



Mohammad Ibrahim Ebrat

Journalist and Civil Activist

Date of Birth: May 12, 1994

Date of Assassination: May 28, 2020

Place of Assassination: Zabul Province

Person/Group Responsible for Assassination Unknown

Life and Education

Mohammad Ibrahim Ebrat was born in Zabul province, Afghanistan. He completed his education at Shaikh Mati Baba High School in Qalat, Zabul, and later obtained his degree from Dar al-Muallimin (a teacher training institution). However, driven by his passion for journalism, he pursued multiple journalism courses, both short- and long-term, and gained practical experience working at several local radio stations in Zabul.

Activities

Ebrat started his professional career with the local radio station *Qalat Zhagh* and continued his work with other Zabul-based media outlets. His work centered around encouraging the youth and particularly women to engage in media and cultural activities. Recognizing the growing needs of Zabul's community, he expanded his efforts into civil and human rights activism.

Ebrat founded the civil society organization *Rana* in Zabul, aimed at empowering youth and women. Through *Rana*, he conducted educational workshops, awareness campaigns, and charitable activities, including humanitarian aid distribution to underprivileged families. His activism was driven by a desire to challenge Zabul's harsh socio-political landscape, where threats not only came from the Taliban but also from local warlords and religious extremists who were hostile toward human rights defenders.

Challenges During His Activism

Ebrat's activism came with substantial risks. According to his family, he regularly faced death threats from the Taliban and other powerful figures. His challenges included:

- Threats from local warlords.
- Receiving anonymous death threats through "night letters" and phone calls.
- Direct personal threats from unknown individuals, who his family believes later orchestrated his assassination.

Despite his family's pleas for him to halt his activism, Ebrat refused to back down. Tragically, in 2020, a group of unidentified individuals, suspected to have Taliban ties, attacked him. After spending days in the hospital, he succumbed to his injuries.

Awards and Honors

Ebrat's work earned him multiple commendations, both from the Zabul provincial government, specifically its Department of Information and Culture, and from various civil society organizations.

Memories and Quotes

One of Ebrat's close friends recalls a conversation in which he advised him against founding the *Rana* organization, citing the financial and time commitment it would require. Ebrat responded:

"It's thoughts like these that keep us from helping each other. What will future generations expect from us? What if my own children one day say, 'You knew, yet you didn't fight for our rights?' I'm starting this, and I invite you and others to join me."

Ebrat's last words to this friend were prophetic:
" Don't worry. If any human rights activist is killed in Zabul, I'll be the first."

Following Ebrat's assassination, the same friend joined the *Rana* organization in his honor.

Aspirations and Goals

Ebrat had ambitious goals for the *Rana* organization, hoping to expand its reach to other provinces such as Kandahar, Uruzgan, Helmand, and Nimroz. He also dreamed of helping Afghan women and youth gain awareness of their rights and freedoms. One of his long-term goals was to create a national campaign advocating for civil rights and greater civic participation. Additionally, Ebrat envisioned Zabul—one of the most dangerous provinces at the time—becoming a place where civil society and human rights activities could flourish, and where women would play a more active role in shaping society.

Reactions to the Assassination

Ebrat's assassination sparked strong reactions both locally and nationally. Zabul's provincial leaders condemned the attack in interviews, and Afghanistan's Ministry of Information and Culture issued a public statement through *Bakhtar News Agency* acknowledging Ibrat's contributions:

"Mohammad Ibrahim Ebrat was not only a recognized civil activist in Zabul but also nationally. He opposed war and corruption, advocating for peace, reconciliation, and the country's advancement."

His assassination also prompted civil society groups to organize protests, demanding justice for him.

Links

Here are some of the links to the news about the assassination of Mohammad Ibrahim Ebrat:

1. Bakhter News Report

<https://www.bakhtarnews.af/?p=476956>

2. VOA Report on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/voapashto/posts/-د-محمد-ابراهيم-عبرت-يه-نوم-د-زابل-ولايت-يو-ييزندل-شوي-مدني-فعال-چي-تر-اختر-مخکي-3385189204845220//>

3. ZAWIA News Report on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/permalink.php/?story_fbid=177731007018231&id=106958204095512

Case Status

The identity of Ebrat's assassins remains unknown, and his case was officially closed after the Taliban's return to power.