



Australian Government
Refugee Review Tribunal

Country Advice Afghanistan

Afghanistan – AFG36222 – Wardak
Province – Hezb-I Wahdat Khalili

17 February 2010

1 Please provide some information about Maydan Shahr and Markazi Bihsud districts in Wardak province.

A list of settlements in the districts of Wardak is provided in Attachment 1.¹ Maydan Shahr/Maiden Shar and Markazi Bihsud/ Markax-e Behsood are both districts in Wardak Province, as indicated on the following maps:

Afghanistan²

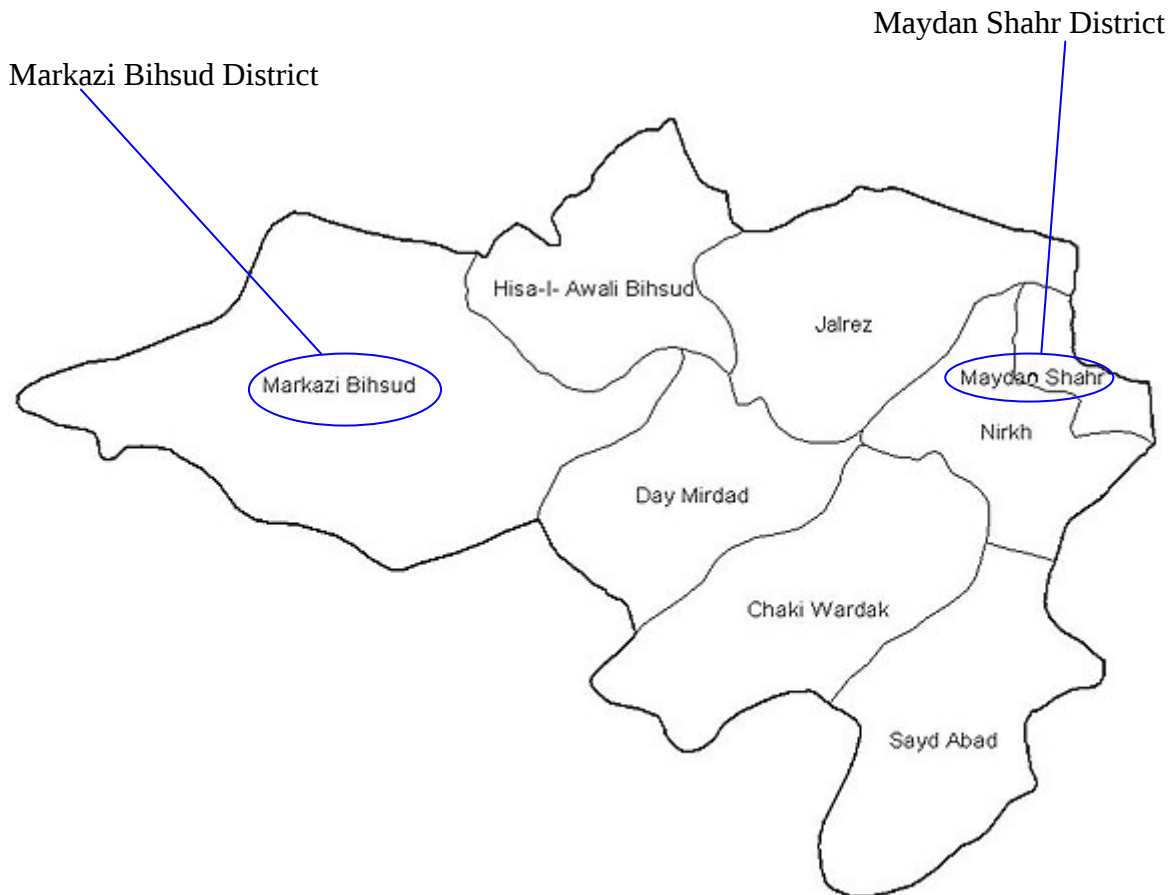
Wardak Province



¹ Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Afghanistan settlements - division in 32 provinces', 7 January – Attachment 1

² Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Afghanistan', *UNHCR District Maps*, October – Attachment 2

Wardak Province³



More detailed maps of Wardak province, Markazi Bihsud district and Maydan Shahr district are provided by the Afghanistan Information Management Service.^{4 5 6}

Wardak Province

The capital of Wardak province is Maydan Shahr/ Maiden Shar, which is estimated to be 30 minutes away from Kabul.^{7 8} Information about Wardak Province provided on 23 January 2009 from the Naval Postgraduate School Program for Culture and Conflict Studies indicates that:

Wardak is a very mountainous province with the Kott-I Baba Range in the north and the Paghman Range in the east. The majority of the province is used as rangeland with some areas of irrigated and rain fed crops.

The population of approximatley [sic] 500,000 are composed of Hazara, Tajik, Pashtun, Kuchi, Qizilbash and other minority ethnicities. Their primary occupations tend to be agriculture, timber, and day labor.

³ Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Wardak Province', *UNHCR District Maps*, October – Attachment 3

⁴ Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Afghanistan Wardak Province', June – Attachment 4

⁵ Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Markazi Bihsud District', August – Attachment 5

⁶ Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Maydan Shahr District', August – Attachment 6

⁷ 'Afghanistan's Provinces: Wardak' 2010, USAID Afghanistan website, 11 February

<http://afghanistan.usaid.gov/en/Province.33.aspx> – Accessed 16 February 2010 – Attachment 7

⁸ 'Wardak Province Political Profile' 2003, Wardak.org website, April

http://www.wardak.de/wardak_09_backup/PDF_Files/WB_Wardak_political.pdf - Accessed 16 February 2010 – Attachment 8

...The Governor, Muhammad Halim Fidai is a Pashtun, appointed governor in July 2008.

...The Hazara in Wardak reside primarily in the Markazi Behsood, Jaghatu, Nerkh, and Day Mirdad districts.⁹

Information provided by the same source on 31 October 2008 explains that the primary roads in Wardak include the Kabul-Kandahar highway which intersects Maydan province; “a provincial road [which] crosses the province from east to west”; and “[s]econdary roads [which] connect each district center with Maydan”. The report also identifies the “Helmand, Kabul, Logar and Maydan Rivers; one dam on the Logar River at Chak and [the] Band Dana reservoir”.¹⁰ Additionally, a 2003 political profile of Wardak provides a brief history of the province, along with general information about the political economy.¹¹

Maydan Shahr/ Maiden Shar District

A district profile of Maidan Shahr prepared by the UNHCR in 2002 describes the ethnic composition as 85 percent Pashtun, 14 percent Tajik and 1 percent Hazara. In addressing the general situation in the district, the profile states that:

Maidan Shahr is surrounded by Arghandeh and Paghman mountains of Kabul, Said Aebad, Jalrez and Nirkh districts of Maidan/Wardak provinces.

The district consists of 140 villages and sub-villages like; Kota Ashro, Char-e-Qla , Charaka , Zebo Dagh, Ibrahim Khile , Bazar , Ziarat , Deh Afghanan , Pule Surkh, Taitamoor, Bosraq, Kharotee, Seya Patab, Qala-e-Zeyarat, Mamee Khail, Qala-e-Walayate, Farooqee Khail, Awal Khil and Rustam Khil (mainly Pashtuns), Kohna-Khomar and Deh Afghanan (mainly Tajiks) and Konda (mainly Hazara).¹²

There is also a town called Maiden Shar located in the Maydan Shahr district, which can be seen on the following map.¹³

Markazi Bihsud/ Markax-e Behsood District

There are two Bihsud districts in Wardak province, Markazi Bihsud, which is often referred to as Bihsud II; and Hisa-I-Awali Bihsud, referred to as Bihsud I. UNHCR advice dated 22 March 2004 provides some general information about the two Bihsud districts:

Behsud I and II districts: 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.

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 Hezb-e-Wahdat (Khalili).

Reportedly, both districts are relatively safe, with district authorities and security/police apparatus in place. Both districts are predominately 95% ethnic Hazaras

⁹ ‘Mayden Wardak Province’ 2009, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)- Program for Culture and Conflict Studies, 23 January – Attachment 9

¹⁰ ‘Wardak: Provincial Overview’ 2008, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS)- Program for Culture and Conflict Studies, 31 October – Attachment 10

¹¹ ‘Wardak Province Political Profile’ 2003, Wardak.org website, April

http://www.wardak.de/wardak_09_backup/PDF_Files/WB_Wardak_political.pdf - Accessed 16 February 2010 – Attachment 8

¹² UNHCR 2002, *UNHCR Sub-Office Central Region District Profile: Maidan Shahr district, Wardak province*, Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) website, 6 July
http://www.aims.org.af/afg/dist_profiles/unhcr_district_profiles/centra/wardak/maidan_shahr.pdf - Accessed 16 February 2010 – Attachment 11

¹³ Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, ‘Maydan Shahr District’, August – Attachment 6

with around 5% Hazara sayeeds. The Hazaras are from 18 different tribes and have elected leaders in a Shura. There are no inter-tribal tensions.¹⁴

2 [Deleted]

3 Please provide information about whether anyone who is, or is not, affiliated with the Nasr party/Hezb-i Wahdat Khalili would be likely to face ill-treatment or other adverse consequences.

