

URGENT ACTION

JOURNALIST SENTENCED TO TWO YEARS FOR 'PROPAGANDA'

Hamid Farhadi, a journalist working with an independent newspaper operating in exile, was arrested by members of the Taliban Ministry of Interior on September 3, 2024. He was sentenced to two years in prison on September 19, without any access to legal representation. The court accused him of spreading propaganda through his journalistic reports about the situation of women and girls in the country. On March 28, 2025, without explanation or prior notice, Farhadi was transferred from Pol-Charkhi Prison to the notorious Bagram Prison. His family are only allowed to visit him once a month, for 30 minutes. Hamid Farhadi must be immediately and unconditionally released as he is detained solely for the peaceful exercise of his human rights.

TAKE ACTION:

- Write a letter to the government official(s) listed. Use the sample letter below as a guide or use your own words.
- [Click here](#) to report your action(s) on **UA 48.25**. We share this number with the officials we are trying to persuade.

Mr. Mufti Abdul Matin Qane,
MOI Spokesman
Ministry of Interior
Email: info@moi.gov.af

***No postal addresses for this UA**
Afghanistan Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Twitter/X: [@MoFA_Afg](https://twitter.com/MoFA_Afg)

Dear Mr. Mufti Abdul Matin Qane,

I am concerned about the arbitrary arrest and detention of journalist **Hamid Farhadi**.

On September 3, 2024, Hamid Farhadi was arbitrarily arrested by members of the Taliban's Ministry of Interior from his home in Kabul. He was subsequently accused of propaganda against the Taliban de facto authorities. This charge appears to be based on his work as a journalist working with exile-based media company – Etilaatroz - and reporting on the national ban of girl's education.

I find it alarming to learn that during his interrogation and detention, Hamid Farhadi was subjected to ill treatment including being kept in solitary confinement. Throughout this entire ordeal, Farhadi has been denied a lawyer to represent him, and his family are only allowed to visit him once a month for 30 minutes in the presence of a Taliban soldier.

Hamid Farhadi's arbitrary detention and lack of legal representation are a clear violation of his rights to freedom of expression and fair trial guaranteed under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which Afghanistan is a state party.

I urge you to ensure the immediate and unconditional release of Hamid Farhadi. Pending his release, ensure that he is held in conditions meeting international standards of fairness and that he has regular access to adequate healthcare, legal representation, and family visits. Finally, stop the practices of arbitrary detention and torture and other ill-treatment of people working to defend human rights.

Yours sincerely,

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Hamid Farhadi is a journalist who had been working with Etilaatroz, an independent newspaper operating in exile, at the time of arrest. Previously, he had worked with various research organizations and media channels such as Qara Consultancy, Tolo, and former High Council for National Reconciliation. For the past three years, his reporting included news about ongoing developments and restrictions and repression imposed by Taliban de facto authorities on women and girls. It is believed that his recent articles about the ban on girl's education for Etilaatroz were the reason for his arbitrary arrest and detention.

On September 3, 2024, he was arrested by members of the Taliban Ministry of Interior from his home along with his brother who was released after two days. At the time of arrest, Taliban soldiers surrounded him without an explanation nor providing an official arrest warrant and took him to Ministry of Interior. He has been sentenced to two years in prison. The Taliban alleged that Hamid Farhadi disseminated anti-regime materials, claiming they possess "substantial evidence".

He was unjustly presented to the Taliban court three times and then, on September 19, 2024, in absence of a defense lawyer, the court accused him of spreading propaganda against the Taliban de facto authorities due to his journalistic reports and sent him to Pol- Charkhi prison. On March 28, 2025, without explanation and prior information to Farhadi's family, he was transferred to Bagram prison where the Taliban are keeping political prisoners. On April 16, 2025, his family was allowed to visit him for half an hour in presence of a Taliban soldier through a glass window.

Many [journalists and human rights activists](#) have condemned Hamid Farhadi's arbitrary detention and have demanded his immediate and unconditional release.

Afghanistan now has a dwindling civic space where human rights defenders, including women protestors, grassroots organizations, and groups, journalists, and political activists are perceived as political opponents. Afghanistan continues to remain one of the most dangerous places in the world for human rights defenders and journalists, where the Taliban continue to use excessive and lethal force to repress those opposing their draconian policies and arbitrary actions. The Taliban's seizure of power coupled with the continued intimidation and abuse of human rights community, the political, humanitarian, and economic crises have forced human rights actors to seek international protection abroad.

PREFERRED LANGUAGE TO ADDRESS TARGET: English, Dari, Farsi, Pashto, or your own language.

PLEASE TAKE ACTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE UNTIL: August 31, 2025

NAME AND PRONOUN: Hamid Farhadi [He/him]