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Nai Recognizes Outstanding Afghan Journalists | May 2014



Left: Ariana TV's Frahnaz Frotan is named Best Female Reporter. **Right:** The recipients of the 2014 Nai Awards.

On May 4, 2014, Nai, with support of the USAID-funded *Afghan Civic Engagement Project*, celebrated World Press Freedom Day by recognizing Afghanistan's most exceptional journalists. At a ceremony attended by more than 100 journalists, civil society members, government officials, and members of Parliament, Nai presented awards to the following seven journalists, selected by a jury from a pool of 60 nominees:

- **Reporting:** Wali Aryan, "How Can Afghanistan's Special Forces Defeat the Taliban?" (1 TV)
- **Investigative journalism:** Mir Ali Asghar Akbarzada "Finance Ministry Loses 12 Million Dollars" (MBN TV)
- **Political reporting:** Ajmal Alamzai, *Hot News* program (Shamshad TV)
- **Features reporting:** "Ayub Arwin, "Ethnicity and the Political Power Structure in Afghanistan" (BBC)
- **Television presentation:** Tamana Jahish, *Women and Society* program (Khorshid TV)
- **Female reporting:** Frahnaz Frotan, "The National Security Detention Center" (Ariana TV)
- **Photojournalism:** Baess Ysufi, photo series on child labor and abuses (PAN)

The outstanding work carried out by these journalists speaks to the larger successes of the entire Afghan media sector. "The presence of such a huge number of media institutions, hundreds of journalists, tens of educational classes, relevant legislation, and the active performance of the media are the biggest achievements during last 13 years in Afghanistan," said Nai Executive Director Abdul Mujeeb Khalvatgar.

Indeed, the April presidential elections placed Afghanistan's media sector in the global spotlight, as many attributed the high turnout rate to the high-quality reporting in the weeks leading up to the vote. Nonetheless, with 78 recorded cases of violence against journalists in the past year, much work remains to be done to ensure the safety of media professionals and protect the freedom of expression. Khalvatgar praised the journalists for devoting their lives to work under such severe conditions, and noted that World Press Freedom Day is a day to advocate for the safety of journalists in Afghanistan and around the world.

The Nai Awards were covered by dozens of national and international media outlets including Tolo TV, Ariana TV, Khorshid TV, *8am Daily*, and the [BBC](#).

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"I'm so glad I received Nai award. I have been hoping to receive this award since I started work in the media field. Now I will try my best to do more, since this award has made me stronger."

—Farahnaz Frotan, Ariana Television Network