they could get targeted because such killings make for international news.

Musa's death brought misery to the family since he was the sole breadwinner. He was not married. The family never received the plot of land promised by Yousaf Raza Gillani, the then prime minister. Esa laments the journalist unions and press clubs should have followed up on that, especially those in Islamabad. "They could have pressed the government to honor its commitment." The unions did nothing for other journalists targeted and killed, he reflects. "Holding a random protest or a rally is not enough. What helps is ensuring the relevant authorities deliver the commitments and promises made to such families."

He acknowledges receiving a cheque for Rs500,000 from then President Asif Zardari. He also acknowledges the support lent by the media organizations. This assistance helped the family build their house. The loss of his brother has been so painful for Esa that he has not spent a night at home since the gruesome murder. "I won't go back. I can't be there with him not around."

He recalls telling Musa to be careful in his reporting but says he never took his advice seriously. "The Taliban used to tell him to write whatever they wanted while the state authorities had their own version of events but he reported only the truth."

Esa suggests the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists constitute a committee of credible members to press the authorities to help families of slain journalists. "You have to see to believe the appalling living condition of such families. "If there's no assistance forthcoming from the government, the PFUJ would do well to explore international avenues. I am sure lots of Pakistanis living abroad are willing to help."

Esa does not see much coming out of the proposed Journalist Protection and Welfare Bill. It makes having a press accreditation card mandatory and that is not easy for journalists in smaller districts to obtain. "The owners of news organizations should organize these cards for their journalists."

Eight years since his brother's assassination, Esa wonders if the killers would ever be caught. **"People get imprisoned for petty crimes like giving bread to the Taliban but my brother's murderers roam free."**

## 6.3



### **Azmat Ali Bangash** *The last reporting assignment*

Organization: **Samaa** and **PTV**  
Killed: **April 17, 2010**, at Kacha Paka IDPs camp near Peshawar

Shugaftha Naz knew her husband was risking his life being a journalist. She tried telling him to take up something else but he was not convinced.

On April 17, 2010, Azmat Ali Bangash of Samaa and PTV was murdered while on a reporting assignment at an IDPs camp, about 65 kilometers from Peshawar. As people rushed to get food at the Kacha Paka camp, two suicide bombers struck one after the other. Azmat survived the first attack and stayed on to report. It was the second blast that ended his life. He was among 41 people killed that day, with over 60 injured. He belonged to Village Ibrahimzai in Hangu District.

Shugaftha sobs as she recalls that tragic day. "Someone called him to come to the IDPs camp and he hurriedly left that morning. Shortly after noon, we were informed he was injured but family found him dead on arriving at the scene."

His sudden death left the family distraught. His ailing father could not bear the son's loss and passed away. Life turned into a nightmare for Shugaftha, a mother of three – two daughters and a son. "These seven years have been a constant struggle ; children's education, clothing, day-to-day expenses etc." Azmat kept the family well, taking care of all the necessities. There were no worries.

Shugaftha is a matriculate but find it difficult to work because of cultural taboos in her conservative area "Working women are looked down here. People make up stories about them.' She tells, 'they study at the most till FSc . and are married off expected to take care of home and children discloses. Besides there are few work opportunities here."

'Some married women do take up jobs here', she discloses, 'but there is no such option for widows'. : "Honor for women is to stay at home"; her brother-in-law cuts her short. He is the one supporting her family.

Shugaftha disenchanted one helped them in their time of distress; the journalist unions, the press club and the news organizations her spouse worked. Only MNA Marvi Memon visited them back then and promised a job for Shugaftha's brother-in-law. He did get a job but "not what she promised."

Azmat's younger brother Shahzad Ali, one of 10 siblings says a lot of people promised to help them. Among them was Qamar Zaman Kaira, the then information minister. "He announced support of Rs500,000, a plot of land, children's education, but nothing materialized."

Shahzad laments that even the press club and the journalist unions did not extend help, even though he reminded them it can happen to their families one day. "They should at least visit the affected families and help evolve a support system. Journalists after all are like family."

Azmat, an MSc in Political Science, used to receive threats because of his work but never let the family know. "He knew his father was unwell and would worry. He worked in extremely difficult situations, in a region others were reluctant to work"

Shahzad remembers his brother as an affectionate man who would go out of his way to help the needy. He had even set up an office at the local courts to serve his community. He once ran for councilor and won. A popular man, he did a lot for his people. When he died, the family received a letter from then Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani informing them that gas had been approved for their area. "My brother had strived to get gas and the letter specifically mentioned this."

Shugafta misses her spouse a lot. "He was a caring and loving husband and an affectionate father. He loved the kids and his parents." She says her husband wanted his son Ali Azmat, now in Grade 8, to become a doctor but he is interested in becoming a pilot. The daughters in Grade 4 and 2 would go on to be doctors or teachers. That is what their father wished.

Columnist and poet Fazal Wahab sat at a grocery store owned by his good friend in Mingora (Swat) one January evening in 2003. As they chatted, two men suddenly came out, their faces covered. They told all present not to move and then opened fire. Wahab was shot dead. His friend, who tried to stop the assailants, got killed too, as was a boy at a nearby shop.

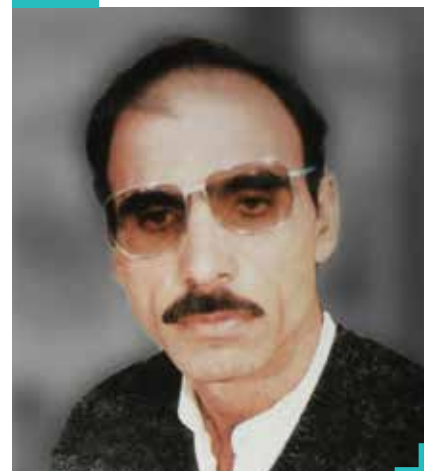
The sound of gunfire rang through the Swat valley as people in their homes wondered what may have happened. Wahab's wife Shamim was visiting her father when she learned about the terrible news. "I could not believe this would happen to my husband," she said barely able to hold back her tears.

The columnist's son Samiullah was only 15 at that time. He says his father got targeted because of a book he wrote that upset religious extremists in the valley. Titled *Mullah ka Kirdar* (Mullah's Role), the book was a compilation of his articles on society and community welfare. The image on the cover - a mullah wearing a turban and its crown resembling a snake - appeared to anger the extremists. "I think it was the cover that created problems. Had they gone through the content of the book, they wouldn't have killed my father," believes Samiullah, who has three sisters and a brother.

Samiullah's grandfather had no idea what was going on. But when threatening letters began arriving at their home following the publication of the book - *Mullah ka Jawab* (Mullah's Answer) - in response to Wahab's book - he understood the gravity of the situation.

He tried to stop his son warning him he was risking his life; Wahab, however, remained convinced he was on the right track - writing the truth. He ignored all advice. Those who read *Mullah ka Jawab* say its author tried to convince people that Wahab deserved

## 6.4



**Fazal Wahab**  
*A cover blunder*

Columnist, writer, and poet

Killed: January 21, 2003, in Mingora (Swat)

to be killed. He seemed undeterred though. He was responding to the mullahs through another book that he never got to finish, his life cut short by unidentified men.

Samiullah recalls the day his father hurriedly left for Islamabad, taking his passport along. The family had no idea what was happening. When he returned it transpired he was receiving serious threats for his book and attempted to seek asylum. Unfortunately, he never got the visa.

Only a matriculate, Wahab wrote boldly, oblivious to the consequences. He worked as a Grade 5 technician in the Expanded Program on Immunization (EPI), drawing a meager salary of Rs3000 back then.

In a startling disclosure, his son said his father used to save up to pay the newspaper for publishing his stories. His columns were published in Azadi and Mashriq newspapers. He authored five books; Mullah Ka Kirdar was in Urdu and the rest in Pushto. Hard at it was even when Wahab was alive, his death brought further misery for the family. His pension was only Rs660, the grandfather contributed Rs1000 to it. A measly 1660 rupees per month is all that the family have to survive. To make the matters worse, the grandfather's died in 2013 putting an end to the monthly support of Rs1000.

"When he got killed, he had Rs1000 in his wallet and that bill was stained in blood and I had only Rs350 at home," says Shamim. No one extended any help to the family. The government, the journalist unions or the news organizations did nothing. "They all knew about the tragedy that had befallen us. At least the unions could have put pressure on the government to arrest the killers and take care of our education," bemoans Samiullah, who holds a Master's degree in Political Science earned privately.

Wahab yearned for his children to be successful in their lives and become good professionals. His wish to see his elder son Samiullah become a doctor remained unfulfilled as he had to do odd jobs after his father's death to support the family. He most laudingly, managed to complete a master's degree despite all odds.

Shamim is a heart broken. She is disappointed that no support was forthcoming to help her son realize his father's dream of becoming a doctor. **"Every mother desires her children to study well and have a good future. I had wished the same for my kids."**

Threatened, kidnapped twice, and ordered to leave North Waziristan at one time, journalist and photographer Hayatullah Khan remained undeterred until his brutal murder on June 16, 2006.

Working in one of Pakistan's most dangerous regions, Hayatullah was aware of the risks. He often told his younger brother Ihsan Ahmed: "We have a short life." "Perhaps he knew he would get killed," says Ihsan, who was also a journalist but quit in 2007 because of family pressures and moved to Peshawar.

Hayatullah worked for a string of news organizations, among them The Nation, Daily Times, Urdu newspaper Ausaf, European Press Agency and PBS Frontline.

Days before his kidnapping, there were reports of an Al Qaeda leader Abu Hamza Rabi getting killed. The authorities claimed it was a bomb blast in North Waziristan. Hayatullah was at the scene along with Ihsan. He took pictures and made footage of what were believed to be parts of a missile fired from a US drone. Later, he dispatched the news that prompted protests in the country over the territorial infringement by US forces.

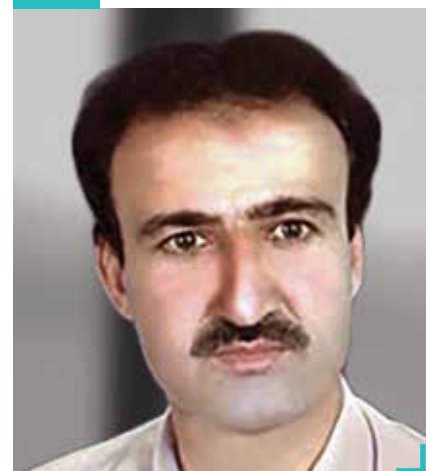
The drone strike also killed a local college student and a seven-year-old schoolboy. Ihsan says the college students organized a protest over their fellow's killing. Hayatullah was on his way to cover that protest when he got abducted by five men in a car on December 5, 2005.

His kidnapping led to a traumatic period for the family. Who could have done it and where was he? That was the big question. Frantic phone calls and inquiries produced no results. As protests by journalist unions continued across the country, an anonymous caller on June 11, 2006 provided some cheer and hope to the family. He told them Hayatullah would return home by June 20. "We were all very happy that day," recalls Ihsan.

The phone call was a hoax. Only five days later (June 16, 2006); six months after his kidnapping, another caller informed the family Hayatullah's body was lying in Mir Ali. The ordeal continued. Hayatullah's widow began receiving threats. One caller warned her of dire consequences if she recorded her statement before an inquiry commission set up to probe her husband's murder. But she went ahead with recording the statement before a judge in Peshawar. On November 17, 2007, she was killed by a bomb planted outside their home. The kids were in an adjacent room and survived, only one sustaining minor injuries.

Ihsan then chose to bid goodbye to the region and migrated to Peshawar. "I got Hayatullah's five children admitted to school there and cut off all contacts with North Waziristan." The news organizations that Hayatullah worked for provided assistance. "They not only helped but are still in contact with us," says Ihsan.

