



AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR
SERVING THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

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بازگشت مالیات شخصی بطور مجانی

هموطنان مستحق میتوانند از خدمات مجانی دفتر افغان کمیونیکیتور جهت بازگشت مالیات شخصی خویش استفاده نمایند. مستحقین کسانی هستند که ۲ طفل دارند، ما معاش سالانه کمتر از \$33,692 یا ۱ طفل دارند و معاش سالانه کمتر از \$29,666 یا مجرد هستند و کمتر از \$11,230 در سال درآمد دارند. لطفاً به دفتر افغان کمیونیکیتور برای معلومات بیشتر تماس بگیرید.

FREE INCOME TAX PREPARATION

If you have earned income and are a legal resident with a valid social security number, you might get back as much as \$5000.

The exact amount depends on your filing status, the amount of earned income, and the number of qualifying children.

Filing status means whether you are single, married, the head of the household, or qualifying widower.

Qualifying children are your son, daughter, adopted child, grandchild, great-grandchild, step child, or eligible foster child. S/he must have lived

with you in the U.S. for more than half the year, and be under the age of 19 or under the age of 24 and a full time student or permanently and totally disabled at any age during the year.

Secondly, in order to qualify, your adjusted gross income must be less than \$33,692 if you have two or more qualifying children; less than \$29,666 if you have one qualifying child, and less than \$11,230 if you have no qualifying children.

If you have any questions, contact us.

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AFGHAN COMMUNICATOR  SERVING THE AFGHAN COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY BULLETIN

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2004

COMMUNITY COLLEGE ADOPTS AFGHAN SCHOOL

Raritan Valley Community College has adopted Amir Shir Ali Khan School in Afghanistan through Afghan Communicator's institution adoption program.

Through this program, individuals and organizations can adopt an institution of their choice and use resources and technical support provided by AC to purchase needed materials directly for that institution. AC can provide a list of Afghan institutions and their needs.

AC's newly operational Kabul office which works to support schools, hospitals, orphanages, and other social and cultural institutions in Afghanistan, has been instrumental in launching the adoption program.

The Kabul office will serve as a conduit between RVCC and Amir Shir Ali Khan School. The office has been working to gather information about the specific materials needed by Khan School and it will use the funds raised to buy the necessary items and distribute them

to the school.

AC is working to help RVCC fundraise for the school. So far, AC has helped RVCC gain Afghan contacts in a number of places including the Afghan Embassy, the Rotary of Kabul, and Afghan artists and performers and helped out with logistical needs.

The effort has already raised close to \$3,000. Organizers are hoping to raise at least \$8000 by the end of the project.

این است تا مبلغ هشت هزار دالر جمع آوری کنیم.

تقویة مکاتب افغانستان

جهت تقویة مکاتب در افغانستان، دفتر جوانان (افغان کمیونیکیتور) با همکاری "ریارتون کمیونیتی کالج" مکتب ابتدایة امیر شیر علی خان، که در کارته پروان شهر کابل قرار دارد، کمک میکنند. دیگر ما دارند، لطفاً بدفتر افغان کمیونیکیتور تماس بفرمایند. بعد از دو بار بازدید از آن مکتب در کابل، هر دو موسسه تا حال مبلغ سه هزار دالر برای آن مکتب جمع آوری کرده اند. آرزو

CPJ HONORS AFGHAN JOURNALIST AT AWARD DINNER

Afghan writer, Dr. Samay Hamed, was honored at the International Press Freedom Awards dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City on November 25, 2003. Hosted by the Committee to Protect Journalists, the event recognized four outstanding journalists from Afghanistan, Russia, Morocco, and Cuba.



Dr. Hamed (left) with AC Executive Director Rameen Moshref.

Dr. Hamed is a writer, publisher, political cartoonist, poet, and one of the most important voices for press freedom in Afghanistan.

In 1998, he fled the Taliban, but returned in 2002 to start the Association for the Defense of Afghan Writers' Rights and the magazine Telaya.

