



Afghanistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 5 January 2018

Information on honour killings in relation to men or attacks and threats on men for conducting non marital relationships.

A report published by the European Asylum Support Office (EASO), in a section headed “Targeting of couples and men for zina”, states:

“Torunn Wimpelmann, a development studies scholar focused on gender and justice in Afghanistan, published a book on protection mechanisms based on her 2014 study of the workings of the VAW unit in Kabul. Wimpelman explains in her book that there are dynamics whereby young couples willingly enter a relationship or elope, but their families then force the woman to raise charges of rape or kidnapping against the male because they do not agree with the marital arrangement. Couples have also been arrested and sentenced by government courts to imprisonment for zina for running away or eloping together. There are reports that young couples who marry against their families’ wishes have been threatened or killed by them in honour killings over accusations of adultery or dishonor. Thomas Ruttig explained in a 2017 email to ACCORD that honour violations such as pre-marital sex, like murder, fall under badal (justice through blood revenge), and that such issues are settled between families, including extended families, and the male perpetrator and his male family members can be targeted in the process. These types of honour violations are essentially the same as qisas crimes in sharia. According to a 2014 report by the UNHCR on blood feuds, honour killings sometimes occur as a result of elopement, in which the woman, and sometimes the man, are killed to restore family honour. However, the family of the man who elopes cannot undertake blood revenge, as he was considered to have been killed in a dishonourable act (adultery). However, blood feuds can erupt if the couple successfully elopes and obtains protection from the husband’s family but does not come to any agreement with the wife’s family group. Thomas Ruttig also explained that there have been repeated cases where families promise forgiveness to the lovers but have then killed them on their return home.” (European Asylum Support Office (EASO) (December 2017) *Afghanistan: Individuals targeted under societal and legal norms*, p.50)

A report from Reuters states:

“An Afghan man and woman found guilty of adultery received 100 lashes on Monday in front of a crowd who filmed their punishment, TV footage showed. Public lashings and executions were common under the Taliban, who enforced a strict interpretation of Sharia law from 1996-2001. The Islamist militant group was ousted from power by a U.S.-led coalition and such punishments are now rare. The footage, taken in the western province of Ghor, showed a woman wrapped in a head-to-toe burqa and a man each receive the punishment from a man in a turban wielding a leather whip,

watched by a group of mostly seated men. The two remained in a crouching position throughout and did not appear to cry out. The sentencing was backed by the government in Ghor province, where the trial took place.” (Reuters (1 September 2015) *Afghan man and woman given 100 lashes in public for adultery*)

A report from the Afghan news agency Khaama Press states:

“A young boy and a girl have been killed for honour in northern Baghlan province. According to reports the 17-year-old boy and 15-year-old girl had developed friendly relationship and about 10 days before they decided to escape from their village in order to get married. On return to their home village Bati Saqal in Baghlan-i-Markazi District, they were both shot dead. The couple has been reportedly killed by the girls father and brothers.” (Khaama Press (3 July 2015) *Young boy, girl killed for honour in Baghlan*)

See also Khaama Press report which states:

“Taliban have publically executed a man on adultery charges in northwestern Badghis province. The incident took place in Nakhjiristan area of Qadis District earlier this week after reportedly a Taliban desert-court announced the punishment to Abdul Ahad, the man killed. Mirza Ali, Governor of Qadis while confirming the incident said that Abdul Ahad was shot dead by Taliban two days before. He added that security agencies have launched an investigation into the incident. This is not a one-time incident where a man is being executed by the order of a Taliban desert court but the group kills dozens of people on similar charges every year.” (Khaama Press (14 January 2016) *Badghis Taliban execute man in public on adultery charges*)

A Khaama Press report on a double murder states:

“A young man and woman was mysteriously killed by unknown gunmen in northern Faryab province of Afghanistan with the local officials hinting at honor killing over alleged adultery. The incident took place in the early hours of Sunday morning in Yengi Qala village in the restive Khwajah Sabs Posh district. The district administrative chief Abdullah Masoomi said an investigation has been launched into the incident involving murder of a married man and a married woman. He said the couple could possibly have been murdered by their relatives and with the support of the Taliban militants after they were accused of adultery.” (Khaama Press (13 March 2016) *Young couple shot dead in suspected honor killing in Faryab*)

A New York Times article states:

“An armed mob that included relatives of a young woman who had eloped with her lover stormed a police station holding the couple in eastern Afghanistan over the weekend, then dragged the lovers off and killed them, officials and witnesses said. The mob wounded three police officers, one of them seriously, the officials and witnesses said Sunday and Monday in providing accounts of the couple’s violent deaths, often called honor killings. The woman, Fatiha, 18, was described as having been married against her will and eloping instead with a young man, Hedayatullah, believed to be in his early 20s, from a neighboring village in Wama District of Nuristan Province. But on Saturday the police caught and arrested the couple on suspicion of

adultery. Within hours an armed mob formed at the police station, led by Fatiha's husband and his family, but also including her brothers and cousins, the officials and witnesses said." (New York Times (13 February 2017) *Mob Kills Eloped Lovers After Storming Afghan Police Station*)

A report from the Chinese state news agency Xinhua states:

"Taliban militants have stoned to death a man on charges of having extra-marital relations with a woman in Afghanistan's Badakhshan province, a local official said Monday. 'The incident took place in a Taliban controlled area of Raghistan district on Sunday morning,' district governor Mawlawi Ghulamullah told Xinhua. However, he couldn't provide more details on the situation and the fate of the accused woman." (Xinhua (21 August 2017) *Taliban stone to death man on adultery charge in Afghanistan*)

A report from the independent Afghan news agency Pajhwok Afghan News states:

"The Taliban have shot a man and woman to death on adultery charges in the Daryami district of northeastern Badakhshan province, officials said on Tuesday. Police spokesman Ahmad Zahid Omari told Pajhwok Afghan News the accused -- Gul Ahmad, and Nigar -- were married and had illicit relations. They were publicly executed by shooting on Monday. A member of provincial council, Dr. Ahmad Basheer Samim, said the man and woman were neighbours in Yamchian village. They usually went to each other's house. He added the Taliban arrested them when the man entered the woman's house. The decision on their execution was taken by a Taliban, he said, slamming the verdict as illegal." (Pajhwok Afghan News (22 August 2017) *Taliban execute man, woman on adultery charges*)

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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