

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN**

**Re: NUSRAT PARSA**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I write on behalf of the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the world's largest organisation of journalists representing over 600.000 members in 141 countries worldwide (including the SNJ, SNJ-CGT, CFDT, FO in France) , which defends the rights of journalists and promotes their interests worldwide to urge your government to support the application to allow family members of Mr Nusrat Parsa to join him in France.

Mr Pasra is a respected journalist who has worked for major media organisations in Afghanistan and for international media, including as a correspondent for Radio Free Europe.

Even before the Taliban takeover Mr Parsa was a target of violence and threats from the Taliban and ISIS. His work covered rights abuses by those groups and the plight of Afghan migrants in other countries, including Turkey and Iran. His work often focused on issues which were not widely covered in a conservative society, including sexual issues, the LGBTQI+ community, the trafficking of young girls and the activities of terrorist organisations.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-women-brutally-beaten-affair/29015213.html>

He has been accused by Taliban and other groups of insulting Islam, making him a target for violent retribution. He has been vocal in talking about the threats he faces, even when outside the country.

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/03/16/afghanistan-targeted-killings-civilians-escalate>

As a result of increasing threats to his life Mr Parsa fled Afghanistan, leaving his family behind. They faced increased threats which have been well documented by human rights groups.

While his family are now in Iran, they continue to face such threats. Iran is not a safe country for journalists and the country has a record of persecuting the families of journalists in order to threaten the journalist themselves. The threat of deportation back to Afghanistan is ever present.

<https://www.infomigrants.net/en/post/40266/reports-of-abuse-of-afghan-refugees-as-iran-continues-deportations>

As a prominent Afghan journalist Mr Parsa's work is known in many countries. He has written pieces critical of Iran's treatment of Afghans in the past which would be known to the authorities there.

<https://www.rferl.org/a/iran-s-economic-crisis-fuels-mass-exodus-of-afghan-migrants/29405068.html>

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**International Federation of Journalists, International Press Centre**

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For over 20 years the IFJ has worked with its affiliates in Afghanistan to promote media freedom and the rights of journalists. Since the Taliban takeover we have provided emergency humanitarian assistance and work with journalists at risk on a daily basis.

The IFJ has recorded over 100 killings of journalists and media professionals in Afghanistan over the last two decades, the vast majority of which were committed by the Taliban and Al-Qaeda.

Taliban militants often claimed responsibility for these attacks, accusing journalists of working for foreign powers. Attacks have not been restricted to the journalists themselves but extend to family members. Many have been detained, threatened and tortured to provide details of the whereabouts of a journalist.

Taliban fighters have conducted raids into homes of journalists and other media workers, including those who worked with foreign news organisations. Dozens of journalists are in hiding and hundreds are internally displaced.

Surveys carried out by the Afghanistan National Journalists Union revealed that 70% of journalists had faced some threats and violence in the first two months since the Taliban came to power. For women journalists the situation is even more dangerous.

*After consultations with our affiliate in Afghanistan, the IFJ is convinced that Mr Parsa's family has a well-founded fear for their safety. His work as a journalist mean he and his family face a grave threat.*

We hope this is helpful but if you require more evidence do not hesitate to contact us.  
Sincerely Yours,



**Anthony Bellanger**  
**General Secretary**