

# Afghanistan: COI Repository



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The COI Repository should be used as a tool to help identify relevant COI and the COI referred to can be considered by decision makers in assessing asylum applications and appeals. This document should not be submitted in isolation as evidence to decision-makers in asylum applications or appeals. However, legal representatives are welcome to submit the COI referred to in this document to decision makers (including judges) to assist in the accurate determination of an asylum claim or appeal. The COI referred to in this document is not exhaustive and should always be complemented by case specific COI research.



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#### Purpose of this document

This document is a collection of Country of Origin Information (COI) jointly compiled by Asylos and Clifford Chance law firm, quality reviewed by ARC Foundation and Asylos. Its purpose is to pre-empt COI needs that will arise as Afghans who have fled the current situation will make claims for international protection.

This is a living document intended to collect a) information on sources that are (still) reporting on the situation in Afghanistan and b) to collect relevant source excerpts. As we compile this document, the situation in Afghanistan changes rapidly. We will publish an updated version of this document on a weekly basis from September 2021 onwards.

Research themes for this report are devised in consultation with UK asylum lawyers and with regards to relevant UK Home Office guidance on similar situations (notably Somalia and Al-Shabab).

# SECTION 1 - COI RESEARCH COLLECTION

*This section is a collection of relevant COI excerpts, organised by research topic.*

## Control of Territory

*What territory in Afghanistan do the Taliban control?*

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [ICC judges ask UN for help identifying who represents Afghanistan](#), 8 October 2021

"The International Criminal Court on Friday said it cannot rule on a prosecutor's request to resume a war crimes investigation of Afghanistan until it can decide who represents the country in international bodies. The judges asked U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the ICC's governing body for help identifying which group officially rules Afghanistan from an international law standpoint. It asked for a response by Nov. 8."

RUSI, [Afghanistan: A Safe Haven for Global Jihadism Once More?](#), 20 September 2021

"The Taliban's leadership still seems to want to proceed with its policy of confining foreign jihadists in 'reserves' where their movements can be controlled. Taliban sources in Badakhshan say that just days ago the Central Asian jihadists clustered near Jurm were told to get ready to be transferred to their assigned areas and registered. The possibility of taking away their weapons was also raised, to their dismay.

Still, the pro-jihadist lobby has fairly good hopes of prevailing in Kabul. The Haqqani network has a powerful presence in the cabinet, with four ministerial posts – including the minister of the interior – and has obvious influence on government activities due to its control over Kabul. In any case, Al-Qa'ida is not trusting its fate to the uncertain outcome of power struggles in Kabul and has been preparing back-up options in case its allies within the Taliban lose out. In recent months it has encouraged the TTP to move to the Loya Paktia region, under the protection of the Haqqani network. Now old members of Al-Qa'ida are moving from Waziristan to the Afghan province of Paktia, local sources say, a further sign that it might be seeking to turn the area into its new safe haven."

TOLO News, [Taliban Says Panjshir is Captured, Resistance Claims War Not Over](#), 10 September 2021

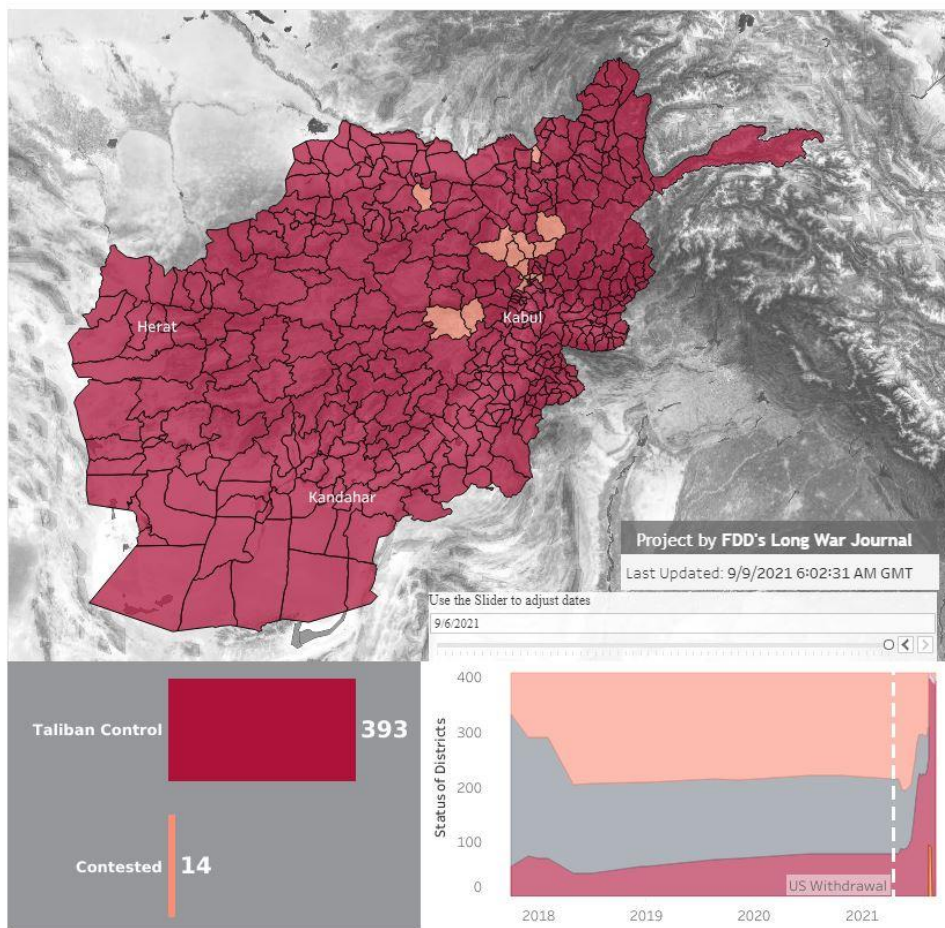
"The Taliban said they are in control of Panjshir and the resistance forces are hiding in "valleys and caves." Five days after all districts of Panjshir and the provincial center were captured by the Taliban, a commander of the Resistance Front on Friday in a recorded video message said the Taliban's presence in Panjshir does not mean the end of the war."

FDD's Long War Journal, [Taliban completes conquest of Afghanistan after seizing Panjshir | FDD's Long War Journal](#), 6 September 2021

"The Taliban completed its military conquest of Afghanistan and took control of the mountainous province of Panjshir after seven days of heavy fighting. The fall of Panjshir puts the Taliban in full control of the country and eliminates the final vestige of organized resistance to its rule."

FDD's Long War Journal, [Mapping Taliban Control in Afghanistan | FDD's Long War Journal](#), 9 September 2021





UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

"The situation in Afghanistan remained highly fluid, after a Taliban military offensive took control of provincial capitals and Kabul. The departure of President Ghani and entry of Taliban forces into the capital on 15 August saw the de facto disintegration of the Government.

[...]

4. The Taliban extensively expanded its territorial control in a military campaign in which it seized 33 out of 34 of the provincial capitals within a 10-day period in August. Following the Taliban forces' entry into Kabul on 15 August, President Ghani left the country, stating via social media that his aim had been to prevent bloodshed. On 15 August, Taliban deputy leader and head of the Political Commission, Mullah Baradar, issued a video announcing the group's "unexpected" victory.

[...]

16. Insecurity in Afghanistan steadily increased during the reporting period as the Taliban initiated a large-scale offensive amid the withdrawal of the remaining international military forces. As at 18 August, they controlled all of Afghanistan, except Panjshir Province."

FDD's Long War Journal, [National Resistance Front repels multi-day Taliban assault on Panjshir](#), 2 September 2021

"After weeks of fruitless negotiations between the Taliban's political leadership and senior leaders of the National Resistance Front in Panjshir, the Taliban launched a multi-pronged attack on the Panjshir Valley beginning on Aug.

31. The Taliban timed the assault on Panjshir for immediately after the U.S. military pulled out of Kabul airport and ended efforts to evacuate American citizens and Afghan allies.

To this point, the National Resistance Front has mostly successfully warded off the Taliban by virtue of easily defended positions in the mountainous region, inflicting heavy Taliban casualties along the way.”

*Where do actors other than the Taliban exert influence?*

[The Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) published on 5th October 2021 a [Brief compilation on recent developments and key actors in Afghanistan](#), which you may wish to consult. The compilation covers: *Developments in 2021, The Taliban, Taliban-associated groups (Haqqani Network; Al Qaeda); Islamic State - Khorasan Province; National Resistance Front (NRF)*]

Ariana News, [IEA says Daesh is not a threat to Afghanistan’s security](#), 3 October 2021

“Mol officials also said that Daesh claims responsibility for attacks in Afghanistan that are carried out by criminals.

“Daesh is not a serious threat to Afghanistan’s security, and they (Daesh) are not able to threaten Afghanistan’s security,” said Saeed Khosti, spokesman for the Mol.

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) officials say that Daesh has no active presence in the country and falsely claim responsibility for attacks.

[...]

This comes after IEA forces raided a Daesh (ISIS-K) hideout north of Kabul on Friday, killing and arresting an unspecified number of militants, an IEA spokesman said.

IEA spokesman Bilal Karimi told The Associated Press that Friday’s raid took place in the city of Charikar in Parwan province. He did not provide more details.

The raid followed an arrest by the IEA of two Daesh members linked to a roadside bombing that targeted an IEA vehicle in the city on Friday, wounding four members. The two were questioned and the information they provided helped the IEA identify the hideout, Karimi said.”

The Guardian, [Civilians killed in deadliest Kabul attack since US withdrawal](#), 3 October 2021

“IS militants have stepped up attacks against the Taliban since their mid-August takeover, signalling a widening conflict between them. IS maintains a strong presence in the eastern province of Nangarhar, where it has claimed responsibility for several killings in the provincial capital of Jalalabad. [...]

Attacks in Kabul have so far been rare, but in recent weeks IS has shown signs it is expanding its footprint beyond the east and closer toward the capital. On Friday Taliban fighters raided an IS hideout just north of Kabul in Parwan province. The raid came after an IS roadside bomb wounded four Taliban fighters in the area.”

Long War Journal, [Testimony: The Biden’s Administration policy in Afghanistan](#), 30 September 2021

“Al-Qaeda retained a significant footprint in Afghanistan throughout the war. At *FDD’s Long War Journal*, my colleague Bill Roggio and I have documented this footprint for more than a dozen years. Other sources have recently recognized al-Qaeda’s current network inside the country. For example, a team of experts working for the UN Security Council reported earlier this year that al-Qaeda has an active presence in at least 15 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces.<sup>2</sup> This assessment is broadly consistent with al-Qaeda’s own reporting, via its Arabic newsletter *Thabat*, as well as with reporting by other sources.<sup>3</sup> The U.S. Treasury Department warned in January that al-Qaeda has been “gaining strength in Afghanistan while continuing to operate with the Taliban under the Taliban’s protection.” Al-Qaeda has a “network of mentors and advisers who are embedded with the Taliban, providing advice, guidance, and financial support.”<sup>4</sup> Much of al-Qaeda’s focus inside Afghanistan has been on winning the war. Now that the war has been won, al-Qaeda’s personnel in Afghanistan will have the resources to devote to other missions, both throughout the region and globally. [...]



ISKP continues to pose a threat throughout the region. ISKP's network extends into Pakistan, where it has conducted a string of attacks. The group has also demonstrated some capability to strike in the Central Asian nations. In July 2018, a team of Islamic State terrorists ran over American and European cyclists in Tajikistan, killing four people.<sup>5</sup> ISKP has also recruited members from throughout Central Asia who could potentially return to their home countries to conduct attacks.

ISKP poses some degree of threat outside of Central and South Asia as well. In the summer of 2016, three men allegedly conspired to carry out terrorist attacks in New York City on behalf of the Islamic State.<sup>6</sup> American investigators discovered that the trio had at least some contact with ISKP's jihadists. In April 2020, German authorities broke up a cell of four Tajik nationals who were allegedly preparing to attack U.S. and NATO military facilities.<sup>7</sup> Given ISKP's open hostility to the United States, as demonstrated by the August 26 suicide bombing outside the airport in Kabul, military and intelligence officials will have to continue monitoring the group.

2 U.N. Security Council, "Twelfth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2557 (2020) concerning the Taliban and other associated individuals and entities constituting a threat to the peace stability and security of Afghanistan," April 28, 2021, page 12. (<https://www.undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/S/2021/486>)

3 Bill Roggio, "Analysis: Al Qaeda continues to operate throughout Afghanistan," *FDD's Long War Journal*, April 8, 2021. (<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/04/analysis-al-qaeda-continues-to-operate-throughout-afghanistan.php>)

4 U.S. Department of the Treasury, Memorandum for Department of Defense Lead Inspector General, "Operation Inherent Resolve - Summary of Work Performed by the Department of the Treasury Related to Terrorist Financing, ISIS, and Anti-Money Laundering for First Quarter Fiscal Year 2021," January 4, 2021.

(<https://oig.treasury.gov/sites/oig/files/2021-01/OIG-CA-21-012.pdf>)

5 Thomas Joscelyn, "Assailants in Tajikistan swore allegiance to Baghdadi before attack," *FDD's Long War Journal*, July 31, 2018. (<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2018/07/assailants-in-tajikistan-swore-allegiance-to-baghdadi-before-attack.php>)

6 U.S. Department of Justice, Press Release, "Charges Unsealed Against Three Men for Plotting to Carry out Terrorist Attacks in New York City for ISIS in the Summer of 2016," October 6, 2017.

(<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/charges-unsealed-against-three-men-plotting-carry-out-terrorist-attacks-new-york-city-isis>)

7 Nodirbek Soliev, "The April 2020 Islamic State Terror Plot Against U.S. and NATO Military Bases in Germany: The Tajik Connection," *CTC Sentinel*, January 2021, Volume 14, Issue 1. (<https://ctc.usma.edu/the-april-2020-islamic-state-terror-plot-against-u-s-and-nato-military-bases-in-germany-the-tajik-connection>)

Long War Journal, [Islamic State bombs Taliban convoys in eastern Afghanistan](#), 20 September 2021

"The Islamic State's Khorasan Province has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings that targeted Taliban convoys throughout the city of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province. The group claims that 35 Taliban members were killed or wounded in the attacks, though the casualty figures could not be independently verified. [...]

The so-called caliphate's men previously controlled a number of districts in Nangarhar. The Islamic State even seized ground in the Tora Bora Mountains, which were once home to Osama bin Laden.

As of early 2016, the Islamic State's men reportedly controlled 10 districts in Nangarhar. However, their safe haven shrunk in the months that followed. They lost their turf after battling the U.S. military, security forces for the now deposed Afghan government, as well as rival jihadists from the Taliban and al Qaeda.

Even after losing its turf, the Islamic State retained a terror network in Nangarhar. That network received a new influx of personnel in recent months, as thousands of jihadists were freed from Afghanistan's jails, including in Jalalabad."

Danish Immigration Service, [Afghanistan Recent developments in the security situation, impact on civilians and targeted individuals](#), 8 September 2021

[The Danish Immigration Service lists the National Resistance Front (NRF), Al-Qaeda, Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) as actors in Afghanistan besides the Taliban.]

"Although these rapid developments in the conflict have put the Taliban in control of all of Afghanistan but the Panjshir Valley and other small pockets of resistance, it should be noted that the Taliban does not constitute the only actor in the country."

### *General security situation*

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [Intensifying Violence Between Taliban, IS-K Heralds New War In Afghanistan](#), 13 October 2021

“But the Taliban’s intensifying rivalry with the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K), a rival militant group, has signaled the beginning of another phase of war in Afghanistan -- a development that many Afghans dread will provoke further bloodshed.

