Ayesha Tanzeem

Ayesha Tanzeem is the current chief of Voice of America’s Afghanistan and Pakistan bureau. She is one of the very few foreign correspondents who traveled to areas under the control and influence of the Islamic State militant group while it was at the peak of its power in Eastern Afghanistan in 2015. Her reporting brought to light tales of harrowing cruelty and suffering which earned her the David Burke award for Courage in Journalism.

Before moving to South Asia in early 2015, she was based in Washington DC and hosted two current affairs TV shows for the Voice of America: On The Line and Access Point with Ayesha Tanzeem.

Over the years, Tanzeem has worked for various media outlets including the BBC and has travelled to far-flung areas of the globe to report on breaking news, uncover under-reported stories, or make informative documentaries that have earned her many accolades. From the red light district of Amsterdam to the arms bazaars in the Taliban controlled areas in Northern Pakistan, from the romantic avenues of Vienna to the poverty stricken hamlets of rural Sindh, she has interviewed everyone from nomads to heads of state, from militants to those fighting them.

Along the way, she became an eyewitness to historic moments as they unfolded and brought them to her global audience. She was at the hospital in France when Yasser Arafat passed away; stood at the border with desperate families when workers in Hungary completed a fence to keep out illegal migrants from Middle East; reported from within the hall in Phoenix when Senator John McCain delivered his concession speech in 2008; and was live on television from McCormick Place in Chicago when President Barack Obama walked onto the stage to claim the presidency for the second time.

Her high profile interviews have included international newsmakers like the slain Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the controversial Pakistani president and military dictator General Pervez Musharraf, India’s Minister for External Affairs Salman Khurshid, the US Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff, the US Chairman of Joint Chiefs Gen. Richard Myers, and many others.