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Masked assailant squirts acid at Afghan journalist "Iranians behind the attack"

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Kabul - An assailant squirted acid in the face of an Afghan journalist in Kabul city, officials said Wednesday.

Razaq Mamoon, a former television anchor, was on his way home when the masked man attacked him, Mohammad Zahir, chief of the criminal investigative department of Kabul police, said.

Mamoon was rushed to hospital by relatives, and was reportedly in stable condition, a spokesman for the Public Health Ministry said. The victim was transferred to a military hospital later for security reasons.

Several Afghan journalist associations condemned the attack. The independent Media Club of Afghanistan called it 'inhumane' and 'un-Islamic.'

President Hamid Karzai also condemned the attack and instructed police to solve the crime.

Mamoon often appears on TV talk shows as political analyst and is author of several books, including a recent one in which he criticized the Iranian government.

'He thinks he was attacked because of his new book and he says that Iranians were behind the attack,' a senior police official who interviewed Mamoon in the hospital said on condition of

anonymity.

'He has not given us any evidence to prove his claims, but we will still include his claims in our investigation,' he said.