“Every day, two or three people are killed,” Abdullah, a resident of the eastern province of Nangarhar, a stronghold of IS-K, told RFE/RL’s Radio Azadi.

Abdullah said IS-K bomb attacks and assassinations have increased since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan on August 15.”

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA), [Last week was again deadliest for Afghans](#), 10 October 2021

“Last week, 223 people suffered casualties in Afghanistan.

Attacks and civilian casualties:

According to reports last week 58 people were killed and 165 others injured in different incidents of violence in the country.

The deadliest incident last week happened in Kunduz province where 46 civilians were killed and 143 others injured in a suicide attack. Daesh or Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Elsewhere, three people including a were killed and three civilians injured in two incidents in Nangarhar province.

One person was found dead in Nangarhar. In province, a bride was killed and two people were injured after a person hurled a hand grenade to a wedding party. Two people were killed and three others injured in an explosion in a gathering of people attending the funeral of the mother of Zabihullah Mujahid, deputy information and culture minister.

In Laghman province, an Islamic scholar was shot dead while a person was killed and 14 others injured in an explosion in a seminary in Khost province. A robber was killed during a clash with Taliban in Kapisa province. A person was killed by unidentified armed men in Achin district of Nangarhar province. A former policeman was killed in an attack of armed robbers in province.

No groups have so far claimed responsibility for these attacks and explosions.

A week before 16 civilians were killed and nine others wounded in various incidents.”

The New York Times, [ISIS Bomber Kills Dozens at Shiite Mosque in Northern Afghanistan](#), 8 October 2021

“An Islamic State suicide bomber devastated a Shiite mosque in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz on Friday, killing dozens of worshipers in a deadly continuation of the terrorist group’s campaign against the Hazara minority. The massacre, while the mosque was crowded for Friday Prayer, was the group’s second attack against a mosque in just a few days. And it was the realization of Afghan Hazaras’ fears that the Islamic State’s predation would go unchecked under the rule of the Taliban, which itself preyed on the Hazara in the past.

Witness accounts described a powerful explosion with many casualties. Matullah Rohani, a Taliban official in Kunduz, told local media that at least 43 people were killed by the attack and more than 140 were injured.

A local Shiite community leader put the death toll much higher. Sayed Ahmad Shah Hashemi, who represents Kunduz Province’s Shiite population, told The New York Times that more than 70 people were killed in the attack.”

“Hours after the bombing, it was claimed by the [Islamic State Khorasan](#), also known as ISIS-K. It was the group’s deadliest strike since the suicide bombing at the international airport in Kabul on Aug. 26 that [killed about 170 civilians](#) and [13 U.S. troops](#).”

[The Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) published on 5th October 2021 a [Brief compilation on recent developments and key actors in Afghanistan](#), which you may wish to consult. The compilation covers: *Developments in 2021, The Taliban, Taliban-associated groups (Haqqani Network; Al Qaeda); Islamic State - Khorasan Province; National Resistance Front (NRF)*]

Khaama Press, [ISIS-K claims responsibility for explosion on Eidgah mosque in Kabul](#), 5 October 2021

"The Khorasan branch of the Islamic State (ISIS-K) claimed responsibility for the deadly explosion on the Eidgah mosque on Sunday, October 3.

The explosion took the lives of at least eight and leftover 20 more wounded among them the Taliban fighters.

The Taliban did not disclose an exact number of their fighters killed and wounded though, a source told the Khaama Press that most of them were the Taliban fighters.

The explosion which is said to have been conducted by a suicide bomber targeted a big mosque close to the Presidential Palace where people and the Taliban officials had gathered for the mourning and prayer ceremony of the slain mother of Zabiullah Mujahid- spokesperson and deputy minister of information and culture.

The Taliban fighters raided a house in the northern suburb of Kabul only hours after the incident and killed ISIS-K affiliates.

Zabiullah Mujahid had later said that they eliminated a cell of the ISIS-K fighters and killed all those existed in [who were part of it]."

The Guardian, [Civilians killed in deadliest Kabul attack since US withdrawal](#), 3 October 2021

"At least five civilians have been killed in a bomb blast at the entrance to a Kabul mosque on Sunday, a Taliban official said, the deadliest attack in the Afghan capital since US forces left at the end of August.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on Islamic State extremists, who have stepped up attacks on the Taliban in recent weeks, particularly in the IS stronghold in eastern Afghanistan.

It is believed that a roadside bomb went off at the gate of the sprawling Eidgah mosque in Kabul when a memorial service was being held for the mother of the Taliban's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid. Five people were killed, said Qari Saeed Khosti, a spokesman for the interior ministry."

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(13-19 September 2021\)](#), 23 September 2021

"In the reporting period, the security situation in the south remained calm but uncertain. The presence of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) is affecting access of people to areas in Uruzgan, Hilmand, and some parts of Kandahar provinces. "

"The security situation in the East remains volatile and unpredictable. On 18 September, five people were reportedly killed and 21 people were wounded by multiple IED detonations across the city of Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province"

"On 18 September, two civilians were reportedly injured by an IED attached to a private vehicle in Police District 13, Kabul. On 14 September, two civilians were reportedly killed and 12 others were wounded when an old mortar shell exploded in Ajristan district in Daykundi province. "

Long War Journal, [Islamic State bombs Taliban convoys in eastern Afghanistan](#), 20 September 2021

"The Islamic State's Khorasan Province has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings that targeted Taliban convoys throughout the city of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province. The group claims that 35 Taliban members were killed or wounded in the attacks, though the casualty figures could not be independently verified.

Amaq News Agency, a media arm for the Islamic State, released a single-page statement on the attacks, as well as a short video showing an improvised explosive device being detonated underneath a Taliban vehicle. A screen shot from the video can be seen above.

Amaq claimed that seven bombings were carried out on Sept. 18 and 19, with the final explosion occurring outside of the Indian consulate in Jalalabad. Other jihadists have assaulted the Indian consulate inside the city in the past, but there is no indication in Amaq's reporting that the diplomatic location was deliberately targeted on this occasion."

Lawfare, [Thinking Long Term About the Future of Afghanistan](#), 19 September 2021

"With good relations between al-Qaeda and the Taliban, the latter may successfully convince the former to focus on local and regional issues, helping the Taliban to shore up and extend their influence throughout South Asia over time. That still leaves IS-K, a group previously linked to an international terrorist plot against U.S. and NATO bases in Germany, as a significant threat. There are serious doubts about whether the Taliban, overwhelmed and

stretched thin by the challenge of attempting to govern a war-ravaged nation, will be able to prevent IS-K or other rogue groups from operating on Afghan soil.”

Reuters, [U.N. Afghanistan mission extended, Afghan envoy asks to keep seat](#), 17 September 2021

“The United Nations Security Council extended a U.N. political mission in Afghanistan on Friday [17 September] for six months to allow for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to work out what changes might be needed after the Taliban seized control of the country.”

Afghanistan Analysts Network, [The Focus of the Taleban’s New Government: Internal cohesion, external dominance](#), 12 September 2021

“It has been very difficult to follow what is happening. There has been almost no independent reporting, since communications were and the road into the Panjshir closed. The information vacuum has been filled by pro-Taleban and pro-resistance social media accounts and media appearances, often making unverifiable and conflicting claims in an attempt to dominate the narrative. (See, for an example, this [Tolo News report](#) from 2 September in which the Taleban claimed to have captured Shutul district centre and 11 outposts, killing 34, while the National Resistance Front denied the loss of the district and claimed to have killed at least 350 Taleban fighters in the various clashes.)

It has been even more difficult to get a handle on reports of possible atrocities, in Panjshir and Andarab, or of the rounding up of young Panjshiri men in neighbourhoods like Khairkhana in Kabul. The online clamour by diaspora pro-resistance supporters that there is both an ongoing genocide and a Pakistani invasion going on in Panjshir – generally without much details or ‘supported’ by footage that is either old, from other places, and in one case even from a computer game – threatened to drown out the gathering of corroborated reporting.

On the other hand, the Taleban’s apparent determination to completely root out Panjshir’s armed resistance, coupled with an almost complete information black-out and emerging anecdotal detail, does suggest that the onslaught in Panjshir is likely to have been brutal. This impression is only strengthened by the fact that ‘news’ from Panjshir has so far been very carefully managed, with only friendly journalists or those with minders having been allowed in.

Ahmad Massud and other members of the National Resistance Front have reiterated that the struggle continues, whether armed or not, and have tried to link their stand in Panjshir to other recent expressions of dissent – with some success.”

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

“In the reporting period, the overall security situation in the south remained relatively calm. Civilians including women and children reportedly continued to be affected by roadside Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonations and gunfire.”

ACLED, [Regional Overview: South Asia and Afghanistan, 31 July - 3 September 2021](#), 9 September 2021

“Meanwhile, an anti-Taliban resistance, known as National Resistance Front (NRF), began to form in the Panjshir valley in northeastern Afghanistan following the Kabul takeover. The valley had previously hosted Northern Alliance Forces, a military alliance against the Soviet and then Taliban invasion, in the 1980s and 1990s (BBC News, 3 September 2021). Led by the son of a late Northern Alliance leader, the group consists of local militia and former members of Afghan security forces. It is also supported by former Vice President Amrullah Saleh and former Acting Defense Minister Bismillah Mohammadi (Washington Post, 18 August 2021). From 18 August to 3 September, ACLED records over 20 clashes between the NRF and Taliban forces around Panjshir valley and in the neighboring Baghlan and Parwan provinces. Since then, the Taliban claim to have entered the Panjshir valley, although it remains uncertain whether they have taken complete control over all remaining NRF territory (CNBC, 7 September 2021).”

## Coercion / Forced Recruitment to join Taliban

*What instances of forced recruitment and use of children are there under the Taliban?*

Human Rights Watch, '[This is our opportunity to end the Taliban's use of child soldiers](#)', 20 September 2021

"For more than two decades, the Taliban have put children on the front lines of Afghanistan's armed conflicts. They have used children [as fighters](#), to plant and detonate improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and as suicide bombers. Thousands of children may [remain in their ranks](#) today."

"The Taliban have [denied](#) that they use children in "jihadic operations" and their [code of conduct](#) states that "boys without beards" are not allowed in military centers. Nevertheless, the U.N. has verified hundreds of individual cases in which the Taliban have recruited and used children in recent years, including a [sharp spike](#) in 2020, and warned that the true figures are likely much higher."

## Leaving and 'defecting' from Taliban

*What may be reasons for leaving?*

*What legal prosecution is there for defectors?*

*How are defectors treated by the Taliban?*

*How are they treated by society?*

## Justice, Law and Order in Taliban-controlled Territory

*How is governance, law and order regulated under the Taliban?*

Al Jazeera, [UN to appoint special rapporteur to monitor rights in Afghanistan](#), 7 October 2021

"The UN has voted to create a new special rapporteur on Afghanistan to probe violations carried out by the Taliban and other parties to the conflict, amid growing concerns for the erosion of civil rights as the country transitions to an "Islamic emirate".

The UN Human Rights Council on Thursday passed a resolution brought by the European Union to have a special rapporteur working on the ground in March 2022, supported by UN experts in legal analysis, forensics and women's rights."

Al Jazeera, [Taliban: From Afghanistan's rugged mountains to policing streets](#), 5 October 2021

"One fighter after another, the Taliban is trading in their characteristic long flowing garb for stiff military uniforms. It is a symbol of the moment of transition its fighters find themselves in: Once warriors embedded in Afghanistan's rugged mountains, now they are an urban police force.

[...]

By winning the country – after two decades of war – with the August 15 seizure of Kabul, the Taliban also inherited a city marked by lawlessness.

Immediately, it set to work, making its presence known in daily street patrols. Some fighters have done away with the typical AK-47 rifles replacing them with US-made M16s left behind by Afghan forces.

They halt street fights, summon suspected criminals to police stations and chase those who do not heed their call." In Kabul's Police District 8, there is a long queue leading to two rooms. In one, there are criminal cases. In another, civilian disputes.

Victims of stabbings, robbery and other misdeeds sit in the same room as alleged perpetrators, staring into the distance until it is their turn to plead their case.

For lesser crimes, Taliban police offer the accused three days to show up at the station. After that, they go after them.

The court system is a work in progress, officials said. Meetings are still under way between Taliban officials – used to tribal justice prevalent in rural Afghanistan – to work out the process in a sprawling city with an active judiciary. Even those who fear them in the embattled city welcome the peace their arrival has brought.

The Taliban has empowered local elders to pass judgement based on their interpretation of Islamic law for minor criminal cases.

In the Sheikh Zayed City residential area of Kabul, a committee of elders ordered the father of a man accused of stabbing a neighbour to pay 35,000 Afghanis, about \$400.

The father counts the banknotes in a rapid shuffle and hands it to the imam, who offers it to the family of the victim. They embrace. Justice served.”

Long War Journal, [Testimony: The Biden Administration’s Policy on Afghanistan](#), 30 September 2021

“The Taliban’s new regime is, in many ways, just its old regime. Many of the Taliban’s cabinet ministers are veterans of the Taliban’s first Islamic Emirate from 1996 through 2001.<sup>8</sup> More than one dozen of them have already been sanctioned by the United Nations, including for their ties to terrorism. All five of the former Guantanamo detainees who were exchanged for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in 2014 now serve the Taliban in senior leadership roles. Four of the five are Taliban cabinet ministers, while the fifth is the governor of Khost province.”

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Taliban to temporarily adopt Zahir Shah era constitution](#), 28 September 2021

“KABUL (Pajhwok): The Ministry of Justice on Tuesday said the caretaker government would adopt the constitution of King Mohammad Zahir Shah era without the parts which are in conflict with Islamic Sharia.

The ministry in a statement said that justice minister Abdul Hakim Shar’ee during a meeting with Chinese ambassador, Wang Yu, said that Taliban would temporarily enforce the constitution of Zahir Shah era without the parts which are in violation to Islamic Sharia.

He said that any international documents which were not in conflict with Sharia and Emirate rules, the Taliban respected them.

The source said that the Taliban wanted good relations with all countries and assures the world that the soil of Afghanistan would not be used against them.”

United States Institute of Peace, [Taliban Seek Recognition, But Offer Few Concessions to International Concerns](#), 28 September 2021

“Much of the Taliban’s overtures to seek or establish international recognition seem to be driven by the group’s pressing economic needs, their desire to see funds unfrozen and various forms of assistance delivered.

As part of their announcement of senior figures to formal government posts, the Taliban nominated Suhail Shaheen, a longtime member of and former spokesperson for the group’s political office in Qatar, to serve as ambassador to the United Nations. In press statements, they have repeatedly encouraged foreign embassies to return to Kabul, including the United States and European states. And the group has maintained a steady tempo of high-level diplomacy with neighboring and regional states, including Russia, China and even India.

However, the Taliban have repeatedly revealed a clear prioritization of maintaining their own internal cohesion and demonstrating their authority domestically. The current caretaker government is made up entirely of their own leadership, excluding women and other political stakeholders while including a number of internationally sanctioned figures. The group has renamed the Afghan government the Islamic Emirate, in spite of a joint diplomatic statement by the United States, Russia, China and Pakistan lobbying against a revival of the title. The group’s rank and file have suppressed demonstrations across the country; protestors and journalists are being detained and beaten. Taliban leadership have effectively banned girls’ education, discouraged women from returning to work in a number of sectors and disbanded the Ministry of Women’s Affairs (replacing it with its historically notorious Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice). At least some elements of the group have begun enforcing brutal law enforcement policies, including public execution.”

AP news, [Taliban official: Strict punishment, executions will return](#), September 23, 2021



“One of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan said the hard-line movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban’s executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan’s new rulers.”

