As the space for freedom of expression inside Afghanistan has shrunk, many journalists and media workers, including the Journalists who ran Payk Investigative Journalism Center in Kabul, Afghanistan, have escaped the country fearing the Taliban’s brutality and retaliation. Payk Media, Inc. (“Payk”), with over a decade of experience in investigative journalism and journalism training will continue to provide in-depth reporting on the country from the US where our managing Journalists will be resettling. Payk will be a trustworthy source of information for the people of Afghanistan as well as the international community who seek credible information and reporting on the activities of the Taliban government, current and factual coverage of issues and events happening in Afghanistan and around Afghan refugee/resettlement all in a multimedia, multilingual-English, Farsi/Dari, Pashto format.

Support for Journalists inside Afghanistan and Resettling in the US
Payk will continue to support our reporters and staff who remain in Afghanistan to ensure they have protection, resources, and funding to continue living and working safely inside the country. Many of Afghanistan’s journalists have fled because of threats and possible persecution. Payk aims to provide them with opportunities to continue their journalism from the US where they are now resettling through financial assistance and support to aid them in rebuilding their lives. Payk to aims to become the voice for Afghanistan’s citizens, exodus and diaspora and provides them with the information they can use to navigate their new lives.

Investigative Reporting
Payk’s team has over a decade of experience in investigative reporting. Payk has been the first and only dedicated center of investigative journalism in the country. As the presence of credible national media organizations face dire threats in Afghanistan, the challenge to have access to trustworthy reporting by the media will only increase. Payk aims to continue producing investigative reports using its network of reporters around the country. Payk will produce groundbreaking reports on human rights, women’s rights, minorities’ rights, counter terrorism/extremism (“CTE”) and the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan.

Political Fact-Checking/Research
Payk introduced the concept of Political Fact-Checking in Afghanistan for the first time and has produced hundreds of fact-check reports challenging claims, numbers, and statements of the government and other parties involved in the country. By conducting CTE and Mis/Dis-information studies, we will continue to build on this experience and provide people with more credible data in order to keep those in power accountable against verifiable facts. The need for this kind of reporting will only increase given the fact that domestic media are operating under high levels of pressure from the Taliban that affects the accuracy as well as credibility of their reports. Only sharp and accurate, objective, and fast fact-checked reports by credible institutions could challenge those in power and provide the public with reliable information.

Documentaries and Social Media Content
Payk will produce documentaries about different issues and topics showcasing Afghanistan’s historical and current achievements, progress, failures, and lessons learned. These series of documentaries will cover politics, military and rule of law, human rights, women’s rights, arts, education, media, personalities, CTE and so on. Additionally, Payk will produce short informative video packages for social media which aims to update the public with the latest news from Afghanistan and the diaspora.

Who is Payk?
Payk Media, Inc., is co-founded by ICFJ Knight Journalism Award winner, Sami Mahdi and other veteran Afghan journalists and media professionals, to produce groundbreaking investigative reports, support and train Afghan journalists inside Afghanistan and resettling in the US, and provide factual and up to date news and information on Afghanistan. The collective experience of the founders includes journalistic and executive media leadership for reputable media outlets in Afghanistan such as TOLONews, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 1TV, Khurshid TV and various Radio, Print and Online News portals. Payk was established in October 2011, as an independent, non-affiliated and not-for-profit media institution with grants awarded by UNFPA, UNAMA, Open Society Foundation, National Endowment for Democracy, Internews and Vice. Payk Media is currently in the process of obtaining 501(c)3 status in the US.

For more information, please contact us at info@PaykMedia.org or visit us at: www.paykmedia.org