



The dominance of the Taliban in Afghanistan is a blow to journalism

In Afghanistan, hundreds of media outlets have been shut down in a short period of time, thousands of journalists have lost their jobs, and women journalists have been explicitly banned from working. All this as a result of the domination of the Islamist Taliban insurgents throughout Afghanistan. The International Federation of Journalists and the European Federation of Journalists have launched a major campaign of support, assistance and solidarity for our fellow Afghans colleagues that are being tested.

The Union of Cyprus Journalists unites its voice with the two journalistic federations and calls on the world's progressive humanity to assist in the effort for the safety, salvation and escape of Afghan journalists, who are now proven to be in danger of either being imprisoned or lose their lives. Several European countries have already pledged to provide political asylum to Afghan journalists working with their country's media. Other countries are considering hosting Afghan journalists, albeit temporarily. The Union of Cyprus Journalists also calls on the Government of our country to assist, to the best of our ability, in this great humanitarian effort being made internationally.

Our organization will join its humble voice with journalists' associations around the world, constantly monitoring this humanitarian issue and seeking ways to provide practical assistance to Afghan journalists. As a first step, our Executive Committee decided to send an amount of money to the IFJ Safety Fund, which has been set up specifically to support persecuted Afghan journalists.

**Executive Committee
Union of Cyprus Journalists**