“On at least two occasions in the last week, Kabul men have been packed into the back of a pickup truck, their hands tied, and were paraded around to humiliate them. In one case, their faces were painted to identify them as thieves. In the other, stale bread was hung from their necks or stuffed in their mouth. It wasn’t immediately clear what their crimes were.”

“He said now the Taliban would allow television, mobile phones, photos and video “because this is the necessity of the people, and we are serious about it.” He suggested that the Taliban saw the media as a way to spread their message. “Now we know instead of reaching just hundreds, we can reach millions,” he said. He added that if punishments are made public, then people may be allowed to video or take photos to spread the deterrent effect.”

AP News, [Taliban name deputy ministers, double down on all-male team](#), 21 September 2021

“The Taliban expanded their interim Cabinet by naming more ministers and deputies on Tuesday [21 September], but failed to appoint any women, doubling down on a hard-line course despite the international outcry that followed their initial presentation of an all-male government lineup earlier this month.”

Aljazeera, [Rights groups accuse Taliban of rolling back civil liberties](#), 20 September 2021

“Rights groups have accused the Taliban of “steadily dismantling” human rights in Afghanistan since the group captured power last month. In a briefing released on Tuesday, Amnesty International, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) accused the Taliban of a number of rights violations including limits on the freedom of the press, restrictions on women and targeted killing of civilians and former government officials.”

Jurist.org [legal news commentary in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh], [Afghanistan dispatches: “Now there are no clients for lawyers...”](#) 20 September 2021

“Currently, there is no judicial and prosecution system active and running in the country. All criminal, civil, and commercial cases are stopped. With the limited capacity that the Taliban have, re-start of this system will take a long period of time.”

“Now there are no clients for lawyers – not even local clients – because all the matters they had before the courts are either closed and/or will take at least a year or two for them to be resumed. All law firms face the same situation in Afghanistan right now.”

Afghanistan Analysts Network, [The Focus of the Taleban’s New Government: Internal cohesion, external dominance](#), 12 September 2021

“As the twentieth anniversary of al-Qaeda’s 9/11 attacks that brought the US to Afghanistan to topple the Taleban’s emirate came round, it was the Taleban who were back in power. This week, they announced their new interim administration. It is all-male, almost all-Pashtun, almost all clerical and all-Taleban. Set alongside their sustained military campaign in the Panjshir, the only province that held out against the Taleban takeover, and their violent response to protests across the country, it seems the movement’s priorities have coalesced – internal cohesion, monopolisation of power, silencing of open dissent and dividing the ‘spoils of war’, in terms of government posts, between themselves. Also noticeable, reports AAN’s Martine van Bijlert (with input from Kate Clark and Thomas Ruttig), is the absence, still, of Taleban supreme leader, Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada.” [...]

The list of ministers and other senior officials is almost exclusively Pashtun, with just two Tajiks and one Uzbek, and no Hazaras, Shia Muslims or members of Afghanistan’s smaller minorities. The list is further all-male and made up mostly of clerics, either mullahs or mawlawis (who have a higher Islamic madrassa education). All are from within the Taleban’s own ranks and many are old-timers – familiar faces from the 1990s.

The one possible exception is the minister of public health. No new acting minister was announced for this post and the Republican-era incumbent, Dr Wahid Majruh, has been pictured in office since the Taleban took power on 15 August. [...]

The most senior position announced, that of prime minister (*rais-e wuzera*), was given to Mullah Muhammad Hassan Akhundzada. [...]

Many of the Taleban government's newly appointed senior officials are on the United States and/or United Nations sanctions list and two of them have an FBI bounty on their heads. [4] Many have long held leadership positions and have been implicated in terror attacks or atrocities. [...] Having so many officially appointed leaders who are on international sanctions lists hugely complicates the new government's chances of receiving international aid and interacting with other governments."

TOLO News, [Uniformed Police to be Stationed in Kabul](#), 12 September 2021

"The current Taliban forces who are stationed in Kabul will soon be replaced with police forces of the former government and Taliban forces and all will have uniforms, the Taliban said on Sunday.

Anaamullah Samangani, a member of the Taliban's cultural commission, told TOLONews that the current Taliban forces, who do not have uniforms, will be transferred from Kabul to military posts in the provinces.

Samangani, however, did not say how many police and Taliban forces will be deployed in Kabul.

"Police and uniformed forces who have received training and gained skills in their specific fields should soon take charge of maintaining Kabul security and start their jobs. After that, the Mujahideen who are stationed in different police departments and who do not have uniforms will be stationed in police headquarters and army corps (in the provinces)," Samangani said.

A number of Kabul residents, meanwhile, said uniformed forces should be deployed to the city to maintain security and to prevent criminal activity by gunmen identifying as Taliban."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Afghan Women At Forefront Of Nonviolent Resistance To Taliban](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban formed a new, all-male government on September 7 that is made up exclusively of senior militants. It did not include any women, even in secondary roles. The Taliban said women were not suited to serve in the cabinet.

The militants also abolished the Women's Affairs Ministry and reestablished the feared Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice.

In the 1990s, that ministry was responsible for enforcing the Taliban's morality laws, including its strict dress code and gender segregation in society. The ministry's dreaded police were notorious for publicly beating offenders, including women.

United States Institute of Peace, [Five Questions on the Taliban's Caretaker Government](#), 9 September 2021

"As part of the Taliban's bid to re-establish the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan," the militant group announced the line up for its caretaker government on Tuesday. Despite several leading Taliban figures saying the movement would govern in a more moderate and inclusive fashion, the acting appointments made this week were mostly old guard members who played similar roles when the group ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s. USIP's Andrew Watkins discusses who the key players are, what it signals about the Taliban's commitment to inclusivity, the key challenges the government will face and how the West and regional countries should engage."

International Crisis Group, [Who Will Run the Taliban Government?](#), 9 September 2021

"The Taliban announced an "interim" cabinet on 7 September, their first step since taking power on 15 August toward forming a government and signalling how they intend to rule. The cabinet is filled with long-time key Taliban figures from their days as a government and later an insurgency, and it bears a strong resemblance to their former regime of the 1990s. The appointments will reassure the Taliban's rank and file that their leadership remains unified and has not succumbed to pressure to show a more moderate face, but it will not be appreciated by many others. The roster does not reflect Afghan diversity, and it offers no olive branches to a wary international community."

FDD's Long War Journal, [Taliban's government includes designated terrorists, ex-Guantanamo detainees](#), 8 September 2021

"The Taliban has announced the formation of an "interim government" to rule over Afghanistan. The Taliban's regime will be known as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. This is entirely unsurprising. The first emirate was toppled during the U.S.-led invasion in late 2001. The jihadis, members of both the Taliban and al Qaeda, waged jihad for the next two decades in order to resurrect it. The Taliban was clear about its political goal all along. Many of the newly appointed leaders in the Islamic Emirate are actually old Taliban leaders. More than a dozen of them were first sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council in early 2001. Some new faces have joined them. Brief profiles for 22 of the Taliban men who will govern under the emirate are offered below. This list does not include all of the figures appointed to lead. FDD's Long War Journal will likely add to this list in the future. Many of the Taliban leaders discussed below have either current or historical ties to al Qaeda. Indeed, some of them worked closely with al Qaeda throughout their careers. Some them are U.S.-designated terrorists." Five of the newly-appointed Taliban leaders were once held at the detention facility in Guantánamo, but exchanged for Bowe Bergdahl in 2014. They are discussed at the end of this analysis."

The Guardian, [Taliban name all-male Afghan cabinet including minister wanted by FBI](#), 7 September 2021

"The **Taliban** have announced an all-male caretaker government including an interior minister wanted by the FBI, on a day when at least two people were killed by violent policing of street protests against the new authorities. The leadership unveiled on Tuesday is drawn entirely from Taliban ranks, despite promises of an inclusive cabinet, and many of its senior figures are on UN sanctions lists, which is likely to complicate the group's search for international recognition."

"Afghanistan will once more be officially known as an Islamic emirate, as it was under Taliban rule in the 1990s, and its chief, Hibatullah Akhundzada, will be supreme leader."

"The prime minister will be Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, one of the founding members of the group who was close to its original leader, one-eyed **Mullah Mohammed Omar**."

"Mullah Omar's son Mullah Yaqoob will be defence minister, and the acting interior minister is Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is on the FBI wanted list with a \$5m (£3.6m) bounty on his head."

"The new cabinet is also heavily dominated by the Pashtun ethnic group that formed the Taliban's original power base but which makes up only about 40% of Afghanistan's population. Just three appointees appeared to be from other ethnic groups."

*How is the media regulated under the Taliban?*

HRW, [Afghanistan: Taliban Severely Restrict Media](#), 1 October 2021

"Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have imposed wide-ranging restrictions on media and free speech that are already stifling criticism and dissent, Human Rights Watch said today.

During a late September meeting with journalists in Kabul, the Taliban Ministry of Information and Culture distributed media regulations whose provisions are so broad and vague as to prohibit virtually any critical reporting about the Taliban.

"Despite the Taliban's promises to allow media that 'respected Islamic values' to function, the new rules are suffocating media freedom in the country," said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

"The Taliban regulations are so sweeping that journalists are self-censoring and fear ending up in prison."

A copy of the regulations seen by Human Rights Watch says that media are prohibited from printing or broadcasting reports that "are contrary to Islam," "insult national figures," or "distort news content." Journalists are required to "ensure that their reporting is balanced" and not report on "matters that have not been confirmed by officials" or issues that "could have a negative impact on the public's attitude." Media outlets are required to "prepare detailed reports" with the new governmental regulatory body before publication.

[...]

An editor of a media outlet led by women said that, after the Taliban takeover, they had continued to publish online but stopped after the new regulations were announced. "We have lost the space for free media with the Taliban taking over the country," she said. "We do not have free media in Afghanistan anymore."

A journalist in Kabul said that the regulations were "very worrying," as they would "restrict most of the media's activities. Those who are still operating no longer publish anything critical. They mostly interview Taliban officials. Previously, they were active in criticizing the government ... but with these regulations, censorship is the immediate result."

A Kabul-based editor said that the prohibition on "insulting national figures" could be interpreted very broadly and curtail any reporting on corruption or other abuses."

### *How is Sharia law interpreted and applied?*

NPR via The Associated Press, [The Taliban Order Barbers Not To Shave Beards In Afghan Province Of Helmand](#), 27 September 2021

"The Taliban on Monday banned barbershops in a southern Afghanistan province from shaving or trimming beards, claiming their edict is in line with Shariah, or Islamic, [law](#)."

The order in Helmand province was issued by the provincial Taliban government's vice and virtue department to barbers in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital.[...]

During their previous rule of Afghanistan, the Taliban adhered to a harsh interpretation of Islam. Since overrunning Kabul on Aug. 15 and again taking control of the country, the world has been watching to see whether they will re-create their strict governance of the late 1990s.

Some indication came on Saturday, when Taliban fighters killed four alleged kidnappers and later hung their bodies in the public squares of the western city of Herat."

Financial Times, [Afghanistan's young Talibs: 'No compromise with the enemy of our martyrs'](#), 18 September 2021

"There is a generation "more radical than the mainstream Taliban", said Graeme Smith at the International Crisis Group. The new Taliban rulers are "going to have their hands full".

The Guardian, [Taliban ban girls from secondary education in Afghanistan](#), 17 September 2021

"In a further sign that the recently announced Taliban government is tightening restrictions on women, the former ministry of women's affairs building in Kabul has been handed over to the newly re-established ministry for the prevention of vice and promotion of virtue.

This was the group's feared enforcer in the 1990s, charged with beating women who violated bars on everything from going out in public without a male guardian to an obsessively prescriptive dress code that even forbade high heels."

TOLO News, [Afghan Education Ministry to Modify Curriculum](#), 13 September 2021

"The Ministry of Higher Education announced on Sunday that some subjects which contrast with Islam's Sharia will be dropped from the higher education curriculum.

It comes as private universities and other higher education institutions reopened about a week ago in which classes were divided by gender.

Acting Minister of Higher Education Shaikh Abdul Baqi Haqqani said on Sunday that mixed classes between girls and boys are not acceptable and some changes will be brought to the curriculum.

He said changes will be based on Islamic Sharia.

[...]

The ministry added that it will launch a program to send students abroad for higher education in the future."

TOLO News, [Private Universities Reopen, Students Separated by Gender](#), 7 September 2021

"The Ministry of Higher Education announced that private universities and higher education institutions that are following the new gender format have reopened.

The acting Minister Abdul Baqi Haqani told TOLONews that the male and female university students will be taught in separate classrooms, emphasizing that only female lecturers will be allowed to teach girls' classes.

According to Haqani, joint classes are not acceptable at universities. He said: "Some of the universities are able to use separate buildings for girls, to teach the girls separately. But a number of universities do not have buildings, they can change the time of classes."

Meanwhile, officials from the private universities and institutions said they were willing to implement the new format required by the ministry. The officials are worried about the girls' low attendance at the universities. [...]

The state universities are still closed in Afghanistan. Based on the ministry's announcements, government universities will open as soon as the separation of classes take place."

The Guardian, [Taliban name all-male Afghan cabinet including minister wanted by FBI](#), 7 September 2021

"The Taliban have also brought back the ministry for promotion of virtue and prevention of vice, a notorious enforcement body that was one of the most hated institutions when they last controlled Afghanistan. Its main function was to police the Taliban's **extreme interpretation** of Islamic law."

"In his first statement since the Taliban seized power last month, [supreme leader] Akhundzada said Afghanistan's new rulers were committed to all international laws, treaties and commitments not in conflict with Islamic law.

"In the future, all matters of governance and life in Afghanistan will be regulated by the laws of the holy Sharia," he said."

#### *What is the Taliban's justice and dispute resolution system?*

Al Jazeera, [Taliban: From Afghanistan's rugged mountains to policing streets](#), 5 October 2021

"In Kabul's Police District 8, there is a long queue leading to two rooms. In one, there are criminal cases. In another, civilian disputes.

Victims of stabbings, robbery and other misdeeds sit in the same room as alleged perpetrators, staring into the distance until it is their turn to plead their case.

For lesser crimes, Taliban police offer the accused three days to show up at the station. After that, they go after them.

The court system is a work in progress, officials said. Meetings are still under way between Taliban officials – used to tribal justice prevalent in rural Afghanistan – to work out the process in a sprawling city with an active judiciary. Even those who fear them in the embattled city welcome the peace their arrival has brought.

The Taliban has empowered local elders to pass judgement based on their interpretation of Islamic law for minor criminal cases.

In the Sheikh Zayed City residential area of Kabul, a committee of elders ordered the father of a man accused of stabbing a neighbour to pay 35,000 Afghanis, about \$400.

The father counts the banknotes in a rapid shuffle and hands it to the imam, who offers it to the family of the victim. They embrace. Justice served."

AAN, [Creating a Hierarchy of Victims? ICC may drop investigations into US forces to focus on Taleban and ISKP - Afghanistan Analysts Network - English](#), 1 October 2021

"As to whether allegations of war crimes or crimes against humanity would be dealt with in domestic courts, the Prosecutor is correct to say that the Taleban are unlikely to prosecute their own. Taleban action against the ISKP and former government officials can be expected, but it is debateable whether that would be through their courts, which are even further from reaching international fair trial standards than the previous government's, or as summary executions or punishment beatings. Reprisal killings of members of the former Afghan security services have been alleged by UNAMA and of members of ISKP and other Salafists in media reporting, see for example, here and here."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Gandhara Briefing: Return Of The Taliban Emirate](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban, as Afghans remember all too well, has its own brand of justice. The militants' shadow courts are set to become Afghanistan's official judicial system based on their strict interpretation of Islamic law. "Soon we will see floggings for adultery and public intoxication, and we will see them executing people for murder," predicted Haroun Rahimi, an exiled Afghan legal scholar."

