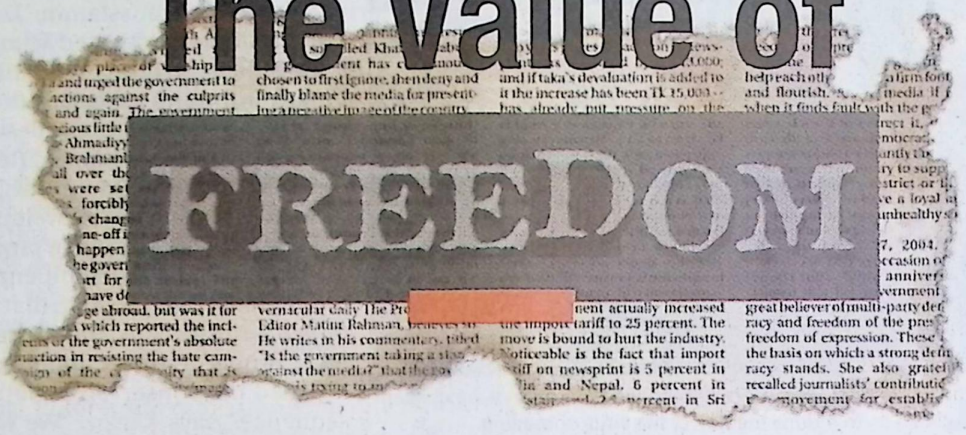
The Value of FREEDOM



NADER RAHMAN

"Freedom of expression shall be inviolable. Every Afghan shall have the right to express thoughts through speech, writing, illustrations as well as other means in accordance with provisions of this constitution. Every Afghan shall have the right, according to provisions of law, to print and publish on subjects without prior submission to state authorities."

Article 34, The Constitution of Afghanistan

The Internet has become a veritable hunting ground for pseudo democratic nations looking to add to their respective national prison systems. These governments quite literally shiver at the very sound of a 21st century word, a blogger. Five years ago it was the marginalised pursuit of tech savvy geeks ranting and raving about everything except what really mattered in the world, now in some parts of the world it has become a pastime of truth, the last remaining sanctuary of free speech and expression. Stories of people being carted off around the world because of what they write on their blogs are now commonplace, from Abdel Kareem Soliman in Egypt to Hu Jia and Zeng Jinyan in China there are people around the world suffering and begging for their rights. Last week yet another high profile incident came on to the international stage, no it didn't have to do with a blogger per se but the moral and out come of the event was possibly the most shocking news about the state of freedom around the world and also importantly in Afghanistan.



Afghanistan needs someone like him.

Arash Bikhoda means "Godless" in Persian and that is interestingly the name of a political blogger who got caught up in a storm half way around the world from where he lives. Bikhoda is an Iranian-born student and Internet journalist who lives in Europe and writes with a more than liberal tint on many topics including