



## **Shirzad Safi**

Civil Activist

Date of Birth: 1985

Date of Assassination: April 13, 2019

Place of Assassination: Laghman

Person/Group Responsible for Assassination: Taliban

# Life and Education

Shirzad Safi was born in 1985 in the village of Sabraabad, Alisheng district of Laghman province. He held a bachelor's degree in economics and was fluent in English, Arabic, and Urdu.

# Activities

In 2009, Safi founded the Laghman Youth Solidarity Organization, which united young people not only in the provincial center but also in the districts and villages of Laghman. Besides his civil society efforts, he was elected as the President of the Laghman Youth Federation by two hundred youth representatives, and he also served as a member of the High Peace Council. His main activities included introducing civil society initiatives to the youth of Laghman, facilitating education for hundreds of orphans and the impoverished, raising awareness among the province's young population, and combating corruption and warlords through his writings.

# Challenges During His Activism

Shirzad Safi faced many threats from the Taliban due to his efforts to raise awareness among the youth and fight injustice in society. Additionally, he encountered significant opposition from influential figures and jihadist commanders involved in corruption. Some of these individuals even came to his office to intimidate and threaten him, and eventually, in one such confrontation, Safi was murdered by them.

# Awards and Honors

Shirzad Safi was recognized by the Afghan Senate, the Parliament, and the youth and elders of Laghman for his contributions.



# Memories and Quotes

Among friends and close acquaintances, what stands out most about Safi is his constant concern for public awareness and his dedication to helping orphans and those in need.

One of his well-known quotes is:

"Whatever political or organizational path they follow, the people of Afghanistan must remain committed to civility, humanity, and their homeland."

# Aspirations and Goals

According to one of Safi's friends, one of his primary goals was to serve the people and society, which is why he ran for Parliament, though unfortunately, he was not elected. Another of Safi's goals—one he had partially achieved—was the cohesion of the youth. He believed that young people should live in an informed society and be aware of their rights.

# Reactions to the Assassination

Hundreds of civil and political activists, along with various media outlets, reacted to Shirzad Safi's assassination, calling it a great loss for Afghan society. Facebook users shared memories of him on their profiles, while many criticized Laghman's security officials for failing to protect the people.



# Links

**1. Ariananews Report:**

<https://ariananews.co/ps/?p=8652>

**2. Nunn.asia Report**

<https://www.nunn.asia/142931>

# Case Status

The Taliban claimed responsibility for Shirzad Safi's assassination. However, as with many other cases, there was no investigation or pursuit of justice regarding this incident.