

Refugee Review Tribunal

AUSTRALIA

RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

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This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT within time constraints. This response is not, and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum.

Questions

1. Where is Taitoop, Behsood, Wardak, and can you provide a map?
2. What is the situation in Taitoop, Behsood, Wardak for Hazaras?
3. Do you have any information on Haji Yenoos?

RESPONSE

1. Where is Taitoop, Behsood, Wardak, and can you provide a map?

There are two neighbouring districts in northwest Wardak¹ province called Behsood (usually spelt as Behsud or Bihsud and occasionally Bihsood or Besud): Markazi Bihsud (Central Bihsud, also called Bihsud No. 2) and Hisa-I- Awali Bihsud (meaning Bihsud No. 1). No place called Taitoop was found in either of these districts. The closest sounding places were:

- Bortop in Markazi Bihsud;
- Sare Top in Markazi Bihsud;
- 4 villages called Sare Tup in Markazi Bihsud;
- 3 Villages called Top in Markazi Bihsud.

Maps showing Markazi Bihsud and Hisa-I- Awali Bihsud districts in Wardak province, from the UN agency AIMS, are attached. (AIMS 2002, 'Afghanistan', *UNHCR District Maps*, October; Wardak section of AIMS 2002, *Afghanistan Administrative Divisions*, August; AIMS 2002, *Hisa-I- Awali Bihsud District*, August; AIMS 2002, *Markazi Bihsud District*, August – Attachment 1)

¹ Also spelt Vardak, Wardag, Wardagh

A list of village names in each of the districts in Wardak is also attached for reference. (AIMS – Afghanistan Information Management service 2004, ‘Afghanistan settlements – Province Wardak’ – Attachment 2)

2. What is the situation in Taitoop, Behsood, Wardak for Hazaras?

Wardak province is in east-central Afghanistan, just west of Kabul. Adamec notes:

The province is mountainous, crossed by the Kabul-Kandahar highway and the road west into the Hazarajat and northwest to Bamian Province. The inhabitants are Ghilzai and Durrani Pashtuns in the south and Hazara in the north and west. ... The province suffered considerably during the 1980s and has seen large-scale destruction of the infrastructure built during the 1970s.

(Adamec, Ludwig W. 2003, *Historical Dictionary of Afghanistan*, The Scarecrow Press, Inc, 3rd ed. Lanham, p.387 – Attachment 3)

As can be seen in the maps in Attachment 1, the Behsud districts are located in the northwest of Wardak province, the area which Adamec notes is inhabited by Hazaras. Further confirmation of the Hazara nature of these two districts is given in the UNHCR advice below.

In November 2003 UNHCR provided advice to the Tribunal on a series of questions about Behsud 1 and Behsud 2 districts, which are reproduced below:

14. Who is in charge of Behsud town, Wardak, and that district?

Answer: (i) Mr. Baqeer Noor is the District Governor for Behsud 1 and has 520 villages, with an estimated current population of 5,817 families of 56,129 persons.

(ii) Mr. Mahram ali Fahimi is the district Governor for Behsud 2, has 920 villages and sub-villages, with an estimated population of 113,295 individuals.

Both district governors are affiliated with Hizb-e-Wahdat (Khalili).

15. What is the security situation there?

Answer: Both districts are relatively safe, with district authorities and security/police apparatus in place, to our knowledge.

16. What is the ethnic composition of Behsud?

Answer: Both districts are predominately 95% ethnic Hazaras with around 5% Hazara seeds. The Hazaras are from 18 different tribes and have elected leaders in a Shura.

No inter-tribal tensions.

17. Have there been any reports of recent (post Taliban) conflicts between Hazaras and other ethnic groups in Behsud?

Answer: None to our knowledge, however, the Hazaras complain of atrocities committed by the Kuchis during the Taliban occupation. Tensions to be expected on the return of the Kuchis.

(UNHCR 2003, *Advice on the situation in Uruzgan and Wardak provinces of Afghanistan provided by the UNHCR to the RRT on 21 November 2003 in response to RRT Questions*, 21 November – Attachment 4)

The UNHCR provided further advice in relation to a further series of questions in March 2004:

What is the general security situation in Wardak Province, more specifically in Behsood and Quli Kheish districts?

