



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Afghanistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Thursday 11 April 2013

Information on an attack by the Taliban on Shia's, between the end of 2010 and the beginning of 2011, In the Behsood Kejab District, in Wardak Province

No information on this issue could be found among sources available to the RDC.

A document issued by *IRIN News* in November 2010 notes:

“Most Kuchis rely on animal husbandry for their livelihoods but their access to pasture has diminished due to conflict, environmental, demographic, economic and social and political factors over the past three decades. This has resulted in regular violence between Kuchi herders and mostly Hazaras over the past few years except in 2009. Hazara residents of Wardak and Bamyan provinces accuse Kuchi herders of invading their villages, damaging farmlands and property” (IRIN News (23 November 2010) *Afghanistan: Kuchi minority complain of marginalization*).

A paper in June 2011 by *Landinfo* points an:

“...Kuchis' association with the Taliban...” (Landinfo (6 June 2011) *Afghanistan: The conflict between Hazaras and Kuchis in the Beshud Districts of Wardak Province*).

This document also states:

“The development of the general security situation in Wardak also affects how the conflict between the Kuchis and the Hazaras is played out. The Taliban has increasingly gained control in the Pashtun areas, while the areas dominated by Hazaras have been more stable. It has been reported that some Taliban groups in the area have supported the Kuchis” (Ibid).

A report issued in June 2011 by the *International Crisis Group* states:

“Insurgents have a stronger hold over Logar, Wardak and Ghazni than other provinces neighbouring the national capital. The Taliban is tightening its grip through its shadow governments and a campaign of intimidation and assassination” (International Crisis Group (27 June 2011) *The Insurgency in Afghanistan's Heartland*, p.16).

The Hazara are predominantly Shia as noted in a report issued in March 2011 by the *Department of Immigration and Citizenship of Australia* which points out that:

“Most Hazaras follow Shi'a Islam” (Department of Immigration and Citizenship of Australia (30 March 2011) *Country Guidance Notes, Afghanistan*, p.5).

Background information on the province is included in a report issued in June 2011 by the *Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit*

“Geography: Wardak is bordered by Bamian to the west and northwest, Parwan and Kabul to the northeast, Logar to the east and Ghazni to the south. Its eight districts

are Chak, Dai Mirdad, Hisai- Awali Behsud, Jaghatu, 160 Jalrez, Markaz-i-Behsud, Nerkh and Saydabad. Maidan Shahr is the provincial capital. Population and ethnic composition: The estimated population of Wardak is 549,200.161 Of these, 37,900 live in Maidan Shahr. The largest ethnic group is the Pashtuns. The second largest ethnic group, the Hazaras, live mainly in Markaz-i-Behsud and Hisa-i-Awali Behsud districts. Tajiks and Qizilbash are present in small numbers” (Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (June 2011) *Local Governance in Afghanistan: A View from the Ground*, p.83).

References

Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (June 2011) *Local Governance in Afghanistan: A View from the Ground*

<http://www.areu.org.af/Uploads/EditionPdfs/1114E%20Local%20Governance%20in%20Afghanistan%20SP%202011.pdf>

Attachment not included due to IT limitations

Accessed Thursday 11 April 2013

Department of Immigration and Citizenship of Australia (30 March 2011) *Country Guidance Notes, Afghanistan*

<http://www.immi.gov.au/media/publications/pdf/cgn-afghanistan.pdf>

Accessed Thursday 11 April 2013

International Crisis Group (27 June 2011) *The Insurgency in Afghanistan's Heartland*

[http://www.crisisgroup.org/~media/Files/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/207%20The%20Insurgency%20in%20Afghanistans%20Heartland.pdf](http://www.crisisgroup.org/~/media/Files/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/207%20The%20Insurgency%20in%20Afghanistans%20Heartland.pdf)

Attachment not included due to IT limitations

Accessed Thursday 11 April 2013

IRIN News (23 November 2010) *Afghanistan: Kuchi minority complain of marginalization*

<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/91172/AFGHANISTAN-Kuchi-minority-complain-of-marginalization>

Accessed Thursday 11 April 2013

Landinfo (6 June 2011) *Afghanistan: The conflict between Hazaras and Kuchis in the Beshud Districts of Wardak Province*

<http://www.ein.org.uk/print/members/country-report/afghanistan-conflict-between-hazaras-and-kuchis-beshud-districts-wardak-provi>

This is a subscription database

Accessed Thursday 11 April 2013

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

Amnesty International
BBC News
Electronic Immigration Network
European Country of Origin Information Network
Freedom House
Google
Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld