



COI QUERY

Country of Origin	Afghanistan
Question(s)	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Information on the establishment of Jabha-ye Moqawamat (Resistance Front) armed group:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Structureb. Founder and year of creationc. Purposed. Areas where it operatese. Number of membersf. Recruitment methodg. Type of operationsh. Chain of commandi. Whether the group takes part in conflicts where civilians are present2. Information on the treatment of the members of the group by the government3. Information on casualties of the group's members4. Information on whether the group is targeted by other armed groups
Date of completion	25 June 2019
Query Code	Q18-2019
Contributing EU+ COI units (if applicable)	

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The information provided in this response has been researched, evaluated and processed with utmost care within a limited time frame. All sources used are referenced. A quality review has been performed in line with the above mentioned methodology. This document does not claim to be exhaustive neither conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. If a certain event, person or organisation is not mentioned in the report, this does not mean that the event has not taken place or that the person or organisation does not exist. Terminology used should not be regarded as indicative of a particular legal position.

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The target audience is caseworkers, COI researchers, policy makers, and decision making authorities. The answer was finalised on 25 June 2019. Any event taking place after this date is not included in this answer.



COI QUERY RESPONSE

1. Information on the establishment of Jabha-ye Moqawamat (Resistance Front) armed group: founder and year of creation, purpose, areas where it operates, number of members, type of operations

General information on the Resistance Front

Commander Abdul Ghani Alipur¹ (alternative spelling² Alipoor), also known as Qomandan Shamshir (alternative spelling³ Shamsheer and Shamsheer) and as Commander Sword,⁴ is a Hazara militia leader.⁵

Commander Alipur is a member of Afghanistan's Shi'ite Hazara ethnic minority.⁶ Historically, according to the Minority Rights Group, the Shi'ite Hazaras were one of the heavily discriminated against ethnic minorities in Afghanistan.⁷ Since 2001, according to Freedom House, the Shi'ite Muslim minority, which includes most ethnic Hazaras, has been more involved in politics.⁸

UNAMA in its 2017 annual report states that in 2017 there was

'[...] an increasing pattern of deliberate sectarian-motivated attacks against the Shi'a Muslim religious minority, most of whom also belong to the Hazara ethnic minority, nearly all attributed to and claimed by Daesh/ISIL-KP'.⁹

In its 2018 annual report, UNAMA documents that the level of violence by the Daesh/ISKP perpetrated against the Shi'ite Muslim religious minority population remained high.¹⁰

Afghanistan Analysis Network (AAN) states the following:

'Abdul Ghani Alipur (also known as Qomandan Shamshir), the commander of the Jabha-ye Moqawamat (Resistance Front), an autonomous Hazara self-defence armed group in Behsud

¹ Pajhwok Afghan News, Alipur released, meets Vice President Sarwar Danish, 26 November 2018, [url](#)

² Spellings: Alipur (Source: Pajhwok Afghan News, Alipur released, meets Vice President Sarwar Danish, 26 November 2018, [url](#)). Alipoor (Source: EASO, Afghanistan Security Situation, June 2019, [url](#), p. 107)

³ Spellings: Shamsheer (Source: EASO, Afghanistan Security Situation, June 2019, [url](#), p. 107), Shamshir [Source: Adili, A. Y. and van Bijlert, M., Taleban Attacks on Khas Uruzgan, Jaghori and Malestan (II): A new and violent push into Hazara areas, AAN, 29 November 2018, [url](#)] and Shamsheer (Source: CSHRN and OMCT, Civil Society Follow-up Report to the Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture on Afghanistan's Second Periodic Report, 16 November 2018, [url](#), p. 5)

⁴ RFE/RL, Afghan Authorities Release Militia Leader After Violent Demonstrations, 26 November 2018, [url](#); Reuters, Protest at arrest of Afghan Hazara commander turns violent, 25 November 2018, [url](#)

⁵ RFE/RL, Afghan Authorities Release Militia Leader After Violent Demonstrations, 26 November 2019, [url](#)

⁶ RFE/RL, Afghan Authorities Release Militia Leader After Violent Demonstrations, 26 November 2019, [url](#)

⁷ Minority Rights Group International, Hazaras, n.d., [url](#)

⁸ Freedom House, Freedom in the World 2019 Report, Afghanistan, n.d., [url](#)

⁹ UNAMA, Afghanistan Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict Annual Report 2017, February 2018, [url](#), p. 41

¹⁰ UNAMA, Afghanistan Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict Annual Report 2018, February 2019, [url](#), p. 29



district of Maidan Wardak, arrived in Jaghori district of Ghazni to support the local “public uprising forces” [...].¹¹