UNHCR expressed its concerns on numerous occasions, which it is not in a position to monitor this province since the last part of 2003 given the security situation in this province. Incidents of hijacking, looting, robberies, and killings have been reported, in addition to the explosion of land mines, and the distribution of anti-government leaflets. There are also a number of uncontrolled commanders, whose allegiances are unclear that are operating in the Province. The Province is also known to be a stronghold for the Taleban and Hizb-Islami.

The security situation is particularly unstable in Sayyed Abad, Nirkh, Jalrez, Chack. The situation is relatively stable in Behsud I, Behsud II, Jaghatu, and Dyrmerdad districts. Only small incidents of theft have been reported there. Travel from Kabul to the districts is not a problem for the local population. Nevertheless, the stag of aid agencies could be a problem, mainly in Jalrez districts.

Behsood and Quli Kheish districts

Please be advised that Qula Kash is not a district. It is one of the main villages of Behsud I district.

What is the ethnic mix in Behsood? What is the ethnic mix in Quli Kheish?

The ethnic composition is 94% Hazara, 5% Qazal Bash, and 1% Sayyeds. It consists of 18 tribes (Qom Pir Mohd, Qom Zafar, Qom Choqana, Qom Darwashan, Qom Abdul Khaliq, Qom Kazel Bash, Qom Dimerdad, Qom Abdul Khaliq Kajab, Qom Mir Bachach, Qom Noori, Qom Dostdar, Qom Surkhak Nazar, Qom Olama, Qom Norka and Qom Esar).

Which ethnic group/ political faction is in control in Behsood?

The district Behsud I is under the control of the Wahdat Party (Khalili faction).

Which ethnic group/political faction is in control of Quli Kheish?

And Qula Kash is under the control of Harakat Party (lead by Anwari).

Is there any evidence of specific problems facing Hazaras in either district?

Hazaras had faced many problems during the Taleban times such as sexual assaults on women, killings, burning of houses, etc. We have not received such reports or others indicating general human rights violations since the fall of the Taleban regime.

Is there any evidence of forced conscription in either district?

We are unable to confirm or deny this.

Is there any evidence of human rights abuse against male minors, eg rape by commanders, in either district?

We do not have reliable information on this currently. Some information received however would indicate that these human rights abuses took place during the Taleban times.

Is there any evidence of factional fighting in either district?

To date, we have not received such reports.

Can a person safely return to either district from Kabul?

We do not have reliable information on this.

UNHCR 2004, *UNHCR advice 'Wardak Province' Received from UNHCR on 11*

March 2004, 11 March. (Attachment 5)

Since March 2004, the UNHCR have advised that they do not have the resources to answer further questions on Afghanistan.

An October 2004 report on the voting for the presidential election states:

Wardak lies geographically at the heart of Afghanistan. It is south of Kabul and borders the provinces of Parwan, Bamian, Ghazni and Logar. It consists of seven districts: five predominantly Pashtun and two Hazara.

While the Hazara areas of Behsud-1 and -2 have been calm for over a year, security has generally been worsening in the Pashtun districts of Wardak. The province was a traditional power base of the Taleban and some elements remain active there. (Sayed, Abdul Baseer 2004 'Polls Peaceful In Wardak', *Afghan Recovery Report* (Institute for War & Peace Reporting), No. 143, 26 October – Attachment 6)

A September 2004 report on Wardak before the presidential election (Ahmad Jan, Abdul Baseer, Amanullah Narsat and Souhaila Muhseni 2004, 'Wardak', *Afghan Recovery Report* (Institute for War & Peace Reporting), No. 134, 14 September – Attachment 7) makes a number of observations about Wardak generally and Behsud particularly:

[Wardak] sits strategically alongside Kabul province to the east and the former Taleban strongholds of Ghazni and Logar further south. There are still remnants of the Taleban in Wardak, according to local residents, who admit some people still support the Islamic militia.