Telaya's bold articles and commentaries about the political and social problems that

plague the country have earned him powerful enemies. In April, two men armed with knives attacked Hamed in the capital, Kabul, in reprisal for his comments about the power of warlords. The black tie event was hosted by Dan Rather.

AC invited Dr. Hamed to a community meeting where New York Afghan community leaders had a chance to meet and welcome him.

جورنالیست افغان در امریکا جایزه گرفت

جورنالیست مشهور، آقای سمع حامد، از طرف

کمیته محافظوی، Committee to Protect Journalists

در ۲۵ نوامبر ۲۰۰۳ در شهر نیویورک، شناخته

شد. روز بعد، موسسه (افغان کمیونیکیتور

داکتر حامد را دعوت به ملاقات با چند تن

از کدر های فعال شهر نیویورک کرد.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Afghan Women's Benefit
March 8 at the Masonic Hall

Join us for an evening of entertainment and a distinguished panel of guest speakers. Afghan items will be on display for a silent auction, and a delicious array of Afghan food will be available throughout the night.

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Teachers of Amir S. Ali Khan School

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OSAMA GARNERS RAVE REVIEWS AND A GOLDEN GLOBE

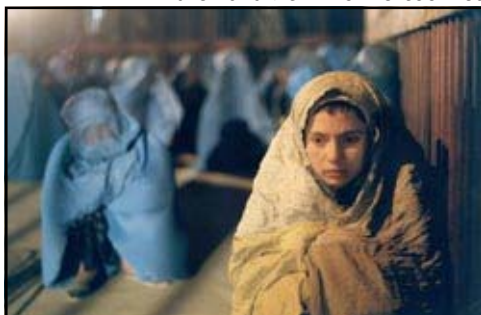
On January 25th, Afghan film director Siddiq Barmak proudly walked to center stage of Hollywood's prestigious Golden Globes to accept the award for Best Foreign Film. "I would like to dedicate this prize to the people who lost their trust in too much promises, to the people who lost the meaning of luck, to the people who gave me a wonderful film, *Osama*," Barmak told the Golden Globe audience.

This award was an exciting addition to the awards *Osama* has already collected which include the Golden Camera Award at the 2003 Cannes Film Festival and an award at Montreal's International Festival of New Film and Media.

Osama is the haunting tale of a young girl's struggle in Taliban-dominated Afghanistan. The youngest of three generations of women who live a bleak, uncertain existence, the school-aged girl is forced to disguise herself as a boy and become the

family breadwinner so that she, her despairing mother and her wizened grandmother can survive.

The audience follows the trail of Osama's lost childhood and innocence as she falls victim to the countless inhumanities that continually terrorized Afghan women under Taliban rule.



Osama is a stunning debut by Afghan director Siddiq Barmak

With a home-video texture

that makes it bitingly real, *Osama* captures a stark and dismal reality. In Barmak's own words: "it is a story about fear, in a time when people fear even the sounds of shadows."

Barmak recruited amateur actors from the city of Kabul to star in his debut as a

feature length film director. The film took over a year to complete and was finished in March 2003 just outside of Kabul.

Said to be inspired by a true story, it is a self-described "first entirely Afghan film shot since the rise and fall of the Taliban."

Iran's Ministry of Culture donated equipment, services, training, materials and financing in support of the film as well as toward the general revitalization of the Afghan film industry.

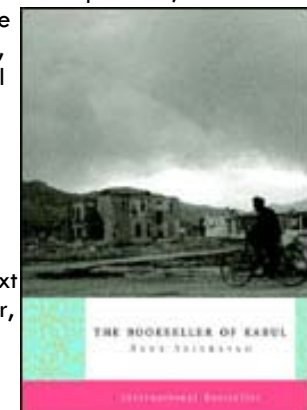
Osama has earned Barmak well deserved recognition, and one can hope that the film marks the beginning of a renaissance of Afghan creative arts.

