



Nematullah Rawan

Journalist and Press Officer, Ministry of Finance

Date of Birth: 1981

Date of Assassination: May 6, 2021

Place of Assassination: Kandahar Province

Person/Group Responsible for Assassination: Unknown Group

Life and Education

Nematullah Rawan, originally from Shahjoy district in Zabul province, was born in 1981. He was actively involved in civil society activities for many years, frequently engaging with the youth of Zabul and Kandahar in various programs. Due to his deep interest in journalism and a desire to shed light on the situation in Kandahar, he pursued a career in this field. Rawan had traveled to Kandahar city to obtain his educational documents when he was assassinated by unknown assailants in the city's 14th district. He was 28 years old at the time he was assassinated. He is survived by one child.

Activities

Rawan worked for four years as a presenter and journalist at Tolo, Tolo News, and Lemar TV. Shortly before his assassination, he was appointed as the Press Officer for the Ministry of Finance. He was deeply involved in civil society activities at both local and national levels. He also participated in numerous conferences, seminars, and programs focused on human rights and civil issues.

Awards and Honors

Despite being well-known among journalist support organizations, Rawan received limited support due to his young age. However, according to his close friends, he aspired to advance in his profession to the point where he could award numerous medals and prizes to the unsung journalists of the southern region, known as a stronghold of the Taliban.

Aspirations and Goals

One of Rawan's colleagues mentioned that his major goal was to establish an organization dedicated to supporting journalists and civil activists. Another goal was to document cases of violence and assassinations in the southern region, where many victims were from. Unfortunately, many of these cases, including assassinations, were not reported in the media for various reasons. Rawan also aspired to create opportunities for female journalists, focusing on their empowerment and capacity-building.

Reactions to the Assassination

According to Pajhwok News Agency, Ashraf Ghani condemned the assassination of Nematullah Rawan in a statement issued by the Presidential Press Office. In response to the assassination, Free Speech Hub referred to a warning tweet by the Taliban one day before the incident, in which the group threatened Afghanistan's media community. Etilaatroz newspaper, citing a statement from Nai, Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan, reported: "Mr. Rawan's killing occurred at a time when several journalists in Kandahar had received warnings from security agencies about serious threats from terrorist groups".

Links

Here are some of the links to the news about the assassination of Nematullah Rawan:

1. BBC News Report

<https://www.bbc.com/persian/afghanistan-57002571>

2. Tolo News Report

<https://tolonews.com/fa/farakhabar-171982>

3. Pajhwok News Agency Report

<https://pajhwok.com/fa/06/05/2021/president-the-perpetrators-of-nematullah-ravans-murder-should-be-identified-and-punished/>

4. Etilaat Roz Newspaper Report

<https://www.etilaatroz.com/123548/media-sponsors-called-for-an-investigation-into-nematullah-ravans-assassination/>

Case Status

The perpetrators behind Nematullah Rawan's assassination have not been identified. However, according to the BBC, a day before the assassination, the Taliban issued a statement accusing Afghan journalists and media workers of becoming "tools of government propaganda" warning that they would face consequences if they continued this work. Despite this, the Taliban denied involvement in the assassination and did not claim responsibility for the act.