

Reporters Without Borders

<http://www.rsf.org/afghanistan-afghan-journalist-killed-by-16-11-2011,41404.html>

Asia - Afghanistan

Roadside bomb

Afghan journalist killed by Taliban roadside bomb

16 November 2011

Reporters Without Borders is saddened to learned that radio journalist **Jafar Vafa** and eight relatives were killed by a roadside bomb in the eastern province of Laghman on 12 November as they were returning home from Vafa's wedding two days earlier in Mehtar Lam, the provincial capital. Aged 20, Vafa worked for radio *Kaleh Ghosh*.

"We offer our condolences to Jafar Vafa's family," Reporters Without Borders secretary-general Jean-François Julliard said, noting that he is the third journalist to have been killed by a roadside bomb since 2009. Four others have been seriously injured.

On 23 October 2010, *New York Times* photographer **Joao Silva** was badly injured by a mine in southern Afghanistan, and had to have both legs amputated above the knee.

British journalist **Rupert Hamer**, the London-based *Sunday Mirror's* defence correspondent, was killed when the US military vehicle he was travelling in was hit by a roadside bomb in the southwestern province of Helmand on 9 January 2010. His colleague, photographer **Philip Coburn**, was seriously wounded in the blast.

Canadian journalist **Michelle Lang** of the *Calgary Herald* was killed in similar circumstances in the southern province of Kandahar just 10 days before Hamer.

Spanish photographer **Emilio Morenatti** and Indonesian cameraman **Andi Jatmiko**, both *Associated Press* employees, were seriously injured by a roadside bomb while travelling with a US military convoy near the city of Kandahar on 12 August 2009.

A total of 16 Afghan journalists and 12 foreign journalists have been killed in Afghanistan since 11 September 2001.
