

JournoAccess Pilot Project

Afghanistan Journalists' Support Organization (AJSO)

Project Overview

The JournoAccess pilot project seeks to rebuild relationships between Afghan journalists and Western media, from all over the world. This initiative aims to provide Western journalists with reliable, timely information from Afghan sources, enhancing the frequency and credibility of coverage on Afghanistan. By connecting Western media outlets with Afghan journalists, we hope to raise awareness of Afghanistan's ongoing challenges and restore attention to key issues impacting the region.

Objectives of the JournoAcess project as below:

1. **Preservation of Freedom of Expression and Access to Information:**
    - Facilitate the flow of reliable information from Afghanistan to the Western media.
    - Advocate for media rights and support Afghan journalists in challenging circumstances.
2. **Protection and Support for Afghan Journalists:**
    - Provide safe communication channels for Afghan journalists to share information.
    - Enhance the professional capacity of Afghan journalists by building strong international connections.
3. **International Collaboration:**
    - Strengthen relationships between Afghan and Western journalists to ensure sustained media focus on Afghanistan.
    - Work with legal and human rights bodies to protect journalists' rights.

Information Provided:

- **Sources:** Afghan journalists and informants residing in different provinces of Afghanistan will share verified, credible data on significant issues.
- **Process:** AJSO's established network ensures reliable sources. The project also includes rigorous digital security and safety protocols to protect Afghan journalists while sharing the information through online platforms.
- **Content:** Information will focus on key issues such as human rights abuses, restrictions on media, and the humanitarian crisis, among other important developments in Afghanistan.
- **Language:** The Afghan journalists and informant are able to communicate in English including the local languages of Afghanistan.

Implementation Approach:

- **Media and Journalist Outreach:** AJSO will identify interested journalists and media outlets in Canada, Germany, and France. We will establish direct connections between these journalists and Afghan sources.
- **Capacity Building:** Afghan journalists involved will be provided with necessary safety protocols and training to ensure secure communication and the effective transfer of information.

- **Database Management:** AJSO will maintain an internal system to manage contacts, track shared information, and monitor communication to ensure ongoing relevance and security.

Expected Outcomes:

- Increased media coverage and awareness of Afghanistan in Western media.
- Strengthened credibility of reporting on Afghanistan through verified and reliable Afghan sources.
- Long-term engagement (if requested) between Afghan and Western journalists to ensure continued attention to the region.

Tools of Communication:

ZOOM and Signal are identified as tools of secure communication for this specific project.

The mechanism of reaching out and setting up a call with journalists:

If you're interested in obtaining information about Afghanistan, please email us at freshta.hemmati@ajso.org . In your message, specify the details of the information you need, along with your preferred date and time for an interview. Once we receive your request, we'll arrange a secure call via Zoom or Signal to connect you with an identified journalist who can provide the information.

During the interview, please confirm with the journalist if they are comfortable being named or pictured in your article. After the interview, we'll send a brief 2-3 question survey to gather feedback on the quality of the information and your satisfaction, helping us refine our strategy.

Additional note: Through this project, AJSO board members based outside of Afghanistan are also available for interviews. Please let us know if you'd like to arrange a conversation with them. AJSO team members can openly discuss the situation in Afghanistan and may be named and pictured as needed.

Contact Information:

For further inquiries and to express your interest in covering Afghanistan related issues, please reach out to:

- **Freshta Hemmati, Project Manager for JournoAccess**
  Afghanistan Journalists Support Organization (AJSO)
  Email: freshta.hemmati@ajso.org