6.5



**Hayatullah Khan**  
*paid the price for reporting the truth*

Organizations: **The Nation, Daily Times, Ausaf, European Press Agency and PBS Frontline**

Killed: **16, 2006**, in North Waziristan

The Nation supported the family for 10 years providing a monthly sum for the children besides a contribution of Rs300,000 at the time of Hayatullah's death. The European Press Agency chipped in with \$6000 and the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) also contributed.

The government promised to give the family a plot of land and the Shaudha (Martyr) Package, a promise that remains unfulfilled. "Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz gave us a cheque for Rs500,000 and we got one from the provincial governor." Ihsan acknowledges. Ausaf for whom Hayatullah worked for almost 10 years did nothing. "They did not even offer condolences."

Fortunately, Hayatullah's children are in school, thanks largely to the Federal Information Ministry that bears their educational expenses. Another senior journalist, Ihsan does not name, pays for one child's education.

Ihsan remembers his brother as a brave man who had many secrets in his heart. "Back in 2001 no journalist dared to write against the political administration but he did. He got into trouble as a result." The political agent ordered Hayatullah's expulsion from North Waziristan for three months and asked him to appear before him. He chose not to, saying a journalist never bows before anyone. Later, tribal journalists and those in Peshawar and Islamabad helped organize a jirga with the political agent to resolve the matter. Hayatullah returned to the region and resumed reporting.

In 2004 the Taliban kidnapped him as they suspected he worked for the ISI and CIA. But he was set free after only two days. Ihsan deems it necessary that the unions take action when a journalist gets killed. "They must act as a bridge between the families and the government." He suggests the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) set up a fund especially to help families of slain journalists.

Hayatullah is long gone but Ihsan distinctly remembers telling him to be careful with that drone story he did. "He was much more experienced than me, yet I advised him not to mention it was an American drone strike." **He paid the price for reporting the truth.**

Threatened, kidnapped twice and shot in the chest, South Waziristan journalist Anwar Shakir is lucky to be alive.

He used to report out of this militant-infested region and was targeted because of his work. The 45-year-old now lives in a dingy neighborhood on the outskirts of Islamabad with his family. He left his native village in 2009 and lived in Peshawar for three years before moving to the capital when his job with Bloomberg ended in 2012.

"I was shot in the chest with an AK-47 rifle and had to undergo surgery in 2005," he says. "The assailants fired 80 rounds from close range. It is a miracle that I am still alive. His story is one of horror and pain. He got kidnapped twice in 2009. During one of these abductions, he was tortured so much the wound for which he underwent surgery earlier, split open. Shakir believes the political administration had a hand in his kidnapping. "I used to write against them because there was corruption going on. I got warned two or three times, was offered a bribe to stop writing but when I did not, they kidnapped me."

He says being a reporter in Waziristan is a "mental torture" as one has to keep be careful not to offend any of the several stakeholders. "You have to ensure the tribal elders/jirgas do not get annoyed by your reporting. Then there are the militant groups and the political administration. They can do anything, anytime."

In such a situation, keeping everyone happy and coming up with a balanced story requires proper training which the tribal journalists do not have, Shakir comments. For Shakir, the displacement was even more tormenting than being shot. "I flew out of Waziristan in an army plane. I knew if I went by road, I would be at risk. I looked at my village below and my hear ached. It was worse than getting shot."

He bid goodbye to his ancestral region as he did not want his family getting into trouble or kidnapped because of him. "I moved out to protect them and protect myself."

The displacement brought multitude of issues, financial and health. He earn a meagre Rs1500 a month from Online news agency, and this for the past five years. His monthly expense on medicines is Rs9700 with as much in rent. "The kids have to be fed too. It is very tough to make ends meet."

In a desperate attempt to get back on his feet, he sold vegetables at the Sabzi Mandi with money a journalist friend gave him. But about two weeks later he fell sick and was hospitalized. For the past four months, Shakir remained bed-ridden after spraining his ankle and sustaining injuries. Now he plans to set up a shop in another attempt to turn things around. He is disillusioned by the indifference of the press club, the journalist unions, and media organizations to his suffering.. "All claims made by our unions are lies. Nobody helped him find a job or place to stay."

6.6



**Anwar Shakir**  
*'It's a miracle I am still alive'*

Organizations: **Bloomberg, Online, Daily Pakistan, Ummat, Roznama Islam, PPI, AFP**

Displaced from: **South Waziristan** (since 2009)



### Taliban to Adnan Bhitani 'Keep your coffin and grave ready'

Organization: **Voice of America Deewa Radio**

Displaced from: **Frontier Region Tank** (since 2014)

Shakir shared that he is kept waiting for hours whenever he goes to see the office-bearers of National Press Club, Islamabad. "These are the people who claim they work for the good of journalists." The club, however, gives him a kitchen package.

He isn't optimistic about the legislation the government plans to bring for journalists' welfare and safety. "What good can you expect from the government? What hopes can you pin on them?"

Eight years since leaving his South Waziristan home, Shakir's life continues to be tough. His little daughters ask: "Who shot you and what did they want? "What did they get by doing so?" "Would there be poverty in Heaven when we die and get there?" These are questions Shakir finds hard to answer. His story is summed up by his psychiatrist friend: **"As far as psychiatry goes you are a dead man."**

Keep your coffin and grave ready, a Taliban phone caller told Adnan Bhitani, a freelance journalist working out of Frontier Region Tank. The threat was real. "We have followed what you have been writing for three months and it is causing us damage," the caller made it clear. "Malala Yousufzai has not caused us so much harm as your reporting." Bhitani, associated with Voice of America Deewa Radio, was later told by his boss to move out of the region. He complied. On May 28, 2014, he left for Islamabad and kept hopping from one city to the other; such were the threats to him.

Although his family is currently in D.I.Khan, he himself keeps changing locations. "I cannot stay in one place and cannot tell you where I am based." Bhitani points out that gathering news in a militant-infested and war-torn region is like trying to catch fish in a lake full of crocodiles. "Journalists face threats from all sides – state agencies, unidentified people, Al-Qaeda, Taliban and the Haqqani Network. "All have their own interests and want us to report what they want. We have to tread very cautiously." Citing an example he says if a journalist got news of a drone strike, or talks with the Taliban from his own sources and ran that story, he would start getting threats. "Both sides do not like such news aired or published."

During his displacement, Bhitani's organization continued to pay him although he had stopped reporting. He was even allowed to live in the Islamabad office for two months. The Freedom Network funded one of his stints in Islamabad during which he stayed in a guest house. "It was a secure place and I kept a low profile all the time I was there." While in Islamabad, he had a chance to meet Pervaiz Rasheed, the federal information minister at that time. Bhitani told him about the threats and what he was going through but the minister excused himself. "Whoever it is, the civilian government is helpless in this regard. We cannot do anything for you," he quoted the minister as saying. Prominent journalists Najam Sethi, Saleem Safi and Hamid Mir were also present in that meeting. The federal government thus expressed its helplessness, the provincial Khyber Pakhtunkhwa government could offer nothing to resolve the matter. The Tribal Union of Journalists held a protest in Peshawar after the Taliban released



a hit-list of three journalists. Bhitani was one of them. The journalists later met the then governor but his response was disappointing. Bhitani recalls that when he first received threats in 2011-12, he was inexperienced and decided to live in Peshawar. He stayed there for one year, bearing all his expenses himself. In 2015, following fresh threats, he headed to interior Sindh to briefly seek refuge in Sukkur and Rohri before returning to Islamabad. Today, life for Bhitani is an ordeal; he cannot go back to his native region. **“FR Tank still remains a no-go area. If you have to go there, you have to seek permission which is not easy.”**

He was threatened by militants, survived a kidnapping attempt and got injured in a bomb blast; For journalist Abu Zar Afridi, working out of Khyber Agency (FATA), the message was loud and clear.

It was 2009 when this father of six packed up and left his village to take refuge in Peshawar. “My father and brothers told me either I quit journalism or leave the region,” says Afridi, who is with the Express Media Group. Living in Landi Kotal tehsil was fraught with danger for this journalist whose reporting the militants did not like. He had been receiving threatening messages. Then came the abduction bid. “I was coming back from Torkham and heading home one late evening in 2009 when four men in a small van attempted to abduct me,” he recalls. To his good luck, some people nearby came to his rescue. The same year he fractured his arm in a bomb blast in Torkham. “The day I escaped kidnapping, I decided I was not going to live here any longer.” Making the move was not easy for Afridi who also ran a clearing business at Torkham border. “Moving away meant shutting down this vital source of revenue.”

“For shifting to Peshawar I had to find accommodation and resources and needed to put the kids in school. Many institutions do not accept children from FATA where they say the educational system is weak.” But Peshawar isn’t too safe either for journalists. This fact was underlined when Afridi found himself at the scene of a suicide bomb blast. “There is this court day of our tehsil, and I go there for reporting. I was there in the office when the suicide bomber struck. I was safe but my family was devastated.” Afridi has continued to report on his region from Peshawar. His stories have created problems for his father back home. “He too got threats and messages asking him to tell me to be careful with my reporting.”

During his career he began in 2003, Afridi says he has received a lot of threats. “The militants are always there to threaten you and I got the most threats from them. Then there are the smugglers who get upset when you do a story about them, and also the local administration creates problems.”

Life hasn’t got any better for Afridi since he arrived in Peshawar. He is economically vulnerable even though he runs a small business. “I have been in journalism for 14 years but I am struggling financially. Although my family supports me a little, it is hard to make ends meet.”

6.8



**Abu Zar Afridi**  
*Threats, kidnapping bid, and bombing, he faced all*

Organization: **Express Media Group**

Displaced from: **Khyber Agency (FATA), Landi Kotal Tehsil (since 2009)**

## 6.9



**Haji Pajir Gul**  
*'I will quit journalism when I die'*

Organization: Dawn, ARY, Aaj, Nawa-i-Waqt, Ausaf, Mashriq, AFP

Displaced from: North Waziristan (since 2014)

He reveals that 95 percent of journalists in FATA do not get paid. "There are more than 300 tribal journalists but not even 15 get salaries," he says. "Journalists should be well paid so that at least they can support their families."

Afridi is disheartened no one helped him in times of trouble, not even the Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists or the Khyber Union of Journalists. The political administration and the FATA secretariat did not extend any assistance either. "It is a shame that when a journalist gets killed, injured or displaced no help is forthcoming from the government, journalist unions and NGOs."

He laments there is no mechanism in place for helping families of journalists killed or those displaced. "The press clubs and the unions should talk to the big organizations and come up with packages for such journalists." Accommodation remains one of the biggest problems for displaced journalists. He recommends building a colony for such media persons besides providing healthcare and education to journalists' children. Afridi feels that FATA journalists should have representation in the legislation the government plans to bring on journalists' safety. **"We have long been ignored and should be made part of this mechanism."**

For Haji Pajir Gul practicing journalism in the militant-infested North Waziristan wasn't without hazards. A hand grenade was hurled into his home and a rocket fired after a group got upset over a story in Mashriq newspaper which he had not filed. Again his house got hit by a rocket following a skirmish between the security forces and the Taliban. "These are the kind of problems you face when reporting out of North Waziristan," says Gul, who works for a string of organizations including DawnNews and ARY.

He had to leave his hometown of Miranshah in the summer of 2014 after the authorities announced the start of a military operation against the militants holed up in the region. Given three days to pack up and leave, Gul left behind a running stationery, books, and sports merchandise business. "It was impossible to take all your belongings along at such short notice."

He along with his family headed to Bannu, a one-hour drive from Miranshah. That day, since everyone was streaming out it took them 16 hours to get to their destination. "We had to walk in between; there was no water, no food and the children were crying. It took many people 24 hours and some even two days to reach their destination," recalls Gul. "There were people barefoot, having left hurriedly, fearing for their lives." The displacement brought him to Peshawar where the accommodation is "like a jail" and survival is an everyday struggle. Everyone longs to go back to the "big house" as a child in the family refers to their residence in Miranshah.