BOOK REVIEW: SEIERSTAD'S *THE BOOKSELLER OF KABUL*

The Bookseller of Kabul is a Norwegian journalist's account of the months she spent living with an Afghan family in Kabul. Initially traveling through Afghanistan as a war correspondent, Anne Seierstad came to meet Sultan Khan, the owner of several bookstores in Kabul. In her opening remarks, the author makes note of the gracious hospitality the Khan family showed her. The next 288 pages, however, work to repay their generosity by using them to create a clichéd image of a Muslim family.

For what this book lacks in objectivity, the author has compensated with generalizations. With broad strokes, Seierstad paints a picture of intolerable oppression, repressed sexuality and dis-

mal ignorance. While her account reflects her perception of the experiences she had with one particular family, her words presume to describe all of Afghan society extending into the different provinces.



Seierstad admits she "never mastered Dari" but goes on to relate the actions and even personal thoughts of the Khan family as told to her by those who spoke some English. It is hard to estimate how much was lost in translation in her "tale of a most unusual Afghan family."

The reader should note that following the release of the novel, the bookseller himself, Shah Mohammed Rais, filed a lawsuit against Seierstad for what he considered inaccuracies such as the description of how his parents financed his education by selling his sister in marriage.

In one interview, Mr. Rais stated: "there were lots of misrepresentations about me,

my family and my country."

Sadly, the author hardly had to endure the hardships of living in Kabul when in reality, this colorful story could have been written from the comfort of any western home. One needs only to have heard of the tired themes of violence, pedophilia and illiteracy that dominate *The Bookseller of Kabul*. This book is offensive to the Afghan reader and an injustice to the non-Afghan reader hoping to gain insight into Afghan culture.

Seierstad opens her novel with a quotation of graffiti seen on a Kabul wall, that doubles as a fitting comment regarding the book itself: "*migzorad*" – this will pass.

موسسه جوانان افغان / افغان کمیونیکیتور

برای خدمت بیشتر بهموطنان افغان، میخواهیم بدانیم به چی قسم کمک زیاد تر ضرورت دارید. لطفاً چند لحظه را در جهت پر کردن این فورم سیری فرمایید. بهتر است که جوابهای تانرا بطوری دهید که آنچه را زیاد تر ضرورت دارید نمره اول حساب کنید و آنچه کمتر ضرورت دارید، نمره آخر دهید.

کدام یک از این صنفها یا سرویس ها زیاد تر ضرورت دارید؟

--پلان تقاود/سرمایه گذاری	--کمپیوتر و انترنت	--توسعه بزنس کوچک
--مشوره درباره فاکولته	--مرکز اجتماعی برای کلانسن ها	--معلم خانگی برای اطفال
--مشوره فامیلی	--ترجمه از انگلیسی	--کمک با کارهای امیگریشن
--زبان انگلیسی برای بالغان	--پیدا کردن کار/تغییر دادن شغل فعلی	--کودکستان
--زبان دری/پشتو برای اطفال	--پیدا کردن خانه ارزان قیمت	--کمک با بازگشت مالیات
	--آشنائی با زندگی در امریکا	--دانستن حقوق رای دادن

دیگر:

چقدر دور میتوانید سفر کنید برای این صنفها یا سرویس ها؟

--لانگ آتلند	--کوینز
--دور از خانه سفر کرده نمیتوانم.	--بروکلین
	--منهاتن

دیگر:

چند سوالی در باره شما

سن: 65+ ___ 51-65 ___ 40-50 ___ 26-39 ___ 18-25 ___ -18

جنس: --مذکر --مونس

زپکود محل سکونت

منطقه سکونت

(لطفاً محل سکونت تانرا درج کنید تا در آینده بتوانیم برای تان معلومات بیشتر بفرستیم.)

تلیفون/فکس

پوسته برقی

لطفاً این فورمه را تکمیل کرده و بدفتر افغان کمیونیکیتور فکس یا پوست کنید. تشکر!