

“Stop killing, arresting journalists,” activist

KABUL One of the country's popular private news outlets, Hush-e-Sabz (Sage), editorially blamed both the Taliban militant and the country's intelligence agencies for the doing wrong with the media and its clashes, intensified in many volatile parts of the country.

The independent paper wrote about the latest developments in the Spin Boldak district of south-east Kandahar province, where the country's National Directorate of Security (NDS) arrested four journalists for allegedly “propaganda” for the Taliban.

On the other, the Taliban group doesn't believe in the journalists' rights, as they pursued an effort to kill media activists, the clear example of which is the killing of Danish Siddiqui, a reporter working for the Reuters News Agency.

“The days ago, four local journalists were arrested by the government on the suspicion of propaganda for the enemy, in south-east Kandahar's Spin Boldak, where they have gone to cover the developments amid the Taliban militants' onslaught. The paper accused the country's Ministry of Interior as saying ‘On August 1, the Taliban detained 400 civilians

after occupying the district, and that 100 of them had been shot dead.” The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the Independent Human Rights Commission (IHRC) and the Amnesty Global Office (AGO) emphasized the need to address the claims.”

The paper added that Danish Siddiqui, a Reuters' reporter and photographer, was killed in a government-Taliban war in Spin Boldak district which has recently been recognized by the Taliban and that Nazim Mohammad, known as ‘Jawan Khasha’, had been taken under torture by the militants in the province.

Khasha was well-known politician and comedian who was taken out of his home and shot dead by the militants, the paper reported.

For the last two weeks or so, the private independent paper called in checking and said news in the province, where the Taliban, however claimed a self-responsibility for the comedian murder for installing the Islamic Emirate.

According to the paper, the journalists about the arrest of 400 civilians and the shooting of 100 of them have not been off-duty and the claim should definitely be investigated and followed up. Based

on a report from the Association of Free Journalists of Afghanistan, Buzdilla Wazirzade, Omidkhat, Mohd Obeidi and Samadiah Sayeed had gone to Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province, to investigate the Taliban's allegations of “genocide”, but were detained by the government of the National Directorate of Security (NDS) as they were back from the province.

The country's Interior Ministry has also said that the journalists were being investigated, something widened gap between the ministry and the Association of Free Journalists of Afghanistan, as the ministry said the journalists were detained on suspicion of “propaganda for the enemy”, while the association said the journalists had gone to investigate the genocide allegation in the district.

The difference in claims by the two sides has obscured the reasons for the arrests and the purpose and motivation for traveling to conflict-ridden areas. But, the newspaper said the killing and imprisonment of journalists in Kandahar indicates that the work of journalists and information across the country has now become more difficult compared to the past.

The paper went on to say the government should investigate the

simply on suspicion of “propaganda for the enemy”, while the Taliban did not believe in the principle of protecting the lives of journalists. The killing of Danish Siddiqui during the Taliban attack on the province is a clear example of their negligence on the media workers, as the group has already assassinated many journalists in the past during their suicide bombings.

“Society needs reliable, impartial and timely information from conflict-ridden areas. Society will not be satisfied with information from the government and the Taliban about alleged crimes on the battlefield.

So, the need of the society for accurate, reliable and impartial information needs to be protected by free and independent media,” the paper argued. It added that this was possible, when the parties to the war respect the integrity of journalists and the right of the people to access information. Free media and independent journalists and media workers are necessary for the sake of the society, it is wrong to expect that the media and journalists to take side in the conflict as the media and journalists are committed only to the principles of journalism, highly aimed at reflecting the truth. **Samullah**

More than 50000 families have been displaced due to war: MoRR



By: Sirwan Rahmatullah

The escalation of the war in the country has made it difficult for the citizens of Afghanistan. The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation (MoRR) says that this year more than 50,000 families have been displaced due to the battle between the Afghan security forces and Taliban across the country.

Statistics of MoRR show that more than 14,000 families have fled their homes due to the war and moved to safe areas in the last 15 days.

“Mohammad Izzat Babur, the deputy spokesman for the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation, said: ‘I said in June 1,000 families were displaced this year due to violence and relocated to government buildings.

He emphasized: ‘We are helping and we have been able to help seventy-two thousand families, which is more than 400,000 people, and in the last two weeks the displaced people have reached about 4,000 families.’

MoRR warns that the ongoing violence will increase the number of displaced people in the country, which will lead to a major humanitarian catastrophe in Afghanistan. Insecurity in Afghanistan has hampered the relief process. Also, according to humanitarian, most of the displaced were from Kandahar, Baghlan, Takhar, Jowzjaya, Helmand, Lagman, Paktia and Chaharm province.

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation has provided food and non-food humanitarian packages to displaced families and addressed their problems. Although a large number of families have fled their homes in

recent years due to the war, the problem has so much increased since the withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan.

The Taliban intensified their attacks and took control of some districts when foreign troops began withdrawing in May 2021. As the Taliban took control of some districts and the fighting intensified in different parts of Afghanistan, people migrated and left their homes.

The Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation said that since the beginning of March, more than 72,000 families have fled their homes and settled in refugee camps.

Babur added: ‘With the Taliban taking control of these areas, people have left their homes and taken refuge in government-controlled areas.’ According to him, in the last one month alone, 2,511

families have been displaced.

He emphasized that the total displacement was between 7,000 and 22,000 families.

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