



Afghanistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 22 July 2016

A. Are members of the Taliban and ISIS/Daesh involved in military offensives/attacks against each other especially in the Nangarhar province?

B. Are family members of Taliban members at risk of attack by ISIS/Daesh on account of their family connection to the Taliban?

The 2015 US Department of State terrorism report for Afghanistan states:

“On January 26, 2015, the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) publicly announced the establishment of an affiliate, ISIL-Khorasan (ISIL-K), in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Since its inception, ISIL-K has been mostly active in the eastern parts of Afghanistan. By the end of 2015, the group had established a foothold in the southern districts of Nangarhar Province, where ISIL-K fighters had reportedly shut down schools. In 2015, the ANDSF conducted several successful operations against ISIL-K bases in southern Nangarhar. Repeated heavy fighting between the Taliban and ISIL-K was reported in the province as well.” (US Department of State (2 June 2016) *Country Reports on Terrorism 2015 – Afghanistan*)

A report from the UN General Assembly Security Council, in a section titled “Security” (paragraph 17), states:

“Other armed groups maintained small presences on Afghan territory, including the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan in northern Afghanistan and the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan Province (ISIL-KP) in the east. Since my previous report, operations by the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, supported by international military air strikes, further reduced the presence of ISIL-KP in Nangarhar Province, where the group also faced pressure from the Taliban.” (UN General Assembly Security Council (10 June 2016) *The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security*, p.5)

A report from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty states:

“The border areas of Nangarhar have seen heavy fighting in recent months, with militant groups battling each other and government forces. The Taliban is active in the province, which also faces an emerging threat from loyalists of the Islamic State extremist group.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (11 May 2016) *Car Bomb Kills At Least 11 In Eastern Afghanistan*)

A report from the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency states:

“Fighting has not ended between the Taleban and Da'ish [IS] militants in some districts of Nangarhar Province so far, but residents of Chaparhar

District have said that dead bodies from both sides are on the streets there and nobody can either take them to their families or bury them. A resident of Kandibagh area of Chaparhar District, Enayatollah, told Afghan Islamic Press on Thursday 7 January that the war the Taleban started against Da'ish militants three days ago was is still under way. The resident added that fighting intensified in Manu and Dagu villages once again today and that both sides were using light and heavy weapons." (Afghan Islamic Press (7 January 2016) *Taleban-ISIS clashes continue in east Afghan Nangarhar - news agency* (translated from Pashto))

An Iranian Government News report states:

"At least 30 terrorists have been killed and scores of other injured during fierce clashes between members of ISIL Takfiri terrorist group and Taliban militants in Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar. According to the reports, Attaullah Khogyani, the spokesman for the provincial governor, said on Wednesday that the two sides had engaged in heavy exchanges of gunfire in the Bati Kot district of the beleaguered province, east of the capital, Kabul, the previous day. He added that the clashes have claimed the lives of at least 18 Daesh terrorists, including two militant commanders identified as Ajmal and Abdul Ahad, while leaving four others injured. A dozen Taliban militants were also killed and an unspecified number of others injured." (Iranian Government News (18 January 2016) *Daesh-Taliban clashes kill 30 militants in Afghanistan*)

An Afghan Islamic Press report states:

"Recently, the Taleban have created a number of special units in different names within their ranks, one of which participates in direct fights against the Da'ish armed group. The source also said that the Taleban carried out fierce attacks on Da'ish centres in the Shadal Bazaar area of Achin District yesterday, in which both sides sustained casualties. The source did not mention the exact number of casualties, but he added that the Taleban were unable to break the Da'ish ranks in this attack and retreated. Another informed source, which confirmed that Mullah Nek Mohammad is wounded, told Afghan Islamic Press that the Taleban have a plan to carry out attacks on Da'ish's strong positions in Achin, but the plan might be implemented very slow and cautiously, because Da'ish has strong bases in Achin." (Afghan Islamic Press (6 February 2016) *Fresh Taleban-ISIS clashes reported in Afghan east* (translated from Pashto))

A report from the Qatar News Agency states:

