



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)  
LEGAL AID BOARD

## **Afghanistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Monday 16 & Tuesday 17 May 2016**

### **Treatment by the Taliban of informants/spies who work for police/national security**

In April 2016 the *UNHCR* points out in a paper that:

“AGEs are reported to systematically target civilians who are associated with, or who are perceived to be supporting the Afghan Government, Afghan civil society and the international community in Afghanistan, including the international military forces and international humanitarian and development actors” (UNHCR (19 April 2016) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Afghanistan (April 2016)*).

This report also states that:

“Civilians accused of "spying for" the Government are reportedly subjected to summary trials in parallel and illegal judicial procedures operated by AGEs; the punishment for such alleged "crimes" is usually execution” (ibid).

In April 2016 the *Federal Office for Migration and Refugees* states in a report that:

“On 21 April, Taliban insurgents executed a civilian in central Kapisa for spying for the Afghan government” (Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (25 April 2016) *Briefing Notes*, p.1).

A report issued in April 2016 on returnees to Afghanistan by the *Refugee Support Network* notes that:

“Seven young returnees reported incidents in which other young people were targeted simply because they were a returnee, and an additional two articulated their perception that being a returnee puts individuals at particular risk of attack. Young returnees believed that this was because, in the eyes of the Taliban and local residents alike, "those who have gone to European countries and now have come back are spying for those countries..." (Refugee Support Network (6 April 2016) *After return: Documenting the experiences of young people forcibly removed to Afghanistan [Executive summary; Chapters 5 to 10]*).

*Voice of America* in April 2016 notes:

“A group of Taliban insurgents staged a bomb and gun attack in the Afghan capital Kabul Tuesday morning, killing at least 30 people and wounding more than 327, according officials. The assault targeted a building, which officials say houses a special unit of the Afghan security force working under the Afghan spy agency and responsible for protecting government officials” (Voice of America (19 April 2016) *Taliban Assault in Kabul Kills 30, Wounds More Than 300*).

A document released in April 2016 by the *United States Department of State* reviewing events of the preceding year notes that:

“In some areas the Taliban enforced a parallel judicial system based on strict interpretation of sharia. Punishments could include execution or mutilation. For example, in September in Helmand Province, the Taliban accused three civilians of spying and publicly executed them” (United States Department of State (13 April 2016) *2015 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices – Afghanistan*).

A report issued in February 2016 by the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* notes that:

“In 2015, UNAMA documented 44 incidents of Anti-Government Elements, including Taliban, punishing civilians for alleged infractions of Sharia law, perceived offences, and allegations of spying” (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (February 2016) *Afghanistan, Annual Report 2015*, p.50).

In January 2016 the *European Asylum Support Office* produced a report which included the following comment on the Taliban, stating that

“The latter killed its own fighters on charges of spying for the government or for abandoning fighting” (European Asylum Support Office (January 2016) *EASO Country of Origin Information Report. Afghanistan Security Situation*, p.116).

## References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre 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.

### **Sources Consulted**

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