## Livelihood

*Can cultural activities take place? What restrictions and guidelines does the Taliban place on them?*

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [‘I Feel Like A Dead Fish’: Silenced By The Taliban, Afghanistan's Musicians Despair](#), 13 October 2021

"Ahmad Gholami, a 25-year-old Afghan musician, had dedicated his life to the art of playing a sitar-like lute called the tanbur.

But after nearly a decade mastering the instrument well enough to earn his living as a professional musician, the Taliban has banned music under its tribal interpretation of Islamic law.

Gholami and other musicians he knows have effectively been silenced by an order from the Taliban-installed police chief in the central province of Bamiyan who has declared that no singing or musical instruments are allowed in his jurisdiction. [...]

the Taliban has beaten musicians in some areas, burned instruments, and banned music. That has led hundreds of musicians to flee the country in fear of their lives. [...]

Now, the Taliban's Information and Culture Ministry says music is "forbidden" under its strict Hanafi interpretation of Islamic law.

One of the first things Taliban fighters did in August when they seized control of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province, was to break into a music studio used by well-known Afghan musicians.

The militants dragged their harmonium, lutes, drums, and other instruments out into the street -- dousing them with petrol and setting them ablaze.

Noman Khan and other musicians who had used the studio promptly fled the country in fear of their lives. [...]

Meanwhile, local Taliban authorities in Afghanistan continue to issue decrees outlawing music in the capital, Kabul, and in major cities like Kandahar, Herat, and Mazar-e Sharif.

Siddiqullah, the Taliban-installed police chief in Bamiyan, justifies the bans and the destruction of instruments by arguing that nobody is allowed to play music."

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'The Taliban have banned live music in hotels'](#), 9 October 2021

"The Taliban have banned live music in hotels. Officials of Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice – which was established by the Taliban after the took control of Afghanistan – met with most of hotel owners in Kabul  
Wednesday.

In this meeting, the Taliban instructed the hotel owners to avoid live music, and segregate places of men and women in the hotels. They already did this in some other provinces as well. In Takhar they even beat up a groom because he brought live music to his wedding ceremony.

In Afghanistan, hotels and restaurants are regulated by the specific laws and regulations under authority of the Ministry of Information and Culture. They obtain licenses from this Ministry and the Government uses this Ministry to communicate with them. The Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice – as you understand from its name – will now establish policies for each and every government agency through which they will tell people what is right and what is wrong.

Previously, women and men were separated but only by a partition made of plastic or other stuff, but they have now made it clear that hotel owners have to separate them by walls. This indicates that they still hold the opinion of prohibiting music in the country. I actually think that this is a starting point for them to slowly ban music. In other statements, one of the Taliban's top leaders has told the media that if singers stop singing he will give them



an amount of 40K AFN on a monthly basis. These statements are clearly a sign that there will be no musicians in the country, and those who choose to stay will have to change their profession and seek another source of income.”

The Guardian, [‘A friend tells me he is burning his paintings’: Afghan artists in Australia speak on 20 years of war](#), 6 October 2021

“The Afghanistan-born visual artist and poet Elyas Alavi, who gained asylum in Australia as a Hazara refugee in 2007, staged an exhibition of his work in Kabul in 2014 and returned to his home country again in 2016.

He said he now feared he may never be able to return to Afghanistan.

“A friend tells me he is burning his paintings ... and I’ve heard of people burning their philosophy books and art books,” he said.

“Now he and some of his family, most of them are living in hiding because they just don’t know what’s going to happen. The Taliban are checking people’s mobiles ... looking for [content] that is against Sharia law, and they are [targeting] writers, artists, the LGBTQI community.”

Alavi said the Afghan-Australian community felt betrayed by the Australian government.

“The prime minister says Afghanistan is a tragic country with a tragic history and Australia cannot do anything, it is the fate of these people and it’s always going to be a tragedy,” the now Adelaide-based artist said.

“But the government can get more people at risk out, more than the 3,000 extra visas they’ve announced ... and there are no permanent visas for those who are already here.”

Ariana News, [Afghan Film emphasis on making serials based on Afghanistan realities](#), 4 October 2021

“Jawed Afghan, the new director of Afghan Films, was recently appointed by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), and says that he will develop the directorate of Afghan Film and, using its past capabilities, show the true story of Afghanistan to the world.

The director of Afghan Film emphasized the increase in the number of employees of this institution and the production of new films.

Afghan Film is Afghanistan’s main government cinema institution, which has been around for decades and has played an important role in supporting and strengthening Afghan cinema.

[...]

Although the director of Afghan Film does not say anything about the continued presence of female staff in the film industry, but he emphasized that the employees of this institution will continue their work as in the past and using the past capacities, the current narratives of the country will be shown to the world.

[...]

Afghan Film is considered one of the most important directorates in the production of Afghan films; an office whose archive also narrates the history of Afghanistan. But it is not yet clear what type of films and series this directorate will make and whether it will be allowed to reopen cinemas in Afghanistan.”

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty’s Gandhara, [Fearing Taliban Crackdown, Afghan Musicians Are Already Falling Silent](#), 10 September 2021

“Habibullah Shabab found his calling as a singer -- but since the Taliban's return to power, he's given up performing and instead makes a living as a shopkeeper. The Taliban has not yet imposed a ban on music as it did in the 1990s, but Shabab and others fear such a policy is imminent, stripping many musicians of their livelihoods.”

*How are taxes collected?*

*What is the state of the financial industry and civilians’ access to money?*

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

“The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving.

Banks were closed for many days after the Taliban seized control, and while many have opened now, accessing cash is still difficult.

Many businesses shut down because their owners fled the country fearing for their lives. Many of those who had jobs haven't received salaries for months.

With no cash in the market, there has been a sharp rise in prices of day to day necessities including food. An already difficult situation created by war and drought has become much worse.

Women who had jobs and supported their families can no longer work and are now entirely dependent on handouts.

In Kabul, hundreds of people are still living in the open in tents with harsher winter months fast approaching.

Development aid given by foreign countries and agencies to Afghanistan, which helped to put cash into the economy, is all but frozen. This, on the ground, means that people who worked on development projects are out of jobs. [...]

Afghans have been describing their difficulties to the BBC.

"Nothing can be found, and even if it is available, it's too expensive and not affordable," one retired man said. "I was paid last year and am still waiting on my salary, I have nothing to eat with my children."

Another, a government employee in the northern town of Takhar, complained that officials were lying about the payment of salaries.

"I've received nothing," he said. "What type government is this? If an employee doesn't go to work, there would be complaints and an investigation. But if he's not being paid, how can he survive?"

Reuters, [Afghanistan on verge of socio-economic collapse, EU's top diplomat says](#), 3 October 2021

"The Afghan banking system is largely paralysed, with people unable to withdraw money, while the country's health system - which was heavily dependent on foreign aid - is close to collapse, according to Borrell."

BBC News, [Taliban: Afghanistan bank boss warns sector near collapse](#), 28 September 2021

"Syed Moosa Kaleem Al-Falahi, the Chief Executive of the Islamic Bank of Afghanistan, said the country's financial industry is in the grip of an "existential crisis" as customers panic.

"There's huge withdrawals happening at the moment", he said, speaking from Dubai, where he is temporarily based because of the chaos in Kabul.

"Only withdrawals are happening, most of the banks are not functioning, and not providing full services," he added.

Afghanistan's economy was already on shaky ground even before the Taliban took control in August."

"Inflation is soaring, the Afghani, the country's currency, is plummeting and people are desperate as many have lost their jobs and are short of cash."

TOLO News, [UNDP Forecast: 97% of Afghans in Poverty by Mid-2022](#), 12 September 2021

"The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) warned that 97 percent of Afghans could fall below the poverty line by mid-2022 unless the country's political and economic challenges are addressed promptly.

Based on a report UNDP released on September 9th, the latest developments and uncertainties have severely affected the lives of Afghans and an economic crisis is emerging in the country."

Reuters, [EXCLUSIVE Taliban launch charm offensive with Afghan banks amid funding fears](#), 1 September 2021

"Banks have mainly re-opened this week, but are operating with limited services, including \$200 weekly limits on withdrawals and few wire transfers amid liquidity worries and correspondent banks cutting ties, say bankers."

### *Availability of and access to food*

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

"The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving [...]

With no cash in the market, there has been a sharp rise in prices of day to day necessities including food. An already difficult situation created by war and drought has become much worse."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [Death Stalks 1 Million Afghan Children Facing Malnutrition](#), 7 October 2021

"Dozens of malnourished children are now receiving care in the central hospital of Afghanistan's Ghor Province. Malnutrition in Ghor is expected to increase rapidly as poverty in the country grows -- driven by drought and the collapse of the economy following the Taliban takeover in August."

Aria News, [Afghan air corridor for cargo to resume next week](#), 7 October 2021

"The Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Investment (ACCI) deputy head said Thursday that Afghanistan's international air corridor for cargo will resume next week. Mohammad Younis Mohmand told Ariana News the first flight will carry pine nuts. The ACCI however continues to criticize Pakistan over its treatment of Afghan businessmen and called for issues to be resolved at the Torkham and Spin Boldak land ports."

The New Humanitarian, [From rural drought to urban shortages: Afghanistan's new hungry](#), 6 October 2021

"Only five percent of Afghan households reported having enough food to eat, according to recent World Food Programme surveys. For the first time, there are similar levels of food insecurity among urban Afghans as drought-hit rural ones, the UN agency said: "Job losses, lack of cash, and soaring prices are creating a new class of hungry in Afghanistan."

Food worries now stretch from the country's remote rural corners – which often face the brunt of shortfalls caused by drought, conflict, or under-development – to its urban areas."

Tolo News, [WFP: 14 Million Face Food Insecurity in Afghanistan](#), 6 October 2021

"The World Food Programme (WFP) warned of the dire state of food insecurity sweeping across Afghanistan as winter approaches fast.

While visiting a food distribution center in Herat province in the west, WFP officials said that at least 14 million people in Afghanistan will face food insecurity and over 3 million children are suffering from acute malnutrition.

"We have huge concerns about the desperate choices families are being forced to take," said Mary-Ellen McGroarty, WFP Afghanistan's Representative and Country Director. "Unless we intervene now, malnutrition will only become more severe. The international community must release the funds they pledged weeks ago, or the impact could be irreversible."

It is reported that WFP and UNICEF are distributing food to poor Afghan families in several provinces.

A number of families who were benefited by lifesaving food packages talked about their poverty, saying they have not been able to pay for food."

UNICEF, [Half of Afghanistan's children under five expected to suffer from acute malnutrition as hunger takes root for millions](#), 5 October 2021

"KABUL, 5 October 2021 –Wrapping up a two-day visit to Herat, UNICEF Representative in Afghanistan, Hervé Ludovic De Lys, and WFP Afghanistan Representative and Country Director, Mary-Ellen McGroarty, sounded the alarm on the dire state of malnutrition and food insecurity sweeping across the country. Without reliable access to water, food and basic health and nutrition services, Afghan children and their families are bearing the brunt of years of conflict and the current economic crisis.

14 million people in Afghanistan are facing acute food insecurity, and an estimated 3.2 million children under the age of five expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by the end of the year. At least 1 million of these children are at risk of dying due to severe acute malnutrition without immediate treatment.

[...]

According to WFP surveys 95 per cent of households in Afghanistan are not consuming enough food, adults are eating less and skipping meals so their children can eat more."

Reuters, [Afghanistan on verge of socio-economic collapse, EU's top diplomat says](#), 3 October 2021

"Afghanistan is facing a breakdown of its economic and social systems that risks turning into a humanitarian catastrophe, the European Union's foreign policy chief said on Sunday.

Avoiding the worst-case scenario would require the Taliban to comply with conditions that would enable more international assistance, Josep Borrell wrote in a blog post.

"Afghanistan is experiencing a serious humanitarian crisis and a socio-economic collapse is looming, which would be dangerous for Afghans, the region and international security," Borrell wrote.

Food prices in the country have jumped more than 50% since the Taliban took power in August as the freezing of \$9 billion of Afghanistan's assets held in foreign central bank reserves and the withdrawal of foreign income stokes inflation.

The Afghan banking system is largely paralysed, with people unable to withdraw money, while the country's health system - which was heavily dependent on foreign aid - is close to collapse, according to Borrell.

"If the situation continues and with winter approaching, this risks turning into a humanitarian catastrophe," he wrote, adding that this could trigger mass migration into neighbouring states."

WFP, [WFP Afghanistan Situation Report](#), 30 September 2021

"SITUATION UPDATE

- Winter is fast-approaching and the race is on to get food prepositioned at strategic locations before it's too late.

- Food security is deteriorating sharply: Just 5 percent of households are consuming enough food according to WFP's latest surveys.

- Urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, who were ravaged by drought twice in the past three years.

- While families with lower education levels are hardest hit by food insecurity, more than 90 percent of households with high-school or university educations are unable to afford enough food to feed their families.

- Almost no one has enough money to buy food.

- Three out of four households now limit portion sizes; adults are eating less so their children can eat more.
    - o Households headed by women are skipping meals, and reducing their portions far more than those headed by men.

- Three out of four households are also borrowing food (76.7 percent up from 60 percent) or consuming cheaper food (74.5 percent up from 56 percent).

- Cash shortages are hampering commercial transporters, millers and cooperating partners as they face challenges in securing cash to pay staff/drivers and procure raw materials."

ACTED, September, [DROUGHT EMERGENCY APPEAL Situation analysis and proposed response](#), September 2021 [exact date unknown]

"The 2021 harvest for a range of crops is expected to be below average due to the effects of drought. According to the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster (FSAC), total wheat production in 2021 will be 25% less than in 2020 based on initial estimates, and overall the country is facing a national shortfall of 2.46m MT of wheat due to the poor harvests, and a 62% reduction in area under cultivation compared to 2020. Additionally, **decreases in rice and vegetable production are also anticipated to be high, with rice production down 20%, vegetable production down 25-30%, and fruit production expected to be down a staggering 80% in some locations.** In addition, livestock mortality will further erode food security and increase risks of malnutrition, with livestock production to be down 30% across the most affected provinces.[...]

The impact of the drought is, and will be, very severe for the poorest and most vulnerable small-holder farmers reliant on rain-fed wheat production, as the area of rain-fed wheat planted in 2021 has decreased by 62% from the 2020 level, with the resulting yield also down 47% against the prior year. In addition, the effects of the drought are depleting many already poor and vulnerable household's financial and asset reserves as they struggle and resort to extremely negative coping strategies, with the poorest and most vulnerable households incurring catastrophic levels of debt.[...]

Unfortunately, long-term forecasts indicate that the drought will continue into 2022, and the next main lean season (late January to late April 2022) is expected to be more intense and arrive earlier, leading to a further deterioration in the food security situation across the country."

BBC News, [Taliban: Afghanistan bank boss warns sector near collapse](#), 28 September 2021

"The United Nations World Food Programme has warned that only 5% of households in Afghanistan have enough to eat every day.

Half of those surveyed said they have run out of food altogether at least once in the last two weeks."

NRC, [Afghanistan is on a countdown to economic collapse](#), 27 September 2021

"Statement by Jan Egeland, Secretary General of the Norwegian Refugee Council, who is currently visiting Afghanistan.

"Afghanistan's economy is spiralling out of control. The formal banking system could collapse any day now because of a lack of cash. I've spoken to families who tell me they are surviving on tea and small scraps of old bread.

