



Silk Road Station Report

January 2016 - October 2016

www.silkroadstation.com



NETWORK
FOR A
FREE
SOCIETY

Silk Road Station details of the 2016's main initiatives:

➤ Silk Road Online Radio & TV

The Silk Road Station is an initiative of AELSO by support of Network for a Free Society & Atlas foundation that launched on 2015 as one of the productive way to reach communities, youth groups, business community and all citizens and liberty lovers across the world.

The main idea of the Silk Road Station is to promote free society values.

During 2015 (Oct- Dec) 35 divers radio programs have been designed in consultancy of Afghan & International scholars which all of them are focused to how we can more effectively spread the ideas of liberty.

Each of the programs of the Station has a special title and covers particular topic for discussions and broadcasting 2 times programs are 40 % Pashto, 40 % Dari and 20 % in English language. The mobile apps of the station are available on App Store and Google Store for smart phones which everyone can download it freely and listen to the programs.

Below is a short description of our activities from January 2016 – October 2016:

1- Descriptions of ongoing programs:

Fortunately due to Afghan youth libertarians interest for working and spreading the free society values in the country the numbers of programs have been increased from 35 to 38, which aim of all these programs is to spread & educate Afghan nation and the Persian language speakers across the world on the values & philosophies of libertarian ideas; specially Human rights, good governance, women rights, limited government, free market economy and other values related to the ideas of a free society Including topics on compatibility of Islam with market economy and free society values.

Most of the programs are being presented in national languages of the country (Dari & Pashto) and fortunately it's mentionable that on the last six months of 2016 we could find the opportunity to work on the concept of four international radio programs to connect a huge number of libertarians from all around the world to share their ideas and thoughts regarding free society values.

This is to acknowledge that concept of all four mentioned international programs is ready to be presented on 10th December of 2016.

It's mentionable that one of the new initiatives of Silk Road Station team on 2016 is producing Persian audio books of four libertarian books which AELSO already published them for the first time in Afghanistan.

The books are as below:

- 1- Morality of Capitalism (Tom G. Palmer)
- 2- Capitalism and Freedom (Milton Friedman)
- 3- What is seen and What is not seen & the Law (Frederic Bastiat)
- 4- Common Sense Economics (James D. Gowartney, Richard L. Stroup, Dwight R. Lee)

We are still working on recording of these 4 books and hopefully two of these audio books will be published at the end of 2016.

We are sure that this initiative of producing Audio Libertarian Books will be more effective on the knowledge of these books not only in Afghanistan even in Iran and all Persian worlds.

2- Listeners of the Station:

As we all know that Afghanistan is a conservative society and there are many extremist groups which they are against individual freedom and other free society values therefore working for ideas of free society values is very challenging that need considering the situation and challenges exist around us.

As per our previous statistics from the established date of the station up to end of 2015 the number of listeners was almost 400 – 600 per day, 2800 – 4200 per week and 12000 – 18000 per month.

The latest statistics show that the number of listeners due to hard working of our team and young volunteer groups has been increased as below:

850 – 1000 Daily Listeners, 5950 – 7000 Weekly Listeners, 25500 - 30000 Monthly Listeners and this is to let you know that the number of all listeners on last 10 months of 2016 (January – October) is around 300000.

Our online statistics shows that the above mentioned number (**300000 Listeners**) is divided as below:

No.	Continents	Statistics (Percent)
1	Asia	77 %
2	Europe	13 %
3	America	10 %

3- Our Volunteer Groups:

Due to hard working of Afghanistan Economic & Legal Studies Organization (AELSO) and Silk Road Station directorate board members we could promote the volunteerism culture very well among young generation of Afghanistan.

So, these hard working of AELSO and Silk Road Station board members motivated many of Afghan young people to come and join with us to spread and work as volunteers for promoting individual freedom and other values of free society in Afghanistan.

Fortunately the number of our volunteer groups rather than 2015 has been increased from 88 up to 115 individuals, which all of them are very committed to work for peace, liberty and other values of a free society.

These 115 people are civil society and human rights activists, journalists, lawyers, university students, policy makers.

Beside this that these young people are working as volunteer in Silk Road Station, we have designed many opportunities and workshops for them to be trained properly about the ideas and philosophies of liberty in the country and become active Afghan libertarians in the future.

Currently a group of young Afghan people both from males and females are under the training.



Volunteer Groups



During running of the programs



Volunteer Groups



Silk Road Station Team



During weekly meetings



Silk Road Station Technician Room

Before having the conclusion of our 10 months efforts in Silk Road Station (January – October), it's good to mention our challenges:

➤ **Security Challenges:**

Security and growing of extremist groups in the country such is ISIS is one of our big challenges.

➤ **Financial Challenges:**

As we are a non-profit organization and we don't have any income from our activities thus we are facing so many financial challenges.

➤ **Capacity Building Challenges:**

We don't have enough financial and developing sources for capacity building of our team, and we kindly ask from our partners to provide us, trainings and seminars outside the country.

➤ **Mobile Apps and Software development challenges:**

As the technology is growing day by day and we have to be updated, but unfortunately due to financial problems and lack of professional developers in Afghanistan we are not able to develop our mobile apps and software; which this issue cause losing some of our listeners.

Therefore we kindly ask from our partners to increase their financial support that we should develop our system outside of the country.

4- Conclusion of the report:

We are very pleased that Silk Road Station will celebrate its first anniversary on up coming days, indeed every organization is facing lots of ups and downs during their activities and this is the thing that we also faced; but hopefully we could come up with lots of challenges and most of our activities done successfully.

On behalf of Silk Road Station I would like to say big thanks for Mrs. Linda Whetstone and all our supportive friends in Network for a Free Society for their usual supports and cooperation.

We are very hopeful to receive your more supports in the future.

Best regards,

Mohammad Khalid Ramizy

General Director of Silk Road Station

12 October, 2016

Kabul, Afghanistan