Alipur created the Resistance Front in 2015.¹² According to a 2018 Tolonews article, the Resistance Front is a public uprising force, comprised of approximately 150 men, created when tensions between nomads and local residents of Behsud and Daimirdad districts intensified in Maidan Wardak.¹³ Another source states that Alipur formed a group of armed people among the Hazara in Maidan Wardak province after the death of civilians in an attack by militants in 2015.¹⁴

Purpose of the Resistance Front

According to different news agencies, Alipur has supported the forces fighting the Taliban in the provinces of Ghor, Daikundi, Ghazni and Maidan Wardak and fought in clashes against the Taliban in the districts of Jaghori and Malistan in Ghazni province.¹⁵

According to an article by the Washington Post, the Hazara ethnic minority consider Alipur a ‘hero’ for protecting them from the Taliban. As an example, the source states that Alipur’s forces patrolled and ensured the safety of the highway going through Maidan Wardak from the Taliban.¹⁶

In a source quoted by AAN, Alipur claimed that he ‘had “founded the resistance” after he witnessed “the disasters and misery of the people” in Maidan valley’.¹⁷

According to Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, Alipur is based mainly in Maidan Wardak, but his group also operates in other parts of Afghanistan, where the Hazara communities have security issues.¹⁸

Alipoor’s arrest and release

According to Pajhwok Afghan News, security forces arrested ‘an illegal armed group commander Alipur in capital Kabul’¹⁹ on 25 November 2018.²⁰ Kabul police chief Lt. Gen Sayed Mohammad Roshandil confirmed commander Alipur’s arrest and stated that it took place after the Attorney

¹¹ Adili, A. Y. and van Bijlert, M., Taleban Attacks on Khas Uruzgan, Jaghori and Malestan (II): A new and violent push into Hazara areas, AAN, 29 November 2018, [url](#)

¹² Tolonews, Alipoor Says He Is 'Ready To Hand Over All Weapons', 27 November 2018, [url](#) ; Pajhwok Afghan News, Angry Kabul protestors demand Alipur’s release, 25 November 2018, [url](#)

¹³ Tolonews, Alipoor Says He Is 'Ready To Hand Over All Weapons', 27 November 2018, [url](#)

¹⁴ Pajhwok Afghan News, Alipur released, meets Vice President Sarwar Danish, 26 November 2018, [url](#)

¹⁵ Pajhwok Afghan News, Angry Kabul protestors demand Alipur’s release, 25 November 2018, [url](#) ; Tolonews, Alipoor Says He Is 'Ready To Hand Over All Weapons', 27 November 2018, [url](#)

¹⁶ Washington Post (The), Afghan authorities free Hazara fighter whose arrest ignited street clashes, 26 November 2019, [url](#)

¹⁷ Adili, A. Y. and van Bijlert, M., Taleban Attacks on Khas Uruzgan, Jaghori and Malestan (II): A new and violent push into Hazara areas, AAN, 29 November 2018, [url](#)

¹⁸ RFE/RL, Afghan Authorities Release Militia Leader After Violent Demonstrations, 26 November 2018, [url](#)

¹⁹ Pajhwok Afghan News, Illegal armed group commander detained in Kabul, 25 November 2018, [url](#)

²⁰ Pajhwok Afghan News, Lawmakers split over militia leader Alipur’s detention, 26 November 2018, [url](#)



General had issued his arrest warrant. No further information was provided at the time on the reason of Alipur's arrest.²¹

According to different sources²², the National Directorate of Security (NDS) of Afghanistan accused Alipur²³ of leading an illegal armed group, of harassing the people, attacking security forces and demanding bribes from traders.²⁴ Tolonews quoted the Interior Minister, who said that 'The accusations are three to four extortion complaints involving the road that goes from Maidan Wardak to Jalriz and Bamiyan; stopping vehicles and extorting money from contractor companies'.²⁵ The authorities also accused Alipur of owning illegal arms.²⁶

Commander Alipur and his supporters claimed that he was part of the local resistance against the Taliban and ISIS.²⁷ Following his arrest, his supporters protested in different cities and areas, including Kabul, Bamiyan, Mazar-e-Sharif, Daikundi and Balkh demanding his release.²⁸ A news agency states that hundreds of people protesting against Alipur's arrest clashed with the police in Kabul and that the demonstrations started in Dasht-e Barchi, a predominantly Hazara area in Kabul.²⁹ Different sources report that during the protests, which lasted two days, protesters and police officers were injured and checkpoints were set on fire.³⁰ In the aftermath of the demonstrations, the National Directorate of Security released Alipur on bail but the relevant judicial bodies would examine the allegations against him.³¹