"If the economy collapses, even the most basic services will no longer function, and humanitarian needs will soar even higher. Dealing with the liquidity crisis is critical as aid organisations seek to scale up to meet urgent humanitarian needs."

WFP, [In the grip of hunger: only 5 percent of Afghan families have enough to eat](#), 23 September 2021

"Due to the combined effects of unemployment, a drop in the value of the local currency and a rise in prices – cooking oil has almost doubled in price since 2020, and wheat is up by 28 percent – only 10 percent of families headed by someone with a secondary or university education can afford sufficient food."

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

"In the reporting period [...] The prices of food, medicine and other essential supplies in markets across the region reportedly increased by about 30 per cent."

#### *Availability of and access to water*

ACTED, September, [DROUGHT EMERGENCY APPEAL Situation analysis and proposed response](#),

September 2021 [exact date unknown]

"While Afghanistan has sufficient water for its population and production in aggregate terms, access, storage and efficiency of water use are extremely low due to mismanagement, destruction of systems, and lack of infrastructures and investment, with 88% of irrigation done through informal systems. **Overall, it is estimated that 90% of Afghanistan's water consumption is for agricultural purposes, of which over 50% is lost due to inefficient systems and management.** When faced with drought conditions, these issues result in severe WASH needs and water scarcity, especially in rural areas, leading to a lack of access and availability of water."

#### *Availability of and access to shelter*

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

"The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving. [...]

In Kabul, hundreds of people are still living in the open in tents with harsher winter months fast approaching."

#### *Availability of and access to employment*

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

"The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving. [...]

Many businesses shut down because their owners fled the country fearing for their lives. Many of those who had jobs haven't received salaries for months.

With no cash in the market, there has been a sharp rise in prices of day to day necessities including food. An already difficult situation created by war and drought has become much worse.

Women who had jobs and supported their families can no longer work and are now entirely dependent on handouts. [...]

Development aid given by foreign countries and agencies to Afghanistan, which helped to put cash into the economy, is all but frozen. This, on the ground, means that people who worked on development projects are out of jobs."

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA), [Crippling economy closing Afghan media outlets](#), 12 October 2021

"This comes after reports emerged that at least half of all Afghan have shut down, mainly due to financial problems.

In addition, a large percentage of journalists and media workers have not been paid for at least two months.

Nai Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan said the lack of financial resources has affected hundreds of journalists.

"Following the IEA takeover in Afghanistan, some media closed down while others have complained about (restrictions on) access to information," said Nasir Noori, a member of .

"When we try to continue our journalistic affairs, we have few information sources. We call on the IEA to provide sources for the media," he said.

Some media outlets have continued to operate despite facing serious financial constraints.

"All journalists in Faryab province are jobless. ' activities are being restricted," said Nabil Niyaish, a journalist.

"The media has financial problems in . Some media organizations have remained open but might close down because there are no advertisements," said another journalist.

Media and freedom of speech has been a major achievement in Afghanistan in the past 20 years, but the future for this sector is uncertain.

IEA officials meanwhile said they will help resolve problems regarding the financial situation in the long term.

"We will try our best to create a market for the media. It will be beneficial for the media," said , a member of the IEA's cultural committee.

Recently, Afghanistan's journalist union said that 70% of media outlets have closed down in Afghanistan in recent weeks and more face closure unless the [international community](#) provide help"

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [As Afghan Media Struggles Under Taliban, Jobless Journalists Grow Desperate](#), 11 October 2021

"Many media outlets across Afghanistan have shut down in the wake of the Taliban takeover, with some journalists leaving the profession or the country out of fear of reprisals. Gul Ahmad Almas is one former freelance journalist whose life has been upended by the new regime. With no income from reporting, he is dependent on hand-to-mouth work collecting brush to sell as fuel"

Khaama Press, [School graduates of 2000-2020, of no use: Taliban's higher education minister](#), 4 October 2021

"The acting minister of the higher education of the Taliban Abdul Baqi Haqqani said that those who have graduated from high schools during the past twenty years are of no use.

The acting minister is meant by the graduates who have studied during the non-Taliban era when they were fighting the US-backed governments of Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani.

[...]

Earlier, the acting minister of higher education had said that the Master's and Ph.D. holders of modern studies are less valuable than those who have studied in madrasas and have religious studies in Afghanistan.

The statement of Haqqani comes as the period-2000-2020- is said to be one of the most important and rich eras when it comes to the level of education in Afghanistan."



BBC News, [Afghanistan, There's security but no money': Afghans settle into life under Taliban rule](#), 17 September 2021

"One teacher has already sold everything she can. "I became a shopkeeper in my own house and sold all my belongings..whatever I earned I am using to buy food now. Whenever I come here and see the condition of the people I go home and cry". Nonetheless, she says she's still turning up to work every day [...] Across the road is Mazar -i-Sharif's main hospital. It's now run by a Taliban official, but his deputy is continuing in the same position he held under the previous government. Staff haven't been paid since the Taliban takeover, with uncertainty over how the ministry of health will be funded, while the current reserve stock of medicine will only last for another month"

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021  
"In the reporting period [...] A rise in unemployment has been observed along with increasing criminality."

## Medical Care

*Are there any challenges to access medical services?*

The Guardian, [Critically ill Afghans suffer as Taliban tighten Pakistan border](#), 13 October 2021

"Shortage of specialised doctors in Afghanistan means patients seek lifesaving care in Pakistan, but conventions have changed [...]"

Doctors and family members of patients say conventions at the border have changed since the Taliban takeover, which has made it more difficult for Afghan patients to seek lifesaving care in [Pakistan](#). [...]"

Afghanistan's healthcare system, which already suffered from a shortage of specialised doctors and well-equipped facilities, has been critically wounded. Funding cuts from international donors have led to a dearth of medical supplies and equipment. Some doctors left during the early days of the [Taliban](#) rule, and others lost jobs at hospitals that could no longer afford to pay them. The head of the World Health Organization said late last month that Afghanistan's health system was on the brink of collapse."

Aria News, [UN agency to pay salaries of Afghan health care workers](#), 7 October 2021

"The World Bank previously gave hundreds of millions of dollars to Afghanistan to cover workers and other health care needs but cut off its support after the government in Kabul was no longer officially recognized by most countries.

The U.N. agency will be taking over the program from the World Bank this week in order to provide money to health care workers and the health care system in order to avoid a looming humanitarian crisis in the country, The Washington Post reported.

Global Fund, a global health organization, donated \$15 million to the program at the beginning of October."

Tolo News, [Provincial Health Centres Closed, Kabul Hospitals Crowded](#), 04 October 2021

"Officials at the state-owned hospitals said the citizens' access to health care has significantly declined across the country, so people mostly travel to the capital for medical treatment.

According to officials, the number of patients coming to Kabul's hospitals has increased after healthcare centers faced challenges in some provinces.

The shortage of medicine and professional staff are major challenges in Kabul city as well.

"As the healthcare centers were closed in the provinces, the number of patients increased in the capital's hospitals. There will not be sufficient capacity if the situation continues," said Parwiz Noori, head of the Wazir Mohammad Akbar Khan Hospital.

"Kabul's hospitals are affected as well. We face a lack of medicine and doctors," said Dr. Mohammad Ishaq Shirani. [...] Provincial healthcare centers recently closed due to lack of medicine, medical equipment and doctors. [...]"

Beds are full [...] and there is no medicine or doctors."

At the same time, the World Health Organization (WHO) released an assessment and warned that Afghanistan's healthcare system is facing a crisis.

The assessment says: "Only 17% of health facilities supported by Sehatmandi remain fully functional. Two thirds are experiencing stock-out of essential medicines. Without urgent action, they are at risk of closure."

International organizations have repeatedly announced that Afghanistan's healthcare system is at risk of collapse."

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, [SCA the only health service provider in Maidan Wardak](#), 04 October 2021

"Currently the health service in the provincial hospital is limited; there is no medicine or food for the patients. This is a problem that our poor people cannot bear," he said. "Despite all these problems, we thank SCA for providing health services to the people of Afghanistan, as we are aware that health services in other provinces have declined. We call on SCA and other international bodies to help us. If they don't help, a humanitarian catastrophe could happen in Afghanistan due to the lack of public health services."

About 650 patients daily receive health services in Maidan Shahr Provincial Hospital, including around 300 children and more than 150 female patients. This hospital with a capacity of 110 beds admits 85 to 90 patients every day, including patients who need maternal and surgical care.

Maidan Shahr Provincial Hospital previously provided wider services under Sehatmandi Health Project. Sehatmandi project supported 77 health centers in Wardak under a health contract funded by the World Bank. The contract was for 30 months beginning from January 2019 to June 2021. However, after the political transition in the country, the project ended up vague without signs of extension. This has affected the supply of health services in the province.

"It would be difficult to run such a big hospital and other clinics without having a project, but we are still providing patients with only essential life-saving services using SCA's funds only. If these insufficient services are stopped, we are afraid of a deadly catastrophe for mothers, children and needy people in the country," explained Dr. Mohammad Nader Rahmani, director of the Maidan Wardak Provincial Hospital.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has warned in a new report that halting the budget for health projects in Afghanistan will close down more than 2,000 health centers in the country. This is while the Red Cross has also warned that more than seven million people in Afghanistan do not have access to basic health care."

WHO, [Dr Maragaret Harris - Emergencies in Lebanon and Afghanistan - Virtual Press conference](#), 23 September 2021

"WHO Director-General, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus [...]

"Those gains are now at severe risk with the country's health system on the brink of collapse. There has been a surge in cases of measles and diarrhoea. Almost 50% of children are at risk of malnutrition. The resurgence of polio is a major risk and 2.1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine remain unused."

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(13-19 September 2021\)](#), 23 September 2021

"Most public health facilities and hospitals are reportedly running low on medicines and other basic supplies due to a shortage of funding [...]

Health services remain limited in hospitals due to funding shortage. A number of medical units in the Nangarhar Regional Hospital and districts' hospitals are reportedly closed."

The Guardian, [UN frees funds to prevent Afghan health system collapse](#), 22 September 2021

"The UN released emergency funds on Wednesday to help prevent Afghanistan's battered healthcare system from collapsing, with the WHO chief warning of an imminent catastrophe."

WHO, [Statement by Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, Director-General of the World Health Organization, and Dr Ahmed Al-Mandhari, WHO Regional Director for the Eastern Mediterranean on their visit to Kabul](#), 22 September 2021

“Only 17% of all Sehatmandi health facilities are now fully functional. This breakdown in health services is having a rippling effect on the availability of basic and essential health care, as well as on emergency response, polio eradication, and COVID-19 vaccination efforts.

Nine of 37 COVID-19 hospitals have already closed, and all aspects of the COVID-19 response have dropped, including surveillance, testing, and vaccination. Prior to August this year, 2.2 million people had been vaccinated against COVID-19. In recent weeks, vaccination rates have decreased rapidly while 1.8 million COVID-19 vaccine doses in country remain unused. Swift action is needed to use these doses in the coming weeks and work towards reaching the goal of vaccinating at least 20% of the population by the end of the year based on national targets. Afghanistan is one of two countries in the world where polio remains endemic. With only one case of wild poliovirus reported so far this year, compared to 56 in 2020, there has never been a better time to eradicate polio. However, the polio programme will struggle to respond if the basic immunization infrastructure begins to collapse around it. Measles outbreaks are also spreading. With access to all communities no longer impeded, WHO and partners are ready to begin a country-wide house-to-house polio vaccination campaign and include measles and COVID vaccination in an integrated campaign”

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021  
“South: Limited health services in Uruzgan province

Most public health facilities and hospitals are reportedly running short of medication and other basic supplies. The situation in Uruzgan province is reportedly particularly dire with medical staff including doctors who have not been paid for months quitting. Currently, other health facilities supported by NGOs such as the Mirwais hospital in Kandahar province and Bost hospital in Lashkargah city in Hilmand province continue to function but are overstretched and facing an increasing number of patients from rural areas.”

The New Humanitarian, [Healthcare, aid, and the Taliban: A Q&A with Afghanistan’s health minister](#), 8 September 2021

“International aid donors must find a way to fund Afghanistan’s crumbling health system, or risk an even greater humanitarian catastrophe.

This is the warning from the country’s acting health minister, Dr. Wahid Majrooh, who now oversees a sector he says is on the verge of collapse due to donor funding freezes.”

The New Humanitarian, [Afghan healthcare under threat from international aid freeze](#), 6 September 2021

“International aid suspensions could shutter most of Afghanistan’s public health facilities, essentially leaving the country without a working healthcare system, officials and aid groups say.

Some 2,000 donor-funded clinics and other health facilities could shut their doors within days, stripping access to primary or secondary healthcare from millions of people. The closures, amounting to 90 percent of clinics funded by a World Bank-administered donor pot, would also leave only a fraction of Afghanistan’s COVID-19 isolation beds still operating, the World Health Organization said.”

*What treatment for mental health conditions is available?*

AVA Press, [Mental illness a silent threat to Afghanistan](#), 30 September 2021

“A mental health expert, concerned about the increase in psychological problems among people, warns the number of such patients will double if factors behind it are not prevented.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)\_ involves a wide range of disorders that affect the ability to think, feel and behave properly. The affected individuals cannot handle their daily affairs well.

Misbehavior, aggression, lack of concentration, depression, lack of interest and enjoyment, bullying, irritability, rapid weight change, fear, anxiety, changes in eating habits, extreme exhaustion, inability to cope with daily problems, excessive anger, violence and suicidal tendencies are some the symptoms of mental problems.

In line with the data from the Ministry of Public Health, 46 percent of the country's population, or 35 million people, do not have mental health.

In an exclusive interview with Pajhwok Afghan News, Dr. Azizuddin Himmat, a mental health specialist and head of the Afghan psychologists' union, said: "We have to say that the number of people with mental illness is higher than what was provided by the MoPH because there is conflict, insecurity and economic problems in the past 40 years." Referring to the change of government and problems arising in various areas, he said: "Since the day the country's political system changed, insecurity had decreased.

"Unfortunately, people are not mental calm. There are factors have cause people psychological pain and a surge in their problems."

[...]

"You know, the most affected people in this situation are women and girls. After the change in the political system two months ago, they remain at home.

[...]

"If such factors are not prevented, believe me, the number of people with mental illness will increase significantly. I can say, mental illness is a catastrophe that threatens Afghanistan silently," said Dr. Himmat.

[...]

Stressed the need for the opening of girls' schools and higher education centers as soon as possible and women should be employed, he added: "I believe if the Islamic Emirate do so, not only they will gain popularity, but also national and international community's support." "

#### *How are people with mental health conditions treated by the Taliban?*

Al Jazeera, [Now in power, Taliban sets sights on Afghan drug underworld](#), 11 October 2021

"Now the uncontested rulers of Afghanistan, the Taliban has set its sights on stamping out the scourge of narcotics addiction, even if by force.

At nightfall, the battle-hardened fighters-turned-policemen scour the capital's drug-ravaged underworld. Below Kabul's bustling city bridges, amid piles of garbage and streams of filthy water, hundreds of homeless men addicted to heroin and methamphetamines are rounded up, beaten and forcibly taken to treatment centres.

The Associated Press gained rare access to one such raid last week.

The scene provided a window into the new order under Taliban governance: The men – many with mental illness, according to doctors – sat against stone walls with their hands tied. They were told to sober up or face beatings.

#### *How are people with mental health conditions treated by society?*

*What are the challenges for persons with disabilities to access health services?*

#### *What is the treatment like for people with drug-addiction issues?*

Al Jazeera, [Now in power, Taliban sets sights on Afghan drug underworld](#), 11 October 2021

"Now the uncontested rulers of Afghanistan, the Taliban has set its sights on stamping out the scourge of narcotics addiction, even if by force.

