



Afghanistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 29 August 2012

Afghanistan – Any current information on SAMA (Sazman Azadi Bakhsh Inqelabi Mardem Afghanistan) - Afghanistan People's Liberation Organisation.

Information on this group was scarce among sources consulted by the Research and Information Unit.

A *Danish Immigration Service* report on a fact-finding mission to Afghanistan in 2001, in a section titled “Organised political opposition to the Taliban movement” (section 3.2), states:

“Regarding the political organisation SAMA (Sazman-i-Azadibakhsh-i-Mardum-i-Afghanistan), the CCA explained that it was not easy to discover whether this organisation had any members. According to the CCA, SAMA did not itself carry out any independent activities, but some of its members might be active in other groups. SAMA did not issue membership cards. The organisation's leaders came from Parwan province. The majority were Tajiks. SAMA had been active in Najibullah's time. The CCA estimated the organisation to have had between a few hundred and one thousand members. If SAMA existed as an organisation nowadays, it was underground. A UN source reported that there were still some people in Afghanistan who had previously been affiliated to SAMA. This was a group of intellectuals with Maoist ideas, who did not carry out any visible activities nowadays. The UN source claimed that it was difficult to know anything about the previous affiliations of these persons, since nobody wanted to reveal their sympathy for the organisation as this was too risky.” (Danish Immigration Service (1 March 2001) *Report on fact-finding mission to Pakistan to consider the security and human rights situation in Afghanistan, 18 to 29 January 2001*)

A report published by *Konrad Adenauer Stiftung*, in a section titled “The parties during the war of resistance”, states:

“One of the most successful resistance groups was Sazman-e Azadibakhsh-e Mardom-e Afghanistan (SAMA), or ‘People’s Liberation Organisation of Afghanistan’, formed in the summer of 1979 by Abdulmajid Kalakani. Although generally labelled ‘Maoist’, it was in fact a mixture of former Shola’i, non-conformist leftists like its legendary leader, and groups of outlaws politicised by him. In January 1980, SAMA initiated a broader alliance that included some ex-Shola’i and ex-Settami groups, left-wing Pashtun nationalists, and religious leaders like the Pir of Obek from Herat province, called Jabha-ye Muttahed-e Melli-ye Afghanistan, or ‘National United Front of Afghanistan (NUFA)’, which continued to follow Kalakani’s republican ideals. SAMA soon came under military pressure from Jam’iat and Hezb. Kalakani was arrested in February 1980 and executed four months later. Some SAMA leaders negotiated a surrender with the government which led to further

splits.” (Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (27 November 2006) *Report on the history, development and current state of organised political movements and political parties in Afghanistan from 1902 – 2006*, p.12)

An eligibility guidelines document published by the *UN High Commissioner for Refugees*, in a section titled “Persons associated with the former People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan and other left-aligned political parties”, states:

“The Sazman-e Azadibakhsh-e Mardom-e Afghanistan (Organization for the Freedom of the People of Afghanistan) or SAMA, founded in 1979 by Maoist leaders, but with a broader base, is reported to have a clandestine following abroad.” (UN High Commissioner for Refugees (July 2009) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Afghanistan*, pp.30-31)

This document also states:

“Persons who currently identify themselves as, or are perceived as, Communists or Maoists, may face risk arising from their ideology, regarded by Taleban and large sectors of the population as infidel and anti-Islamic. Therefore, they may well be at an equal or higher risk of persecution, as compared to former PDPA members. Having an ideology viewed as leftist or ‘western’ may be an additional risk factor for persons belonging to other groups at risk described in these Guidelines, particularly in areas under the control of armed anti-Government groups. Women perceived as left-leaning may be at increased risk of ill-treatment not only by insurgents but also by mainstream conservative elements.” (ibid, p.31)

Please note that a UNHCR eligibility guidelines document published in December 2010 does not mention this group.

No recent reference to this group was found among sources available to the Research and Information Unit.

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:

Danish Immigration Service (1 March 2001) *Report on fact-finding mission to Pakistan to consider the security and human rights situation in Afghanistan, 18 to 29 January 2001*

<http://www.nyidanmark.dk/NR/rdonlyres/6B9BD362-4206-457A-A6F9-3CD268E6E167/0/FactfindingmissiontoPakistanAfghanistan2001.pdf>

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Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (27 November 2006) *Islamists, Leftists – and a Void in the Center. Afghanistan's Political Parties and where they come from (1902-2006)*

http://www.kas.de/db_files/dokumente/7_dokument_dok_pdf_9674_2.pdf

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UN High Commissioner for Refugees (July 2009) *UNHCR Eligibility Guidelines for Assessing the International Protection Needs of Asylum-Seekers from Afghanistan*

<http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/pdfid/4a6477ef2.pdf>

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Sources Consulted:

Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit

BBC Monitoring

Danish Immigration Service

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Google

Human Rights Watch

International Crisis Group

Lexis Nexis

Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database

UNHCR Refworld