



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Afghanistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 15 August 2012

Information on availability of internal relocation from Jalalabad to Kabul, for a family fearing the Taliban

A report issued in May 2012 by the *United States Department of State* commenting on events of the preceding year notes:

“The greatest restriction to movement in some parts of the country was the lack of security. In many areas insurgent violence, banditry, land mines, and IEDs made travel extremely dangerous, especially at night. Armed insurgents also operated illegal checkpoints and extorted money and goods. The Taliban imposed nightly curfews on the local populace in regions where it exercised authority, mostly in the southeast” (United States Department of State (24 May 2012) Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2011, Afghanistan, Section 2d Freedom of Movement, Internally Displaced Persons, Protection of Refugees, and Stateless Persons).

In August 2012 *Afghan Islamic Press* states:

“Four people, including a soldier of Afghan national army, have been killed and three others received wounds. As a result of an armed attack on Kabul-Jalalabad highway, four individuals, including a soldier of Afghan national army have been killed and three others have been wounded” (Afghan Islamic Press (4 August 2012) *Armed attack kill four, including serviceman, on Afghan east highway*).

A report released in July 2012 by *Mashhad radio* notes:

“Two Afghan National Army soldiers have been killed and another injured in an explosion on the Kabul-Jalalabad motorway today. Taleban have claimed responsibility for the attack” (Mashhad radio (4 July 2012) *Programme summary of Iranian Mashhad radio in Dari 1330 gmt 4 Jul 12*).

In February 2012 a report issued by *Pajhwok Afghan News* states:

“Fifteen insurgents were killed and three others, including a police officer, were detained during a search operation in the eastern Laghman Province, officials said on Friday [24 February]. Afghan and NATO-led troops conducted the predawn offensive in the Tor Ghar area of Surkhakan district, the 201st Selab Corps spokesman, Lt-Col Shah Alam Baghlani told Pajhwok Afghan News. The militants, who descended from the local mountains, were attacked when planting landmines on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, the commander said. The rebels' bodies and arms, including Kalashnikovs, lay at the site, he added” (Pajhwok Afghan News (24 February 2012) *Fifteen insurgents said killed in operation in Afghan east*).

In May 2012 a publication issued by the *Danish Immigration Service* states:

“Regarding the Taliban activities in Kabul, AIHRC informed the delegation that the Taliban certainly has the means to act and kill in Kabul...” (Danish Immigration

Service (29 May 2012) *Afghanistan Country of Origin Information for Use in the Asylum Determination Process*, p.7).

This report also states:

“Asked about the Taliban activities in Kabul and other major cities, IOM explained that the Taliban cells are certainly operating in Kabul and that their networks seem to be getting stronger and stronger” (ibid, p.8).

It is also noted in this report that:

“In Jalalabad...the Taliban has a strong influence” (ibid, p.6).

Commenting on attacks in Kabul, *The Guardian* in May 2012 points out that:

“One of the first blasts was a suicide car bomb that exploded near Jalalabad road, one of the main thoroughfares out of the city, said an interior ministry spokesman, Sediq Sediqi. A vehicle driving past was caught up in the explosion and four people inside were killed, Sediqi said, along with a passerby and a security guard at a nearby building” (The Guardian (2 May 2012) *Deadly attack shakes Kabul after Barack Obama visit to Afghanistan*).

In August 2012 *The Guardian* states:

“The Taliban periodically mount spectacular, deadly attacks inside Kabul, and there have been high-profile kidnappings and assassinations in the capital too” (The Guardian (7 August 2012) *Bus blast at Afghan picnic spot kills nine*).

Agence France Presse in June 2012 notes:

“An improvised bomb exploded at a music market in an Afghan city on Saturday, leaving two people dead, officials said, a day after Taliban militants stormed a lakeside resort near Kabul, killing at least 18. The blast at the market in the eastern city of Jalalabad, close to the border with Pakistan's militant-infested tribal areas, wounded four people, local government spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdulzai said” (Agence France Presse (23 June 2012) *Blast at Afghan music market, two dead: officials*).

In April 2012 a publication by *The Guardian* states:

“In a brazen demonstration of its ability to hit some of the best defended targets in Kabul, the Taliban mounted its largest ever co-ordinated attack in 11 years of resistance to Afghanistan's post-2001 rulers” (The Guardian (15 April 2012) *Taliban launches largest attack on Kabul in 11 years*).

This article also states:

“In the east, two suicide bombers blew themselves up outside Jalalabad's airport, wounding several people” (ibid).

An *International Crisis Group* report issued in March 2012 includes a map of Afghanistan (International Crisis Group (26 March 2012) *Talking About Talks: Toward a Political Settlement in Afghanistan*, p.39).

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Attachment not included due to IT limitations

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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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