



Afghanistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 6 February 2018

Inadequacy of police protection in Afghanistan end 2017/early 2018.

A report published by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia, in a section headed “State Protection” (paragraph 5.2), states:

“The continuing armed conflict has significantly challenged the government’s ability to exercise effective control over large parts of the country, particularly outside major urban centres. In addition, the increase in the number and impact of large-scale attacks that have taken place in Kabul since the beginning of 2016 demonstrates the limits of the government’s ability to protect its citizens even where its security infrastructure is strongest.”
(Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) Australia (18 September 2017) *DFAT Country Information Report: Afghanistan*, p.28)

In a section headed “Police” (paragraph 5.6) this report states:

“Significant international donor work has gone into turning the ANP into a credible, professional and effective police force, including through providing extensive training on human rights. However, credible reports of serious human rights abuses committed by ANP members have continued to occur, including allegations of intimidation, extortion, torture, and sexual abuse. The ability of the ANP to provide and maintain security and law and order is constrained by a number of factors, including lack of resources, poor training and leadership, low morale, and high levels of corruption. The majority of ANP members are either illiterate or have very low levels of literacy.” (ibid, p.29)

The Executive Summary of a report from Amnesty International states:

“Accountability for human rights violations is rare. Afghanistan experiences high levels of corruption, a culture of impunity, and governance problems. These factors combine to weaken the rule of law and undermine the Afghan government’s ability to protect people from human rights violations. The government’s capacity to uphold human rights is further undermined by insecurity, instability and frequent attacks by Anti-Government Elements. The Afghan police and security forces face a wide range of well-documented challenges in dealing with security risks to the civilian population. Moreover, a number of State actors tasked with protecting human rights – including the local and national police forces – are themselves reportedly responsible for committing such abuses.” (Amnesty International (5 October 2017) *Forced Back to Danger: Asylum-seekers Returned from Europe to Afghanistan*, p.7)

A UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) quarterly report on civilian casualties states:

“As ground engagements continued to cause most civilian casualties, suicide and complex attacks, and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) took a heavy toll on Afghan civilians, with those living in the provinces of Kabul, Helmand, Nangarhar, Kandahar, and Faryab suffering the heaviest losses. While UNAMA welcomes the decrease in civilians injured by armed conflict, the mission notes with deep concern that civilian deaths remain at high levels. Suicide and complex attacks, targeted and deliberate killings, pressure—plate IEDs and aerial attacks caused increasing numbers of civilian deaths during the first nine months of 2017.” (UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (12 October 2017) *Quarterly Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict: 1 January To 30 September 2017*), p.1)

A recent Al Jazeera report on the situation for asylum seekers returned to Afghanistan states:

“Hayat Hooman, a member of the persecuted Hazara minority, was sent back to Afghanistan from Sweden in 2016. As a voluntary returnee from Europe, facilitated by the International Organization for Migration (IOM), he was promised financial assistance and reintegration resources. But in July 2016, those incentives meant little when his friend was killed and he was wounded in an ISIL attack in Kabul on a peaceful protest by the Hazara minority that killed at least 80 people. ‘I thought, if I get the money I will be able to start off something in Kabul that will help my family financially,’ Hooman said. ‘I felt my family needed me back in Afghanistan. They are very poor and I had to return back to earn something for them. But the situation in Afghanistan is getting so bad every day, that I might go back and apply for asylum again with my family. We don't want to die. There is no protection.’” (Al Jazeera (4 February 2018) *Refugees deported by Europe attacked by Taliban, ISIL*)

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.

References:

Al Jazeera (4 February 2018) *Refugees deported by Europe attacked by Taliban, ISIL*

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