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 in Harlem, on a community-led fight against artificial turf fields in Inwood and covered community board meetings.
- Contributed to an election-year investigation with Columbia Journalism Review analyzing Courier Newsroom'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 and changing funding priorities of USAID.
- Developed **investigative and OSINT methodologies** in conflict reporting.
- Reported a 5,000+ data-driven piece on the impact of the Trump administration crackdown on immigrant communities and businesses across different neighborhoods in NYC.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Data and News Reporter, Reach Plc

- **Introduced data reporting** to the newsroom, working on data stories from mapping the NYC mayoral election results to analyzing ICE data in NYC, Chicago and across the U.S. **Visualized maps and charts** for stories to make them more engaging to the audience.
- Write **breaking news stories** and **enterprise features** across a variety of beats for Mirror US, Express US and Irish Star.
- Coverage includes the 2025 Mayoral election, ICE crackdown across the U.S. during the second Trump administration, Russia-Ukraine war, tracking measles outbreak across the U.S., break news on Minneapolis shooting, Charlie Kirk assassination, interview experts on the war in Sudan.

Freelance Journalist May 2021-July 2024

- **Authored 50+ longform and feature stories** for major international and national news organizations including *The Guardian*, *The Diplomat*, *New Lines Magazine*, *The New Humanitarian*, and *Dawn*.
- **Pitched, researched and wrote** clear and concise long form articles on the 2022 floods in Pakistan, economic crisis, enforced disappearances in Balochistan province and the resurgence of 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, climate resilient housing, Pakistan's transgender community and gender-based violence
- 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.

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