



Zakera

Women's Rights Activist

Date of Birth: 1977

Date of Assassination: May 3, 2010

Place of Assassination: Qalat city, Zabul province

Person/Group Responsible for Assassination: Taliban

Life and Education

Zakira, originally from Baghlan province, moved to Zabul in 2008. She was an activist for women's right to education and had made significant contributions in this field. Zakira completed her high school education in Kabul and, ten years later, began studying Pashto literature at the Sayed Jamaluddin Afghan Teacher Training College, where she earned her degree. According to the 8am newspaper, on May 3, 2010, Zakira was beheaded by unknown individuals in the "Kharwarian" area of Qalat city, and her body was found by the police the next morning beside the road.

Activities

Zakira was an enlightened woman who fought for women's right to education. According to Basira, a former employee of the Zabul Directorate of Women's Affairs, Zakira even had to struggle with her husband and sons to send her daughter Zakiya to school. Zakiya, Zakira's daughter, says her mother solely worked for the education of women. She established 33 literacy courses for women and actively participated in educational awareness programs. Her last job was with the Independent Election Commission, where she worked in the voter registration card distribution department as a public awareness employee in Zabul.

Challenges During Her Activism

The Zabul provincial police command reported that Zakira had been repeatedly threatened by the Taliban. However, Zakiya, her daughter, claims that Zakira's husband and son-in-law (Zakiya's fiancé), who had joined the Taliban in Zabul, were involved in her murder. The motive, according to Zakiya, was their opposition to Zakira's work. They had repeatedly told her to stop working outside, but Zakira continued her work despite their objections. Additionally, a staff member of the Directorate of Women's Affairs mentioned that Zakira was once beaten by a village elder during an awareness program in the Shahr-e-Safa district of Zabul, but this incident was not covered by the media.

Awards and Honors

According to the Zabul Directorate of Women's Affairs, Zakira was never recognized or encouraged by any organization. Nevertheless, she continued her programs with very limited resources and under challenging circumstances.

Aspirations and Goals

Zakiya, Zakira's daughter, says her mother's only goal was to provide educational opportunities for the women of her country, whether through various in-person classes such as literacy courses, schools, or universities, or through distance learning.

Links

Here are some of the links to the news about the assassination of Zakera:

1. <https://8am.media/fa/%db%8c%da%a9-%d8%b2%d9%86-%d8%af%d8%b1-%d8%b2%d8%a7%d8%a8%d9%84-%d8%b3%d8%b1-%d8%a8%d8%b1%db%8c%d8%af%d9%87-%d8%b4%d8%af/>

Case Status

The case did not reach a conclusion. Although the Zabul police command claimed to have arrested one person in connection with the incident, Zakira's daughter states that her father and fiancé, who were involved in her mother's murder, managed to escape to Iran. The case was closed and remains unresolved.