

Alayna Nulty
Washington Community High School
Feature Contest, First Place

“As journalists, we witness and cover a lot of horrifying, tragic events,” according to Ash-har Quraishi, NBC broadcast journalist. “They always comes back to get you.”

Quraishi was just 27 years old when he was assigned to cover the kidnapping and murder of fellow journalist Daniel Pearl. Pearl was assigned to cover news in Pakistan by the Wall Street Journal. Just one day before his return to the Bureau in India, Pearl was kidnapped by Al Qaeda operatives. The video of his murder was posted online, and Quraishi was assigned to interview Pearl’s wife, Mariane.

“When I was in Korichi, my wife and I covered that [Daniel’s] story,” Quraishi said. “We managed to get the first interview with Mariane.”

Mariane and Daniel Pearl were both journalist in Pakistani region. At the time, Mariane was eight months pregnant.

“It didn’t occur to us until two, three years later,” Quraishi said. “It was their first child.”

Almost three years later, Quraishi and his wife shared a similar experience to the Pearl’s.

Quraishi and his wife were doing an investigative piece with the Pakistani military. They were on a border raid between Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Pakistani military had been raiding a suspected Al Qaeda cell in the region. Quraishi’s wife was seven months pregnant at the time with their first child.

“Bullets started flying past my us [wife and I], and the military pulled us back,” Quraishi said. “I looked at my wife. The first thing that came to me was covering that [Daniel’s] story. That’s the moment I decided we were leaving.”

Since then Quraishi and his wife have returned to the United States to raise their child.

“There are some journalist that, I have no clue how they do what they do,” Quraishi said. “You do what you can until it gets to the point where it affects you.”