

# Media System in Afghanistan

## MEDIA SYSTEM

### HIGH MEDIA COUNCIL

- Development of national media policy in Afghanistan
- 13 members
- chair to be elected from members

### COMMISSION OF MASS MEDIA

- Supervision of mass media activities, including responding to grievances
- 7 members
- chair to be named by High Media Council

### COMMISSION OF NATIONAL RADIO TELEVISION

- Regulation and supervision of state media
- 7 members
- chair = intendant



### Constitution

- Freedom of Opinion and the press, access to information
- Blasphemous Law



### Mass media Law

- Freedom of Opinion and the press, access to information
- Explication of media organs
- Protection of media organs
- Blasphemous Media



Both the constitution and Mass Media Law leave room for interpretation.

## MEDIA INSTITUTIONS

### TV

→ Reaches 60% of the population

### Radio

→ Reaches two thirds of the population

### Newspaper

→ Reaches 1% of the population

	TV	Radio	Newspaper
<b>State</b>	RTA: multilingual, state-funded	Radio Afghanistan, multilingual, state-funded	Bakhtar News Agency, multilingual, state-funded
<b>Non-State</b>	<b>National:</b> Tolo TV, Ariana TV, multilingual, ad-funded	<b>National/regional:</b> Arman FM, multilingual, ad-funded	Distributed in one city Distributed in several cities, e.g. Tatoby
	<b>Ethnic:</b> Shamshad, Lemar, monolingual, ad-funded		
	<b>Regional:</b> Shaiq, local/regional, ad-funded and subventions	<b>Local:</b> Community-Radio, e.g. Millie Paygham, partly local languages	
	<b>Private-religious:</b> Tamodon, religious motifs, private sources (warlords)		
	<b>Private-party:</b> Noorin TV, party-political motifs, private sources (warlords)		

### Online Media

→ More than nine million have access to the internet

**Digital Media in general** Up to 15% of the population have access to the internet (compared with 100 internet connections almost two decades ago)

**Social Media** Biggest market share: Facebook (86,6%)  
Social Media reach almost 9% of the population, which are mostly young, urban and educated  
87% of users access social media via their smartphones



## MEDIA AND THEIR FUNCTION IN AFGHANISTAN

### “PASSIVE JOURNALISM”

- barely investigative journalism and original research
- instead: media as forum for parties fighting for power

→ hardly facts, leaves room for interpretation and speculation of the audience

### INCLUSION OF “POLITICAL EXPERTS”

- seemingly professional experts as sources

→ fuelling debates, instead of delivering facts and information



### The “typical journalist”

Gender:	Male (mostly)
Age:	31 years (in average)
Family status:	married
Academic degree:	bachelor
Income:	roughly 250€/month
Job satisfaction:	Fully satisfied with job
Professional (primary) role:	Information journalism
Professional (secondary) role:	missionary, mediator, service provider, critic
Perception of audience:	urban audience, interested in information, politics and progress
Ethical scale:	neutral investigating
Perception of influences:	sources outside of editorial staff
Reporting:	Information journalism

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