



**Afghanistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 18 January 2019**

**1. Is there recent evidence of a lack of State protection for police officers /military from Taliban /Daesh?**

**2. Is there recent evidence of a lack of State protection for sons etc of police officers /military from Taliban /Daesh?**

The most recent Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) of Australia report on Afghanistan, in a section titled “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) (18 September 2017) *DFAT Country Information Report Afghanistan*, p.28)

An eligibility guidelines document published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in a section titled “Risk Profiles” (sub-section headed “Civilian police personnel (including members of the ANP and ALP) and former ANDSF members”), states:

“Afghan security forces, particularly the Afghan National Police (ANP), continue to be the object of targeted campaigns. Afghan Local Police (ALP) members are also widely targeted. As ALP members are often stationed in more volatile areas, estimates suggest that their casualty rate is considerably higher than that of other ANDSF members. Both ALP and ANP officers have been targeted both on duty and off-duty. AGEs are also reported to target officers of other police forces in Afghanistan, as well as former members of the ANDSF.” (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (30 August 2018) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Afghanistan*, p.42)

See also sub-section headed “Family Members of Individuals Associated with, or Perceived as Supportive of, the Government and the International Community” which states:

“AGEs have been reported to target family members of individuals with the above profiles, both as acts of retaliation and on a ‘guilty by association’ basis. In particular, relatives, including women and children, of government officials and members of the ANDSF have been subjected to harassment, kidnappings, violence, and killings.” (ibid, p.48)

An article from the New York Times states:

“One of the most devastating Taliban assassination strikes of the long Afghan war on Thursday killed a regional police chief with a larger-than-life reputation as one of the last stalwarts against the militants. The top American commander in Afghanistan narrowly escaped injury.

The assassination, just two days before national elections already undermined by violence, took place inside the provincial governor’s compound in Kandahar City.

In what appeared to be an insider attack, at least one gunman killed the police chief, as well as the provincial intelligence chief. The governor of Kandahar and another senior police commander were also targeted; reports about their fate were conflicting.” (New York Times (18 October 2018) *An Afghan Police Chief Took On the Taliban and Won. Then His Luck Ran Out*)

See also Voice of America news report on this assassination which states:

“Two top officials in southern Afghanistan, including powerful police commander General Abdul Raziq, have been killed in a shooting incident during a visit of the top U.S. general in Afghanistan.

American General Scott Miller was unharmed. He was visiting the Kandahar governor’s compound for a meeting with the governor and other provincial officials. Local media said the participants were making their way to a helipad after the meeting when the shooting occurred.

In addition to Raziq, who had survived several previous Taliban attacks on his life, Thursday’s assault killed the provincial intelligence chief and badly wounded the Kandahar governor. Earlier reports said the governor was killed. Two Americans, including one U.S. service member, were wounded.

The Taliban claimed responsibility, saying an ‘infiltrator’ carried out the attack that was aimed at both Raziq and the American general.

U.S. military spokesman Col. Dave Butler said the wounded Americans ‘have been medically evacuated and are stable,’ adding that the attacker is dead and the area is secure.

‘This was an Afghan-on-Afghan incident,’ he said, suggesting it was an insider attack in which Afghan personnel turn their guns on local partners.” (Voice of America News (18 October 2018) *Influential Afghan Police Commander Killed*)

There are a number of reports on the killing of police officers from Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, including the following:

“Dozens of Afghan police officers have been killed in two attacks claimed by the Taliban in north and central Afghanistan, just days before parliamentary elections that the militants have threatened to disrupt.

A militant assault on security outposts in the northern Samangan region on October 16 killed several police officers, including a deputy provincial police chief, provincial Governor Abdul Latif Ibrahim said.

Taliban fighters attacked and overran several checkpoints overnight in the district of Dari Suf, including the provincial head of police intelligence, provincial council members Sefatullah Samangani and Mohammad Pazir Baseej said.

Ibrahim said seven police officers were killed and another five were wounded in the attack. He said the attackers made away with two armored personnel carriers, a police vehicle and an ambulance.

Samangani and Baseej said the number of the dead could be as high as 20.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (16 October 2018) *Dozens Of Afghan Police Officers Killed In Taliban Attacks*)

“Afghan officials say at least 13 members of Afghanistan's security forces have been killed in a battle in Ghazni Province about 150 kilometers southwest of Kabul.