No one stepped forward to help. "The Peshawar Press Club did nothing nor did the

journalist unions. I also made no contact with them knowing they had not assisted anyone else. "Even the news organizations Gul worked for did not extend any assistance, except for Dawn.

Luckily for him though, he was among journalists from North Waziristan whom the governor gave Rs50,000 each during a jirga. Later, Rs150,000 came through property magnate Malik Riaz.

Journalism is Gul's passion. It is in his genes. He has been in the profession for 30 years. One of his sons is a journalist with The Express Tribune and ExpressNews Television while the other one works for 92 News TV and Nai Baat newspaper. His brother is with Samaa TV and Reuters while the elder one used to work for The News.

"I find journalism very interesting, people in offices are afraid of you," he says wearing a broad smile. But he admits it is hard to make ends meet through journalism only. In such remote regions where the majority of journalists do not get paid at all, Gul draws a regular salary from Dawn and ARY. He also reports for Aaj, Nawa-i-Waqt, Ausaf, Mashriq, and AFP.

Gul, who wears a turban in typical tribal style and sports a beard, points to the perilous environment they all have to work in. He believes journalists in conflict zones must be paid much more than those working out of settled regions. "We provide information to reporters in districts and they get it sitting in the comfort of their offices."

It is unlikely that Gul will go back to Waziristan anytime soon. "The place where we live is close to Miranshah bazaar. It hasn't been cleared by the authorities." Many houses and markets are in rubbles following the extensive and successful military operation in the region. "The authorities tell us they will build the markets before we are allowed back in."

Gul suffered massive losses. He owned a market in Miranshah that had 17 shops, besides the stationery business he ran. Ten days before the military operation began he had brought fresh stocks ahead of Ramzan. He has gone back to North Waziristan a couple of times and found half of his belongings missing from his home, which he says is still livable. "No one knows who took them."

Gul suggests the government build a media colony for displaced journalists and extend financial help to them, besides providing education and healthcare to children of journalists who get killed.

Life for Gul continues to be tough but his love for journalism is showing no signs of waning. "My heart is in it, he says; **'I will not quit. Only death will doth us apart' he says, laughing out loud.**

## 6.10



### Sahibzada Bahauddin *Out of the frying pan into the fire*

Organization: **Khabrain and Reuters**

Displaced from: **Bajaur Agency** (since 2008)

For journalist Sahibzada Bahauddin danger lurked everywhere in his native town of Bhai China in Bajaur Agency – threats from the Taliban, target killings, military operation, and airstrikes.

Whenever he headed out, he came across dead bodies on the streets. Once he tried moving a corpse with the help of his friends and its head fell down. “It was only then we realized the head had been chopped off,” Bahauddin recalls the gory sights back then.

He lost quite a few friends in targeted attacks. One was Muhammad Ibrahim, who was killed as they returned after interviewing Taliban spokesman Maulvi Umer. “Our homes, livestock, property, and businesses were all destroyed but no compensation was given to me or the people of this region,” says Bahauddin, 45, a father of seven.

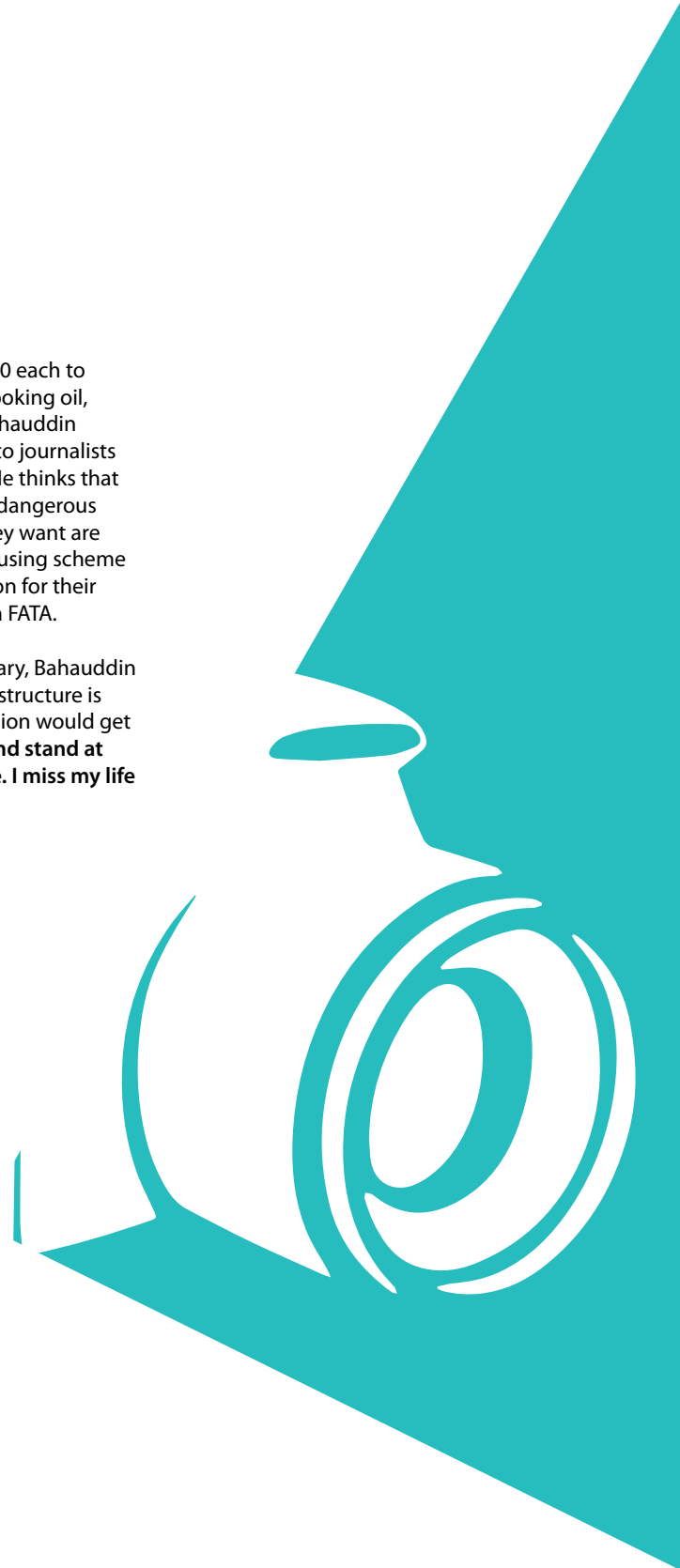
The situation became so bad for this journalist who worked for Khabrain newspaper and Reuters he had to move out. “There was a lot of pressure on me from my tribe and family to leave because it had become too dangerous for me to live there.” He and his colleagues were getting threats from the Taliban even for such petty things as not mentioning suicide attackers as Fidayeen in their stories. So one August night in 2008 Bahauddin bid farewell to his home and left for Khaar, a peaceful town, which was under government control.

His troubles only multiplied. He stayed there in an abandoned hospital building and continued to do reporting. The routine rattle of gunfire became deafening. “The kids got frightened. Each time I used to come back, I would find them crying.” Bahauddin began to feel guilty, thinking he was putting his children’s lives in danger because of his reporting. In 2009, he moved to Peshawar where even more misery awaited. He remembers those days as the most difficult time of his life. “We were cramped in a one-room house. I had little cash with which I bought some household stuff.” There were days the family had to skip meals because there was no food. No help was forthcoming. The newspaper he worked for looked the other way. An international organization he wrote to seeking assistance, sent a team that gathered information about him but , never returned.

Some friends he knew occasionally lent help but that was not sufficient for survival. “The financial impact of my displacement was enormous. I lost everything I had – my land, business, and livestock. Since I had to sneak out, I left all my belongings at home.” To make matters worse for him, all his valuables and other stuff got stolen after he left. Bahauddin had high expectations from journalist colleagues in Peshawar but all those were dashed when he arrived. “When they used to come to FATA we rolled out red carpets for them, however, we were not welcome in Peshawar in the same manner,” he says ruefully.

However, he acknowledges “The Peshawar Press Club once gave Rs30,000 each to displaced journalists and the government Rs25,000 besides providing cooking oil, flour, and sugar under the IDP card I got made.” Hard-pressed as he is, Bahauddin often wonders why is it that international news organizations pay more to journalists in bigger cities and far less to those reporting out of hard areas like his. He thinks that international and national media outlets only use journalists working in dangerous regions. “Our lives are not important to them. They do not train us; all they want are stories.” Having suffered as an IDP, Bahauddin suggests establishing a housing scheme for displaced journalists and families of those killed. Add to this, education for their children and healthcare, and free psychological treatment to reporters in FATA.

Although peace has now returned to his native town, thanks to the military, Bahauddin has no intention of going back. “Just peace is not enough when the infrastructure is either destroyed or not developed. Also, if I go back my children’s education would get affected.” Bahauddin adds sorrowfully “**I visit my hometown at times and stand at the spot where once stood my house. It is in rubbles. I love that rubble. I miss my life there, the green fields, the trees, and gardens.**”



# FINDINGS

## 7.1 Why journalists need an extensive support mechanism

Journalists who once worked in high-risk districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA continue to suffer economically because of displacement. They had to migrate due to military operations against the Taliban. Many journalists killed in these regions left their families in deep financial trouble. Journalists interviewed as part of this study, strongly voiced the immediate need to provide an extensive support mechanism to slain journalists' families as well as those displaced.

- Journalists are the eyes and ears of the society.
- They expose terrorists and their supporters. It is for this reason that in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and tribal areas terrorists target journalists.

### **Shamim Shahid**

Senior journalist and former President Peshawar Press Club

- Journalists play an important role in bringing peace to the society.

### **Esa Khankhel**

Brother of slain journalist Musa Khankhel

- Any damage to journalism means damage to the entire society.

### **Safullah Gul**

Bureau Chief Dunya News, Peshawar

- Media raises the voice of the powerless and connects them to power corridors for problem-solving.
- If journalism gets wiped out it will be a free world for negative and destructive forces.

### **Haji Pajir Gul**

Displaced journalist

- They point out governance gaps.

### **Anwar Shakir**

Displaced journalist

- The government needs media to reach out to the public.
- The people and the government both depend on journalists to connect with each other and for information flow. It is a noble profession.

### **Sahibzada Bahauddin**

Displaced journalist

- They help in solving community's problems.

### **Abu Zar Afridi**

Displaced journalist

## 7.2 Unclear status of most journalists in high-risk areas of KP and FATA

Journalists in several districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA work in a high risk environment. But their status as journalists is unclear since most of them work for multiple organizations. They are not given contracts or evidence of employment. Many reporters killed or displaced were not even recognized as journalists by their respective press clubs and unions. They may not be eligible for help under the Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill 2106 because of this unclear status.

■ The first and foremost need is to clarify the status of journalists working in conflict zones. The government should develop a system to register all such journalists prior to devising any compensation mechanism for the families of slain journalists and the displaced journalists.

**Umer Shami**  
*General Secretary APNS*

■ Majority of the media organizations do not sign contracts with their correspondents. Only Geo TV and Dawn Group provide proper contracts and salaries.

■ Most journalists, especially in FATA, get paid on per piece basis. They work as freelancers or fixers and provide information to international news organizations and reporters in bigger cities. Despite risking their lives reporting out of dangerous regions, they are denied any formal contract or evidence of employment by the organizations they work for. In contrast, journalists in main cities receive formal contracts by national and international media outlets and are recognized by journalist unions.

■ With no contract or

evidence of employment, the journalists in hard areas cannot get membership of any journalist union/forum in Pakistan or abroad.

■ Such journalists also do not qualify for assistance by international media organizations to their staff in case of death, injury or displacement.

■ Journalists who work for international news organizations are comparatively better paid on per piece basis than those associated with national media houses.