Security has been deteriorating in Wardak over the last year and aid organisations are increasingly wary of going there. [researcher emphasis]

On September 1, security forces found a large cache of weapons and ammunition in the provincial capital, Maidan Shahr, according to an official with the interior ministry.

"These weapons include heavy and light weapons, landmines, missiles and other weaponry. They have been moved to Kabul," said interior ministry spokesman Lutfullah Marshal. "The operation was launched by the department for counter-terrorism. Security forces in Wardak and the International Security Assistance Force [ISAF] were not involved in this operation.

It is unclear whether the arsenal was in transit or destined for use within the province.

.....

In May, IWPR reported a grenade attack on a female voter-registration worker in Sayed Abad. The 30-year-old woman escaped injury but the blast killed one of her cows.

The attack followed a series of "night letters" that were posted in Sayed Abad's neighbouring district of Chak. The handwritten posters threatened UN and government workers involved in the election process and specifically targeted women.

Asked about the current security situation, Bulbul Shah, the police chief for Sayed Abad district, said, "Nothing happened during registration and security was stable, so I have no concerns about voting."

When specific cases were raised with Shah, he admitted there had been some incidents but dismissed them, "Perhaps in some areas people burned their cards or were threatened – but in such a vast district we can consider them [these incidents] negligible."

Chak district's regional superintendent for UNAMA, Shaheen Assadi, admitted there

had been incidents. “One night, some letters were posted in the centre of Langar and in the villages where female registration workers live.”

Assadi cited letters that had a different text than the ones IWPR previously discovered. They said, “Don’t help Jews. If you do, you yourself will be responsible for what happens.”

He said that the voter registration workers were frightened by the “night letters”, but local elders reassured them and they continued working. He said women had shown how safe they felt by registering in almost equal numbers to men.

At the UNAMA office in Chak, a woman in a burqa said of security, “All the local commanders have helped us.” Others confirmed the support of local commanders. Engineer Mohammed Aman, 40, said, “the local commanders helped the election commission in providing a secure environment for them [UN election staff] to work here”.

..

But if commanders are involved in ensuring security during the election it may be a double-edged sword. It could ensure a more stable environment, but it may also make people afraid to vote freely.

“The only thing that is clear is that local commanders work for their factional parties,” said Zahoor Afghan, chief editor of the Irada newspaper.

The role of the commanders is covered in the report by the UN and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

It cites a series of incidents involving commanders and voter registration, concluding, “While in most cases there is no evidence of overt intimidation or use of force, the reputation of the commanders involved in the collection of registration cards, and their involvement in past crimes and violations, has led to fears of reprisals and acquiescence by the population”.

In contrast to Sayed Abad and Chak, **IWPR found no evidence of intimidation in the districts of Behsud-1 and -2. Although they are in Wardak, registration here has been handled from Bamian, the neighbouring, mainly Hazara, province.**

In Behsud, people said they had no security worries, and most said they would vote for Haji Mohammed Mohaqeq, a Hazara candidate for president.

Restaurant owner Sayed Nasir, 25, of Jaw Qul village, said, “Security is being maintained. we are not threatened by anyone.” [researcher emphasis]

In the provincial capital, Wardak governor Raz Mohammad Dalili explained some of the security measures that have been put in place, including local security councils for each district that include the traditional tribal council or shura, plus some additional appointees.

... Lieutenant General Abdul Basir Salangi, chief of Wardak’s police, said confidently, “We have enough soldiers and officers to ensure the security of the province.”

The only other recent report of the Behsud districts noted briefly that, in June 2005 Commanders Gholam Rasul and Soltan from Behsud District, and other commanders from other Wardak districts, handed over 151 light and heavy weapons with various types of ammunition to the disarmament commission. (‘Afghan commanders surrender weapons in central province’ 2005, BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Afghan radio), 16 June – Attachment 8). No other recent reports of the security situation in the Behsud districts of Wardak were found in the sources consulted.

