

IN MEMORIAM

TAJ MALI **1955-2020**

by Gil Stein



Taj Mali, assistant field director of the Oriental Institute's cultural heritage projects in Afghanistan, died from the COVID-19 coronavirus at age sixty-five in Kabul on July 19, 2020. Taj served his country for forty-two years in both Afghanistan and the US. Taj worked as a broadcaster and translator for Radio Afghanistan, and the Afghan Ministry of Education. After the Soviet invasion of 1979, Taj left Kabul to join the Mujahaddin resistance in Pakistan. In 1990 Taj became a public affairs specialist at the US Consulate-Peshawar, beginning a twenty-three year career with the US State Department. After the US-led invasion, in 2002 Taj became a public affairs specialist at the US Embassy-Kabul and later emigrated to the US in 2014 to work as a broadcaster for the Voice of America's Afghanistan Service. In 2020, Taj started as assistant field director for the OI cultural heritage grants in Afghanistan. With his language skills, embassy experience, and government ministry connections, Taj was an invaluable member of our Kabul team. He will be greatly missed.
