



## Guide to the "Inside Kabul" audio recordings, 2021-2022

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## Summary

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**Collection Title:**

"Inside Kabul" audio recordings, 2021-2022

**Source:**

Human Rights Archive (Duke University); Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)

**Creator:**

Gillet, Caroline

**Abstract:**

"Inside Kabul" is an award-winning podcast produced originally by France Inter and directed by Caroline Gillet in collaboration with two young Afghan women, Marwa and Raha (aliases). The collection contains 80 unedited audio files recorded by Marwa and Raha between 2021-2022 after the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in 2021, that would later be used in the podcast, and one corresponding unedited transcript. Topics discussed by Marwa and Raha in these recordings include the erosion of women's rights, social norms and changes, relationships, safety and economic impacts, the refugee experience, and resettling overseas. Winner of the 2025 Human Rights Digital Storytelling Award. Acquired as part of the Human Rights Archive and the Archive of Documentary Arts.

**Extent:**

502 Megabytes (81 files)

**Language:**

Materials in English.

**Collection ID:**

RL.13168

**Permalink:**

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1ft90>

**Preferred Citation**

[Identification of item], "Inside Kabul" audio recordings, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

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## Background

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### Scope and Content

Collection contains 80 audio files recorded between 2021-2022 as voice notes by Marwa and Raha that were sent to Caroline Gillet, director of "Inside Kabul," and one corresponding unedited transcript of their recordings. Occurring after the Taliban's return to power in Afghanistan in 2021, general topics discussed by Marwa and Raha throughout the recordings include the erosion of women's rights related to work, education, and movement; social norms and changes related to gatherings, music, and clothing; and relationships with family, spouses, and friends. Marwa and Raha also talk about safety issues in Kabul, Afghanistan; the Taliban's impact on the economy; the refugee experience including evacuation to Mazar e Sharif and time spent in a refugee camp in Abu Dhabi; and resettlement in Germany. Some files include description of violence in Afghanistan and audio sounds of gunshots.

### Biographical/Historical

"In the summer of 2021, the Taliban returns to power in Afghanistan and the destinies of two young women, Raha and Marwa, are forever changed. As they contemplate their futures, Raha and Marwa exchange and record hundreds of voice notes with noted French journalist, Caroline Gillet. What emerges is a raw and incredibly intimate chronicle of two young women coming of age amidst the collapse of the world they had known. While Raha has chosen to stay in Kabul and is confronted with the violence of the new regime, Marwa has left and finds her locked up in a refugee camp in Abu Dhabi. "Inside Kabul" tells a universal story of friendship, bravery, and the meaning of home."

Originally produced by France Inter (Radio France), and directed by Caroline Gillet, "Inside Kabul" is an award-winning podcast intertwining narration by Gillet and the recordings created by Marwa and Raha after the Taliban's return to power in 2021. Two years later, in collaboration with Denis Walgenwitz, "Inside Kabul" became an animated short, visualizing their stories and broadcasted in multiple countries. The following year, an English-language version of the podcast was licensed to Canadaland; Radio France began to broadcast the second season, called "Outside Kabul," focusing on the continuation of Marwa and Raha's story.

"Inside Kabul" is the 2025 winner of the Human Rights Digital Storytelling Award.

Sources: "Inside Kabul", <https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceinter/podcasts/serie-inside-kaboul>, accessed October 2025. Digital Storytelling Award

"Inside Kaboul", <https://blogs.library.duke.edu/rubenstein/2025/09/09/digital-storytelling-award-inside-kaboul/>, accessed October 2025.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Statement**

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### **Access Restrictions**

Access restricted. All files are listen only; no downloads allowed without permission from the donors.

Access note. Collection contains electronic records that require special equipment. Contact Research Services with questions.

### **Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the Rubenstein Library's Citations, Permissions, and Copyright guide.

### **Acquisition Information**

The "Inside Kabul" audio recordings were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a winner of the 2025 Human Rights Digital Storytelling Award.

### **Processing Information**

Processed by Tere Elizalde, October 2025

Accessions described in this collection guide: 2025-0102

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## Names and Subjects

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- Women's rights -- Afghanistan
- Human Rights -- Afghanistan
- Refugees -- Afghanistan
- Refugees -- Germany
- Refugee camps
- Women refugees
- Sexism -- Religious aspects -- Islam
- Sex discrimination against women -- Afghanistan
- Islamic fundamentalism -- Afghanistan
- Afghanistan -- Politics and government -- 2021-Kabul (Afghanistan)
- Machine-readable artifacts
- Human Rights Archive (Duke University)
- Archive of Documentary Arts (Duke University)
- Gillet, Caroline
- Taliban

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## Collection Inventory

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Marwa Sept-Oct 2021, 2021 September 19-2021  
October 17

Digital-materials RL13168-  
SET-0001

**Physical Description:** 111 Megabytes  
13 files

### Scope and Contents

Includes 13 audio files; topics include Marwa's time in Mazar, evacuation from Afghanistan, Marwa's early days in Abu Dhabi and as a refugee, sexism against women, and family.

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Marwa Nov-Dec 2021, 2021 November 11-2022  
February 05

Digital-materials RL13168-  
SET-0001

**Physical Description:** 55.4 Megabytes  
13 files

**Scope and Contents**

Includes 13 audio files; topics include Marwa's time in a refugee camp, family and friends, and reflections on Kabul and culture.

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Marwa Jan-May 2022, 2022 March 12-2022 May  
31

Digital-materials RL13168-  
SET-0001

**Physical Description:** 166 Megabytes  
15 files

**Scope and Contents**

Includes 15 audio files; topics include resettling in Germany and adapting to life there, reflecting on childhood experiences in Kabul, and discussions on culture and values.

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Marwa June-July 2022, 2022 July 25-2022  
October 05

Digital-materials RL13168-  
SET-0001

**Physical Description:** 3.07 Megabytes  
3 files

**Scope and Contents**

Includes 3 audio files; topics include reflecting on home and Kabul, and moving to France.

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Raha Sept-Oct 2021, 2021 September 25-2021  
October 28

Digital-materials RL13168-  
SET-0001

**Physical Description:** 46.9 Megabytes  
10 files

**Scope and Contents**

Includes 10 audio files; topics include Raha's experiences within Kabul after the return of the Taliban, family, electricity shortages, and Raha's guitar.

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Raha Nov-Dec 2021, 2021 November 08-2021  
December 29

Digital-materials RL13168-  
SET-0001

**Physical Description:** 3.61 Megabytes  
9 files

**Scope and Contents**

Includes 9 audio files; topics include Raha's family and friends; her guitar; the impact on life in Kabul as a result of the Taliban including work, violence, and the economy.

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Raha Jan-May 2022, 2021 December 29-2022  
May 12

Digital-materials RL13168-  
SET-0001

**Physical Description:** 102 Megabytes  
15 files

**Scope and Contents**

Includes 15 audio files; topics include the economic situation in Afghanistan; sexism against women including driving and education; Raha's guitar; and violence around the holidays of Ramadan and Eid. Contains audio of gunshots.

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Raha June-Aug 2022, 2022 August 11

Digital-materials RL13168-  
SET-0001

**Physical Description:** 10.7 Megabytes  
2 files

**Scope and Contents**

Includes 2 audio files; topics include corruption in Kabul and thoughts nearly one year after the Taliban's return to power.

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Transcript, 2025

Digital-materials RL13168-  
SET-0001

**Scope and Contents**

One document file in the form of a spreadsheet containing an unedited transcript.