■ Their main income is from sources other than journalism, mostly from business or a government job. They cannot survive on their meager earnings from journalism. There are many journalists who do not get paid at all. This further complicates their status. The basic requirement for getting membership of a press club or union and an accreditation card is that journalism has to be an applicant's main source of income.

■ Six out of 10 journalists in this study were not members of any press club. They were not eligible for facilities offered to members.

■ The unions have to follow a criterion to grant membership to journalists.

To be connected with the international community, our union also has to follow certain rules. Evidence of employment is a basic requirement.

**Afzal Butt**  
*President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists*

■ We are aware of membership issues in PFUJ and have discussed changing the basic qualification for journalists working in smaller districts. The membership criterion should remain the same for journalists working in bigger cities or urban setup. The majority agreed to this suggestion

**Nasir Zaidi**  
*Member Federal Executive Council (FEC), PFUJ*

■ When in trouble, their media organizations desert them and their families. They risk losing their jobs if they go to court to claim their rights.

■ All journalists were found working for more than one organization. This could be the reason why news organizations abandon them when in trouble.

■ Two journalists – Haji Pajir Gul (displaced) and Ahmed Khan Kamrani



(President Dera Ismail Khan Press Club) were of the view that there are very few genuine journalists in conflict areas. The rest manipulate their status to get benefits.

■ Some news organizations have been reported to deprive journalist working for them of their rightful status.

In one such case, a chief editor of a newspaper told Fazal ur Rehman, Senior Vice President Dera Ismail Khan Press Club, they don't issue press cards because if they do, they would have to pay each journalist more than Rs12,000 as per law which they cannot afford. The same newspaper had the audacity to hire actual

journalists as computer operators, page makers etc. while placing kith and kin as editors, sub-editors, and reporters.

■ It is not easy for journalists in smaller districts to get an accreditation card.

### 7.3 Journalists working in high-risk areas are in poor financial state

Most journalists in smaller districts and high-risk regions do not get paid at all. They are often asked by the national media houses to bring in advertisements from their respective areas and earn a commission. The international news organizations, however, do pay journalists on per-piece basis but these payments are not at par with what they pay to journalists in bigger cities.

■ Most journalists work for multiple organizations, both national and international.

■ Financially, journalists are in a bad state. I have been in journalism for 14 years and am still dependent on my family. A journalist should be paid suitably so he can support his family. The displaced journalists face even more problems.

**Abu Zar Afridi**  
*Displaced journalist*

■ Journalists are told by their organizations to get advertisements and earn 20 percent commission, instead of being paid monthly salaries.

**Fazal ur Rehman**  
*Senior Vice President, Dera Ismail Khan Press Club*

■ Majority of journalists in smaller and conflict-ridden districts are not paid by their organizations.

■ Seventy percent of journalists in tribal areas are not paid by the media organizations. In North Waziristan, out of 30 journalists, only five or six get paid for their work.

**Haji Pajir Gul**  
*Displaced journalist*

■ Fazal Wahab, a columnist and author target killed in Mingora, used to save money to pay the news organizations to publish his articles.

■ Majority of journalists have their own land and businesses and do not earn anything from journalism.

**Ahmad Khan Kamrani**  
*President Dera Ismail Khan Press Club*



## 7.4 Sufferings of slain journalists' families and displaced journalists are not highlighted

The woes of slain journalists' families and reporters who had to migrate when military operations began against the Taliban militants have been largely ignored. Many of them remain financially vulnerable. They live in shanty rented accommodations, have to skip meals and find it hard to educate their children. When sickness hits, they do not have enough money to seek proper treatment.

■ Almost 99 percent of journalists in tribal areas had to leave their region. Those from Swat, Dir, and Shangla were also displaced. No support was provided when they arrived in settled areas either by the government or the organizations they worked for. Some went to their friends. Others would sit by the roadside. If anybody provided help, they would take it. Those displaced left hoping to return soon leaving all their belongings behind. Those displaced since 2009, the beginning of military operation in South Waziristan have not been able to return even in 2017 and continue living in rented accommodations which adds to their financial burden, living under despicable conditions. I have seen journalists whose children had to drop out of school and earn in order to survive.

**Shamim Shahid**  
Senior journalist and former  
President Peshawar Press Club

■ We have seen displaced sick journalists running from pillar to post to get relief from Baitul Maal. They have no money for medical treatment, worse still they have no money to feed themselves and their families.

**Safullah Gul**  
Bureau Chief *Dunya News*,  
Peshawar

■ Slain columnist Fazal Wahab, a Grade 5 employee in a government department, earned only Rs3000 per month. The pension his family received after his death was PRs. 600. A family elder used to contribute Rs1000. This family of six survived on a monthly income of PRs 1600 for 10 years.

■ Displaced journalist Anwar Shakir lives in a dingy neighborhood on the outskirts of Islamabad with his family. His three daughters study in a free private school (more like a madrassa). The public school require Form B and that shakir left behind while fleeing South Waziristan. His organisation pays him PRs 1500 a month; driving him to sell vegetables at the Sabzi Mandi for survival. He left behind his house in his native Waziristan and agricultural land.

■ Displaced journalist Haji Pajir Gul owned a market in Miranshah (North Waziristan), which had 17 shops. He ran a stationery, sports, and Islamic books business. Ten days before the military operation began he had brought fresh stocks from Lahore. He currently lives in a small rented house on the outskirts of Peshawar.

■ Displaced journalist Abu Zar Afridi had a clearing business at Torkham border. It ended after he migrated to Peshawar. He is struggling to establish a business again as it is hard to make ends meet through journalism. He had great difficulty in getting his six children admitted to schools in Peshawar.

■ Sahibzada Bahauddin, a displaced journalist from Bajaur Agency had land, business, and livestock. He left his belongings in his native town which were stolen. He moved to a one-room house in Peshawar with six children. The newspaper he was associated with abandoned him. The international news agency he worked for sent a team to gather details about him, but no assistance ever arrived. The family lived on only one meal a day.

■ The family of journalist Azmat Ali, killed in a suicide

blast near Peshawar, is supported by his brother. ■ Saleem Tahir, also killed in a suicide bomb attack in Dera Ismail Khan, wanted his son to become a CSP officer. The son forced to quit studies after his death;

now works as a clerk to support the family. His biggest challenge is to pay his siblings' school fee and manage the household expenses without help from relatives. ■ For the past eight

to 10 years, no one has bothered to ask us about our problems.

**Qazi Fazlullah**  
*President, Tribal Union of Journalists*

## 7.5 News organizations lent the least support

Most news organizations tend to look the other way when a journalist working for them is killed or displaced. Although there have been some instances of financial help being extended by media houses, the journalists are mostly left on their own. An announcement of Qul of a deceased journalist in the paper he served had to be paid for by the family.

■ The media owners protect each other's interests but do not pay heed to the troubles of their employees. ■ One of the most widely circulated newspapers in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa pays PRs 8000 to its correspondents whereas the minimum legal wage is Rs15,000.

**Shamim Shahid**  
*Senior journalist and former President Peshawar Press Club*

■ The media organizations should be held responsible to take care of their employees. They use reporters and discard them when they are in trouble. ■ What a pity that the media houses insure their equipment but not the journalists.

**Afzal Butt**  
*President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists*

■ Displaced journalist Anwar Shakir gets petty PRs 1500 per month by the news agency he works for. ■ I worked for 17 years for an Urdu newspaper but when I got displaced they did not care whether I was alive or dead. The media organizations use us as slaves.

**Sahibzada Bahauddin**  
*Displaced journalist*

■ Except for a few instances where news organizations extended help to journalists and their families, the support was largely missing. ■ Media organizations need martyrs. They take pride in the fact that their staffers gave sacrifices and air breaking news about them but extend no help to the bereaved families.

**Shehzad Alam**  
*President Swat Press Club*

■ Haji Muhammad Nawaz, a journalist in Dera Ismail Khan was paid PRs 500 per month to cover his fax expenses and nothing else. If journalists go to court for not getting paid, they are sacked the next day.

**Ahmad Khan Kamrani**  
*President Dera Ismail Khan Press Club*

■ There are organizations whose records show they pay an employee PRs 40,000 while in reality, he receives half that amount.

**Shaukat Yousufzai**  
*Former Minister for Information and Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa; currently Central Deputy Secretary Information, Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)*

■ Journalist Nisar Afridi who worked for an Urdu newspaper was killed in 2007 in Dara Adam Khel. His organization gave him no compensation. He was

also deprived of salary while alive. The announcement of his Qul in his own paper was paid for by the family. The media organizations do not pay us. There are no medical or travel facilities. They are indifferent to the

plight of the families of the journalists are killed in service.

■ It is not the coverage that creates problems for us; rather it is the reaction to that coverage that causes trouble.

#### **Qazi Fazlullah**

*President Tribal Union of Journalists*

## **7.6 Assistance from press clubs and unions came in patches - not enough for journalists and their families in distress. No Standard Operating Procedures or mechanisms exist**

Only a few press clubs have endowment funds to extend help to journalists and their families. But there is no proper disbursement mechanism in place. The disbursed amount varies from case to case and is often not enough. Also, the press clubs and unions do not have extensive funds to lend consistent help.

■ We have failed to strengthen the unions and press clubs. There have been some positive individual efforts but the institutions have remained weak. The major problem is of capacity building.

■ Within the journalist community mechanisms ranging from welfare to media accountability are missing which give rise to major issues.

#### **Nasir Zaidi**

*Member Federal Executive Council, PFUJ*

■ The press clubs and unions can contribute significantly to the welfare of journalists. The kind of contacts they have, they can easily raise funds. They should follow up on the promises made by the government.

#### **Esa Khankhel**

*Brother of slain journalist Musa Khankhel*

■ For the unions, lack of funds is a major issue. We can offer emotional support to the grieving families can stand by them and raise voice for them as we lack resources to provide them financially. The government should evolve and implement a financial support mechanism.

#### **Afzal Butt**

*President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists*

■ Division among unions has prevented them from playing a progressive role in supporting journalists in trouble and families of those murdered. Assistance from unions varies from case to case and is limited to holding protests and inconsistent negotiations with the government.

#### **Shamim Shahid**

*Senior journalist and former President Peshawar Press Club*

■ Unions are politicized. Those with political affiliations are elected. The unions instead of safeguarding the interest and welfare of journalists have their own vested interest. When a journalist is killed the first question asked is his group affiliation?

■ The press clubs and unions do not have funds to reach out those in need. The money they have is not even enough for the coffins.

#### **Safullah Gul**

*Bureau Chief Dunya News, Peshawar*

■ The National Press Club has an endowment fund but it is not functional yet and no Standard Operating Procedures have been developed.

#### **Shakeel Anjum**

*President National Press Club, Islamabad*



■ The unions are weak. They do not have the financial resources to help their members and are dependent on government support.

**Saiful Islam Saifi**

*President Khyber Union of Journalists*

■ Journalist unions are divided and continue to be divided. Journalists have no unity.

**Qazi Fazlullah**

*President Tribal Union of Journalists*

■ A few press clubs have endowment funds and offer limited assistance to journalists and their families. The Swat Press Club has one. The Peshawar Press Club also helps members with whatever little it has. But no Standard Operating Procedures exist and the amount varies from case to case. The Swat Press Club provides PRs 200,000 to families of journalists who are killed. The National Press Club released the first installment of assistance from its endowment fund to 10 families of slain journalists on Press Freedom Day. Shahabuddin, Secretary Peshawar Press Club says they are providing

financial help to 15 families of slain journalists. Although nominal, the money disbursed comes from holding press conferences and workshops at the club.

■ Journalists only receive encouragement and sympathy from Peshawar Press Club. Only once they provided PRs 30,000 each for displaced journalists. There is zero contribution from the unions for displaced journalists. The Tribal Union of Journalists has failed to offer any support to displaced journalists from tribal areas.

**Sahibzada Bahauddin**

*Displaced journalist*

## 7.7 The government did not honor its promises in most cases

Both the provincial and federal governments make promises of compensation to journalists and their families in trouble. These promises are hardly ever honored.. No mechanism as such exists to ensure inclusivity and consistency.

