



Fatima (Natasha) Khalil

Staff Member of the Independent Human Rights Commission

Date of Birth: June 14, 1996

Date of Assassination: June 27, 2020

Place of Assassination: Kabul

Person/Group Responsible for Assassination: Unknown

Life and Education

She was born into an intellectual family, where all the members, especially her mother, continuously supported and encouraged her. The only known detail about her education is that she had recently graduated from the American University of Central Asia in Kyrgyzstan and was fluent in six languages. Ms. Khalil and the driver of the vehicle carrying her were assassinated on the morning of the 27th of June 2020 while on their way to work due to a bomb explosion planted in their car.

Activities

Fatima Natasha Khalil worked as an employee at the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). Additionally, according to her former colleagues:

- She was actively engaged in women's rights advocacy and worked to improve the conditions of women in Afghanistan, particularly addressing issues related to education, health, and safety.
- Khalil participated in various social and educational projects aimed at raising awareness and improving the living conditions of women and girls in Afghanistan.
- She strived to raise public awareness on human rights issues and challenge human rights violations.

Challenges During Her Activism

According to one of her close colleagues, Khalil did not receive any direct threats during her time of service. However, it later became apparent that the individuals who planted the bomb had been monitoring her for a while. One of her friends mentioned that she had received a message containing such content: "In a few days, when you go to work, we will have a gift for you." Additionally, her friend stated that she once received a phone call that indirectly threatened her with death.

Memories and Quotes

Richard Bennett, the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, who was serving as an advisor to the Independent Human Rights Commission at that time, remarked in an interview with the BBC one week after Ms. Khalil's assassination: "24-year-old Fatima Khalil joined the Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan in September of last year after graduating from the American University of Central Asia in Bishkek. She excelled in her work, which led Shahrzad Akbar, the chair of the Commission, to assign her additional responsibilities, including collaboration with the commission I advised. Although she was the youngest and least experienced member of our group, she put in more effort than expected. Fatima, like many other educated young Afghan women, possessed a curious mind and was wholly committed to her profession."

Memories and Quotes

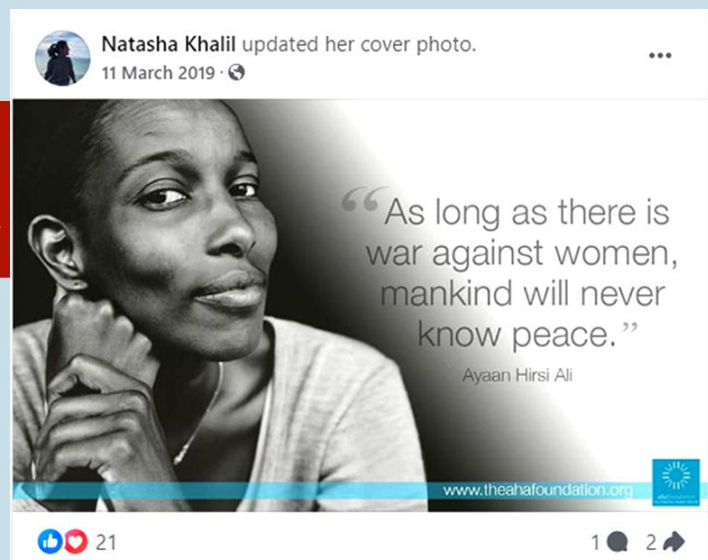
Additionally, one of Ms. Khalil's colleagues recalls that the last time they spoke, she expressed her intention to discuss how she could implement broader plans and activities to address human rights violations after arriving at work. According to this colleague, Ms. Khalil carried a notebook in which she wrote about her ideas and plans. On the day of the incident, she had this notebook with her, but after the attack, her belongings were never recovered.

Photos / Notes

A note from Ms. Khalil's Facebook page regarding a terrorist attack in Kabul



A statement by Ayaan Hirsi Ali that Ms. Khalil had shared on her Facebook



Aspirations and Goals

Her greatest ambition was to achieve significant accomplishments in the field of human rights in Afghanistan and to make a mark at the international level.

Aspirations and Goals

The BBC reported: “The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Amnesty International, the British Ambassador, the Chargé d'Affaires of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, and several foreign diplomatic missions in Kabul have condemned this attack, asserting that there is no justification for targeting human rights defenders. They have called for an immediate investigation into the incident.”

Furthermore, the Kabul police investigated the matter, and AIHRC continuously urged security authorities to find those responsible for the murder of their staff. Memorial programs were held in their honor before the Taliban's rise to power.

Links

Here are some of the links to the news about the assassination of Fatima (Natasha) Khalil:

1. BBC News Report

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=10159167591022713>

2. The link to the BBC interview with Richard Bennett

<https://www.bbc.com/persian/afghanistan-53298339>

3. Didpress News Report

<https://didpress.com/%DA%A9%D9%85%DB%8C%D8%B3%DB%8C%D9%88%D9%86-%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%88%D9%82-%D8%A8%D8%B4%D8%B1-%D8%AE%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D8%B4%DA%A9%DB%8C%D9%84-%D9%87%DB%8C%D8%A6%D8%AA-%D8%AD%D9%82/>

4. Nimrokh Media Report

<https://nimrokhmedia.com/human-rights-commission-the-institutions-responsible-for-the-murder-of-fatemeh-khalil-have-not-given-a-satisfactory-answer/>

Case Status

The case of Ms. Khalil ultimately remained unresolved.