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SNAPSHOT

Learning the Ropes, and Dodging Rocks

**Internews TV intern
garners high-profile
praise for report from
within violent protest**



After interning with Kabul's 1TV, Emad Rostaye was hired to be a full-time reporter.

"I am very confident that [Rostaye] can become one of the best news reporters in the country." –Mukhtar Soar, 1TV

Around him, the crowd was rapidly turning violent: men were smashing the windshields of cars, beating one another bloody, and throwing stones at the police. By the time the clash subsided, 12 people had been killed. And there was Rostaye, just two months into his television career, capturing it all on film.

On January 31, mounting tensions in Kabul around the French satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* took a turn for the worse when gunshots rang out during a protest against the French Embassy. As is so often the case in such chaotic situations, misinformation and rumors abounded: some in the crowd claimed the police had fired the first shots; police officials insisted they were fired upon first.

At the heart of the protest stood Rostaye, a young intern with Afghanistan's 1TV news outlet. The 25-year-old reporter was there as one of 19 participants in Internews' Young Journalist Internship Program. With little to protect him from the stones being hurled at the police, Rostaye ran with his camera into the crowd. What he found and ultimately reported on national television was that the demonstration was not the peaceful protest members of the crowd claimed, and that the police had followed all protocols. Rostaye emerged from the demonstration unharmed, and with a report that would set the story straight for local authorities and the public.

Although Rostaye's experience was harrowing, the thrill of covering an event that made international headlines was exhilarating. His good work did not go unnoticed: France's Ambassador to Afghanistan thanked Rostaye for braving a dangerous situation to bring the truth to light, and Rostaye's supervisor told Internews that Rostaye is "one of the most talented news reporters that [1TV has] ever had."

Much to Rostaye's delight, upon his completion of his internship, he was hired as a full-time reporter for 1TV, where he has since produced reports on politics, security, and criminal justice.

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