July 26, 2021

Over 100 journalists from around the world have called on the government of Pakistan to end impunity and take action against those who are attacking, harassing, and intimidating journalists.

The signatories are Fellows at the Nieman Foundation for Journalism at Harvard University, standing in solidarity with Absar Alam, Nieman Fellow 2005, who survived an armed attack in April this year outside his house in the capital Islamabad.

The statement says this is part of a pattern that rights bodies have documented, with several instances of journalists being attacked, tortured, killed, and disappeared in Pakistan in the recent past.

Nieman Fellows from around the world, ranging from the class of 1967 to the recently graduating class of 2021, as well as the Nieman Foundation Curator or director, as well as two former Curators, have endorsed the statement.

Nieman Fellows in solidarity with journalists in Pakistan urge government to act against attacks

An alarming surge in attacks on journalists in Pakistan has shocked the media community in the country and caused concern among journalists everywhere.

We Nieman Fellows around the world condemn the assassination attempt on our colleague Absar Alam, Nieman Fellow 2005, a senior journalist and former Chairman Pakistan Media Regulatory Authority. On 20 April 2021, while he was walking in the park near his home in Islamabad, an armed assailant fired at him. The gunshots caused injuries from which he is still recovering. Alam is known for speaking truth to power. The police have yet to arrest the criminals who masterminded the assassination attempt or the attacker.

Barely a month later, three armed men barged into the apartment of vlogger Asad Toor in Islamabad and severely beat him. Although clearly visible in CCTV footage, they have yet to be apprehended.

Last July, unidentified men kidnapped senior freelance journalist Matiullah Jan outside his wife's place of work, also in the country's capital Islamabad. They drove him to an unknown place and tortured him, releasing him 12 hours later after international outcry.

These are just a few incidents over the past year alone. Rights bodies have documented several instances of journalists being attacked, tortured, killed, and disappeared in Pakistan in the recent past and called for the government to take action.

We urge the government of Prime Minister Imran Khan to arrest and prosecute the criminals involved in these attacks and kidnappings. The government of Pakistan must ensure the safety of all journalists and eliminate this culture of impunity that has rendered Pakistan one of the most dangerous countries in the world for journalists.

(signed)

(Name, Nieman year, affiliation)

1. **Bill Kovach,** Nieman Fellow 1989; Nieman Curator 1989-2000
2. **Robert Giles,** Nieman Fellow 1966. Curator Nieman Foundation 2000-2011
3. **Ann Marie Lipinski,** Nieman Fellow 1990. Curator Nieman Foundation
4. **James Geary**, Nieman Fellow 2012, deputy curator, Nieman Foundation
5. **Zawwar Hasan,** Nieman Fellow 1967, retired sports reporter, op-ed writer
6. **Philip Meyer**, Nieman Fellow 1967, formerly with Knight-Ridder Newspapers; retired professor, UNC School of Journalism and Media
7. **Alvin Shuster**, Nieman Fellow 1967, formerly with New York Times, and Los Angeles Times
8. **Beena Sarwar,** Nieman Fellow 2006, freelance journalist, Boston/Karachi
9. **Nirupama Subramanian**, Nieman Fellow 2003, The Indian Express, Mumbai
10. **Claudia Antunes**, Nieman Fellow 2006, international editor at O Globo, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
11. **Chris Cobler,** Nieman Fellow 2006, CEO and Publisher, Fort Worth Report
12. **Altin Raxhimi,** Nieman Fellow 2006, freelance journalist, Albania/Montreal, Canada
13. **Taghreed El Khodary**, Nieman Fellow 2006, freelance journalist/editor, Palestine/Holland
14. **Kim Cloete,** Nieman Fellow 2006. Freelance journalist, media specialist, Cape Town
15. **Margaret Kriz Hobson,** Nieman Fellow 2006, retired environment and energy reporter
16. **Owais Aslam Ali,** Nieman Fellow 2002, Secretary General, Pakistan Press Foundation (PPF)
17. **Sue Valentine,** Nieman Fellow 2003, Open Society Foundations, London
18. **Bert Lindler**, Nieman Fellow 1984, retired, outdoor and environment reporter, Montana

