

Manizha Seddiqi, Afghanistan



Since the Taliban returned to power in August 2021, women protesting Taliban's draconian policies have been forcibly disappeared, arbitrarily arrested, and detained and subjected to torture and other ill treatment. Manizha Seddiqi, a women human rights defender, was abducted on October 9, 2023, and later found in Taliban custody. She was sent to prison on December 5, 2023. She does not have access to lawyers or regular family visits while in prison and is at risk of torture and other ill treatment. She has not been charged with any offenses. Manizha Seddiqi must be released immediately and unconditionally.

Since taking control of Kabul in August 2021, the Taliban de facto authorities have increasingly violated the rights of women and girls, prohibiting their political participation and involvement in public life. The policies adopted by the Taliban de facto authorities have curtailed the rights to freedom of expression, association, peaceful assembly, as well as the rights to equality and non-discrimination. Despite this, women have led peaceful protests against the Taliban in various Afghan cities, including Kabul, Faizabad, Herat, and Mazar-i-Sharif. The Taliban de facto authorities have followed women post-protests to arrest them. Several women have been arrested at gunpoint in their homes, often violently. Some of the women's male relatives have also been severely beaten by Taliban at the time of the arrests. Women arrested have been detained incommunicado.

TAKE ACTION:

Mr. Abdul Haq Wasiq, Director of Intelligence
General Directorate of Intelligence
Chaharahi Zanbaq
Kabul, Afghanistan
Email: info@mfa.gov.af

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Mr. Abdul Haq Wasiq,

I am concerned over the arrest and detention of woman human rights defender, **Manizha Seddiqi**, in Afghanistan. She has been detained in Pule-Charkhi prison simply for exercising her rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

Amnesty International's findings indicate that Manizha Seddiqi has been deprived of family visits, access to lawyers and medical care, and her health is deteriorating. I am also concerned that she is at risk of torture and other ill-treatment.

I call on you to unconditionally release Manizha Seddiqi. Pending her release, I call on you to ensure that her detention conditions meet international standards, and that she is provided with access to lawyers, medical care, and family visits.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name], [city, country]

