



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

Is there evidence that the Afghan authorities are guilty of extra judicial killings/harming/lack of fair procedures of persons who they suspect to be involved in the illegal drug trade? Are the families of drug dealers targeted by the Afghan authorities for adverse treatment?

Is there a prevalence of the illegal drug trade in Laghman province or in Kunduz province?

References to the extrajudicial killing of suspected drug traffickers by the Afghan authorities was not found among sources available to the Refugee Documentation Centre.

A report from the Afghanistan Analysts Network states:

“The official Chinese news agency Xinhua quoted a local Afghan official who claimed that, as a result of the airstrikes, ‘44 drug smugglers were killed and their heroin labs completely destroyed’. The Afghan Taleban’s Voice of Jihad website reported on 20 November 2017 that ten members of a family, including children and women, had been killed in the US air strikes in Musa Qala and seven houses destroyed. They also rejected the existence of any heroin factories in Helmand.” (Afghanistan Analysts Network (15 January 2018) *From Bad to Bombing: US counter-narcotics policies in Afghanistan*)

An article from Pakistani newspaper the Daily Balochistan Express states:

“At least 30 people were killed and many injured in US airstrikes on suspected convoy of heroin smugglers and drug traffickers inside Afghanistan overlooking the famous Girdi Jungle known for abode of hundreds of thousands of Afghans refugees since the induction of Red Army Contingents of the defunct Soviet Union in early 1980s. Most of the charred bodies recovered from the bombing site where a number of vehicles were also destroyed in the airstrikes, local residents and relatives of deceased people confirmed. The airstrikes were carried out by the NATO warplanes in Bund Taimur area inside Afghanistan overlooking the famous Girdi Jungle once known as hub of heroin trade and gun running in the whole region.” (Daily Balochistan Express (18 July 2016) *30 drug smugglers killed in US raid in Afghanistan*)

A BBC News report states:

“Kunduz is considered a gateway to Afghanistan's northern provinces and shares a border with Tajikistan, Afghanistan's Central Asian neighbour. The border with Tajikistan is porous, and it is used for the smuggling of Afghan opium and heroin to Central Asia, which finally finds its way to Europe. Any

side controlling Kunduz would not only influence the surrounding areas, but could also control one of the most important drug smuggling routes in the region.” (BBC News (3 October 2016) *Battleground Kunduz: The city the Taliban seized*)

A report from Pajhwok Afghan News states:

“I have no status at home among my family members as well as in the society because of my addiction to heroin which has destroyed my life. I want to get rid of it,’ says a drug addict in northern Kunduz province. Ahmad Farid, who was taking drugs near the Chihil Dokhtaran hill in the limits of the 3rd police district of Kunduz City, told Pajhwok Afghan News more than 30,000 youth were using drugs in the province. The Chihil Dokhtaran hill locality has recently become a safe haven for drug addicts and groups of addicts covered in shawls could be seen in the area in a very dirty and unhygienic situation while using narcotics.” (Pajhwok Afghan News (10 March 2016) *Heroin destroyed my life, says an addict in Kunduz*)

A report from the Chinese state news agency Xinhua General News Service states:

“Police in northern Afghanistan's Kunduz province burned 2 tons of illicit drug including heroin and hashish on Wednesday, provincial police press department said. ‘A total of 2 tons illicit drug including heroin, hashish and opium poppies that have been discovered and seized by police over the past two years was set on fire publicly in a ceremony held here on Wednesday,’ the press department said in a statement. Police have also arrested 58 persons on charge of involvement in drug smuggling over the said period, the statement added. (Xinhua General News Service 6 December 2017) *Police destroy 2 tons of drugs in northern Afghan province*)

See also Xinhua General News Service report which states:

“Police in northern Afghanistan's Kunduz province have arrested seven people on charge of the involvement in drug trafficking, a senior police official Waisudin Talash said Monday. All the arrested men involved in drug trafficking and criminal activities, the official said, had been referred to concerned authorities for further investigation.” (Xinhua General News Service (12 February 2018) *7 suspected drug smugglers arrested in northern Afghan province*)

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:

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