At nightfall, the battle-hardened fighters-turned-policemen scour the capital's drug-ravaged underworld. Below Kabul's bustling city bridges, amid piles of garbage and streams of filthy water, hundreds of homeless men addicted to heroin and methamphetamines are rounded up, beaten and forcibly taken to treatment centres.

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The scene provided a window into the new order under Taliban governance: The men – many with mental illness, according to doctors – sat against stone walls with their hands tied. They were told to sober up or face beatings.

The heavy-handed methods are welcomed by some health workers, who have had no choice but to adapt to Taliban rule. "We are not in a democracy anymore, this is a dictatorship. And the use of force is the only way to

treat these people,” said Dr Fazalrabi Mayar, working in a treatment facility. He was referring specifically to Afghans addicted to heroin and meth.””

## Women

For more information about women in governance positions, please refer to the section [Justice, Law and Order in Taliban-controlled Territory](#) in this report. For more information on women and Sharia law please refer to the section [How is Sharia law interpreted and applied?](#)

[List of Taliban Policies Violating Women’s Rights in Afghanistan by Heather Barr dated 29 September 2021](#) [Note that these are presented in Tweets]

*What is the Taliban’s position regarding women in the labour force?*

Al Jazeera, [Anxious wait for Afghan girls as opening of high schools stalled](#), 5 October 2021

“Women employment

Though Hossaini is no longer in the country, the women Al Jazeera spoke to said there are tens of thousands of Afghan women who have had their lives put on hold by the stalling of fully reopening all schools across the country.

Masuda Sultan, an Afghan-American entrepreneur and activist who has also joined in the efforts to restart employment and education for women, said it is not just the girls who are heavily affected by the continued shutdown of secondary education for female students.

“More women are employed in education than any other sector in Afghanistan,” said Sultan.

UNICEF estimated that roughly one-third of Afghan teachers were women, and Momand and Afghani said a further 150,000 are employed in other facets of the education sector.

“For a lot of families, teaching is the only job they’ll let their women have,” said Sultan referring to the decades-long practice of gender-segregating primary and secondary education in the country.

Because of this, Sultan said it is imperative to reopen all schools across the country as quickly as possible, “If you don’t employ these teachers, then we are failing women in Afghanistan.” “

Reuters, [Protests get harder for Afghan women amid risks and red tape](#), 04 October 2021

“Women in Afghanistan who object to what the Taliban have said and done since returning to power are finding it harder to protest, now that impromptu demonstrations have been banned and previous rallies were broken up by gunfire and beatings.

Resistance within families and concerns over sharing information over social media that could identify people involved are also acting as deterrents, according to six female protesters Reuters spoke to across the country. Sporadic demonstrations by women demanding that the Taliban respect their civil freedoms have been captured on social media, as have the sometimes violent responses, drawing the world’s attention to issues of equality and human rights.

The last time the Taliban ruled in the 1990s, they banned women from work and girls from school, allowed women to leave their homes only when accompanied by a male relative and insisted that women wore all-enveloping burqas.

Those who broke the rules were sometimes whipped in public by the Islamist militants’ “moral police”.

This time the Taliban are promising greater freedom for women, including in education and employment, in accordance with their interpretation of Islamic law.

Yet older girls are still not back at school, there are no women in senior positions in the new government, the Women’s Ministry in Kabul has been shut and the Taliban have said women will only be allowed to work in a small number of jobs.”

The Guardian, [‘I don’t know where to go’: uncertain fate of the women in Kabul’s shelters](#), 1 October 2021

“When a Kabul-based shelter that once housed 80 women closed during the Taliban takeover, its cook lost her income as well as a way to provide for her extended family. “My mother and I were the breadwinners but now we both sit at home, not knowing how we will survive,” says the 30-year-old, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Since last year she cooked, twice a day, receiving £190 a month and independence from her abusive husband, who was a crystal meth addict. Her mother, who was the cook at another shelter funded by the same western NGO, also lost her job.

“Now that I am locked up in my house, I suffer a lot, mentally and financially,” the daughter says. She fears for her own two daughters, who were meant to enter secondary school next year. “As an illiterate Afghan woman, I was working to help my two daughters go to school but now they can’t even get an education.””

NY Times, [At Afghan Universities, Increasing Fear that Women will never be allowed back](#), 29 September [updated 5 October]

“The new government has also prohibited most women from returning to the workplace, citing security concerns, though officials have described that as temporary. (The original Taliban movement did that as well in its early days in 1990s, but never followed up.)”

UNHCR, [Afghanistan situation: Emergency preparedness and response in Iran](#), 27 September 2021

“There have been reports that women-owned businesses, especially restaurants and cafes, have remained closed by the Taliban in Kabul. “Women have been progressively excluded from the public sphere, prohibited from appearing without a male guardian and face increasing restrictions on their right to work,” the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet said at the UN General Assembly on 21 September.”

Tolo news, [Kabul restaurants owned, staffed by women now closed](#), 22 September 2021

“In order to feed their families, women are seeking ways to work and earn money, Tabasom said.

“Women are the breadwinners for some families, so these families are facing economic and financial problems,” she added. The café’s employees said that each of them is leading a family. Opportunities for work must be found for women. Qadira said: “They should consider our demands. When they don’t pay attention, how will the Taliban start governance?” Sabrina Sultani said: “I was earning my livelihood by working at the café for two years. I helped my family.” Afghan businesswomen lost millions of Afs as the Taliban took Afghanistan in mid-August. Noor-ul-Haq Omari, head of the Union of Kabul Workers, said: “Investments led by women have unfortunately stopped. They lost their jobs and funds. In some cases, the women have sold their company’s expensive things at a very low price.” Dozens of Afghan businesswomen had begun to invest in various fields across the country over the past few years, and now this has stopped.”

Reuters, [Taliban replaces women’s ministry with ministry of virtue and vice](#), 17 September 2021

“Female employees said they had been trying to come to work for several weeks only to be told to return to their homes, according to videos filmed outside the building seen by Reuters.”

“A senior Taliban leader said earlier this week that women would not be allowed to work in government ministries with men.”

BBC news, [Afghanistan: Life under Taliban rule one month on](#), 16 September 2021

“She’s concerned that the Taliban may not let women work - something the group has denied. For the moment, though, women in Afghanistan are being told to stay at home for their own safety, unless they are teachers or medics.”

TOLO News, [Kabul Airport Employees, Including Women, Return to Work](#), 13 September 2021

“Lida, one of the 100 female security employees at the airport, said she is happy to return to her job after more than two weeks of staying at home.

“We were about to get a salary but then the Taliban came and we did not receive our salaries. Now we are working for free,” she said.



"We are happy that they asked us to resume our work. We want the government to pay us a salary from now on," said Zahra Amiri, an employee at the airport."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Not Keeping Its Word: Afghan Woman Quits Job After Pressure From Taliban](#), 11 September 2021

"A young Afghan woman has quit her job at a private foreign-language center in Kabul after what she described as intimidation and harassment by Taliban fighters stationed outside her workplace. [...]

"I put on Islamic clothing and went to work, but the moment I arrived there I faced insults and shouting from Taliban fighters standing at the entrance."

The teacher said armed Taliban militants were guarding the commercial building that houses several companies and offices in a crowded neighborhood in downtown Kabul.

"When I tried to enter my office, one of them asked me, 'Where are you going?' I told them that I work here. He said: 'Who told you to come? Go back home, fast,'" the woman told RFE/RL on September 10.

The language instructor said she was particularly concerned when the fighters called her an "infidel." [...]

The teacher said three other women in her circle experienced similar assaults by Taliban fighters when they tried to go to work. They all quit their jobs rather than face the harassment, she said."

TOLO News, [Afghan Women Seek Right to Return to Govt Jobs](#), 10 September 2021

"Despite their willingness to work, women in government jobs say they have been prevented by the Taliban from returning to work.

Speaking to TOLONews, they urged the Taliban to pave the way for women employees to return to work.

Shugufa Najibi, who has her master's degree in law from India, worked in Afghanistan's parliament for around ten years and said: "When I went to the office, they stopped me. I asked 'Why? Your officials say women can work?' When I left, they told me through my colleagues to not come anymore."

Based on the numbers of the Special Inspector for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), more than 5,000 women were working in the military sector in Afghanistan. [...]

The Taliban have only allowed women in the health and education sectors to restart work."

UNHCR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR ASIA AND PACIFIC (RBAP), [FLASH EXTERNAL UPDATE: AFGHANISTAN SITUATION #5 As of 08 September 2021](#)

"Female humanitarian colleagues, however, have only been permitted to work in specific sectors in some provinces, largely in the areas of health and education. Female humanitarians are reportedly not currently permitted to work in several of Afghanistan's provinces."

Human Rights Watch, [How the International Community Can Protect Afghan Women and Girls](#), 2 September 2021

"Access to Employment

"They are going to be working with us, shoulder to shoulder with us," Zabihullah Mujahid said of women on August 17. But on August 24, he urged women to stay home from work, citing security concerns related to misconduct by the Taliban's own forces. This followed incidents of the Taliban forcing women out of work in banks and the media."

*What is the Taliban's position regarding women studying?*

For more information about girls in primary and secondary education, please refer to the section [Access to Education](#) in this report. For more information about the interpretation of Sharia law in educational institutions, please refer to the chapter [How is Sharia law interpreted and applied?](#)

Reuters, [Afghan minister wants good relations, need more time on girls' education](#), 12 October 2021

"Afghanistan's [acting] foreign minister acting Foreign Minister [Amir Khan Muttaqi] appealed to the world for good relations on Monday but avoided making firm commitments on girls' education despite international demands to allow all Afghan children to go back to school." [...]

But the Taliban have so far refused to give ground on allowing girls to return to high school, one of the key demands of the international community after a decision last month that schools above the sixth grade would only reopen for boys.

"Muttaqi said the Taliban's Islamic Emirate government was moving carefully but had only been in power for a few weeks and could not be expected to complete reforms the international community had not been able to implement in 20 years."

NY Times, [At Afghan Universities, Increasing Fear that Women will never be allowed back](#), 29 September 2021 [updated 5 October 2021]

"While some women have returned to class at private universities, the country's public universities, which had been scheduled to start their academic year this week, remain closed to everyone, not just women. Even if they reopen, it appears that women will be required to attend segregated classes, with only women as instructors. But with so few female teachers available — and many of them still publicly restricted from working — many women will almost certainly have no classes to attend."

BBC News, [Afghanistan life under Taliban rule one month on](#), 16 September 2021

"Private universities like hers are open, but those run by the government remain shut for now. Under the new Taliban rule, male and female students who are studying in the same classroom must be separated by a curtain."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Taliban Sets Out Restrictions For Women To Study At Universities In Afghanistan](#), 12 September 2021

"Women in Afghanistan will only be allowed to study in universities in gender-segregated classrooms and Islamic dress will be compulsory, a member of the new Taliban government has said.

Abdul Baqi Haqqani laid out the new policies at a news conference in Kabul on September 12, several days after Afghanistan's new rulers formed an all-male government.

The world has been watching closely to see to what extent the Taliban might act differently from its first time in power, in the late 1990s. During that era, girls and women were denied an education, and were excluded from public life.

The Taliban insurgents have suggested they have changed, including in their attitudes toward women. Haqqani, in charge of education, said the Taliban did not want to turn the clock back 20 years. "We will start building on what exists today," he said.

However, female university students will face restrictions under the Taliban, including a compulsory dress code. Haqqani said hijabs will be mandatory but did not specify if this meant compulsory head scarves or also compulsory face coverings.

Gender segregation will also be enforced, Haqqani said. "We will not allow boys and girls to study together," he said.

Haqqani said that where no women teachers were available, special measures would be adopted to ensure separation.

"When there is really a need, men can also teach [women] but in accordance with Shari'a, they should observe the veil," he said. Classrooms will be curtained off to divide male and female students where necessary, and teaching could also be done through streaming or closed-circuit TV.

Classrooms divided by curtains have already been seen in many places since the Western-backed government collapsed and the Taliban seized Kabul last month. Haqqani told reporters that subjects being taught in universities would also be reviewed but did not elaborate. The Taliban, who subscribe to a harsh interpretation of Islam, have banned music and art during their previous time in power.

Women in Kabul and elsewhere in Afghanistan have protested in large and small groups against Taliban rule and efforts to curtail their rights. In some cases, the Taliban has responded with force, wielding whips, beating women with batons, pointing guns and firing weapons into the air."

BBC News, [Afghanistan: Taliban accused of killing pregnant police officer](#), 5 September 2021

"The Taliban on Sunday gave more details of how segregation of the sexes will be enacted in universities. In an extensive document, the new authorities said men and women must be separated, if necessary by a curtain. Ideally, women will be taught by women but if none are available then "old men" of good character can step in, AFP reports. Female students must wear an abaya, or robe, and niqab, or face veil."

*What is the Taliban's position regarding women in public?*

Thomson Reuters Foundation news, [IN PICTURES: Four Afghan women tell of lives upturned by Taliban](#), 13 October 2021

"When the Taliban seized Afghanistan on Aug 15, we asked women from various professions to take a photo marking what could be their last day of work, and to share their thoughts.

As the Taliban mark two months in power, we contacted the women to ask how their lives are now. Whether they have fled Afghanistan or stayed, all have seen dramatic changes. [...]

Shabnam Popalzi, former journalist and presenter at Parliament TV

I am at home in Kabul. All my friends are in the United States or Europe these days so I stay up until the early hours so that I can talk to them and try to find a way out of the country.

I have not left my home for weeks because I'm too scared to go out on the streets. The Taliban have taken everything from me, including the job I love.

I don't think there is any future for women like me in Afghanistan. But western countries won't help me leave because I worked for local media rather than the international media.

I've always promoted women's rights and freedom of speech. How can the international community say that they can't help me? Is this how they pay back 20 years of our efforts to build a modern Afghanistan?

It isn't fair to abandon us without a future, or to be killed by the Taliban.

Kabul has drastically changed. The coffee shops and restaurants, which used to be full of young women, are empty - or just have male customers. There are few women on the streets and women's faces have disappeared from advertising hoardings.

Most women wear black hijabs in the street now. It's very sad.

It's a basic right to choose what you wear. I don't feel comfortable in long dresses. I prefer jeans and shirts. The way we dress as Afghan women is part of our fight for our rights."

United Nations, [Afghanistan: 'Palpable' fear of 'brutal and systemic repression' of women grows](#), 21 September 2021

"Michelle Bachelet informed a high-level event on safeguarding 20 years of international engagement in Afghanistan, that women have been "progressively excluded from the public sphere", prohibited from appearing without a male guardian and face increasing restrictions on their right to work."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Not Keeping Its Word: Afghan Woman Quits Job After Pressure From Taliban](#), 11 September 2021

"In some provinces, the Taliban has reportedly banned women from leaving home unless accompanied by a male relative.

No such demand was made publicly yet for women in Kabul. But the English teacher [whose name is being withheld for protection] said Taliban fighters shouted at her, "What the hell are you doing walking alone outside your home?" "

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Afghan Women At Forefront Of Nonviolent Resistance To Taliban](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban has advised women to largely remain indoors for their own safety. The militants have also ordered tens of thousands of former female government workers not to return to work even as their male colleagues went

back.”

UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

“5. In a press conference on 17 August in Kabul, the Taliban, inter alia, emphasized that it had entered Kabul to prevent a security vacuum and “to ensure security of lives and property of the people”. [...] It assured women of their rights “within the framework of Sharia law”, adding that “no discrimination and violence will be committed against women”;

[...]

6. On 17 August, women marching through Kabul called upon the Taliban to respect their rights to education, work and political participation.

[...]