A number of sources refer to Hezb-i Wahdat Khalili in Jaghori district, Ghazni province. For example, the UNHCR advice from 2004 cited in response to question 2 explains that “[d]uring 2003 abuses were committed by local militias, rallied to *Nasr* [Hezb-e-Wahdat (Khalili)] faction, motivated by money. However, anyone perceived to be opposed to their rule – especially Harakat or Hezb-e-Wahdat (Aqbari) could be a potential victim of their abuses”.¹⁵ UNHCR advice from 2002 indicates that “Jaghori district, as the rest of Hazara-majority regions, is under the control of Hezb-e-Wahdat (Khalili faction). Officially, members of other political & military parties, specifically Harakat are said to be accepted but not present”.¹⁶ In addition, a 2003 paper states that “Jaghori is currently under the control of the Khalili faction of the Wahdat Party ...[A]nyone known for sympathising with any group other than the Wahdat Party feels very insecure”.¹⁷

UNHCR advice dated 18 March 2004 identifies “faction disputes between the various Hazara parties (Hizb-e-wahdat- Khalili, Hizb-e-wahdat-Akbari and Harakat Islami), and their affiliated commanders at the field level” in Khadir, capital of Daikundi district in Uruzgan province, as well as “inter-factional disputes and tensions between the various Hazara parties” in both the Sharisdan and Daikundi districts in Uruzgan province.¹⁸ In addition, a report published by the Netherlands’ Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001 describes a multitude of human rights violations committed by the Khalili faction of Hezb-i-Wahdat from 1994 to 1999.¹⁹

Sources Consulted

Internet Sources:

Government Information & Reports

USAID Afghanistan <http://afghanistan.usaid.gov/>

Region Specific Links

Wardak.org <http://www.wardak.de/>

Afghanistan Information Management Service <http://www.aims.org.af/>

Search Engines

Google <http://www.google.com.au/>

Google Maps <http://maps.google.com.au/>

Databases:

FACTIVA (news database)

BACIS (DIAC Country Information database)

REFINFO (IRBDC (Canada) Country Information database)

¹⁴ UNHCR 2004, *Compilation of Country of Origin Information on Afghanistan Relevant in the Context of Refugee Status Determination in Australia*, 22 March – Attachment 12

¹⁵ UNHCR 2004, *Compilation of Country of Origin Information on Afghanistan Relevant in the Context of Refugee Status Determination in Australia*, 22 March - Attachment 12

¹⁶ UNHCR 2002, *UNHCR Sub-Office Central Region District Profile: Jaghori district, Ghazni province*, 30 July – Attachment 15

¹⁷ Mousavi, S. A. 2003, *The Hazaras in Jaghori and Kabul in 2003*, 16 June – Attachment 16

¹⁸ UNHCR 2004, ‘General information on Uruzgan and Wardak Province: UNHCR Canberra email response dated 18 Mar 2004 to Refugee Review Tribunal’s letter of 18 Nov 03’, 18 March – Attachment 17

¹⁹ Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2001, ‘Afghanistan: Hezb-i-Wahdat Human Rights Violations (1992-1999)’, 26 April – Attachment 18

List of Attachments

1. Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Afghanistan settlements - division in 32 provinces', 7 January.
2. Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Afghanistan', *UNHCR District Maps*, October.
3. Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Wardak Province', *UNHCR District Maps*, October.
4. Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Afghanistan Wardak Province', June.
5. Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Markazi Bihsud District', August.
6. Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) 2002, 'Maydan Shahr District', August.
7. 'Afghanistan's Provinces: Wardak' 2010, USAID Afghanistan website, 11 February <http://afghanistan.usaid.gov/en/Province.33.aspx> – Accessed 16 February 2010.
8. 'Wardak Province Political Profile' 2003, Wardak.org website, April http://www.wardak.de/wardak_09_backup/PDF_Files/WB_Wardak_political.pdf - Accessed 16 February 2010.
9. 'Mayden Wardak Province' 2009, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) - Program for Culture and Conflict Studies, 23 January. (CISNET Afghanistan CX222423)
10. 'Wardak: Provincial Overview' 2008, Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) - Program for Culture and Conflict Studies, 31 October. (CISLIB Afghanistan 17121)
11. UNHCR 2002, *UNHCR Sub-Office Central Region District Profile: Maidan Shahr district, Wardak province*, Afghanistan Information Management Service (AIMS) website, 6 July http://www.aims.org.af/afg/dist_profiles/unhcr_district_profiles/centra/wardak/maidan_shahr.pdf - Accessed 16 February 2010.
12. UNHCR 2004, *Compilation of Country of Origin Information on Afghanistan Relevant in the Context of Refugee Status Determination in Australia*, 22 March. (CISNET Afghanistan CX91720)
13. Deleted
14. Deleted
15. UNHCR 2002, *UNHCR Sub-Office Central Region District Profile: Jaghori district, Ghazni province*, 30 July.
16. Mousavi, S. A. 2003, *The Hazaras in Jaghori and Kabul in 2003*, 16 June.
17. UNHCR 2004, 'General information on Uruzgan and Wardak Province: UNHCR Canberra email response dated 18 Mar 2004 to Refugee Review Tribunal's letter of 18 Nov 03', 18 March. (CISNET Afghanistan CX91627)
18. Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs 2001, 'Afghanistan: Hezb-i-Wahdat Human Rights Violations (1992-1999)', 26 April. (CISLIB Afghanistan 17786)