■ The government should be persuaded to establish an endowment fund. The government and the news organizations should jointly disburse from this endowment fund to the deserving journalists. APNS is ready to contribute to this endowment fund.

**Umer Shami**  
*General Secretary APNS*

■ There is a provincial committee for the protection of journalists in the interior ministry. It is headed by a deputy secretary and there is a DSP level officer on this committee besides a representative of the journalist union and the press club. The committee has been in existence for two years but has held only one meeting.

**Saif ul Islam Saifi**  
*President Khyber Union of Journalists*

■ When I came to Peshawar, the governor held a jirga with about 30 displaced journalists from North Waziristan. He awarded PRs 50,000 to each as compensation.

**Haji Pajir Gul**  
*Displaced journalist*

■ Only the KP government has an endowment fund that extends help to journalists on the recommendation of Peshawar Press Club and the Khyber Union of Journalists.

■ The endowment fund was not quite effective in the past but the present government has improved the law and provided more money for the fund. Previously, it was only for helping journalists in need of health care. Since the government has recently announced including journalists in the Sehat Insaaf Card scheme, the fund will be used for other welfare activities. These include the welfare of the families of journalists killed and providing facilities to deserving journalists such as education of their children etc. The fund does not apply to FATA.

■ The draft Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill 2016 has not been shared with the provincial government. The provinces should be taken into confidence before passing such legislation.

■ Provincial Information Departments and journalists' representatives should have a membership of the disbursement committee.

■ Recently, we stopped the advertisements of a news organization that did not pay salaries to its staff. This can be done on the written request of Peshawar Press Club or KUJ.

**Arshad Majeed**  
*Secretary Information Department, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa*

■ The government can use its commercial advertisements as an incentive to prompt the media organisations to draw a policy to support journalists. I don't think any government has considered it seriously.

**Shaukat Yousufzai**  
*Former Minister for Information and Health Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and current Central Deputy Secretary Information Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaaf*

■ The government announced plots of land for martyred journalists in Karachi in 2014. A team of senior journalists furnished requisite information to the Sindh government as a follow-up but nothing materialized.

**Shamim Shahid**  
*Senior journalist and former President Peshawar Press Club*

■ Under the KP endowment fund, the support for health has been increased from Rs20,000 to Rs100,000.

■ For those who have been killed as a result of terrorism, the families will be given Rs1 million.

■ Rs200,000 will be given to those who get injured.

■ In case of natural death, Rs20,000 will be released for funeral expenses.

#### **Imdad Ullah**

*Deputy Director Information Department, KP*

■ We met Bashir Ahmed Bilour (late) and asked him to award the same package to martyred journalists' families as the slain police personnel and others. He committed to compensate the families. He was refrained from doing so by other institutions which demanded the same package.

■ The government makes promises publically but hardly ever keep them. PRs 500,000 cash compensation announced for a photographer's family who was killed in an accident but it never reached his family.

■ A journalist who is a member of Peshawar Press Club received a call to bring

funds for jihad to Torkham. He has been running from pillar to post but no security has been provided to him.

■ We received a grant of Rs300,000 from the provincial government. The government, on the other hand, gave a grant of Rs20 million to the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE). It should not be giving a grant to them. Instead, link the release of advertisements to them to the payment of salaries to employees.

#### **Shahabuddin**

*General Secretary Peshawar Press Club*

■ Slain journalist Musa Khankhel's family was promised a plot of land in Islamabad by the then Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani. The promise remains unfulfilled. However the family received PRs 500,000 in cash as announced by the then President Asif Ali Zardari.

■ In the case of journalists from FATA, the federal and the provincial governments keep putting the responsibility on each other as with Mukarram Khan, a journalist killed in Shabqadar. We approached the federal government which provided no assistance. When we took

it up with the provincial government it redirected us to Federal government as the case pertained to FATA. Mukarram worked for Dunya TV and an international media organization.

#### **Safullah Gul**

*Bureau Chief Dunya News, Peshawar*

■ The government set up a commission to collect information about the financial losses suffered by displaced journalists following the 2009 military operation. Senior journalists were part of that commission who submitted a report to the government but no action was taken on their recommendations.

#### **Sahibzada Bahauddin**

*Displaced journalist*

## 7.8 Media bodies did not play an effective role in providing or advocating for economic security of journalists and their families

Organizations/NGOs and others working on media safety have extensively focused on journalists' physical security but have never addressed their economic security and that of slain journalists' families. Freedom Network is known to help such families but a lot more needs to be done collectively by stakeholders.

- The journalists praised Freedom Network for having a mechanism to support the families of journalists killed and those under threat. Though they think the financial support provided is not enough, it brings temporary relief to those facing threats.

- InterNews conducted safety training and provided relevant equipment to journalists.

- The family of slain Hayatullah Khan received extraordinary help whereas no significant and consistent support was extended to others.

- To seek support, we appeal to media

organizations worldwide. But often the response we get is not satisfactory. They gather information from us and make a report and forward it to their superiors and that's it.

### **Qazi Fazlullah**

*President Tribal Union of Journalists*

## 7.9 The main support came from family and friends

The families and friends were the only ones that lent support. Widows were supported by fathers, brothers, fathers-in-law, and brothers-in-law. Little or no help came from outside.

- Zahida Parveen (wife of slain Saleem Tahir) was supported by her brothers.

- Shagufta Naz (wife of slain Azmat Ali) lives with her in-laws and is supported financially by her brother-in-law.

- Children of Hayatullah Khan, murdered in North Waziristan, are being looked after by their uncle.

- Shamim (wife of slain Fazal Wahab) is supported by her father-in-law.

- Sahibzada Bahauddin (displaced) was helped by friends occasionally.



## 7.10 Journalists admitted they risked their lives mainly for international media organizations since they pay better but did not get support from them in time of need

Journalists in some districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA often expose themselves to high risks to collect information. However there's little or no realization or acknowledgement of this on the part of the their organizations.. The security procedures followed by international media outlets are not applicable to local journalists in most cases.

■ Once I was working with Al-Jazeera. There was a clash between the security forces and the Taliban. I quickly sent a ticker out. They told me to make footage. I responded by saying that bombs were falling everywhere. Despite that, they insisted I get footage.

**Haji Pajir Gul**  
*Displaced journalist*

■ Most journalists in FATA are not paid by their organizations. Their only source of income is getting paid on per piece basis by international news organizations. It is for this that journalists risk their lives. They would not do so for the national media organizations since they do

not pay them.

■ The international organizations do not give the same pay packages to journalists in hard areas as given to those working for them in bigger cities. Our lives do not matter to them. They do not train us. All they want is daring stories that compromise our safety. Besides the national media is more cognizant of sensitive language and terms whereas the international news organizations run the same stories using strong and exaggerated language putting our lives in further danger.

**Sahibzada Bahauddin**  
*Displaced journalist*





## 7.11 Journalists and their families suffer psychological traumas which are not taken into account when planning welfare and protection of journalists working in high-risk regions

Having witnessed and covered killings and bloodshed inflicted by the Taliban, many journalists in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA suffer from psychological issues. Unfortunately, this is another aspect not given attention.

■ According to the Mass Communication Department of Peshawar University, many journalists working in the war zone do not come to them but those who do, 60 percent of them are mentally instable. They need counseling and treatment.

**Saif ul Islam Saifi**  
*President Khyber Union of Journalists*

■ The families of journalists killed remain in fear. Shamim (wife of slain journalist Fazal Wahab) was worried that publication of her story might put her family in danger. For years, she did not allow her children to go out fearing they would be kidnapped. The family did not have the resources to move to a safer place. She has dedicated her life to prayers and reading the Qur'an. Her children find her crying all day on Eid.

■ Displaced journalist Sahibzada Bahauddin cannot witness violence and blood due to the emotional trauma he went through during his reporting days. It has caused him immense mental stress.

■ Haji Pajir Gul, another displaced journalist says he cannot take any bad news now.

■ Zahida Parveen (wife of slain journalist Saleem Tahir) shares that since the bomb blast that killed her husband, even aerial firing panics her. She gets anxious when her children go out.

■ President Swat Press Club Shehzad Alam says they have gone half mad. "Before the military operation people used to meet each other nicely and kindly. Now they start fighting over trivial matters." Her daughter is so scared she refuses to go to school.

■ Esa Khankhel (brother of slain Musa Khankhel) has not slept at home since the death of his brother. He has stayed away for eight years. He does not want to return with his brother not around.

■ The family of displaced journalist Abu Zar Afridi remains fearful because of the kidnapping and murder attempts on him. "If there is a blast in Karachi, they would call me to inquire about my whereabouts. They panic when signals on my cell phone go weak or off."

■ Displaced journalist Anwar Shakir once met a psychiatrist friend and told him about his ordeal. The psychiatrist said he was a dead man.

■ Slain journalist Salim Tahir's mother lost her

senses on hearing the news of her son's death. She remained in that state for seven years before passing away.

■ Shamim Shahid, senior journalist, and former President Peshawar Press Club says he has witnessed many journalists coping with stress related problems since 2006.

■ Qazi Fazlullah, President Tribal Union of Journalists says threats they receive from militants are through phone or someone who delivers a message. "Many journalists have become psychologically affected. The reporting that they have been doing for the past 10 years in a state of fear has taken its toll."

## 7.12 Support available is difficult to get and not enough

Seeking assistance is not easy. Some of the press clubs and the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Endowment Fund have their own systems of disbursing money. These systems are slow and the assistance provided is not enough.

■ Swat Press Club provides an assistance of Rs200,000 to families of slain journalists. “We realize it is not enough. The real hard work is to arrange funds from other sources as people never honor their promises.

**Shehzad Alam**  
*President Swat Press Club*

■ If you give Rs200,000 to the family of a journalist who has lost his life, it is nothing. It is not even enough for his burial.

**Fazal ur Rehman**  
*Senior Vice President Dera Ismail Khan Press Club*

■ Journalists say that response from the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Endowment Fund is slow and inefficient. President Dera Ismail Khan Press Club says a member of the press club suffered a brain hemorrhage. His treatment required Rs700,000. The KP government approved only Rs60,000 and the cheque is yet to arrive.

## 7.13 Journalists' sacrifices are not recognized

When journalists get killed there are random protests and calls for arrest of the killers. Sadly, neither the killers ever get arrested nor the journalists' sacrifices acknowledged. The predicament of the displaced journalists, who reported out of high-risk regions remains neglected. Many of them are now living miserable lives.

■ Instead of appreciating the sacrifices of journalists who worked during the military operations, their organizations are now laying them off. Recently, one of the main news channels terminated its cameraperson, a man who worked in the most threatening situation and did a wonderful job.

**Shehzad Alam**  
*President Swat Press Club*

■ When those at the helm of National Press Club, Islamabad are not even aware of the names of journalists killed, what can we expect from others?

**Anwar Shakir**  
*Displaced journalist*

■ Alamgir Khan, President Peshawar Press Club suggests naming press clubs, roads, buildings and special funds after the names of slain journalists in recognition of their sacrifices.

## 7.14 Not much done to reach out to women affected by killing or displacement of journalists especially the widows

The representatives of government, unions, press clubs, international news organizations and media watchdogs have never interacted with widows of journalists killed in smaller and high-risk districts. Women have to be part of assistance-providing teams so that they could meet the widows and ensure money lands in the right hands.

■ The assistance does not reach the widows directly. It is always through a male family member.

■ Wife of slain journalist Hayatullah Khan was killed under mysterious circumstances; columnist Fazal Wahab's spouse worried for the lives of her children after her husband was target killed. This shows that lives of the family members of slain journalists are also in danger.

■ The focus should be on the education of the children of slain journalists and subsistence allowance to the widow till the time her children reach become economically productive.

