



Afghanistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Friday 21 November 2014

Information on the Taliban presence in Kandahar province including applicable command structures

A report issued in May 2014 by the *International Crisis Group* notes:

“The Taliban leadership remains more engaged in the day-to-day conduct of operations in Kandahar than in other provinces” (International Crisis Group (12 May 2014) *Afghanistan’s Insurgency after the Transition*, p.37).

In July 2014 a publication issued by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* states that:

“In Kandahar province, Taliban militants killed six police officers, including a district police chief, in assaults on some 15 checkpoints” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (26 July 2014) *Afghanistan attacks kill at least 13*).

In July 2014 an article published in the *New York Times* notes:

“A sudden Taliban offensive in the southern province of Kandahar in recent days has led to some of the heaviest protracted fighting there in years, officials said on Sunday” (New York Times (27 July 2014) *After Losing Province in 2010, Afghan Taliban Strike Back*).

A report issued in August 2014 by *Agence France Presse* notes:

“Unrest has worsened nationwide in recent months, with major Taliban offensives in the southern province of Kandahar and in Logar province, south of the capital” (Agence France Presse (25 August 2014) *Afghan election dispute into crucial phase*).

In September 2014 a report issued by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* states that:

“A suicide bomber has killed a district police chief and two of his bodyguards in Afghanistan’s southern province of Kandahar...The Taliban has claimed responsibility for the bombing” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (8 September 2014) *Suicide bomb kills district police chief, two others in southern Afghanistan*).

In November 2014 *Reuters* points out that:

“The deputy governor of Kandahar province in south Afghanistan has been shot dead at a university in the provincial capital, a spokesman for the governor said on Monday. Sunday’s shooting was the latest in a string of deadly attacks this year on officials and powerbrokers in Kandahar, once a base for the Islamist Taliban’s leader, Mullah Omar, and where the insurgency has its roots” (Reuters (3 November 2014) *Provincial deputy governor shot dead at south Afghanistan university*).

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.

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