Khost Journalists Denied Access to Information
KHOST CITY – A number of journalists in southeastern Khost province have been barred from attending briefings or meetings in the governor’s house for not sharing information with the media.
They said the problem, which has been persistent, became serious recently when reporters waiting for days for the comments they seek.
Massoud Rahim Skairado, a reporter with Salam Watander Radio, told Pajhwok Afghan News the officials concerned did not share information with them in time.
He said journalists had shared the problem several times with the government house and police headquarters, but the issue was still lingering.
“There are many events, to which officials invite reporters from the state-run television. They do not want their weaknesses to be ex posed by independent media,” he alleged.
Sardar Shafiq, a Sahracheh News Agency reporter based in Khost, confirmed that access to information was becoming more difficult in the province with each passing day.
He said that only pro-government journalists were invited to programmes where public concern was raised and not those sharing information with independent media, adducing details.
Shafiq warned they would stop publishing positive news stories regarding the police headquarters if the officials concerned continued denying them information.
“Police officials don’t offer information on security incidents, some incidents happen in the morning but they refuse to share details with the media until late night,” he complained.
Babak Jan Bahador, a reporter with Killid Radio, also groused about local police officials not cooperating with journalists.
Meanwhile, Sadafah Hayat, head of the Journalist’s Safety Committee in the southeastern area, confirmed officials did not share information with reporters in some cases.
He asked the provincial authority to cooperate with journalists on access to information.
“Officials refuse to play ball or share information with the media too late to be of any value,” he remarked.
On the other hand, the governor’s spokesman, Talib Masalqi, said, “We had good relations with the media and invited journalists to important events.
“We are unaware what type of problem journalists are faced in terms of access to information. If there is any problem, we would like to help us. The governor’s house offers information,...”