### **Umer Shami**

*General Secretary APNS*

■ The education level of widows and wives of displaced journalists is quite low. Most were unable to communicate in Urdu. Slain Fazal Wahab's widow did not know her second name. Widows of Saleem Tahir and Azmat Ali (both killed) are matriculates while most widows and wives interviewed had quit studies at an early age.

■ Displaced journalists were reluctant to allow the CRS and JournalismPakistan.com team to meet their wives

saying they would not be able to understand the questions. One common response was: "Women never give opinion or advice in such decisions. They do what the husband decides."

■ Mostly, the widows live with their in-laws in their native towns and are financially dependent on their relatives.

■ Women stay home even in the worst financial condition because of culture and traditions. Widow of Azmat Ali, of Ibrahmzai, Hungu, a matriculate, could not continue her studies or get a job after her husband's death for the same reasons.

She says people make up stories about working women. "Married women are sometimes allowed to take up jobs like teaching etc. but there is no such option for widows. Women study till Grade 10 or 12 at the most and then they are married off and take care of the home and children." There was only one instance of a widow working – the spouse of slain Saleem Tahir, in Dera Ismail Khan.

■ Only one woman, wife of Saleem Tahir had a bank account.

■ For all women interviewed during the field study, education of their children was the first priority. The next was job

security of their displaced husband and a respectable place to live.

■ Women suffer psychologically. Interviews had to be kept short. The interviews broke in the middle as emotions overcame them recalling the incidents and the difficult times they had to endure.

■ Zahida Parveen (widow of Saleem Tahir) does not allow her children to go out in the evening. She has no picture of her husband at home as it would mean missing him all the time. She still has the bloodstained newspaper clipping which was in her husband's pocket when he was killed.

■ Shamim (widow of Fazal Wahab) still worries about the safety of her children.

The research team was allowed to meet wives of only two displaced journalists - Haji Pajir Gul and Anwar Shakir. They said that the challenges they had to face were settling in a new environment, coping with financial issues and the language barrier. They say they miss their relatives and the spacious accommodation they had in their native towns. They have dreams for their children. Salma Anwar,



Anwar Shakir's wife wants her three daughters to become teachers and doctors. Salim Tahir's wife wants her son to be a civil servant to fulfill her husband wish.

## 7.15 Journalists in KP and FATA do not have high expectation from the proposed Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill 2016; PFUJ is quite hopeful

Journalists do not pin much hope on the proposed Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill 2016 saying nothing practical has ever been done for them before. Even if passed, they feel it will never be implemented in letter and spirit.

Journalist community has huge expectations from the proposed legislation but only if it accommodates their needs. We gave our feedback on it but unfortunately, it was not included in the new draft. We are still in consultation with the government to fill the gaps so that the desired objective of ensuring substantial support for journalists in need can be achieved.

**Afzal Butt**  
*President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists*

In Pakistan, laws are made but are implementation mechanisms are weak. There are many laws which we don't even know exist. We have labor laws, wage board laws, laws to protect freedom of expression and access to information. Journalists have a quota in all district hospitals. Law is of no use unless they are enforced.

**Esa Khankhel**  
*journalist, and brother of slain reporter Musa Khankhel*

We all know that such initiatives are just announcements and nothing practical is done for journalists. Journalists in FATA have been demanding accreditation cards for the past sixteen years which are being denied to them. This means that we will be kept out of this proposed mechanism. We have made sacrifices and served the country. I would like to request representation and inclusion of FATA journalists in this mechanism.

**Abu Zar Afridi**  
*Displaced journalist*

The nature of problems faced by journalists in Islamabad is different from those living in Dera Ismail Khan. It would not be easy to implement a law that is made by consulting journalists belonging only to bigger cities.

**Fazal ur Rehman**  
*Senior Vice President, Dera Ismail Khan Press Club*



## 7.16 There were some instances of assistance being extended. This means that a comprehensive support mechanism can be developed and implemented involving all stakeholders provided there is a will

There were some good examples of support that reached the affected families despite lack of any set mechanism.

■ Almost all stakeholders contributed in supporting slain journalist Hayatullah Khan's family. Unions and press clubs protested for him and pleaded his case. The Supreme Court took notice and formed an inquiry commission. His organization (The Nation) supported the family for 10 years sending a monthly sum to the children besides contributing Rs300,000 at the time of his death. The European Press Agency gave \$6000 and the Committee to Protect Journalists also contributed funds. Shaukat Aziz, the prime minister at that time gave the family a cheque for Rs500,000 as did the governor. Even the Taliban contacted the family saying if they supported them financially, they would exact revenge for Hayatullah's murder. One senior journalist is bearing the education expenses of one of his children. Education expenses are also being taken care of by the Information Ministry through its secret fund. The children's uncle quit journalism and started a property business and supported the children. There were some unfulfilled promises too. The government promised to give the family a plot

of land and the Shaudhaa (Martyr) Package but never honored its promise. Daily Ausaf did not extend any help.

■ Samaa TV set aside PRs one million for the family of slain Azmat Ali to be paid when his son attains the age of 18.

■ Geo and Dawn are known to provide contracts and monthly pay, though not sufficient, to employees belonging to smaller districts.

■ Zahida Parveen (wife of slain journalist Saleem Tahir) is a lady health worker and was able to pay for her children's education.

■ Property tycoon Malik Riaz gave an amount of Rs500,000 to displaced journalist Haji Pajir Gul.

■ Among displaced journalists, Adnan Bhitani from Tank, a freelancer for VOA, was supported by friends, the PFUJ, Tribal Union of Journalists, international media organization and Freedom Network. Senior journalist helped him meet the information minister.

■ The journalist community helped Salim Tahir's son get a job.

■ Freedom Network established safety hubs to assist journalists were assisted in case of any threat. The network paid

Rs200,000 to families of journalists who were killed. It also extends help to journalists who get legal notices for filing certain stories. It is the only body that financially assists journalists who want to move to any other location because of threats.

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## ...for the government:

- Shaudhaa (Martyr) Package provided to families of journalists killed in the line of duty as offered to martyrs of law enforcement agencies. Under this package, a family gets between Rs3 to 6.5 million in addition to the life time full salary to the widow and free education to children and healthcare for the family.
- The government should maintain a database of journalists. Registration of freelancers should be done separately.
- Prior to any legislation, there is a need to make sure benefits reach all journalists. The government must ensure media organizations issue proper contracts, press cards and experience letters to staff so that they can be recognized as journalists and qualify as members of the press clubs, unions and accreditation cards. Unions must also raise a voice in this regard to end exploitation.
- The proposed Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill, 2016 should bring international news agencies into its ambit and ensure proper contracts, insurance, training and pay structures for freelancers working for them.
- Any proposed law should be made with the consensus and consultation of the provinces.
- Displaced journalists should be included in the upcoming law.
- Any government initiative for journalists' welfare should include life insurance and health insurance.
- Residential colonies should be established for displaced journalists and families of those killed.
- The government should develop a formula to release a specific amount for

endowment funds of press clubs. Other stakeholders such as senior journalists, political parties, philanthropists etc. should be encouraged to contribute to these funds.

- Separate endowment funds should be created to support affected families based on the damages inflicted in conflict zones, natural disaster, accidents etc. They should cover the lives lost, physical disabilities and prolonged ailments. Provincial governments have a major role to play in this regard after 18th Constitutional Amendment.
- The relief should be given directly to the widow and money transferred directly to her bank account.
- The government should legislate and unions press the media owners to offer retirement packages to journalists.
- The government should take responsibility to ensure media organizations abide by the laws.
- All committees constituted to provide relief to journalists in distress should include a woman member who could interact with the widows and other affected women.
- The families of journalists already targeted or facing the risk of a second attack should be relocated because the entire family is in danger in such situations.
- Displaced journalists should be made part of all relief, welfare activities, and future legislation.
- Make a separate trust that could take care of children of journalists killed and displaced.
- Give attention to the psychological health of journalists working in these areas and provide free treatment. Arrange recreational events and visits for such families.

- Wage Award should be brought into the provincial fold and every province should announce it based on its specific context.

- All organizations paying less than Rs15,000 to their employees should be punished under the law.

## ...for the journalist unions/press clubs:

- Establish a committee of reputed senior journalists to negotiate with the president, the prime minister, army chief and chief ministers of all provinces with exact data in hand. This committee should meet journalist's families, stay updated on their condition and press the government to honor the promises it makes from time to time. This committee should also explore the options of seeking international support besides helping build trust between journalists and the state. Some journalists proposed it is named Central Welfare Foundation.
- A committee of senior journalists should be constituted for ascertaining facts each time a journalist is killed. This committee should also disseminate information to all stakeholders and negotiate with media organizations as well as the government for resolution of issues related to media persons.
- All FATA journalists should be registered by Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (PFUJ) so that any new law or initiative could benefit them as they work in high-risk regions.
- The press clubs and journalist unions should talk to media organizations and come up with packages for displaced journalists.

- An organization of press clubs be formed comprising all press clubs. It should hold monthly meetings to discuss issues faced by journalists in their respective areas and possible solution and cooperation options.

- The press clubs should compile accurate data, through information sharing, and provide information to anyone wanting to help the affected families.

- Journalist bodies have become weak because of divisions. They need to get united.

- Establish and fund FATA press club or make FATA journalists members of Peshawar Press Club or National Press Club, Islamabad.

- There is a need for mechanism for information-sharing of contacts and the issues faced by families of journalists killed or displaced. If proper information is shared at the federal level, help could also be extended to the needy families and journalists.

- There should be provincial chapters of PFUJ represent journalists from KP at the national and international level.

- Journalists exchange programs should be initiated between the provinces at the national level so that media community becomes aware of the issues and challenges faced by the journalists of other regions.

### ...for news organizations/owners:

- Journalists working in high-risk zones should be paid hazard allowance along with salaries double the amount of those paid to journalists in settled areas.

- Under Pakhtun tradition, women don't leave home to work. Keeping this in mind, the media organizations should be bound to pay full salary of their deceased husbands to them for a lifetime.

- It should be made binding on all international news organizations to give employment contracts and salaries to journalists working in high-risk regions including payment of danger allowance.

- International news agencies should treat freelancers as their staffers and they should be given matching pay packages.

- A dedicated helpline should be established for journalists working in conflict zones.

- All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) and CPNE, having considerable influence on the government, should play their role in addressing the critical issue of economic security for journalists. Issuance of newspaper advertisement should be linked to the news organizations taking welfare measures for journalists.

- There is a need to improve employment structures and procedures.

- The issue of ownership of journalists when they work for multiple organizations should be resolved permanently.

### ...collective responsibility:

- The media organizations, unions, and government must ensure psychological help for the affected journalists and their families.

- One of the priorities of the support mechanism should be to take care of

the self-respect of media persons and their families saving them from making repeated requests for assistance and multiple visits to government offices, press clubs, and unions.

- The commission formed to collect information about the losses of displaced journalists in 2011 should be revived and the report submitted to the government for compensation.

# ANNEXURE 1

Salient features  
29-12-2016

## Pakistan: Draft Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill – 2016

### Preamble

To provide relief, protection and security to the journalists.

