

**Ministry of Defense**  
*Social Relations,*  
*Parliamentary and*  
*Public Affairs Directorate*

**Policy for**  
**Regulating Media in**  
**Afghan National Army Units**

**Director of the Social Relations and Parliamentary and Public Affairs**  
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# Ministry of Defense Afghanistan



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## In the Name of Almighty Allah

### **Policy for regulating media in Afghan National Army units**

The rules of this policy cover all media representatives who participate in press activities of MOD and are in close collaboration with the Ministry of Defense.

During the combat operations, any information related to MOD, GS and ANA units cannot be released until a press release or announcement is prepared by office of the MOD spokesperson and is given to media.

The Main Purpose of this policy is to regulate and organize media in units during combat operations to prepare reports, register in public affairs office and acceptance of established rules and regulations by the media, maintaining the classified information still a secret (Operations location and other military classified information).

The main objective of this policy is to maintain privacy and public affairs is accountable for implementing this policy. Therefore, all those media representatives who want to participate in press activities during or after the combat operations must accept and follow the established rules in this policy.

1. Those media that won't follow the rules of this policy would be deleted from the list of MOD media arrangement programs.
2. Media cannot disclose confidential information about the important military individuals, tactics, techniques and used military strategies.
3. All media representatives should have their badges while they are staying in a unit and if lost they have to contact the right person to get new one.
4. All media representatives and persons who want to participate during combat operations and they are coming from Kabul must present a written request and they themselves should provide personal security means, water and journey beds. The MOD will not provide the mentioned facilities for them.
5. Media representative while traveling in military units will stay in an appropriate place with the unit commander. They are not allowed to do arbitrary interviews with ANA personnel. They can conduct interviews after the approval of relevant authority and acceptance of the invited individual for interview.



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### **The basic rules for deployed media during the combat operations:**

1. All interviews will be recorded; maintaining privacy is the main purpose of this policy. All military personnel are responsible to maintain privacy and to prevent disclosure of classified information; all personnel will take practical measures.
2. Therefore, if the media representatives access to classified information must inform the section chief or the commander of the unit because if that information need to be sent out so the commander will give recommendations on how it should be used.
3. When section chief or the unit commander is doubtful about the disclosure of classified information, the media must release the interview they did completely so that the relevant authorities make sure the interview was not edited. The purpose of doing this is to make sure the classified information is not disclosed.
4. While media representatives are being accompanied by military security guards based on necessities, they have to be with the guards up to the end of the event and they are responsible for following the rules and regulations. Some new rules might be established based on the situation requirements and media representatives are responsible to follow that.
5. Media representatives cannot carry weapons.
6. Media representative cannot tape military operations and equipment for their personal record.
7. Media representatives cannot take pictures for personal record while they are traveling or meeting with military personnel. If one of the media representatives refuses to follow the mentioned rule would lose his tape. Due to the refusal of the mentioned rule, cameras, video equipments and even their ID cards will be taken away from them.
8. The established restrictions are because of providing security during the operations, when the operations ended there will be no restrictions but the violators will be treated legally.
9. Any media representative who see a soldiers is killed or injured is not allowed to disclose it through taking pictures or writing a subject until it is announced through public affairs office after the approval of higher commanders.
10. The regulations, criteria and restrictions regarding the use of light during nights should be seriously followed. Any kind use of optical equipments such as: lamp, hand lights, optical TV, camera flash and etc is prohibited while participating with military forces in night operations unless it is approved by relevant commander.



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## **Not releasable issues through media:**

Disclosing information which endangers individuals who are involved in the operations or put in danger the process of the operations are not allowed and are as follows:

- a. Disclosing the number of special military units, capability of forces, equipments and supplies of the units such as: artillery forces, armorial forces, military vehicle and etc are not allowed.
- b. Information about the future combat operations, current operations, task actions and delayed combat operations are not allowed to be released.
- c. Disclosing information about the security forces, military installations such as: Headquarters and operational bases are not allowed.
- d. Taking pictures which shows the degree of security in the military installations especially radio and satellite Antennas are now allowed.
- e. Classified information about the activities of friendly and enemy targets, means and results cannot be disclosed.
- f. Disclosing information which shows the scale and size of electronic installations, ammunition and explosive devices are not allowed.
- g. Disclosing information about the condition of route, rolling stuff, location and time are not allowed.
- h. Disclosing information about the effects can take place on enemy electronic combat equipments, hiding enemy combat equipments, deception operations which affected enemy, direct and indirect fire, security achievements and security criteria are not allowed.
- i. Interpreting the rules and criteria of ANSF are not allowed.



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### Media Accommodating and Ground Rules Agreement

I, (print) \_\_\_\_\_, confirm the following information is accurate:

a. I am not aware of any existing physical or health conditions which would adversely affect my participating in strenuous activities. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

b. I have read the media ground rules provided to me by the Ministry of Defense public affairs office and agree, with my signature, to abide by the,. I also understand that any violation of these ground rules is cause for the revocation of my accommodated media status with MoD. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

c. I understand, should my accommodated media status be revoked by the command hosting my embed, final resolution of my embed status will be made by the Ministry of Defense Chief Public Affairs Officer. \_\_\_\_\_ (Initial)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
عافد ترازو یاضم دهانش

\_\_\_\_\_  
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## Indemnification Agreement and Liability Waiver Media Organization

\_\_\_\_\_ (Media Organization Name), in consideration of being permitted to have organizational media representatives become registered as accommodated media with Ministry of Defense (MoD) from on or about \_\_\_\_\_ to on or about \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_, at \_\_\_\_\_ and the surrounding area.