41. The Taliban taking control of districts had been followed by allegations of regression in the enjoyment by Afghan women and girls of their fundamental rights and freedoms, specifically access to education, access to health clinics, the right to work and freedom of movement, owing to the directive that women were to be accompanied by a male family chaperone when leaving the home and the reinstitution of strict dress code. In several locations, the Taliban had reportedly threatened that violation of those rules would result in harsh punishments. There were reports of women having been flogged and beaten in public because they had breached the prescribed rules. In one case in Balkh Province, on 3 August, a women’s rights activist was shot and killed for breaching the rules.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghan Women Protest Against Taliban Restrictions](#), 7 September 2021

“ “We decided to protest to demand our basic rights: the right to education, to work, and political participation. We want the Taliban to know that they cannot eliminate us from society.”

Those were the words of Arezo, a young woman from Kabul who took to the streets after the Taliban’s announcement that women would not be allowed to hold senior positions in Afghanistan’s new government.

“The Taliban have told women that they have no place in the new order,” another protester said. “We told them that we want to continue working, but they say only female nurses and teachers are allowed to work. We are engineers and lawyers and we want to work in our professions, but they say we cannot and should stay at home instead.”

Protests by Afghan women against Taliban restrictions that began in Herat on September 2 have spread to Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif. On September 4, around 100 women gathered in front of the presidential palace – now the Taliban’s command center in Kabul – carrying banners and chanting slogans for an equal society.

Taliban security forces reacted violently to these protests. In Kabul they stopped the women and beat at least 10 of them. Nargis was among those beaten. She told me: “When I saw that they are badly beating one of the participants, I went to help but the Taliban soldier hit me with a metal object, and I fainted. All I remember is that there were two other women on the ground, and they were still being beaten.” Taliban officials said they detained four of their men who beat the protesters.”

BBC News, [Afghanistan: Taliban accused of killing pregnant police officer](#), 5 September 2021

“Taliban militants in Afghanistan have shot dead a policewoman in a provincial city, witnesses have told the BBC.

The woman, named in local media as Banu Negar, was killed at the family home in front of relatives in Firozkoh, the capital of central Ghor province.

The killing comes amid increasing reports of escalating repression of women in Afghanistan.

The Taliban told the BBC they had no involvement in Negar’s death and are investigating the incident”

BBC News, [Life in Kabul under Taliban: Where is your male escort?](#), 4 September 2021

““Why are you travelling without a mahram?” the Taliban guard asks a young Afghan woman about her missing male escort.

She sits on her own in the back of a beat-up Kabul yellow taxi as it pulls up to the checkpoint marked, like all the others, by the white Taliban flag with black script.

What is allowed now in Kabul, and what is not?

The turbaned Talib, rifle slung over shoulder, tells her to call her husband. When she explains she doesn't have a phone, he instructs another taxi driver to take her home to get her husband and bring them back. Once completed, all is resolved."

*What is the Taliban's position regarding women participating in sports?*

BBC, [UK to resettle teenage Afghan women footballers and families](#), 10 October 2021

"Dozens of Afghan girls with promising football careers, who fled the Taliban, have been told they can come to the UK to be resettled, along with their families.

The 35-member squad - aged 13-19 - fled Kabul last month and have been staying for the past few weeks in a hotel in Pakistan, where their temporary visas were due to expire on Monday." [...]

"Most of them are from Herat in western Afghanistan and had made their way to Kabul when the Western airlift started, staying in safe houses.

"Seventy percent of them had received death threats," said Ms Gill. "They were terrified.""

Deutsche Welle, [Fleeing Afghan women footballers seek new home from Pakistan](#), 1 October 2021

"A group of 32 Afghan women football players and their families are seeking safe haven from the Taliban in third countries after fleeing to Pakistan, the former Afghanistan women's team captain said on Friday.

Women's team captain Khalida Popal told DW that some of the players "had their houses burned down and some family members were taken by the Taliban."

Some 135 people — 32 players and coaches as well as their families — "were displaced from their provinces" because of their involvement in women's football, Popal added."

Financial Times, [The Afghan cricketers living in fear of the Taliban](#), 28 September 2021

"Here, women can never go into sports. No and never," said a cricketer on the women's team, who is still in the country but hopes to leave. "The men's cricket team makes a lot of money, so [the Taliban] will promote it." "If they want us to wear long clothes and play, we will accept all that," she added. "It hurts a lot when your dream crashes. I don't want my dream to remain unfulfilled. Not just mine. It's . . . my entire team's dream to play again."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, Including: [...]

· The Guardian, Afghan women to be banned from playing sport, Taliban say, 8 September 2021, <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2021/sep/08/afghan-women-to-be-banned-from-playing-sport-taliban-say>

The Guardian, [Dozens more female footballers and family members escape Afghanistan](#), 15 September 2021

"Last week, the Taliban announced that women would be banned from participating in all sports. In an interview with the Australian broadcaster SBS the deputy head of the Taliban's cultural commission, Ahmadullah Wasiq, said it was "not necessary" for women to be involved in sport and that "Islam and the Islamic Emirate [Afghanistan] do not allow women to play cricket or play cricket or play the kind of sports where they get exposed."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Afghan Cricket Board Says Women's Team Could Still Play](#), 11 September 2021

"The head of the Afghanistan Cricket Board (ACB) has told an Australian broadcaster that the Afghan national women's team could still be allowed to play cricket. ACB Chairman Azizullah Fazli told SBS Radio Pashto late on September 10 that the governing body would outline "very soon" how women would be allowed to play -- a development that, if true, would mark a reversal of the

Taliban's hard-line stance on the issue."

BBC News, [Afghanistan women's cricket team: Players hiding in Kabul fear Taliban rule](#), 1 September 2021

"Asel and many of her international team-mates are in hiding. Asel isn't her real name. In Kabul members of the Taliban have already come looking for Afghanistan's women's cricket team.

"Every woman playing cricket or other sports is not safe right now," she says. "The situation is very bad in Kabul.

"We have a group on WhatsApp and every night we are talking about our problems and sharing plans about what we should do. We are all hopeless."

Asel has barely stepped outside her home since the Taliban entered Kabul in mid-August and has locked her cricket kit away. She explains how one of her team-mates was targeted in the city.

"The village where they play cricket, some people who knew them are working with the Taliban. When the Taliban came here and took Kabul they threatened them, saying, 'We may come and kill you if you try to play cricket again,'" Asel says.

Taqwa, who is also using a pseudonym, was involved in Afghan women's cricket for many years. She managed to flee the country after Kabul fell. In the week before she got out, she moved from house to house to avoid being detected. The Taliban called her father, but he said he had not been in contact with her."

*What is the position for lone women (i.e. widows, divorcee) without a male support network?*

*What is the position for unmarried/single women without a male support network?*

*What is the position for single mothers without a male support network?*

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban abuses cause widespread fear](#), 23 September 2021

"Women leaders were eventually able to have some discussions with two Taliban officials, but without significant concessions or assurances on the issues the women were concerned about: their freedom of movement, especially whether they would need to have a mahram with them at all times; whether they would be able to work, in what occupations, and how soon; and whether girls and women would be able to continue their education, at all levels and in all disciplines.

The response from the officials was to lecture them that they should leave their homes only when absolutely necessary and with a male family member. For unmarried women who did not have a male family member, they suggested the solution was to marry. Employment for women, the women were told, would be permitted only in areas in which the Taliban felt it was necessary for women to do jobs, presumably some education and healthcare roles working with girls and women. The officials emphasized that the Taliban had made a concession by allowing girls even primary education and said girls could have basic education by learning to read and write, and that would suffice. They urged the women to support the Taliban and warned of harsh action if they opposed the Taliban or protested."

The Guardian, ['They came for my daughter': Afghan single mothers face losing children under Taliban](#), 8 September 2021

"The day after Mazar-i-Sharif, the provincial capital of Balkh province, fell to the Taliban on 14 August, gunmen came for Raihana's\* six-year-old daughter.

Widowed when her husband was murdered by Taliban forces in 2020, Raihana had been raising her child as a single mother. After her husband's death she had fought her in-laws for custody of her daughter and won, thanks to the rights she had under Afghan civil law – which state that single women can keep their children if they can provide for them financially.

Now, with her city in Taliban hands, Raihana was alone.

"The day after the fall of Mazar-i-Sharif, my brother in-law showed up at my father's house, where I lived, with Taliban fighters demanding to give them my daughter," Raihana told the Guardian.



Raihana was lucky. She and her daughter were not at home when the armed men arrived. As soon as she heard, she took her child and fled Mazar-i-Sharif for Kabul.”

*What is the situation of women in women’s shelters?*

The Guardian, [‘I don’t know where to go’: uncertain fate of the women in Kabul’s shelters](#), 1 October 2021

“Women in refuges have been sent home to their abusers or to prison since the Taliban takeover. Those in the few shelters still open fear what lies ahead [...]

The shelter is one of nearly 30 such facilities in Afghanistan. Built up over the past 20 years, they operated as a discreet and often hidden part of the international community’s commitment to advancing the rights of Afghan women. Most of the women’s cases were resolved within months, but some spent years at the shelter, learning new skills so they could reintegrate into society.

Over the past six weeks, this crucial lifeline has all but disappeared. Most of the shelters have closed their doors at the request of the **Taliban**, meaning women have either been sent home, often back to their abusers, or moved to secret locations. [...]

Of the three shelter directors who spoke to the Guardian, none are taking in new women. [...]

**Mahbooba Seraj**, a veteran women’s rights activist and manager of a shelter for 30 women in Kabul, says the Taliban are still figuring out what to do about women’s refuges. “They’re afraid that women in the shelters will leave, and end up on the streets and enter prostitution, which is very possible,” she says by phone from Kabul. “And they do not want that.”

Two weeks ago, 15 Taliban police officers , including secret police, visited Seraj’s shelter over several days, noting residents’ names and snooping around. The women wore veils so they could not be identified, Seraj said.

Seraj told the Taliban that their visit was exceptional – a man had never crossed her shelter’s threshold before. “They looked at me as if they didn’t believe me. And one policeman asked, ‘Even the Americans?’ I laughed and said, ‘Neither American nor Afghan. Period.’ Why they thought Americans visited is beyond me.””

## Children

*Access to Education*

For more information about the interpretation of Sharia law in educational institutions, please refer to the chapter [How is Sharia law interpreted and applied?](#)

Thomson Reuters Foundation news, [In northern Afghanistan, girls' schools working despite ban elsewhere](#), 12 October 2021

“While girls across most of Afghanistan remain at home while brothers go to high school, classes in some northern areas have been open for all students, highlighting regional differences starting to emerge two months after the Taliban seized power.

Secondary schools remain closed for girls in much of the country, but in Mazar-i-Sharif, close to the border with Uzbekistan, local authorities have taken a different approach.

Zabihullah Noorani, head of the culture and information directorate in the northern province of Balkh, said lessons in many schools were continuing for both boys and girls.”

Reuters, [Afghan minister wants good relations, need more time on girls' education](#), 12 October 2021

“Afghanistan’s [acting] foreign minister acting Foreign Minister [Amir Khan Muttaqi] appealed to the world for good relations on Monday but avoided making firm commitments on girls’ education despite international demands to allow all Afghan children to go back to school.” [...]

“Muttaqi said the Taliban's Islamic Emirate government was moving carefully but had only been in power for a few weeks and could not be expected to complete reforms the international community had not been able to implement in 20 years.”

Thomson Reuters Foundation news, [Despite promises by the militants to let girls go to school, many Afghans fear girls' opportunities will be severely limited](#), 11 October 2021

“Secondary school girls in Afghanistan have had to remain at home since the Taliban took control of the country on Aug. 15, even though their brothers have returned to class.

The Islamist movement, which barred girls from education when last in power 20 years ago, has promised it will allow girls to go to school as it seeks to show the world it has changed.

But when it announced older boys [could resume school](#) in September, along with primary-age children, it gave no indication of when adolescent girls could return to class.

Some secondary schools for girls have recently reopened in the northern province of Kunduz, but there has been no statement by the Taliban.

Head teachers, who are in talks with officials over the conditions for resuming girls' education elsewhere, expect an announcement shortly.

But even if the Taliban keep their word, many people fear girls' education and future opportunities will be restricted under the militant group's rule.”

Al Jazeera, [Anxious wait for Afghan girls as opening of high schools stalled](#), 5 October 2021

“Millions of teenage girls across Afghanistan are anxiously waiting to return to the classroom, as high schools continue to remain closed, raising fears about the future of female education under Taliban rule.

The country's new rulers allowed boys in the same age group – seven to 12 – to attend classes last month, but said that “a safe learning environment” was needed before older girls could return to school. At that time, the Taliban's Deputy Minister of Information and Culture Zabihullah Mujahid said the group was working on a “procedure” to allow teenage girls back into the classroom.”

Khaama Press, [School graduates of 2000-2020, of no use: Taliban's higher education minister](#), 4 October 2021

“The acting minister of the higher education of the Taliban Abdul Baqi Haqqani said that those who have graduated from high schools during the past twenty years are of no use.

The acting minister is meant by the graduates who have studied during the non-Taliban era when they were fighting the US-backed governments of Hamid Karzai and Ashraf Ghani.

Abdul Baqi Haqqani made the statements in a meeting with the university lecturers in Kabul.

Haqqani said that they must hire teachers who instill the students and incoming generations the values that are of use in the country and Afghanistan can utilize their talents in the future.

Earlier, the acting minister of higher education had said that the Master's and Ph.D. holders of modern studies are less valuable than those who have studied in madrasas and have religious studies in Afghanistan.

The statement of Haqqani comes as the period-2000-2020- is said to be one of the most important and rich eras when it comes to the level of education in Afghanistan.

The writer of this report is one of those who first went to school in 2000, graduated, got his BA degree in journalism, and is now working as a professional Afghan journalist in Kabul.”

Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, [SCA brings hope to children of war survivors](#), 4 October 2021

“The construction of a school by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan (SCA) in a war frontline has built hopes and brought smile to the face of children and residents of Olkhel village in Wardak Province.

The children of Olkhil village, who have long been deprived of their right to education and have always lived in turmoil in search of shelter against the bullets and flames of war, are now happy and excited about the construction of a school in their village. The village that has witnessed years of fighting between the former government's security forces and its armed opposition groups, its residents has bitter memories about their village being used as a war frontline before the recent political transition in the country. [...]

Hazrat Omar Farooq School is an elementary school whose building is designed with six classrooms, four administrative rooms, a computer lab, a laboratory, ten separate toilets for girls and boys, and a 300-meter surrounding wall. The school will going to be equipped with a solar power system. A drinking water well has also been dug in the school and is to be connected to a solar power system. This school is built for both boys and girls students and has 13 teachers. The school is located 7 km from the capital city of Maidan Shahr and about 35 km from the capital province Kabul."

ABC News, [Taliban official's comments on education, jobs fuel more fears for Afghan women's rights](#), 29 September 2021

"When the Taliban controlled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, they largely barred women and girls from public life without a male relative and excluded them from schools and universities entirely. Kabul University chancellor Mohammad Ashraf Ghairat suggested a return to that policy Tuesday, tweeting, " As long as a real Islamic environment is not provided for all, women will not be allowed to come to universities or work. Islam first." After media outlets reported on his comments, he issued a second tweet, criticizing the New York Times in particular for what he called a "bad misunderstanding" of his comments."

Aljazeera, [Girls to return to secondary schools 'soon as possible': Taliban](#), 21 September 2021

"Girls will have to wait longer to return to secondary school in Afghanistan, according to Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid, as concerns grow over the fate of women's education under the new government. Speaking at a press conference in the capital Kabul on Tuesday, Mujahid said the group was "finalising things" and that secondary school girls will return to the classroom "as soon as possible."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, Including: [...]