19. **Vidya Krishnan**, Nieman Fellow 2021, Freelance journalist, India
20. **Jeb Sharp**, Nieman Fellow 2006, broadcast journalist, Boston
21. **Yasmin Amer**, Nieman Fellow 2021, Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA
22. **Kitty Eisele**, Nieman Fellow, 2015. Editor, NPR, Washington, DC
23. **Bukola Adebayo**, Nieman Fellow 2021, Senior producer CNN Africa
24. **Rema Nagarajan**, Nieman Fellow 2012, Editor-Research, Times of India
25. **Amber Payne,** Nieman Fellow 2021, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
26. **Ines Pohl,** Nieman Fellow 2005, Washington Bureau Chief, Deutsche Welle (DW)
27. **Elaine Díaz Rodríguez,** Nieman Fellow 2014, Periodismo de Barrio, Cuba
28. **Laura Eggertson,** Nieman Fellow 1996, Independent journalist, Wolfville NS Canada
29. **Melissa Ludtke,** Nieman Fellow 1992, then-Time magazine correspondent.
30. **Anita Harris,** Nieman Fellow 1982, author, consultant, Cambridge Ma
31. **Gaiutra Bahadur**, Nieman Fellow 2008, Assistant Professor of Journalism, Rutgers University, New Jersey
32. **Kalpana Jain,** Nieman Fellow in Global Health Reporting, 2009, Senior Editor, The Conversation
33. **Liz Mineo,** Nieman Fellow 2010, Harvard Gazette Staff Writer
34. **Ignacio Gómez**, Nieman Fellow 2001. Noticias Uno, Colombia.
35. **Lois Fiore,** Assistant Editor, Nieman Reports, Retired
36. **Stefanie Friedhoff**, Nieman Fellow 2001, Professor of the Practice and Strategy Director, Brown University School of Public Health, USA
37. **Phillip Martin**, Nieman Fellow 1998, Senior Investigative Reporter, GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting, GBH News.
38. **Martha Bebinger,** Nieman Fellow 2010, health care reporter, Boston
39. **Subina Shrestha,** Nieman Fellow 2017, Independent journalist
40. **Darcy Frey,** Nieman Fellow, 2011, Random House author, Director of Creative Writing at Harvard University
41. **Nathan Payne**, Nieman Fellow 2019, CNHI Regional Editor for Investigations, Executive Editor Traverse City Record-Eagle
42. **Indira Lakshmanan**, Nieman Fellow 2004, Senior Executive Editor, National Geographic Partners, Washington, DC
43. **Santiago Lyon**, Nieman Fellow 2004, New York
44. **Ashwaq Masoodi,** Nieman Fellow 2020, Kashmir
45. **Andras Petho,** Nieman Fellow 2020, Hungary
46. **Stefan Candea,** Nieman Fellow 2011, Romania
47. **Michael Fitzgerald**, Nieman Fellow 2011, Articles Editor, The Boston Globe magazine
48. **Gary Knight.** Nieman Fellow 2010. VII Photo Agency
49. **Selymar Colón**, Nieman Fellow 2020, Puerto Rico.
50. **Doug Struck**, Nieman Fellow 2004, Sr. Journalist in Residence, Emerson College
51. **Joshua Benton**, Nieman Fellow 2008, Nieman Lab