1. Acknowledge and agree that covering combat and other military operations is inherently hazardous and may result in death, personal injury, whether physical or otherwise, or in damage to organizational property, and wishing in any event to have organizational personnel participate in covering combat and other military operations, voluntarily consent to participate and assume any risks that may be associated with said participation.  
\_\_\_\_\_ (Media Organization Name) agrees to notify the next of kin of our representative being credentialed or embedded by MoD. MoD will return the deceased or injured representative (after first aid) to the nearest commercial transportation facility, but \_\_\_\_\_ (Media Organization Name), will be financially responsible for repatriating the remains of or evacuating the injured representative back to their home of record.
2. Acknowledge, agree and declare that \_\_\_\_\_ (Media Organization Name), has been advised of the nature of covering combat and other military operations and has been advised of the procedures and safety measures in effect and the their representative will agree to abide by them.
3. Acknowledge, agree and declare that \_\_\_\_\_ (Media Organization Name), has been advised that MoD, in pursuing the successful accomplishment of its mission, cannot guarantee the representative's safety or the safety of our organization's equipment.
4. Waive all claims of any nature or kind, including, but not limited to claims for personal injury or damage to property, against the Afghan National Army, Ministry of Defense and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the military personnel and civilian employees of said organizations in any manner arising out of, based upon, occasioned by, attributable to or connected with our representative's participation in covering combat and other military operations while being an accommodated media:
  - a. Agree that \_\_\_\_\_ (Media Organization Name) will not commence or maintain against any person, any action or proceeding which will give rise to a claim against the Afghan National Army, Ministry of Defense and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the military personnel and civilian employees of said organizations for contribution or indemnity. \_\_\_\_\_ (Media Organization's representative's initials)



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- b. Acknowledge, agree and declare that \_\_\_\_\_ (Media Organization Name) signing this agreement is a condition to being registered to cover MoD's operations and receiving assistance for that coverage; and
- c. Acknowledge having read this liability waiver in its entirety and, understanding that this waiver is intended to be broad and all inclusive so as to preclude any claims \_\_\_\_\_ (Media Organization Name) voluntarily indicate our acceptance of this document by my signature.

DATED at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Print Name:
Organization Address:
Telephone:
Mobile Phone:
Email:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Media Organization Supervisor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



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## Indemnification Agreement and Liability Waiver Media Representative

1. I, \_\_\_\_\_ (Print Name), on behalf of myself, my heirs, my executors and administrators, in consideration of being permitted to become a registered as an credentialed media member with the Ministry of Defense (MoD) and the Afghan National Army (ANA), from \_\_\_\_\_ (Date) in Afghanistan.
2. Acknowledge and agree that covering combat and other military operations is inherently hazardous and may result in death, personal injury, whether physical or otherwise, or damage to property, and wishing in any event to participate in covering combat and other military operations, voluntarily consent to participate and assume any risks that may be associated with said participation. My next-of-kin's contact information has been provided to my organization to use in the event of a medical emergency or death.
3. Acknowledge, agree and declare that I have been advised of the nature of covering combat and other military operations, that I have been advised of the procedures and safety measures in effect and that I agree to abide by them.
4. Acknowledge, agree and declare that I have been advised that MoD and ANA, in pursuing the successful accomplishment of its mission, cannot guarantee my personal safety or the safety of my equipment.
5. Acknowledge I have current medical insurance, and I have been advised that MoD recommends my policy should include coverage for, at minimum, acts of war; evacuation; repatriation or remains and long-term care.
6. I will return to the MoD Media Badge at the end of my special accommodated status, or when requested by a MoD representative.
7. Waive all claims of any nature or kind, including, but not limited to claims for personal injury or damage to property, against the Afghan National Army, Ministry of Defense and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the military personnel and civilian employees of said organizations in any manner arising out of, based upon, occasioned by, attributable to or connected with my participation in covering combat and other military operations while being an accommodated media:
  - a. Agree that I will not commence or maintain against any person, any action or proceeding which will give rise to a claim against the Afghan National Army, Ministry of Defense and the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the military personnel and civilian employees of said organizations for contribution or indemnity;





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- b. Acknowledge, agree and declare that my signing this agreement is a condition to being registered to cover MoD's operations and receiving assistance for that coverage; and
- c. Acknowledge having read this liability waiver in its entirety and, understanding that this waiver is intended to be broad and all inclusive so as to preclude any claims I voluntarily indicate our acceptance of this document by my signature.

DATED at \_\_\_\_\_ this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_.

Media Representative's Organization	اضم دهاش عافد ترازو: MoD Witness Signature
Print Name:	م ان: Name
Address:	ه ب ت ر: Rank
Telephone	ن ف ل ت: Telephone
Mobile:	ل ی ا ب و م: Mobile
Email:	ل ی م ی ا: Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Media Representative

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date