



Kulsoom Malala Maiwand

Journalist and Women's Rights Activist

Date of Birth: 1994, Jalalabad

Date of Assassination: November 30, 2020

Place of Assassination: Jalalabad

Person/Group Responsible for Assassination: ISIS Group

Life and Education

Kulsoom Malala Maiwand was born in the village of Sardar Khil, Pachiragam district, Nangarhar province. According to BBC Persian, Malala was born in 1994 during the peak of the Afghan civil war and was displaced to Pakistan with her family. Along with nearly one and a half million Afghan citizens, her family sought refuge in the tribal areas of Pakistan. In 2004, three years after the fall of the Taliban, they returned to Nangarhar. There, Malala completed her schooling and entered university. She was on track to receive her bachelor's degree in management and policy the following year. Her father has mentioned that she had big dreams for the future, but terrorists did not give her the opportunity to complete her education.

Activities

The initiatives of Belqis Mazlumyar, Malala's mother, who led a women's and migrants' association, inspired young Malala to pursue similar work. Following the tragic assassination of her mother—who, according to her family, became a target due to her activism—Malala continued her mother's legacy with dedication. She not only taught literacy courses organized by her mother's association but also actively engaged in advocacy for women who were victims of domestic violence.

Malala was particularly committed to promoting girls' education in an environment where, due to low literacy rates and limited awareness among families, such education was not readily accessible. According to her brother, Malala was also involved in social and cultural activities at her school during her studies.

Later, Malala embarked on a career in television. Her family noted that in their conservative community, where women's work and public visibility were not widely accepted, Malala's television career, which increased her public profile, brought about significant challenges and threats. Nevertheless, Malala broke the societal taboo of women remaining behind the scenes, steadfastly refusing to retreat from her chosen path.

Malala was the first woman to appear on television in eastern Afghanistan. Since 2017, she had served as a journalist and representative for the Center for the Protection of Afghan Women Journalists in Nangarhar, where she actively participated in the center's educational programs.

Challenges During Her Activism

Malala's brother recalls the warning letters from national security that reminded Malala of the threats against her life and the possibility of being killed. He mentions that Malala also received calls from unknown numbers, warning her not to work and engage in activism for women. These threats forced Malala's family to change their place of residence. Nevertheless, Malala did not waver in her firm decision to fight for women's and people's rights. She had stated that even dying for this cause was an honor to her.

Awards and Honors

During her activism, Malala Yousafzai received numerous commendatory letters. She was also honored with several awards, including the Champions Prize she received in 2018.

Memories and Quotes

According to Shafaqna website

(<https://af.shafaqna.com/FA/421685>), in one of her last posts, Malala wrote about a newborn girl who was recently abandoned by her father in a hospital: "It is very regrettable that in the 21st century, many Pashtuns still think and act in a way that reflects the era of ignorance before Islam." These lines, part of Malala's reaction to this issue, were widely shared on social media by numerous users after her assassination.

Photos and Notes



Certificate of Appreciation awarded to Malala Maiwand by the President for her

A note from Ms. Maiwand along with a photo with her brother, shared on X



Aspirations and Goals

Malala's most profound aspiration was to witness peace in Afghanistan, a dream that remained unfulfilled during her lifetime. In an article on Radio Azadi's website regarding Malala Maiwand's assassination, her sister Fatima Hilal is quoted saying: "Her greatest wish was for peace and security to prevail in Afghanistan, for lawlessness to be eliminated, and for the oppressed to be relieved from tyranny. She dreamed that her siblings would be able to pursue education, progress in their lives, attend university, and achieve master's degrees."

Reactions to the Assassination

The news of Kulsoom Malala Maiwand's assassination was disseminated across several television and radio networks and various news websites, some of which are accessible through the links below. This activist's tragic death prompted strong reactions from the government of the time. According to Radio Azadi, the Presidency condemned the assassination of Kulsoom Malala Maiwand, branding attacks on journalists as inhumane and unforgivable crimes. Additionally, Nai, a supporter of Afghanistan's free media, issued a statement condemning the killing of this women's rights activist. According to Jomhor News Agency, Nai's statement stated: "With the death of Malala, our belief is that journalists, especially female journalists, will no longer be prepared to approach their work with the same courage, something which the enemies of the awareness of the Afghan people have sought for a long time."

Links

Here are some of the links to the news about the assassination of Kulsoom Malala Maiwand:

1. [BBC Persian](#)
2. [Jomhor News Agency](#)
3. [Salam Watandar](#)
4. [Deutsche Welle \(DW\)](#)

Case Status

Malala's brother recalls an initial announcement that national security had arrested the killers. However, he dismisses this as a superficial claim, calling it false. He notes that while the government provided support in other areas, no concrete action was taken to apprehend the perpetrators. Consequently, the investigation into Malala's assassination stalled, with no subsequent efforts to pursue justice.