After his release, Alipur committed to register or hand in all his weapons, to be available for questioning by the authorities and to remain in Kabul in order to answer to any allegations against

²¹ Pajhwok Afghan News, Illegal armed group commander detained in Kabul, 25 November 2018, [url](#) ; RFE/RL, Kabul Protest Turns Violent Over Arrest Of Hazara Militia Leader, 25 November 2018, [url](#)

²² RFE/RL, Afghan Authorities Release Militia Leader After Violent Demonstrations, 26 November 2018, [url](#) ; Tolonews, Alipoor Says He Is 'Ready To Hand Over All Weapons', 27 November 2018, [url](#)

²³ It has to be noted that there was an unsuccessful attempt earlier in 2018 to arrest Alipur in Ghor province. Sources: Pajhwok Afghan News, Angry Kabul protestors demand Alipur's release, 25 November 2018, [url](#) ; Washington Post (the), Afghan authorities free Hazara fighter whose arrest ignited street clashes, 26 November 2019, [url](#)

²⁴ Tolonews, Alipoor Says He Is 'Ready To Hand Over All Weapons', 27 November 2018, [url](#)

²⁵ Tolonews, NDS Chief Says Claims Against Alipoor Will Be Investigated, 27 November 2018, [url](#)

²⁶ CSHRN and OMCT, Civil Society Follow-up Report to the Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture on Afghanistan's Second Periodic Report, 16 November 2018, [url](#) , p.5

²⁷ CSHRN and OMCT, Civil Society Follow-up Report to the Concluding Observations of the Committee against Torture on Afghanistan's Second Periodic Report, 16 November 2018, [url](#) , p.5; RFE/RL, Afghan Authorities Release Militia Leader After Violent Demonstrations, 26 November 2018, [url](#)

²⁸ Tolonews, Alipoor Says He Is 'Ready To Hand Over All Weapons', 27 November 2018, [url](#) ; RFE/RL, Afghan Authorities Release Militia Leader After Violent Demonstrations, 26 November 2018, [url](#)

²⁹ RFE/RL, Kabul Protest Turns Violent Over Arrest Of Hazara Militia Leader, 25 November 2018, [url](#)

³⁰ RFE/RL, Afghan Authorities Release Militia Leader After Violent Demonstrations, 26 November 2018, [url](#) ; Tolonews, Alipoor Says He Is 'Ready To Hand Over All Weapons', 27 November 2018, [url](#) ; RFE/RL, Kabul Protest Turns Violent Over Arrest Of Hazara Militia Leader, 25 November 2018, [url](#) ; BAAG, Afghanistan in November 2018, November 2018, [url](#), p.1

³¹ BAAG, Afghanistan in November 2018, November 2018, [url](#), p. 1



him.³² Tolonews mentions that Alipur wrote a letter, and one of his commitments was to “[..] not participate in gatherings until the allegations have been resolved.”³³

According to different sources, regardless of his arrest, Alipur continues having a good standing within the Hazara community and the support of powerful Hazara leaders, since he is considered by many Hazara a protector of a community that the government does not adequately safeguard.³⁴

No information could be found in the sources consulted and within the time constraints of this query on the following subjects: structure of the group, recruitment method, chain of command, whether the group takes part in conflicts where civilians are present, treatment of other members of the group (with the exception of Alipur) by the government, casualties of the group’s members and whether the group is targeted by other armed groups.

³² Tolonews, NDS Chief Says Claims Against Alipoor Will Be Investigated, 27 November 2018, [url](#) ; Adili, A. Y. and van Bijlert, M., Taliban Attacks on Khas Uruzgan, Jaghori and Malestan (II): A new and violent push into Hazara areas, AAN, 29 November 2018, [url](#) ; Tolonews, Alipoor Says He Is 'Ready To Hand Over All Weapons', 27 November 2018, [url](#)

³³ Tolonews, Alipoor Says He Is 'Ready To Hand Over All Weapons', 27 November 2018, [url](#)

³⁴ RFE/RL, Afghan Authorities Release Militia Leader After Violent Demonstrations, 26 November 2018, [url](#) ; Reuters, Protest at arrest of Afghan Hazara commander turns violent, 25 November 2018, [url](#) ; Washington Post (The), Afghan authorities free Hazara fighter whose arrest ignited street clashes, 26 November 2019, [url](#)



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