Some selected reports of recent (2005) incidents in Wardak province generally are included below. Although most of these incidents occurred in the Pashtun districts of the province, the 27 July incident concerned an attack on a prominent Hazara:

- On 14 August, an explosion damaged the house of an army commander in Wardak. The blast happened inside the house of Col Rahim Khan in Chak District and also damaged some cars parked nearby. ('Suspected Taleban killed in southern Afghan province' 2005, BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Afghan independent Pajhwok news agency website), 14 August – Attachment 9)
- On 5 August, unidentified gunmen killed one policeman and wounded two others in an attack on a highway security post in Wardag Province. The incident occurred in Koti Ashro area on the Maydanshar-Bamian main road. ('Gunmen kill highway police in Wardag Province' 2005, BBC Monitoring Afghanistan (Source: Pajhwok Afghan News website, Kabul, in Pashto 0942 gmt 6 Aug 05), 7 August – Attachment 10)
- On 27 July, Hajji Nabi, a brother of Afghan Second Vice President Abdul Karim Khalili (who is Hazara and the leader of the Hezb-I Wahdat), and his driver were wounded in a roadside explosion in **Wardak** Province. ('Brother Of Afghan Second Vice President Injured In Blast', 2005, *RFE/RL Newslines*, Vol. 9, No. 142, Part III, 29 July 2005 – Attachment 11)
- In June or July five girls' schools were set ablaze in Wardak and Logar provinces in attacks blamed on a Taleban campaign to hit soft targets like schools, mosques and other public places to try to deter people from taking part in the elections. (Wahidullah Amani 2005, 'Taleban Show Renewed Strength', Institute for War & Peace Reporting, *Afghan Recovery Report*, No. 179, 22 July – Attachment 12)
- In June, the Afghan news agency Hindokosh reported that "Saydabad District of [eastern] Wardag Province has been turned into a region of violence and security crises for some weeks now". ('Afghan agency says eastern Wardag Province turned into "region of violence"' 2005, BBC Monitoring Afghanistan (Source: Afghan news agency Hindokosh), 16 June – Attachment 13).
- In May, Wardak was affected by protests prompted by the "Newsweek" report of alleged desecration of the Koran at Guantanamo Bay. "All of the Laghman, Wardak, and Khost demonstrations were initially peaceful. In Wardak, demonstrators blocked the main road to Kabul for a short time". ('Afghan Protests Spread To Other Cities' 2005, *RFE/RL Newslines*, Vol. 9, No. 90, Part III, 12 May – Attachment 14)

Human Rights Watch noted concerns about the local government actors in Wardak in 2003.

Although many observers have noted the harmful effects of chronic insecurity in Afghanistan, few have sufficiently appreciated the extent to which continuing insecurity, at its heart, is due to policies and depredations of local government actors. Human Rights Watch found evidence of government involvement or complicity in abuses in virtually every district in the southeast. These include the provinces of Kabul, **Wardak**, Ghazni, Logar, Paktia, Paktika, Laghman, Nangarhar, Kapisa, and Kunar. (p.10)

In Wardak, a local Pashtun governor is ostensibly in charge. In practice, security officials loyal to Sayyaf and Shura-e Nazar control the province. These officials include **Muzafar-u-din** (a local military commander), the provincial police commander, **Abdul Ahmad**, and the head of the local Amniat office, known as **Commander Shir**. (p.19)

Several army and police commanders throughout the southeast are primarily loyal to Sayyaf, even through they officially come under the command of President Karzai or

other government leaders. For instance, **Abdul Ahmed**, a powerful chief police commander in Wardak is one of Sayyaf's close allies ... (p.18)

.... UNAMA officials said they documented cases of police and army troops extorting money and goods in Wardak province, especially forces under the command of Abdul Ahmed, the police commander of Wardak province.¹⁴⁶ This was confirmed to Human Rights Watch by a government official in Wardak, who added that the police commander in Sayed Abad, Gul Rahman, had also been involved in abuses. (p.40)

Human Rights Watch also received information that commanders in Nangarhar, Paktia, Gardez, Ghazni, and Wardak provinces have used their power to seize land and property, either for their own use, to rent, or to distribute to underlings and supporters. (p.42-3)

In some parts of Afghanistan, access to education is further impeded by an environment of resurgent, violent fundamentalism in which schools, teachers, students, musicians, and others have been threatened or physically attacked. In some areas, government authorities have tried to increase protection of girls' schools; in other areas their response has been more muted. In some areas, soldiers and police are enforcing fundamentalist restrictions. In **Wardak**, a government official told Human Rights Watch that government authorities were involved with the men carrying out the attacks. ...

In Ghazni, Kabul, Kandahar, Logar, Sar-e Pul, Wardak, Zabul, Jawzjan, and Laghman provinces from August 2002 to June 2003, there have been more than thirty attacks on girls' and boys' schools in which educational materials, tents, and building have been burned or bombed, according to reports collected by Human Rights Watch. School attacks often coincide with the anonymous distribution of threatening documents—locally called “night pamphlets”—in mosques or high-traffic areas. These night pamphlets warn parents not to send girls to school or threaten Afghans working with the government, with foreigners, or with so-called infidels. (p.82) (Human Rights Watch 2003, “*Killing You is a Very Easy Thing For Us*”: *Human Rights Abuses in Southeast Afghanistan*’ – Attachment 15)

3. Do you have any information on Haji Yenoos? (Haji Yenoos was said to be a commander in Behsud who was arrested by the Taliban)

No reports were found of a commander called anything like Haji Yenoos (the following variations were tried: Yenus, Yenous, Yenos, Yenkoos, Yennus, Yennous, Yennos; also the more common Yunus).

Reports were found of several commanders called Yunus (also Yunis, Yunos and even Yunas) in Afghanistan, but none were found that were associated in reports with Wardak province or Hazaras. Some examples are:

- Yunus Qanooni (Qanoni)- President Hamid Karzai's chief rival in the presidential race and former anti-Taliban commander (from Parwan);
- Yunus Khalis (aka Mowlawi Mohammed Yunus Khalis also Yunes) – famous factional leader from Nangahar province and commander during the guerrilla war against Soviet occupation in the 1980s;
- Haji Mohammad Yunos, a leader of the Khogiani tribe in Nangarhar Province. Haji Mohammad Yunos served as the top commander of the National Salvation Front led by Prof Sebghatollah Mojadedi in Nangarhar;

- “Commander Yunus” – Head of Intelligence in Koshi district of Logar province in 2002;
- Mohammad Musa Yunos, a spokesman for Ahmad Khan, a local commander in the west-central Afghan province of Ghor.

Reports of these commanders is not included in this response, but can be provided if needed or accessed through ISYS.

The Hizb-I Wahdat website lists a number of prominent commanders and Wardak/Behsud representatives who are included in the parties Shura-e Markazi (Central Committee) and other committees (‘Wahdat Party – Cabinet List’ [undated], The Official Site of the Hizb-e-Wahdat – <http://www.wahdat.org/cabinet.html> – Accessed 6 February 2004 – Attachment 16). None of those listed have names like Yenoos:

The list includes the following from Behsud and Wardak, only one of whom is a commander and none of whom have a name like Yenoos:

1. Mohammad Karim Khalili – Secretary General (Behsud, Wardak)
2. Ameen – Military Committee (Wardak)
3. Saadat - Financial Committee (Wardak)
4. Engineer Hussain Hisari -Public Services Committee (Wardak)
5. Mohaqiq Zada (Religious Scholar) Behsud, Wardak
6. Sayed Basir (Commander) Behsud, Wardak
7. Azizullah Shafaq (Writer/Poet) Behsud, Wardak
8. Wasiq (Magnate/Intellectual) Behsud, Wardak

It lists the following Hizb-I Wahdat commanders, only one of whom is from Wardak and none of whom have a name like Yenoos:

1. Sharifi (Commander) Pul Khumri, Baghlan
2. Irfani Jaghuri (Commander) Jaghuri, Ghazni
3. Ameen Turkmani (Commander) Turkman, Parwan
4. Sajjadi Bulkhabi (Commander) Bulkhab, Sar-e Pul
5. Ameeri (Commander) Bandar, Oruzgan
6. Ali Akbar Qasimi (Commander) Nahor, Ghazni
7. Rajab Yourish (Commander) Kabul
8. Sabiri Lali (Commander) Lal-o-Sargungle, Ghor
9. Qasim Khidri (Commander) Zaranj, Nimroz
10. General Mokhtar (Commander) Sheikh Ali, Parwan
11. Fahimi Bulkhabi (Commander) Bulkhab, Sar-e Pul
12. Haji Namatullah Masab (Commander) Sholgara, Balkh
- 13. Sayed Basir (Commander) Behsud, Wardak**
14. Zaki (Commander) Bamiyan

Previous research (on Jaghour district in Ghazni) has indicated that there are many other major and minor Hazara commanders from each district who do not figure in this list.

A recent report notes the names of two commanders in Behsud district called Gholam Rasul and Soltan (neither of whom has a name like “Yenoos”). (‘Afghan commanders surrender weapons in central province’ 2005, BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Afghan radio), 16 June – Attachment 8)

Commanders in Wardak Province

The following information, along with that provided in Question 2 above, is included as background with regard to the importance of militia commanders in post-Taliban Wardak.

As noted above, Human Rights Watch noted the following important active commanders in Wardak in 2003.

In Wardak, a local Pashtun governor is ostensibly in charge. In practice, security officials loyal to Sayyaf and Shura-e Nazar control the province. These officials include **Muzafar-u-din** (a local military commander), the provincial police commander, **Abdul Ahmad**, and the head of the local Amniat office, known as **Commander Shir**. (p.19)
(Human Rights Watch 2003, “*Killing You is a Very Easy Thing For Us*”: *Human Rights Abuses in Southeast Afghanistan*’, Vol. 15, No. 05 (C), July – Attachment 15):

A large number of other commanders were mentioned reports² as being or having been active in Wardak. This list is unlikely to be exhaustive since it relies on one international agency or another to name commanders in relation to specific events or issues and no agency seems to have attempted to compile an exhaustive list. However the following list of Wardak commanders is included to indicate the number and variety of operatives in the province:

- **Brig-Gen Abdol Basir Salangi**, security commander of Maidan-Wardag (‘Afghan commanders surrender weapons in central province’ 2005, BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Afghan radio), 16 June – Attachment 8 and other reports).
- **Commander Abdol Ahad** and **Commander Habiborrahman** from Jalrez District, (‘Afghan commanders surrender weapons in central province’ 2005, BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Afghan radio), 16 June – Attachment 8) (Abdol Ahad aka Abdul Ahmad in other reports).
- **Commander Muzaffruddin**, a military official in Wardak province (Human Rights Watch 2004, *The Rule of the Gun: Human Rights Abuses and Political Repression in the Run-up to Afghanistan’s Presidential Election* , A Human Rights Watch Briefing Paper, 28 September – not attached). See also below.
- **Ghulam Rohani Nangali**, a royalist mujahideen commander who clashed in 2002 with interim administration commander **Muzaffaruddin** (above), both Pashtuns in Wardak (UNHCR 2004, ‘Chronology of Events in Afghanistan, April 2002’ – not attached). Another report notes “**Ghulam Rohani Nangialay**, endorsed by president-elect Hamid Karzai, and **Commander Muzafarudin**, the preferred choice of defence minister General Mohammad Qaseem Fahim. Nangialay was a former commander in the Hezb-e-Islami, sworn enemies of Fahim’s Jamiat-e-Islami forces during the 1991 civil war.” (Asghari, Mohammad Azam 2002, ‘Warlord Feud Threatens Provincial Peace’, 3 July. Institute for War & Peace Reporting *Afghan Recovery Report* , 3 July http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/arr/arr_200207_17_2_eng.txt - not attached)
- **Musa Jan**, a former commander of Hezb-e Eslami, who was working in the Wardak provincial administration (killed in 2004). (‘Afghan jihadi commander killed in Ghazni

² Most of these reports have not been attached to this report but are accessible through the hyperlinks.