WHEREAS the Part-II, Chapter-1 (Fundamental Rights) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan – 1973 (Articles-9 to 26) gives right of protection, respect and relief to every citizen;

AND WHEREAS it is necessary to give protection to the journalists to perform their duties freely and in a better atmosphere:

It is expedient to enact a law for the welfare and protection of journalists as follows:-

#### 1. Short title, extent and commencement: –

- (1) This Act may be called the Journalists Welfare and Protection Bill, 2016
- (2) It shall extend to whole of Pakistan until relevant provincial laws are enacted, where after the provincial laws will take precedence in accordance with the provisions of 18th Amendment to the Constitution of Pakistan-1973.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.
- (4) This Act shall apply to all permanent and contractual journalists employed by all existing media entities/owners of working freelance but duly registered as employees with Government recognized media organization, or PFUJ and who have Press Information Department's accredited identification card on the basis of information provided by their employers about them being a valid journalist.
- (5) Declaration of Policy and Objectives. It is declared policy of the state that media persons (Print and Electronic both) shall be entitled to security of tenure, congenial conditions of work, and a reasonable wage in line with the relevant provisions of "The Newspaper Employees Conditions of Service Act – 1973". Consistent with this established principle, this Act shall have the following objectives:
  - a) To motivate and encourage journalists to perform their duties as truthful and responsible communicators of credible information to the people;
  - b) To ensure training for the journalists by the media owners/entities for appropriate application of:
    - i. Relevant Print and Electronic Media Laws of Pakistan;
    - ii. Electronic Media Code of Conduct – 2015
    - iii. Ethical Code of Practice for print media under Press Council of Pakistan Ordinance-2002 and rules made thereunder;
    - iv. International best practices in the discipline of journalism.
  - d) To provide them protection and security while discharging their duty and in case of any untoward situation that may occur during such duty;
  - e) To provide relief jointly by the Government and employer/media owners to the affected employees or his/her family so that his/her legal heirs can live with dignity and respect.

#### 2. Definitions:- In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant to the subject or context:-

- (a) "compensation" means grant/donation/compensatory relief in terms of money to be provided from Journalists Endowment Fund (JEF), in case of any mishap while performing his/her duties;
- (b) "environment" means where journalist is performing his/her duties and includes the office and place which a journalist visits in discharge of his/her professional duties;
- (c) "journalism" means the gathering, preparing, collecting, photographing, recording, writing, editing, reporting, analyzing or publishing of news and information appearing in printed form/shape that concerns local, national, or international events or other matters of public interest. It also includes TV broadcasts;
- (e) "journalist" means anyone who regularly gathers, prepares, collects, photographs, records, writes, edits, reports, analyzes or publishes and broadcasts news or information that concerns local, national and international events, or other matters of public



interest; it covers media persons in every professional category (print and electronic both).

- (f) "non-journalist" means person who is employed mainly in a managerial or administrative capacity, or is being employed in a supervisory capacity, performs, either by the nature of the duties attached to his office or by reason of the powers vested in him, function mainly of a managerial nature.
- (g) "government" means Federal Government or a Provincial Government, if and when a provincial government enacts a law for the protection and welfare of journalists;
- (h) "media entities/owners" – refers to all such organizations and individuals in the print and broadcast media that are involved in the dissemination of news and information for public consumption and are duly licensed by respective regulators (PEMRA & PCP) OR any reputable association of media persons such as, but not limited to, the Press Information Department, National Press Club (NPC), PFUJ, APNS, CPNE, PBA and are operating in line with media laws in Pakistan.
- (i) "Front-in-line media person" – specifically refers to those directly involved in data gathering from the field, and news reporting whether in print, on television or on radio reporting, but not limited to print reporters, cameramen, photo-journalists, radio reporters and television reporters.
- (j) "protection" means all ways and means adopted by the government and employers/media owners to protect the journalists and their family;
- (k) "affected journalist" means a journalist who loses his life or is inflicted with a major or minor injury in a scheduled offence as defined under Protection of Pakistan Act, 2014, and is eligible for compensation as defined in Journalist Welfare Fund Regulations -2013.
- (l) "Journalist Endowment Fund" means the fund created by Law under the provisions of this Bill
- (m) "Family" means the surviving spouse, dependent children and dependent parents of the journalist.
- (n) "High security zones" means the security areas specified by the Federal and Provincial Governments.
- (o) "Employer" means the media owner of media entity wherein the working journalist is employed in.
- (p) "National Journalist Council" means a council established under the provisions of this Bill.

### 3. Access to Public Places for Coverage:-

Journalists shall be given access to public places, including government-controlled places except high security zones in civil and military areas, for their professional work without any hindrance, whenever required, for coverage in the public interest, wherein the consideration of their physical protection and security shall be the guiding principle.

### 4. Employers/Media Owners:-

- (1) In case of national calamity, eruption of fire, accidents, bomb blast or natural disasters, the respective employers/media owners shall provide journalist all allied facilities to the journalists during coverage, especially in emergency situations, as defined in the rules framed under this Bill.
- (2) The employers/media owners, in collaboration with the relevant Provincial Government/Federal Government, shall provide free education upto 14 years of study to the children of deceased/martyred journalists.
- (3) The family, or as a case may be, the children of deceased/martyred journalist shall be entitled to suitable compensation from Journalist Endowment Fund (JEF).

### 5. Professional Support:- (1) Journalists shall be eligible for all facilities as defined in the Section -4 of this Bill on production of valid journalistic card/Accreditation Card.

### 6. Journalist safety measures:-

- (1) The Government shall provide, on – spot and on – request from media owners, protection facility to the journalists.
- (2) The media owner will request the government for provision of NOC before deputing a journalist for a duty in a sensitive area, which can be potentially harmful to the journalist.
- (3) The government will issue the required NOC of the request if the media owner meets the standards of the safety of journalists as per the checklist given in the Schedule of this Bill.
- (4) In case a working journalist feels threatened and needs protection at his place of residence, the SHO of the area where the journalists resides, shall provide the required protection and security.

### 7. Establishment of Journalist Endowment Fund for the Journalists:-

- (1) A Journalist Endowment Fund (JEF) shall jointly be established by the Federal Government and media owners/employers for welfare of the journalists and their families in case of death, injuries and illnesses as defined in the rules framed under this Law.
- (2) Subscription to the Journalists Endowment Fund (JEF) shall be compulsory for all media entities/employers and the journalists as provided under this Bill. The Federal Government shall notify the Members of the National Journalists Council that will administer JEF and will include the Government as well as representative bodies of journalists including APNS, CPNE, PBA, PFUJ, NPC etc. Initially the Federal Government shall make donation of Rs200 Million to establish the JEF but every media entity i.e. electronic and print media entity/owner shall be bound to make following contributions to run JEF on permanent basis:

- a. Electronic TV channel: Rs10 Million each channel per annum
  - b. Electronic Radio Channel: Rs0.5 Million each channel per annum
  - c. News Agency: Rs0.5 Million each agency per annum
  - d. Daily Newspaper: Rs1 Million each newspaper per annum
  - e. Monthly Newspaper: Rs0.2 Million each newspaper per annum
  - f. Magazines: Rs0.2 Million each magazine per annum
- (3) The compensation for an affected journalist and his family will be made from JEF according to the Journalist Welfare Fund Regulations, 2013.
  - (4) The JEF shall ensure registration of every journalist and his/her family in Pakistan, who have a valid accreditation card.
  - (5) The JEF shall be administered in terms of final disbursement on the recommendations of National Journalist Council by Principal Accounting Officer of MOIBNH through following procedures:-
    - a. MOIBNH shall open an assignment account in National Bank of Pakistan to operate its disbursement.
    - b. The assignment account shall be operated in terms of GOPs General Financial Rules (Para – 289: Appendix – 16). The Journalists Endowment Fund shall be auditable by the Auditor General of Pakistan.

#### **8. National Journalists Council:-**

- (1) There shall be established a National Journalists Council comprising of the following members that shall administer Journalist Endowment Fund (JEF):
  - a. Minister IBNH (Chairperson)
  - b. President Pakistan Federal Union of Journalists (Member)
  - c. President All Pakistan Newspaper Society (APNS) (Member)
  - d. President Pakistan Broadcasters Association (PBA) (Member)
  - e. President Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors (CPNE) (Member)
  - f. Chairman PEMRA (Member)
  - g. Chairman PCP (Member)
  - h. Secretary M/o Law and Justice (Member)
  - i. Secretary M/o Interior (Member)
  - j. DG PID
- (2) A non-government member shall, unless he resigns or is removed from office earlier, shall hold office for period of three years and shall be eligible for reappointment for second term only.
- (3) A member may resign from his office by writing under his hand addressed to the Chairman of the Council or may be removed by concerned body, if he is found unable to perform the functions of his office because of mental or physical incapacity or misconduct including corruption or dishonesty.
- (4) MOIBNH's Press Information Department shall act as Secretariat of the Council.

#### **9. Meetings of the National Journalists Council:-**

- (1) The council shall hold atleast 04 meetings during one calendar year.
- (2) 2/3rd of the total members shall constitute the Quorum to meet.
- (3) The Chairperson of the council after determining the extra-ordinary circumstances shall have the powers to summon the meetings of the council as much time as he deems fit.

#### **10. Functions of the National Journalists Council:-**

- (1) The National Journalists Council shall perform the following functions:-
  - (a) to have oversight on the implementation of this Law and also in line with the rules framed thereunder;
  - (b) to create an enabling and conducive environment in the public and private sectors towards the capacity building and provision of training for journalists;
  - (c) to ensure prompt relief to the applicants under JEF (as defined in the Law and Rules both);
  - (d) to monitor that the media owners/employers are imparting at least one/more professional training during the course of one calendar year to its employees in order to maintain professional standards in the discipline of print media journalism and broadcast media;
  - (e) to take such other steps as may be necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act.

#### **11. Decisions of the Council:-**

- (1) The Council's Secretariat (Press Information Department) shall notify its decisions in writing to all relevant institutions as well as Ministry of Information, Broadcasting & National Heritage.

## 12. Offences and Penalties:-

In case of violation of this Act by any media entity or owner, the Federal Government or Provincial Government shall have the right to suspend/delist the Print and Electronic media entity from its roll for a period of three months from PEMRA, PID, Press Registrar Office, Audit Bureau of Circulations and DCO office in terms of declaration or license, and shall impose a fine up to Rs20 Million or both.



# ANNEXURE 2

## Journalist Welfare Fund Regulations 2013

Ministry of Information and Broadcasting notified the regulations on May 16, 2013 specifying the guidelines which shall enable the Federal Government to establish and operate Journalists Welfare Fund (JWF).

The notification issues in this regard says that the Federal Government shall establish welfare fund for journalists to carry out the purposes of these regulations and the fund shall be used to support and rehabilitate the families of the affected journalists. The profession of journalism demands the speedy and on-the-spot coverage of events and happenings and their immediate dissemination to the general public.

According to the notification it was imperative to reduce the agony of the family of the deceased or amputated journalist and to provide financial support to such family. The then Prime Minister on August 10, 2011 announced the establishment of Journalists Welfare Fund with an initial seed money of Rs10 million to be contributed by PEMRA. Secretary, Information and Broadcasting shall be the custodian and operate the accounts of the fund as Principal Accounting Officer. The record of the Fund shall be maintained by the Press Information Department of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting under the guidance and supervision of a Committee constituted under Section-7 of these Regulations.

Secretary Ministry of Information and Broadcasting will be Chairman of the committee while Principal Information Officer Member/Secretary. Its other members will be Director General Internal Publicity, President, National Press Club, Islamabad, President, Press Club, Lahore, President, Press Club, Karachi, President, Press Club, Peshawar, President, Press Club, Quetta, President, Press Club, Multan. Five Members including secretary, Information and Broadcasting, and Principal Information Officer, Press Information Department shall constitute quorum for a valid meeting.

The application for financial support out of the fund shall be submitted to the relevant Press Club which will forward the applications to the Secretary of the Committee with recommendations. The Committee shall meet quarterly and the intervening period between the two meetings shall not be more than ninety days.

1. Rs500,000 shall be given as financial assistance to next of kin to the deceased journalist who had lost his/her life in the time of duty.
2. Rs200,000 shall be given as financial assistance to next of kin to the deceased journalist who had met accidental death.
3. Rs300,000 shall be given as financial assistance to the journalist who had suffered amputation of an organ in line of duty.
4. Educational stipend of Rs2000 per month shall be given to fifty college going children of journalists for not more than two years to be selected on merit from the journalists children. A Journalist may apply for this stipend for only one of his children.
5. Rs50,000 shall be given as one time financial assistance at the marriage of a daughter of the deceased journalist.
6. Up to Rs200,000 shall be given to a Journalist for treatment in case of ailment relating to heart, liver, kidney, cancer or any other serious disease. (Pakistan Observer, May 17, 2013).

# ANNEXURE 3

## THE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA JOURNALISTS WELFARE ENDOWMENT FUND ACT, 2014.

(KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA ACT NO XII OF 2014)

CONTENTS

PREAMBLE

SECTIONS

1. Short title, application and commencement
2. Definitions
3. Fund
4. Maintenance of Fund
5. Constitution of Committee
6. Functions of the Committee
7. Meeting of the Committee
8. Extent of financial assistance
9. Audit and accounts
10. Power to make rules

## THE KHYBER PAKHTUNKHWA JOURNALISTS WELFARE ENDOWMENT FUND ACT, 2014.

The Act to provide for the establishment of Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund in the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

WHEREAS it is expedient to provide for the establishment of Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund in the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, for providing financial assistance to the journalists working in press, newspapers and news agencies enlisted in the media list of Government, who cannot afford the expenditure incurred on his own medical treatment or his family members or expenditure to be incurred on his or their family-member funeral expenses and compensation to the family members of such journalists, who embraces martyrdom in acts of terrorism.

It is hereby enacted as follows:

### 1. Short title, application and commencement

- (1) This Act may be called the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund Act, 2014.
- (2) It shall apply to the deserving journalists of the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- (3) It shall come into force at once.

### 2. Definitions

In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,

- (a) "bank" means the Bank of Khyber, Civil Secretariat Branch, Peshawar in whose custody the proceeds of the Fund shall be kept and invested;
- (b) "Chairman" means the Chairman of the Committee;
- (c) "Committee" means the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund Committee established under section 5 of this Act;
- (d) "compensation" means the compensation paid to the family members of a journalist, who embraces martyrdom in acts of terrorism;
- (e) "deserving journalist" means a journalist who cannot afford the expenditures incurred on his own medical treatment or of his family member and the funeral expenses in case of death of his family member;
- (f) "Fund" means the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund established under section 3 of this Act;
- (g) "family member" means the dependent spouse, the dependent children and the dependent parents of the deserving journalists;

- (h) "Government" means the Government of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa;
- (i) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules; and
- (j) "rules" mean rules made under this Act

### **3. Fund**

- (1) As soon as, after the commencement of this Act, Government shall establish a Fund to be known as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund.
- (2) The Fund shall be established with an initial capital of rupees fifty million and may, from time to time, be credited with
  - (a) Government grants; and
  - (b) grants from philanthropists, non-governmental organizations and any other organization working for the welfare of the people
- (3) The Fund shall be utilized for payment of expenses incurred on treatment of deserving journalists and their family member, funeral charges in case of death of the journalists or their family members, as the case may be, and compensation to the family members, in case of martyrdom of journalists in acts of terrorism.

### **4: Maintenance of Fund**

The Fund shall be kept and maintained in the bank and invested in such manner as may be determined by the Committee.

### **5: Constitution of Committee**

Government shall constitute a Committee to be known as the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Journalists Welfare Endowment Fund Committee for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

The Committee shall consist of;

- (a) the Minister for Information, Public Relations and Culture; Chairman
- (b) the Secretary to Government, Information, Public Relations and Culture Department; Vice-Chairman
- (c) the Director, Information; Member
- (d) a representative of Finance Department, not below the rank of Deputy Secretary; Member
- (e) President, Khyber Union of Journalists Peshawar; Member
- (f) Presidents of three press clubs of the Province of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to be nominated by Government for a period of two years; and Members
- (g) a Deputy Director, Information and Public Relations. Member-cum-Secretary

### **6: Functions of the Committee**

The Committee shall

- (a) receive applications from the deserving journalists or their family members for financial assistance or compensation, as the case may be, in the prescribed manner;
- (b) scrutinize such applications for the purpose of granting assistance or compensation as the case may be;
- (c) examine minutely the medical reports or claims of the deserving journalists;
- (d) ascertain the entitlement of deserving journalist;
- (e) verify the family members of a journalist who embraces martyrdom in any act of terrorism; and
- (f) approve a specified amount for the purpose of funeral expenses for the deserving journalist or any of his family member, as the case may be.

### **7: Meeting of the Committee**

- (1) The Chairman may convene meetings of the Committee on quarterly basis at time and place as he may deem necessary which is convenient for the transaction of its business.
- (2) The Chairman or in his absence, the Vice-Chairman shall preside over the meeting of the Committee. In absence of the Chairman or Vice-Chairman, the member nominated by the Chairman shall preside over the meeting.
- (3) The quorum for the meeting of the Committee shall be half number of members.

- (4) The decisions of the Committee shall be taken by majority of members present. In case of tie, the Chairman or Vice-Chairman presiding over the meeting may exercise a casting vote.
- (5) Preparation of agenda and minutes of the meeting shall be responsibility of the Secretary.

**8: Extent of financial assistance**

- (1) A sum not exceeding rupees twenty thousand (20,000) shall be paid to the family members of a deserving journalist in case of his death or to the deserving journalist in case of death of any of his family member, as funeral charges.
- (2) A sum not exceeding rupees twenty thousand (20,000) shall be paid for medical treatment of the deserving journalist or his family members. The claim must be supported by vouchers or invoices verified by a registered medical practitioner or Government health authority.
- (3) A sum not exceeding rupees ten lac (10,00,000) shall be paid to the family members of a journalist, who embraced martyrdom in acts of terrorism, subject to the succession certificate from the Court of Senior Civil Judge of the concerned District.
- (4) A sum not exceeding rupees two lac (200,000) shall be paid to the deserving journalist, who became permanent disabled due to any reason.
- (5) A deserving journalist, once compensated or assisted under this Act shall not be entitled to claim for any other compensation under any other law for the time being in forced.

**9: Audit and accounts**

- (1) The accounts of the Fund shall be audited by the Auditor General of Pakistan in the prescribed manner.
- (2) The bank shall be responsible to maintain the accounts of the Fund in the prescribed form or manner.
- (3) No amount, from the Fund shall be withdrawn, unless it is approved by the Committee.
- (4) Withdrawal of amount from the Fund shall be permissible only under the joint signatures of the Secretary Information, Public Relations and Culture and the Director, Information and Public Relations.

# ANNEXURE 4

## Journalists killed in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA since 2000

(Sources: InterMedia and JournalismPakistan.com)

### 2003

- January 21, 2003: Fazal Wahab, Daily Azadi, Swat

### 2004

- January 29, 2004: Sajid Tanoli, Daily Shumaal, Mansehra

### 2005

- February 7, 2005: Mir Wahab, AP, North Waziristan
- February 7, 2005: Allah Noor, The Nation, North Waziristan
- July 5, 2005: Abaiullah Azhar, Daily Shumaal, Dargai
- December 4, 2005: Nasir Afridi, Khabrain, Dara Adamkhel

### 2006

- June 15, 2006: Hayatullah Khan, AFP, North Waziristan
- September 14, 2006: Maqbool Siyal, Online News Agency, D. I. Khan

### 2007

- January, 9, 2007: Anwar Saleh, Weekly Afghan Zagh, Hangu
- April 28, 2007: Mehboob Khan, ATV, Charsadda
- June 2, 2007: Noor Hakim, Daily Pakistan, Bajaur

### 2008

- February 29, 2008: Siraj-ud-Din, The Nation, Swat
- May 22, 2008: Ibrahim Khan, Express News, Bajaur
- August 29, 2008: Abdul Aziz Shaheen, Daily Azadi, Swat
- November 8, 2008: Muhammad Shoaib, Daily Khabarkar, Swat

### 2009

- January 4, 2009: Tahir Awan, Aitidal and Apna Akhbar, D. I. Khan
- January 4, 2009: Muhammad Imran, Express News, D. I. Khan
- February 18, 2009: Musa Khankhel, Geo TV, Swat
- August 14, 2009: Siddique Bacha Khan, Aaj TV, Mardan
- August 24, 2009: Hashimzada Khan, Shamshad TV, Jamrud

### 2010

- April 17, 2010: Azmat Ali Bangash, Samaa TV, Orakzai Agency
- September 14, 2010: Mirsi Khan, Ausaf and Mashriq, Hangu
- September 17, 2010: Mujeebur Rehman, Daily Pakistan, Malakand Agency
- December 6, 2010: Pervez Khan, Waqt TV, Mohmand Agency
- December 6, 2010: Abdul Wahab, Express News, Mohmand Agency

### 2011

- May 10, 2011: Nasrullah Afridi, The News, Peshawar
- June 13, 2011: Asfandyar Khan, Daily Akhbar-e-Khyber, Peshawar
- August 16, 2011: Saifullah Wazir, The News, Peshawar

### 2012

- February 22, 2012: Mustafa Kamal, Swabi Times, Shewa
- January 17, 2012: Mukarram Khan Atif, Deewa Radio, Voice of America and Dunya TV



**2013**

- October 11, 2013: Ayub Khattak, Urdu Daily, Karak
- April 29, 2013: Arif Shafi, Pajhwok Afghan News, Peshawar
- April 16, 2013: Aslam Durrani, Daily Pakistan, Peshawar
- February 27, 2013: Malik Mumtaz, The News, Jang and Geo TV, Miranshah, North Waziristan

**2014**

- August 29, 2014: Ihsan Ali, Mashriq, Mardan
- Monday, March 3, 2014: Ibrar Tanoli, Reuters, Daily Mahasib and Daily Shumaal, Mansehra

**2015**

- November 22, 2015: Hafeez Ur Rehman, Neo TV, Kohat
- November 3, 2015: Zaman Mehsud, Daily Ummat and SANA news agency, Tank

**2016**

- January 19, 2016: Mehboob Shah Afridi, Aaj TV and President Khyber Union of Journalists, Jamrud
- January 16, 2016: Muhammad Omar, local newspaper, D. I. Khan

**2017**

- June 12, 2017: Baksheesh Elahi, K2 Times, Haripur
- October 12, 2017: Haroon Khan, Sach TV, and Mashriq TV



# ANNEXURE 5

## Questionnaire

- Question 1:** Why do you think journalists need an extensive support mechanism?
- Question 2:** Why are journalists in smaller districts of KP and FATA not recognized as journalists by press clubs, unions, and their organizations?
- Question 3:** What is the financial state of journalists in KP and FATA?
- Question 4:** Did your news organization(s) help you or your family when you had to leave your hometown because of threats/military operations?
- Question 5:** Did the news organization(s) your husband/brother worked for lend financial help after he was killed?
- Question 6:** Did the press clubs and journalist unions lend any help to you after you got displaced?
- Question 7:** Did the press clubs or the journalist unions help your family after your husband/brother was killed?
- Question 8:** Did the government provide compensation to your family after your husband/brother was killed?
- Question 9:** Did the media bodies/NGOs highlight your financial problems?
- Question 10:** Did your relatives or friends help you?
- Question 11:** Why do you think journalists in conflict zones risk their lives?
- Question 12:** Do you think journalists in KP and FATA face psychological problems having covered the conflict?
- Question 13:** Is it hard to seek assistance from the government, press clubs, and the unions? Is the assistance, if ever provided, enough?
- Question 14:** Do you think the services of journalists reporting out of hard areas have been properly acknowledged or recognized?
- Question 15:** Has any assistance-provider ever approached you directly? (For widows/wives of displaced journalists)
- Question 16:** Have you ever allowed any assistance-provider(s) approach the widow of the slain journalist? (For male family members of slain journalists)
- Question 17:** What psychological trauma you had to go through after the death of your spouse?  
(For widows/wives of displaced journalists)
- Question 18:** How did you cope financially?  
(For widows/wives of displaced journalists)
- Questions 19:** What do you think about the proposed Journalist Welfare and Protection Bill, 2016?
- Question 20:** Was any financial assistance ever provided to you/your family. If so, who extended that help?





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