

## From terror victim to leadership

*Ansar Abbas, a brave journalist, is determined to make a difference in KPK and FATA by promoting peace in DI Khan.*

*“The trainings on mediation and dialogues were relevant to the current scenario of KPK and FATA. It has taught many useful techniques which I will be deploying for the betterment and stability of DI Khan.”*



*Search for Common Ground Pakistan works to transform the way communities and societies deal with disagreement – away from adversarial approaches and towards collaborative problem solving. We work with local partners to find culturally appropriate means to strengthen societies' capacity to deal with disputes and disagreements constructively: to understand the differences and act on the commonalities.*

Ansar Abbas is a journalist working for the promotion of peace in the DI Khan district of KPK Province in Pakistan. Ansar holds Masters' degrees in Mass Communication and Political Science. He earned his first degree in 2006, and completed his second degree in 2010, after losing both his arms in a tragic bomb blast. He possesses knowledge, skills and experience in mediation, dialogue, reconciliation and community mobilization..

Ansar has been an active worker and a dedicated journalist, reporting on the current situation and developments in his native town. DI Khan is an unstable district, facing increasing terrorism, extremism, target killings and sectarian violence.

Ansar was selected for PAIMAN Alumni Trust and SFCG Pakistan's training program on "Youth Capacity Building on Mediation and Dialogue" held under SFCG's flagship project for "Promoting Peace in KPK and FATA - Connecting Youth and Policymakers through Mediation and Dialogue."

After attending the primary and advanced trainings, Ansar went back to his district and initiated a Community Based Organization coined "Jazba," or passion. Ansar liaised with a local policymaker whom he met during the training, and they decided to work together and facilitate the process of peacebuilding through local community action.

Ansar articulated that he gained experience and polished his skills in facilitation, active listening, mediation and dialogue through the platform of SFCG Pakistan's training and coaching sessions.

He shared that "I remained in the surgical Intensive Care Unit (ICU) for three months in critical condition. The physical injuries that I sustained were nothing compared to the memories of that day. But I continued my struggle and SFCG's training has given me new hope to take my work as a peace builder to new heights." The tragic loss of his arms has not barred him from striving for his goals; he still works with the same zeal and zest.

Ansar additionally formed a Peace Committee to spread awareness about victims of terrorism. He conducted a survey amongst victims of bomb blasts, target killings and sectarian violence from 1984 to 2013. He has also organized the "Jazba Tournament" to engage youth of different sects in order to increase awareness and create harmony amongst them.

"The trainings on mediation and dialogue were relevant to the current scenario of KPK and FATA. I learnt many useful techniques which I will employ for the betterment and stability of DI Khan," he said.