**Somaiyah Hafeez**

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Finalist, **Young Journalist of the Year Award** 2024 by Thomson Foundation

**EDUCATION**

Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, New York Expected Aug. 2025

M.S Data Journalism

* **Reported** on the MTA’s [fare-free bus service program](https://theuptowner.org/the-mta-halts-free-crosstown-m116-bus-service-uptown/) in Harlem, on a community-led fight against [artificial turf fields in Inwood](https://columbianewsservice.com/2024/11/26/despite-residents-opposition-soccer-field-with-artificial-turf-under-construction-in-inwood-hill-park/) and [covered community board](https://theuptowner.org/manhattan-community-board-9-votes-in-favor-of-universal-daylighting/) meetings.
* Contributed to an election-year investigation with Columbia Journalism Review analyzing [Courier Newsroom](https://www.cjr.org/tow_center/courier-newsroom-spent-big-on-a-meta-ad-blitz-in-october.php)’s, a network of local news outlets, political ad spending using Meta Ad Library.
* Created **responsive data stories using Adobe Illustrator/ai2html** with data scraped using Python and analyzed on pandas about [missing persons in Balochistan](https://somaiyahhafeez.github.io/balochistan/) and changing funding priorities of [USAID](https://somaiyahhafeez.github.io/usaid/).
* • Developed **investigative and OSINT methodologies** in conflict reporting.

National University of Sciences and Technology, Islamabad, Pakistan Sept. 2019-June 2023

BSc Physics

President’s Gold Medal Award (CGPA: 3.71/4.00)

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Freelance Journalist May 2021-July 2024

* **Authored 50+ longform and feature stories** for major international and national news organizations including [*The Guardian*](https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2022/feb/24/house-of-love-the-calm-creative-space-changing-young-lives-in-karachi), [*The Diplomat*](https://thediplomat.com/authors/somaiyah-hafeez/posts/1/), [*New Lines Magazine*](https://newlinesmag.com/writers/somaiyah-hafeez/), [*The New Humanitarian*](https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/authors/somaiyah-hafeez), and [*Dawn*](https://www.dawn.com/authors/9361/somaiyah-hafeez)*.*
* **Pitched, researched and wrote** clear and concise long form articles on the [2022 floods in Pakistan](https://newlinesmag.com/spotlight/in-pakistan-an-economic-crisis-keeps-life-on-the-edge/), [economic crisis](https://newlinesmag.com/spotlight/in-pakistan-an-economic-crisis-keeps-life-on-the-edge/), [enforced disappearances](https://kontinentalist.com/stories/no-justice-for-balochistan-enforced-disappearances) in Balochistan province and the [resurgence of militancy](https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2023/03/16/pakistan-taliban-new-wave-militancy) in the country, leveraging **news gathering skills and social media expertise** to verify information quickly.
* Interviewed subject-matter experts, politicians and affected communities to produce deeply reported, accessible stories about [refugees](https://newlinesmag.com/spotlight/afghan-refugees-born-in-pakistan-are-leaving-their-lives-for-the-unknown/), [climate resilient housing](https://dialogue.earth/en/climate/after-floods-pakistan-resilient-housing/), Pakistan’s [transgender community](https://thediplomat.com/2023/06/can-pakistans-law-on-transgender-rights-survive/) and [gender-based violence](https://thediplomat.com/2023/02/no-safe-space-in-pakistan-for-women-rape-case-roils-islamabad/)
* Coordinated and arranged interviews as a fixer for a team of Dutch journalists working on a documentary about climate change and the political landscape in Pakistan.
* Worked in fast paced news environment with editors and turned in news copies quickly.

Media Fellow Aug. 2023- Aug. 2024

Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development

* Produced 3 stories on militarism, peace and women’s Human Rights from Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan as a media fellow for APWLD under their media and visual fellowship.

**AWARDS**

* Humanitarian Reporting Award 2023 by ICRC-CEJ
* Honorable Mention, Solutions Journalism Award 2024

**LANGUAGES**

Balochi (native), Urdu (fluent), English (fluent)

**SKILLS**

* **Analysis:** Python, Pandas, R, SQL, pandas, Excel
* **Scraping:** BeautifulSoup, Playwright, Selenium
* **Visualization:** Data wrapper, ggplot, Flourish, Adobe Illustrator
* **Web:** GitHub, HTML/CSS
* **Reporting:** FOIA, OSINT, interviewing