



Ahmad Sardar

Journalist

Date of Birth: 1974

Date of Death: 2014

Place of Death: Kabul

Perpetrator: The Taliban

Life and Education

According to a report by Ariana News, Ahmad Sardar was born in 1974 in Kabul. He completed his high school education at Abdul Ghaffar Khan High School in 1992 and then pursued journalism at Kabul University. In 2003, he began his professional career with Agence France-Presse (AFP News Agency). Ahmad was a devoted husband and father, with two sons and a daughter. On the night of Nawroz (the first night of the Persian New Year corresponds to March 20, 2014), he and his family went to Kabul Serena Hotel to celebrate the New Year when Taliban gunmen attacked. Ahmad, his wife, six-year-old daughter Nilofar, and five-year-old son Omar were tragically killed. His two-year-old son, Abuzar, survived but was injured in the attack.

Activities

The Independent website, in a report about the murder of Ahmad Sardar, stated: “Ahmad became a journalist in 2001 following the fall of the Taliban regime, when he started work as a translator for Japanese journalists. Two years later the AFP news agency hired him to cover daily press conferences in the US army base in Bagram. He duly perfected his English and his career as a reporter took off.” The report further notes: “Over the years Ahmad built up a series of strong sources among Afghanistan's complex, tumultuous political life from all sides of the conflict, reporting regularly for AFP as well as running Pressistan, an agency which helped foreign journalists find their feet in Afghanistan. But apart from his versatility and widely respected political journalism, Sardar Ahmed had a striking ability also to find original 'human interest' stories which had little or nothing to do with the conflict, and which allowed him to portray life in Afghanistan beyond the violence.”

Memories and Quotes

Ben Sheppard, a senior AFP journalist, fondly remembered Ahmad in *The Independent*, saying: "Afghan politicians and officials, army generals, Nato spokesmen, US embassy staff, aid workers, balloon sellers – no one was immune to the Sardar magic." He added that Ahmad was a beloved colleague among foreign AFP reporters because he often went above and beyond, securing crucial quotes and organizing key interviews at critical moments.

Alchetron also cites Ahmad reflecting on the difficult aspects of journalism in Afghanistan: "I don't think the experiences of a journalist in a country like Afghanistan and a city like Kabul are that pleasant. For example, suicide attacks: we have to go to the scene and look at something very tragic, we have no choice."

Photos / Notes

Ahmad Sardar's Facebook post about his daughter's question regarding the Taliban.



Ahmad Sardar

16 July 2013 · 🌐



My girl, five-year-old Nursery student Nelofar: Baba (father), do the Taliban kill animals as well?

Me: No!

Nelofar: I wish we were animals...

Aspirations and Goals

Ahmad's brother is quoted by *Ariana News*, explaining that Ahmad's greatest wish was for the people of Afghanistan to live in peace and safety. Throughout his career, Ahmad strived to present a more nuanced and human image of Afghanistan, focusing not just on conflict but on the everyday lives of its citizens.

Reactions to the Incident

The death of Ahmad and his family sparked a wave of anger and sorrow among his friends in local media. In a joint statement on Facebook, these individuals announced a boycott of interviews with the Taliban for fifteen days. According to the Jomhornews, the Afghan Senate also condemned this incident and called for the identification of those responsible.

On the other hand, according to the Bakhtar News Agency, Ahmad's colleagues created a webpage in his honor, recognizing his services and his professional and purposeful work, with the aim of helping his only surviving child so that they can build a new life alongside their father's family members in Canada in the future.

Links

1. Ariana news Report

<https://www.ariananews.af/fa/%D9%BE%DB%8C%DA%A9%D8%B1%D8%B3%D8%B1%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AD%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%B1%D9%86%DA%AF%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%BA%D8%A7%D9%86-%D8%A8%D8%A7-%D8%B3%D9%87-%D8%B9%D8%B6%D9%88/>

2. The Independent Report

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/obituaries/sardar-ahmad-the-journalist-who-was-murdered-by-the-taliban-9242398.html>

3. Alchetron Report

<https://alchetron.com/Ahmad-Sardar>

4. Jomhor News Report

<https://www.jomhornews.com/fa/news/47773/>

Case Status

According to the AFP News Agency, the attackers were killed in a clash with security forces; however, like many other incidents, no serious follow-up was conducted regarding this matter, and justice was not served.