52. **Robert Chaney**, Nieman Fellow 2020, Missoulian senior staff writer
53. **Helen Branswell**, Nieman Fellow 2011, Boston
54. **Shalini Singh,** Nieman fellow 2018, freelance journalist, India
55. **Brent Walth**, Nieman 2006, Assistant Professor, University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication
56. **Tom Regan**, Nieman Fellow 1992, Canada.
57. **Bill Schiller,** Nieman Fellow 2006, retired Foreign Editor, Foreign Correspondent, Toronto Star
58. **Obey Manayiti,** Nieman Fellow 2020, Zimbabwe
59. **Isaac Bantu,** Nieman Fellow 1992, Former BBC Stringer, Liberia, West Africa
60. **Charles M. Sennott,** Nieman Fellow 2006, CEO and Editor of The GroundTruth Project
61. **Steve Myers,** Nieman Fellow 2019, Enterprise editor, USA TODAY
62. **Marcus Brauchli,** Nieman Fellow 1992, North Base Media
63. **Ana Campoy**, Nieman Fellow 2020, Quartz, US
64. **Johnny Kauffman**, Nieman Fellow 2020, Reporter at WABE News
65. **Nazila Fathi,** Nieman Fellow 2011, Journalist and Author
66. **Anica Butler,** Nieman Fellow, 2019, The Boston Globe
67. **Damakant Jayshi**, Nieman Fellow 2007, Wausau Pilot & Review
68. **Howard Berkes,** Nieman Fellow 1998, Investigations Correspondent, NPR (retired)
69. **Takashi Oshima,** Nieman Fellow 2006, U.S Correspondent for the Asahi Shimbun
70. **Emily Corwin**, Nieman Fellow '21, Abrams Fellow '22, Investigative Reporter, Burlington Vermont
71. **Alissa Johannsen Rubin,** Nieman 2021, New York Times, International Correspondent
72. **Jenifer McKim,** Nieman fellow 2008, Senior investigative reporter, GBH News Center for Investigative Reporting
73. **Benny Becker,** Nieman Fellow 2019, Story Trainer & Co-Producer - WMMT-fm / Appalshop
74. **Christine Mungai,** Nieman Fellow 2018, Nairobi, Kenya
75. **Samantha Broun**, Nieman Fellow 2021, Independent radio producer, Woods Hole, MA
76. **Pir Zubair Shah** Nieman Fellow 2012, Multimedia Journalist VOA Washington DC
77. **Betsy O'Donovan**, Nieman Fellow 2013, Assistant professor of journalism, Western Washington University
78. **Robert Frederick**, Nieman Fellow 2021, digital managing editor, American Scientist
79. **Laura Wides-Munoz,** Nieman 2013, author of PEN longlisted "The Making of a Dream: How a Group of Young Undocumented Immigrants Helped Change What it Means to be American"

80. **Mary Louise Schumacher**, Nieman Fellow 2017, former art critic, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, and independent journalist
81. **Kondwani Bell Munthali,** Nieman Fellow 2007, Ag. Director, Centre for Public Accountability, Malawi
82. **David Skok**, Nieman Fellow 2012, Founder & Editor-in-chief, The Logic, Canada
83. **Christine Willmsen,** Nieman fellow 2016, WBUR
84. **Laurence Bagot,** Nieman Fellow 2005, President narrative, Paris
85. **Elizabeth Rubin**, Nieman Fellow 2005, Independent Journalist, author of Committee to Protect Journalists report on Pakistan,"Roots of Impunity."
86. **Lisa Mullins,** Nieman 2010, Anchor WBUR/NPR
87. **Kevin Cullen**, Nieman Fellow 2003, Columnist, The Boston Globe
88. **Jason Rezaian,** Nieman Fellow 2017, Global Opinions writer, The Washington Post
89. **Deb Amos,** Nieman Fellow 1992, International Correspondent, National Public Radio; Ferris Professor, Princeton University
90. **Sonali Samarasinghe,** Nieman Fellow 2010, Independent journalist, author
91. **Tom Ashbrook,** Nieman 1996, formerly with NPR. Berlin, Germany
92. **Monica Campbell,** Nieman Fellow 2010, Senior reporter and editor, The World
93. **Amy Goldstein,** Nieman Fellow 2005, Staff writer, The Washington Post
94. **Richard Chacón,** Nieman Fellow 2005, Director, News Standards and Practices, NBC News Group
95. **Amy Nutt,** Nieman fellow 2005, author and teacher
96. **Cheryl Carpenter,** Nieman fellow 2005, faculty, The Poynter Institute
97. **Alfredo Corchado,** Nieman fellow, 2009, author, The Dallas Morning News
98. **William Henson**, Nieman Fellow 1978, retired deputy editorial director, The Plain Dealer
99. **Geneva Overholser**, formerly New York Times, Washington Post, Des Moines Register editor. Nieman Fellow 1986
100. **Nuri Vallbona,** Nieman Fellow 2001, independent journalist, University of Texas at Austin journalism professor
101. **George Abraham,** Nieman Fellow 1995 and Founder-Publisher, New Canadian Media
102. **Sergio Kalili,** Nieman Fellow 2005, international news editor coordinator at RedeTV
103. **Kristen Lombardi**, Nieman Fellow 2012, editor and program director, Columbia Journalism Investigations, the investigative reporting unit at Columbia Journalism School

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