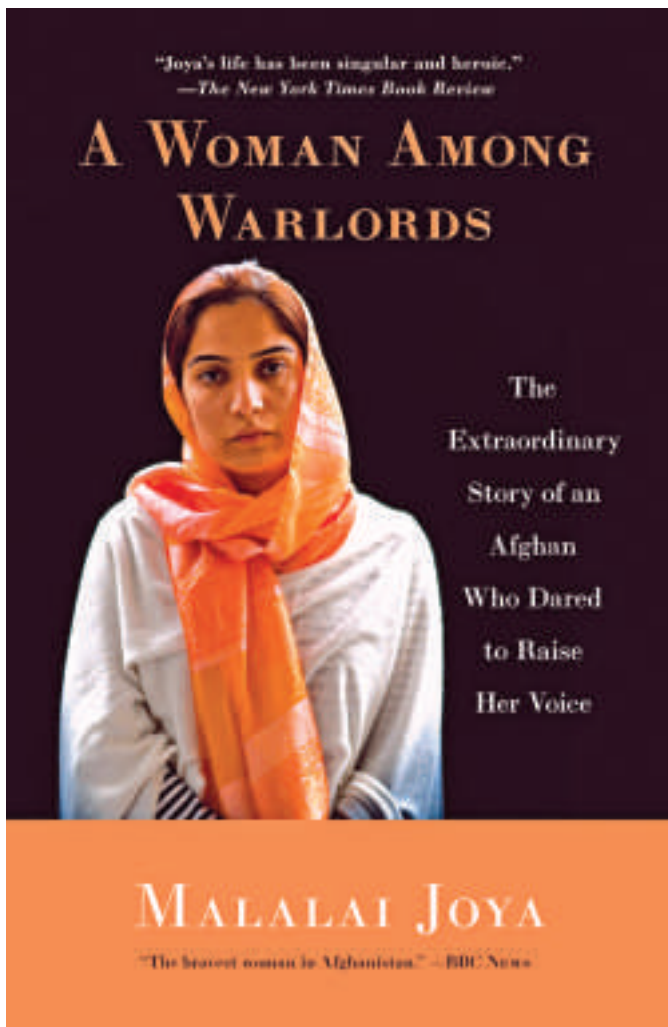


## A Woman's Journey

Written by The Daily Star  
Friday, 25 October 2013 00:00

---

By Tulip Chowdhury, [The Daily Star](#), Oct 25, 2013



Malalai Joya, the political activist, writer and critic from Afghanistan visited Amherst, Massachusetts as part of her tour of the USA. Called “The bravest woman in Afghanistan” by BBC, she was a member of the parliament in the National Assembly of Afghanistan from 2005 to the early 2007. She was dismissed for speaking out against the warlords and people she considered as war criminals in the parliament.

She is a vehement opponent of the present Karzai administration and US military occupation. In her speech at Food For Thought Books, a workers collective in Amherst, on October 8, 2013 she slated the Karzai administration as a puppet government supported by western countries including the USA. Malalai raised her voice against the drone attacks in Afghanistan by the USA

## A Woman's Journey

Written by The Daily Star  
Friday, 25 October 2013 00:00

---

and death of innocent civilians. Speaking on behalf of oppressed Afghan women she presented a film on how the Afghan women and girls are tortured and deprived of justice in her country.

Malalai captivated the spilling audience with the stunning revelations of the horrifying acts of brutalities on women and girls including rapes of four-year old girls. In the film she showed the pictures of the young Afghan wife, Bibi Aisha whose ears and nose were cut off by her husband. There were also pictures of men being blindfolded and shot from the back for speaking against the current government. The audience gasped when presented with graphic pictures of tortures on women and men who had raised voices against oppression.

Resolutely she spoke of how the war, occupation, troop presence and the deals with Taliban and warlords is driving the Afghan women and girls to devastating plights. On behalf of Afghan women's mission she pointed out that the sad plight of Afghan women is rooted to Afghan politics at high ranks and is influenced in support of the brutalities against women by warlords and Taliban Fundamentalists

Born on April 25, 1978, in Farah Province of Afghanistan, Malalai became involved in humanitarian work from her school life. Her struggles in life began very early when her father, a former medical student lost a leg while fighting in the Soviet war in Afghanistan. In 1992, when she was just four years old her family fled to neighbouring Iran to live as refugees. Malalai returned to Afghanistan in 1998 during the Taliban reign and from there on is actively working for the cause of humanity and fighting for the rights of women.

## A Woman's Journey

Written by The Daily Star  
Friday, 25 October 2013 00:00

---

