

Case In Point

by Ann Galloway

Press releases were sent a month prior to her talk, and again when Malalai Joya was denied a visa and then again when she received a visa. Calls were made to local news outlets. MPR declined to interview her because they didn't think her English was good enough. Yet she was interviewed on national Democracy Now and we could understand her just fine. I personally emailed WCCO, TPT, Fox9, Kare11, several reporters and tiplines to the Star Tribune and Pioneer Press. The only radio who is interviewing her is 950 AM and KFAI.*

The corporate news still fails to inform us. They say that the women of Afghanistan are better off since the fall of the Taliban, which shows just how misinformed they are. It is exactly the reason why someone like Malalai Joya should be written about. And her visit should have been an article in the mainstream press since so much of our tax dollars are going to Afghanistan.

Do you think if Karzai was to come to Minneapolis there wouldn't have been an article and time and location of his visit?

*Note: In contrast to the corporate media, ever faithful, independent media covered Malalai Joya's visit. In addition to the two radio station programs that featured interviews, Southside Pride interviewed her and published an article about her visit in print and online. In advance of her talk, Twin Cities Daily Planet enabled announcements and information to appear on its web site. The Uptake internet video and the cable TV program, World in Depth, filmed her speech. There may have been other independent media not mentioned here. Defending against consolidation of corporate media goes hand in hand with enabling access and distribution of independent media.

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