



## **M. Yousuf Rasheed**

Head of FEFA

Date of Birth: 1974

Date of Assassination: December 23, 2020

Place of Assassination: Kabul

Person/Group Responsible for Assassination: Unknown

# Life and Education

According to Hasht-e Subh Daily, Mohammad Yousuf Rasheed, a co-founder of FEFA (Free and Fair Election Forum of Afghanistan) and a representative of civil society organizations in Afghanistan, was assassinated at the age of 45. Born in the Kalangar area of Pul-e Alam, Logar Province, Mr. Rasheed completed his secondary education at Habibia High School and earned his bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Law and Political Science at Kabul University. He had considerable experience in research, program management, and capacity building. Additionally, he is survived by three daughters and two sons.

# Activities

Hasht-e Subh reports that in 2003, Mr. Rasheed worked as a senior researcher during the drafting of Afghanistan's constitution. In 2004, he, along with other civil society activists, founded FEFA. He led the programs and training department until 2008. After leaving FEFA, he joined the National Democratic Institute (NDI), where he held senior managerial roles for over five years, including four years as the head of electoral programs. In 2014, Mr. Rasheed rejoined FEFA as the Executive Director and remained in this role until he was assassinated. Since 2016, he also served as a representative of Afghan civil society organizations on the Selection Committee for Electoral Commissions.

# Challenges During His Activism

According to Abdul Baqi Rasheed, Mohammad Yousuf Rasheed's brother, he never received direct threats. However, given the sensitive security situation in the country, his family consistently advised him to be cautious. Despite these concerns, Mr. Rasheed maintained his neutrality and believed he was not in danger. He did not have a bodyguard and often traveled alone. His brother noted that facing challenges is common for those fighting for a cause. As the head of a significant electoral organization, Mr. Rasheed occasionally dealt with expectations from candidates but always responded with logic and legality, upholding his impartiality.

# Awards and Honors

Throughout his career, Mohammad Yousuf Rasheed received numerous awards and certificates of appreciation from various national and international organizations. The Election Commission, UNAMA, the Afghan Parliament, the Deputy Ministry of Youth Affairs within the Ministry of Information and Culture, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, and many others recognized and honored Mr. Rasheed for his significant contributions.

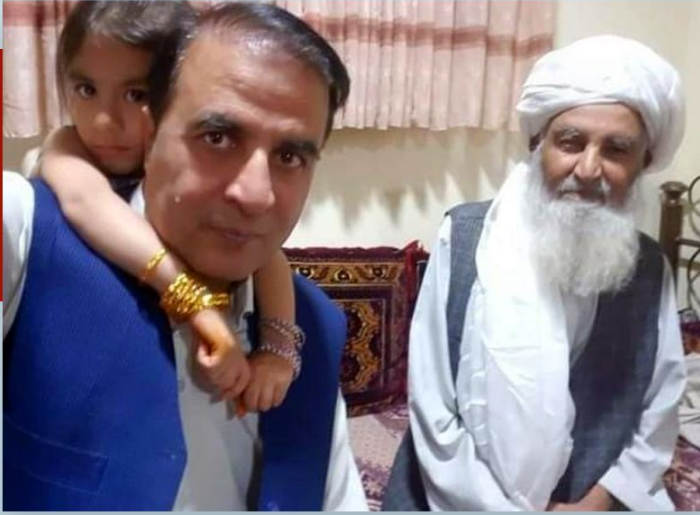


Mr. Rasheed receiving a certificate of appreciation from the Deputy Speaker of the Afghan Senate

# Memories and Quotes

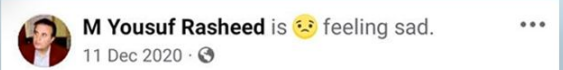
In one of his Facebook posts, Mr. Rasheed wrote: "We have yet to start a genuine movement towards growth. We have only learned how to present ourselves with ostentatious acts and hypocrisy. This is why the crisis persists."

# Photos and Notes

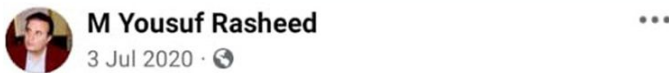


Mr. Rasheed, his father and his daughter

One of Mr. Rasheed's posts on Facebook



خداوند روح تمام شهدا و مردگان ما را شاد و بهشت برین را نصیب شان گرداند. هر روز این کشور با خبر غم و اندوه دوستان و عزیزان ما همراه است. شهادت دیروز ملالی میوند، درگذشت استاد زریاب و شهادت فردین امینی و هزاران شهید و درگذشتگان ما. خداوند همه رفتگان ما را ببخشد. انا لله و انا الیه راجعون



جمعه دوستانم بخیر  
بیایید امروز هر کدام ما یک کار خیر را رویش فکر کنیم و انجام دهیم. اگر این پیام را یک هزار دوستانم مشاهده کند و هر کدام یک کار خیری را امروز انجام دهد، مهم نیست که خورد یا بزرگ باشد، پس امروز ما یک تحول را آغازگر میشویم و دنیا و آخرت خود را آراسته به نیکی ها میسازیم.  
خودم پلان دارم با فقیری کمک کنم

Another post by Mr. Rasheed on Facebook

# Aspirations and Goals

According to his family, Mr. Rasheed was deeply concerned about Afghanistan's future. He envisioned a just society where everyone had access to their social and political rights and aspired to create a progressive country with law-abiding citizens and a democratic government. Through his work, he strived to implement the law, shared his proposals with the government and parliament, and worked to raise public awareness through media, conferences, and programs in both urban and rural areas.



# Reactions to the Assassination

Mr. Rasheed's brother recounts that on the day of the incident, shortly after having breakfast with him and heading to work, he received a call informing him of an attack on Mr. Rasheed's vehicle. He describes: "The distress from this incident was so overwhelming that I lost my way to the emergency hospital. Initially, I was informed that he had been injured, but unfortunately, he did not survive his injuries. It was an extremely dark day for us, and the family faced immense pressure." Abdul Baqi Rasheed adds that their father, who was deeply attached to his brother and devastated by grief, passed away five months after the assassination.

# Links

Here are some of the links to the news about the assassination of Mohammad Yousuf Rasheed:

1. <https://www.bbc.com/persian/afghanistan-55421628>
2. <https://8am.media/fa/yusuf-rashid-fifa-chief-executive-was-assassinated-in-kabul/>
3. <https://swn.af/yusuf-rashid-was-assassinated/>
4. <https://www.jomhornews.com/fa/news/134685/>
5. <https://p.dw.com/p/3niXN>

# Case Status

According to Abdul Baqi Rasheed, the family has not discovered who was responsible for the assassination. Despite seeking answers from relevant authorities, they received no satisfactory responses. The family had no known personal enemies, and the Taliban denied involvement in the incident.