Province' 2004, *BBC Monitoring Alert*, source: Hindokosh news agency, 12 November - CISNET Afghanistan CX107330 – not attached)

- **Ghulum Mohammed Hotak**, a former Taliban commander, in Wardak (detained in 2004) ('U.S. Arrests Former Taliban Commander In Afghanistan' 2004, *RFE/RL Newsline* Vol. 8, No. 136, Part III, 20 July – not attached). May be related to, or the same person as Haji Musa Hotak below.
- **Haji Musa Hotak** ("independent commander" participating in disarmament in Wardak in 2004). (UNAMA 2004, 'Press briefing by Manoel de Almeida e Silva, UNAMA Spokesman 16 May 2004', 16 May - not attached)
- **Abdol Wali** from Mirdad District ('Afghan commanders surrender weapons in central province' 2005, *BBC Monitoring South Asia* (Source: Afghan radio), 16 June – Attachment 8)
- **Amanullah** – Hezb-i-Islami commander, detained in April 2004 ('US forces detain Afghan rebel commander' 2004, Reuters, 3 April – Not attached)
- **Anwar Dargar** - Taliban commander in Wardak in 2003. (Gannon, Kathy 2003, 'Coalition enemies in Afghanistan increasingly elusive and better organized', Associated Press Newswires, 30 January – Not attached)
- **Muhammad Anwari** (aka Hossain Anwari) - Harakat-e Islami commander who operated in Wardak, Qandahar, Bamiyan – recently included in Karzai's Transitional ministry and currently governor of Heart. (Hafizullah Emadi, 1997, 'The Hazaras and their Role in the Process of Political Transformation in Afghanistan', *Central Asian Survey*, Vol. 16, No.3 (1997), pp. 363-87 – not attached)

List of Sources Consulted

Map products

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- Australian Defence Imagery & Geospatial Organisation, 1989, *Afghanistan* (CD-ROM)
- AIMS map series on Afghanistan (<http://www.aims.org.af/>)

Internet Sources:

Google search engine

UNHCR *REFWORLD* UNHCR Refugee Information Online

Databases:

Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
DIMIA	<i>BACIS</i>	Country Information
	<i>REFINFO</i>	IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)
RRT	<i>ISYS</i>	RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices.</i>
RRT Library	<i>FIRST</i>	RRT Library Catalogue

Search terms:

Behsood OR Behsud OR Bihsud OR Bihsood OR Besud

Wardak OR Vardak OR Wardag OR Wardagh

List of Attachments

1. AIMS – Afghanistan Information Management Service 2002, ‘Afghanistan’, *UNHCR District Maps*, October ; Wardak section of AIMS 2002, *Afghanistan Administrative Divisions*, August ; AIMS 2002, *Hisa-I- Awali Bihsud District*, August ; AIMS 2002, *Markazi Bihsud District*, August.
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5. UNHCR 2004, *UNHCR advice ‘Wardak Province’ Received from UNHCR on 11 March 2004*, 11 March.
6. Sayed, Abdul Baseer 2004 ‘Polls Peaceful In Wardak’, *Afghan Recovery Report* (Institute for War & Peace Reporting), No. 143, 26 October.
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9. ‘Suspected Taleban killed in southern Afghan province’ 2005, BBC Monitoring South Asia (Source: Afghan independent Pajhwok news agency website), 14 August. (Factiva)
10. ‘Gunmen kill highway police in Wardag Province’ 2005, BBC Monitoring Afghanistan (Source: Pajhwok Afghan News website, Kabul, in Pashto 0942 gmt 6 Aug 05), 7 August. (CX130816)
11. ‘Brother Of Afghan Second Vice President Injured In Blast’, 2005, *RFE/RL Newslines*, Vol. 9, No. 142, Part III, 29 July 2005.
12. Wahidullah Amani 2005, ‘Taleban Show Renewed Strength’, Institute for War & Peace Reporting, *Afghan Recovery Report*, No. 179, 22 July.
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<http://www.wahdat.org/cabinet.html> – Accessed 6 February 2004.