"Colonel Hazrat Hussain Mashriqiwal said the clash broke out in Karkani area late Tuesday leaving nine fighters of ISIS and five Taliban killed. Those killed include a local commander of Taliban, according to (Khaama Press). Col. Mashriqiwal further said that six Taliban and four ISIS militants also sustained injuries in the gun battle. According to the police spokesperson, two fighters of Taliban group have been taken into custody by ISIS. The militant groups themselves have not yet commented on the report. However, Nangarhar has become a battle ground for them." (Qatar News Agency (QNA) (30 March 2016) *14 Killed in Clashes between ISIS and Taliban in Afghanistan*)

An Afghan Islamic Press report states:

“A clash has taken place between Taliban and supports of Daesh [aka Islamic State (IS), ISIL/ISIS] in Nangarhar Province [eastern Afghanistan]. The clash took place in the Heska Mina area in Deh Bala District of Nangarhar Province, which also caused casualties. The Nangarhar governor's spokesman, Attaollah Khogiani, told Afghan Islamic Press [AIP] today that a fierce clash occurred between the Taliban and Daesh supporters in the Nari Oba area of Deh Bala District yesterday. He added that 12 people from the Taliban side had been killed and 15 supporters of Daesh were either killed or injured in the clash. The governor's spokesman gave no more details in this regard.” (Afghan Islamic Press (24 April 2016) *Taliban, IS inflict casualties on each other in Afghan east* (translated from Pashto))

A report from the Afghan news source Khaama Press states:

“At least 30 militants were killed during a clash between the Taliban militants and loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria in eastern Nangarhar province. Provincial police spokesman Hazrat Hussain Mashriqwal said the clash took place in Da Nari Aab area of Haska Mina district on Sunday. He said a commander of ISIS loyalists identified as Zamin was killed along with 10 other loyalists of the terror group and 15 others were wounded. Mashriqwal further added that 6 Taliban militants were also killed during the clash and 4 others were wounded.” (Khaama Press (25 April 2016) *17 killed as Taliban and ISIS loyalists clash in Nangarhar province*)

See also Khaama Press report which states:

“At least 27 militants were killed and 11 others were wounded as a bloody clash erupted among the Taliban fighters and loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. According to the local government officials in Nangarhar, the clash took place in Achin and Khogyani district of Nangarhar. The officials further added that 15 ISIS loyalists and 3 Taliban militants were killed in Achin district and the remaining were killed in Khogyani. At least 4 commanders of the Taliban group were also among those killed during the clashes, the officials added. The latest deadly clash among the two militant groups followed days after the loyalists of ISIS executed three Taliban militants in Achin district.” (Khaama Press (19 May 2016) *27 killed, 11 wounded as clash erupts among Taliban and ISIS in Nangarhar*)

A report from the Bakhtar News Agency, the official state news agency of the Afghan government, states:

“According to another report, in a clash between Taliban and Daesh insurgents in Nangarhar province, 6 Daesh insurgents were killed and another wounded. The clash took place over the collecting Zakat on Rodaat district.” (Bakhtar News Agency (21 June 2016) *14 ISIS Killed In Nangarhar Battles*)

A Khaama Press report states:

“The loyalists of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorist group have executed at least three men in eastern Nangarhar province of Afghanistan. The terror group claimed that the men were arrested during an operation by the fighters of the group and they belong to Taliban group. The group initially

released the pictures of the men in social media and later issued more pictures which purportedly shows the execution of the men. The three men are shown in orange jump suits as they are forced to kneel in the ground while a child is executing them with a pistol. The group also released several other pictures which purportedly shows coordinated attacks on several outposts of the Taliban group in Nangarhar province.” (Khaama Press (3 July 2016) *ISIS execute three alleged Taliban fighters in Nangarhar*)

A Bakhtar News Agency report refers to Daesh and Taliban militants attacking each others homes as follows:

“Kabul (BNA) In the recent conflicts among Daesh and Taliban militants in Nangarhar province, 8 militants were killed and several others were wounded yesterday. A police commander in the east of the country told BNA, in the battle 8 rebels were killed from both sides and few others wounded. He added, following the battle both sides attacked each other’s homes and some of them burned.” (Bakhtar News Agency (22 May 2016) *Conflicts Among Taliban, ISIS Militants*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit 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. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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