Mohammad Arif Noori, a spokesman for Ghazni's provincial governor, told RFE/RL that the battle began early on November 5 when Taliban militants attacked a checkpoint in the Khogyani district near the provincial capital.

Noori said six Afghan police and seven soldiers in the Afghan National Army were killed in the fighting. He said at least four other police officers were wounded.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (5 November 2018) *At Least 13 Afghan Security Personnel Killed By Taliban Attack On Ghazni Checkpoint*)

“Taliban insurgents attacked a joint police and army outpost in Afghanistan's western Farah Province, killing at least 38 officers and soldiers, as the onslaught against the country's security forces mounts, officials say.

Provincial council member Khair Mohammad Noorzai told the dpa news agency that the four-hour attack occurred in the early morning of November 15 and killed nearly all of the soldiers and police officers stationed at the joint base.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (15 November 2018) *Dozens Killed In Taliban Attack On Afghan Security Forces*)

“Meanwhile, at least 10 police officers were killed and 11 were wounded in a three-hour attack by Taliban militants on a checkpoint in northern Kunduz Province, provincial council member Ghulam Rabbani Rabbani said.

In southern Kandahar Province, Taliban militants stormed a checkpoint in the Arghistan district, killing eight officers, a spokesman for the provincial governor, Aziz Ahmad Azizi, said.

Eleven Taliban militants have also been reportedly killed in the fighting.

Taliban militants have stepped up attacks on Afghan security forces and government facilities in recent months.

At least 32 members of the Afghan security forces were killed on December 10 in several Taliban attacks across the country.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (11 December 2018) *Attacks Across Afghanistan Kill At Least 31*)

“Afghan officials say at least 11 police officers were killed after Taliban militants attacked two security checkpoints in the country's north.

The attacks occurred on the outskirts of Pul-e Khumri, the capital of Baghlan Province, late on January 2.

Baghlan Governor Abdulhai Nemati said the two checkpoints were destroyed in the hours-long clashes that lasted until early on January 3.

The attack also wounded two other police officers, said Safdar Mooseni, the head of the provincial council.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack.” (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (3 January 2019) *At Least 11 Afghan Police Officers Killed In Taliban Attacks*)

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:**

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) (18 September 2017) *DFAT Country Information Report Afghanistan*

<https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/country-information-report-afghanistan.pdf>

(Accessed 18 January 2019)

New York Times (18 October 2018) *An Afghan Police Chief Took On the Taliban and Won. Then His Luck Ran Out*

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/10/18/world/asia/kandahar-afghanistan-attack.html>

(Accessed 18 January 2019)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (3 January 2019) *At Least 11 Afghan Police Officers Killed In Taliban Attacks*

<https://www.rferl.org/a/at-least-11-afghan-police-officers-killed-in-taliban-attacks/29690134.html>

(Accessed 17 January 2019)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (11 December 2018) *Attacks Across Afghanistan Kill At Least 31*

<https://www.rferl.org/a/suicide-attack-on-afghan-security-forces-kills-four/29649562.html>

(Accessed 17 January 2019)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (15 November 2018) *Dozens Killed In Taliban Attack On Afghan Security Forces*  
<https://www.rferl.org/a/dozens-killed-in-taliban-attack-on-afghan-security-forces/29602854.html>  
(Accessed 17 January 2019)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (5 November 2018) *At Least 13 Afghan Security Personnel Killed By Taliban Attack On Ghazni Checkpoint*  
<https://www.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-13-killed-taliban-attack-ghazni-checkpoint/29583225.html>  
(Accessed 17 January 2019)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (16 October 2018) *Dozens Of Afghan Police Officers Killed In Taliban Attacks*  
<https://www.rferl.org/a/several-afghan-police-officers-killed-in-taliban-attack-in-north/29546063.html>  
(Accessed 17 January 2019)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (30 August 2018) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Afghanistan*  
<https://www.refworld.org/docid/5b8900109.html>  
(Accessed 17 January 2019)

Voice of America News (18 October 2018) *Influential Afghan Police Commander Killed*  
<https://www.voanews.com/a/influential-afghan-police-commander-killed/4618795.html>  
(Accessed 18 January 2019)

### **Sources Consulted:**

Amnesty International  
DFAT  
Electronic Immigration Network  
European Asylum  
European Country of Origin Information Network  
Google  
Human Rights Watch  
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada  
Lexis Nexis  
Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty  
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database  
UNAMA  
UNHCR Refworld