- Gandhara/RFEL, Taliban Imposes New Dress Code, Segregation of Women at Afghan Universities, 6 September 2021, <https://gandhara.rferl.org/a/taliban-dress-code-segregation-women/31446726.htm>

- The Times of India. 18 September 2021. "Taliban resume boys-only schools, makes no mention of girls". <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/taliban-resume-boys-only-schools-makes-no-mention-of-girls/articleshow/86311733.cms>.

- Al Jazeera. 17 September 2021. "Taliban says classes resume for Afghan boys, no mention of girls". <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2021/9/17/taliban-saysclasses-resume-afghan-boys-no-mention-girls>. [...]

- France 24. 11 September 2021. "Sports ban, segregated education: Afghanistan women worried by first Taliban measures". <https://www.france24.com/en/asia-pacific/20210911-sports-ban-segregated-education-afghanistan-women-worried-by-first-taliban-measures>.

Reuters, [Some Afghan girls return to school, others face anxious wait](#), 18 September 2021

"Some Afghan girls returned to primary schools with gender-segregated classes on Saturday, but older girls faced an anxious wait with no clarity over if and when they would be able to resume their studies at the secondary school level."

"Taliban officials say they will not return to the fundamentalist policies - including a ban on girls receiving an education - when they last ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001."

The Guardian, [Taliban ban girls from secondary education in Afghanistan](#), 17 September 2021

"The Taliban have effectively banned girls from secondary education in Afghanistan, by ordering high schools to re-open only for boys.

Girls were not mentioned in Friday's announcement, which means boys will be back at their desks next week after a one-month hiatus, while their sisters will still be stuck at home. The Taliban education ministry said secondary school classes for boys in grades seven to 12 would resume on

Saturday, the start of the Afghan week. "All male teachers and students should attend their educational institutions," the statement said. The future of girls and female teachers, stuck at home since the Taliban took control, was not addressed. The edict makes Afghanistan the only country on earth to bar half its population from getting a secondary education.

[...] The Taliban appeared somewhat more open to women's education when they ordered all primary school students back to class, and said women could study for degrees, albeit in a strictly gender-segregated system that will dramatically lower the range and quality of women's options. But if the high schools do not reopen for girls, the commitments to allow university education would become meaningless once the current cohort of students graduated."

Human Rights Watch, [How the International Community Can Protect Afghan Women and Girls](#), 2 September 2021

"Access to Education

In recent years, in areas under their control, Taliban policies varied but often included permitting girls to attend school only up to the sixth grade. Even when local Taliban policy permitted at least some girls to study, there have sometimes been efforts to discourage girls and women from attending.

Since gaining control of the country, the Taliban have said they support education for girls and women. At the initial news conference, Mujahid said, "They can have activities in different sectors and different areas on the basis of our rules and regulations: educational, health and other areas." Another spokesperson, Suhail Shaheen, on August 23 tweeted a clip of girls entering a school, writing, "Back to School in a New Afghanistan."

The status of girls' access to secondary education, which the Taliban have typically not permitted in recent years in areas under their control, is unclear. On August 29, the acting minister of higher education announced that girls and women may participate in higher education but may not study with boys and men. The Taliban previously issued a similar order to universities in the western city of Herat, adding that female students could only receive instruction from female or "virtuous" elderly male professors.

A lack of female teachers, especially in higher education, is likely to mean that such rules amount to a de facto denial of access to education for many girls and women. Afghan government statistics from 2019 indicate that across the country's 166 universities, 27 percent of students were female, but only 14 percent of professors. Even in government teacher training institutions, only about 13 percent of the teachers were women that year although 57 percent of the students were women."

### *Violence and Abuse*

UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

"37. During the second quarter of 2021, the country task force on monitoring and reporting on grave violations against children in armed conflict verified 1,179 grave violations against 1,112 children (673 boys, 420 girls, 19 sex unknown) during the reporting period, including 1,085 children killed or maimed (309 killed and 776 maimed) (647 boys, 419 girls, 19 sex unknown). [...]

38. The country task force verified the recruitment and use of 26 children (all boys) aged between 12 and 17 years by the Taliban (16), Afghan National Police (6) and pro-government militias (4)."

### *Children separated from their families*

UNICEF, [Statement by UNICEF Executive Director Henrietta Fore on unaccompanied and separated children evacuated from Afghanistan](#), 7 September 2021

"“Since 14 August, hundreds of children have been separated from their families amidst chaotic conditions, including large-scale evacuations, in and around the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul.

[...]

In Afghanistan, more than 550,000 people have been displaced by conflict, the majority in recent weeks, and 10 million children are in urgent need of humanitarian assistance. We are very worried about the safety and wellbeing of unaccompanied and separated children inside the country.”

### **Persons with disabilities (stigma, discrimination, harassment, violence)**

International Disability Alliance (IDA), [IDA Statement on the Situation in Afghanistan](#), September 2021 [exact date unknown]

“Due to communication barriers and security concerns, adequate information on the situation of Afghans with disabilities during the current crisis is not available. It is evident however that due to the unsafe situation, many Afghans have been forced to leave their homes in search of safety and dignity. Persons with disabilities face additional risks during the displacement journey including being left behind in the first place or being forced to withdraw from the journey due to a lack of assistive devices or disruption of support networks. When reaching displacement or refugee camps, or other temporary residence, persons with disabilities face additional barriers accessing the very basic rights such as water, sanitation, hygiene, food or shelter.

Those left behind are at risk of violence and abuse, disruption of support services and isolation. In case the situation turns to internal armed conflict, persons with disabilities are more likely to lose their lives than others, and face risk of being abused as human shields, sexual slaves or trafficking.”

The Guardian, [Disabled Afghans in special jeopardy, warns exiled campaigner](#), 6 September 2021

“Benafsha Yaqoobi, a commissioner at the [Afghanistan](#) Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), said she fears the Taliban will neglect and discriminate against people with disabilities due to the belief, held by many in the country, that disability is a punishment from God for the sins of parents.”

The Nation, [The Taliban Is Targeting Disability Rights Activists](#), 2 September 2021

“With the fall of the Ashraf Ghani–led government, the provision of these services is almost certain to become more difficult. According to the Asia Foundation, Afghanistan has one of the highest rates of disability per capita in the world, with nearly 80 percent of Afghan adults disabled, mostly because of more than 40 years of war. Despite this staggering number, that disabled Afghans are largely left behind is the result of a lack of accessible infrastructure and systemic ableism. This problem especially impacts women and girls; according to a 2020 report by Human Rights Watch, 80 percent of Afghan girls with disabilities aren’t enrolled in school. [...]

She and M are also concerned that disabled victims of war will lose their monthly stipend provided by the administration under former President Ghani, which helps them pay for food and other necessities, and that rehabilitation centers will shut down, withdrawing critical medical support for Afghans with disabilities. Small businesses owned by people with disabilities are also shutting down, making them extra vulnerable in an economy already in free fall.”

### **Freedom of Movement**

*What is the Taliban’s position regarding citizens leaving the country?*

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Hundreds of nomads, passengers denied entry into Pakistan](#), 13 October 2021 [subscription only]

“Hundreds of nomads and passengers are stranded in Agnur Ada area of Barmal district in southeastern Paktika province after being denied entry into . . .[Pakistan]”

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [Taliban Uses Force And Fear To Push Hundreds Of Afghans From Tajik Border](#), 8 October 2021

"Thousands of Afghans camped out in Afghanistan's Badakhshan Province on the border with Tajikistan hope to leave their country and Taliban rule. Many had been at the border for weeks but now the Taliban has forced hundreds to flee the area amid reports of death threats from the militants"

Reuters, [Plane carrying Afghans, U.S. and European citizens from Kabul arrives in Doha](#), 17 September 2021

"The third chartered flight bringing civilians from Afghanistan to Qatar since U.S. forces withdrew last month landed on Friday with around 170 passengers on board, including U.S. and European citizens as well as Afghans, a Qatari official said."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Pakistan's PIA To Restart Islamabad-Kabul Commercial Flights](#), 11 September 2021

"A spokesman for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) says the airline plans to resume special charter flights to and from Kabul next week in order to help evacuate people who want to leave Afghanistan.

PIA spokesman Abdullah Hafeez Khan told the AFP news agency on September 11 that the airline had received "all technical clearances for flight operations" to resume."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Gandhara Briefing: Return Of The Taliban Emirate](#), 10 September 2021

"On September 9, the first civilian flight since the Taliban took over Kabul airport, mainly evacuating people with foreign passports to Qatar, raised hopes that the Taliban would allow the evacuation of foreigners and vulnerable Afghans to proceed. Western governments have been pushing for such flights since the Taliban refused to let chartered planes take hundreds stranded in Mazar-e Sharif."

Human Rights Watch, [What's Next for Afghans Fleeing the Taliban?](#), 9 September 2021

"2. Are Afghans entitled to leave the country?

[...]

Taliban authorities have been quoted saying they do not want Afghans to leave the country. They have provided assurances that Afghan citizens with foreign travel authorization will be allowed to depart, however setting this requirement violates the right to freedom of movement.

On August 30 the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution that expressed the expectation that "the Taliban will adhere to their commitments," and referenced Taliban promises that:

Afghans will be able to travel abroad, may leave Afghanistan anytime they want to, and may exit Afghanistan via any border crossing, both air and ground, including at the reopened and secured Kabul airport, with no one preventing them from traveling, including regarding the safe, secure, and orderly departure from Afghanistan of Afghans and all foreign nationals.

It remains to be seen if the Taliban will adhere to these commitments."

Tolo News, [Taliban Preventing Planes From Leaving: US Rep. McCaul](#), 6 September 2021

"Michael McCaul, a US representative for Texas and the top Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the Taliban was preventing six airplanes from taking off from Mazar-e-Sharif airport in the northern province of Balkh.

McCaul says there are six airplanes at the Mazar-e-Sharif airport with American citizens on board, along with their Afghan interpreters, and the Taliban are "holding them hostage," AP reported.

The Taliban, however, rejected the claim, saying anyone holding travel documents is allowed to travel out of the country."

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

"On 5 September, Kandahar airfield resumed daily flights from Kabul and Hirat provinces. The Spin Boldak border crossing remained open to Pakistani identification card holders, Afghans with Pakistani visas and commercial truck movements."



*What is the Taliban's position regarding unsuccessful asylum applicants returning to Afghanistan? What happens to individuals who have left Afghanistan and return? What are the challenges to moving freely within the country? How do Taliban checkpoints affect free movement?*

## **Situation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)**

*How many IDPs are there in Afghanistan?*

AVA Press, [IDPs appeal for urgent help ahead of winter](#), 30 September 2021

"Meanwhile, Amnesty International stated that over 5 million internally are in dire need of support amidst the escalating crisis in Afghanistan.

"The international community must ensure continues unabated to Afghanistan, the organization tweeted.

The Ministry of 'Refugees, however, stated that the number of IDPs is lower than what Amnesty International has reported.

The Ministry said around one million Afghans have been displaced, adding that aid would be provided to all displaced people.

, the acting deputy minister of refugees stated: "Consultations have been made with as many as 30 organizations, issues of transportation have been considered for them (IDPs), for where they must go [to live], food and cash and we have also discussed the issue of those who don't have shelter and whose houses have been destroyed." "

[IOM DMT Emergency Event Tracking Report - covering 1-27 September 2021](#), 29 September 2021

### **ARRIVAL/DEPARTURE FIGURES\***

	TOTAL	RURAL	PERI-URBAN	URBAN
# CFPs	6,660	5,3086	986	588
% CFPs who reported an increase in IDP arrivals	53%	49%	65%	72%
# of reported individual IDP arrivals	986,618	584,701	183,377	218,540
# of reported family IDP arrivals	140,378	81,650	27,777	30,951
% CFPs who reported an increase in departures	69%	67%	78%	73%
# of reported individual departures	1,328,179	901,120	275,829	151,200
# of reported family departures	177,226	121,544	36,427	19,255

[CFPs = Community Focal Points]

UNHCR, [Afghanistan situation: Emergency preparedness and response in Iran](#), 27 September 2021

"663,969 people have been internally displaced in Afghanistan since the start of 2021, of which 80% are women and children"

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [No Afghan refugee exodus yet but 'massive displacement' possible -U.N. refugee agency](#), 10 September 2021

"Half a million people had been displaced within Afghanistan in recent months, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi said, a number which would grow if health services, schools and the economy break down. "In reality we have not seen at this point large movements of Afghan people towards the borders of the country," Grandi told Reuters. "What we continue to see is a very dramatic phenomenon of internal displacement." "

International Organisation for Migration, [Displacement Tracking Matrix Afghanistan — Emergency Event Tracking \(1 - 7 September 2021\)](#), 10 September 2021

"Key Informants in Helmand, Baghlan and Kabul most frequently reported an increase of IDP arrivals in their communities. Communities in Baghlan and Kabul, in addition to Kapisa, also reportedly experienced an increase in departures more frequently than communities assessed in other provinces."

ACAPS, [Afghanistan - Conflict-Driven Displacement](#), 3 September 2021

"Since 16 August, fighting between the Taliban and Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) in villages of Khanabad district along the Kunduz-Khanabad highway, Imam Sahib district, and Kunduz city, all in Kunduz province (OCHA 27/08/2020), displaced approximately 64,000 people within these areas; approximately 28,000 were identified in assessments as requiring immediate lifesaving assistance. [...] Assessments from mid-August indicated that a high proportion of IDPs did not want to return to their areas of origin, fearing continued fighting (OCHA 25/08/2020). However close to 13,000 of the IDPs have returned to their homes in Khanabad district, where their needs will be assessed. Returnees are exposed to violence, IEDs, and mines on their return journeys"

International Crisis Group, [Afghanistan's Growing Humanitarian Crisis](#), 2 September 2021

"Violence, Displacement, Food Insecurity and Deteriorating Essential Services

Unprecedented numbers of civilians were killed and injured in the early months of 2021 and at least 560,000 people were displaced, including nearly 120,000 fleeing to Kabul as they sought refuge from Taliban advances. Those numbers represent the worst-ever period in what for some years has been the world's deadliest conflict. The count of displaced people in Afghanistan over the last seven months was twice the monthly average in the last five years, and the figures are expected to grow as aid agencies' accounting catches up with the scale of the crisis. Some 80 per cent of those fleeing violence since the end of May have been women and children. Thousands of displaced people in Kabul have been sleeping in the open air, and only a minuscule portion of them escaped during the international airlift that ended on 30 August."

*What is the housing situation for IDPs?*

AVA Press, [IDPs appeal for urgent help ahead of winter](#), 30 September 2021

"Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)\_Thousands of internally displaced people (IDPs) are living in very poor conditions in Kabul camps, where they have no access to medical services nor regular food supplies.

Sahar Arsalan, an IDP stated: "Refugees from all provinces are living inside tents in hardship; so far, they have not received any assistance from the or any organizations."

The IDPs have also called on aid agencies to provide them with shelter in Kabul or help them to return home.

Another IDP said: "Many have no home in their provinces and they need aid and help to get back to their province to help them pay rent for houses.""

ACAPS, [Afghanistan - Conflict-Driven Displacement](#), 3 September 2021

"Sectoral needs

Shelter and NFIs

IDPs in Kunduz are residing with relatives or friends, sheltering in schools, or have put up makeshift shelters, all of which are inadequate (OCHA 25/08/2020). NGO assessments have identified that IDPs need shelter aid, though warned against establishing camps-style settlements that may encourage the spread of COVID-19 (OCHA 27/08/2020)."

### *What is the food situation for IDPs?*

ACAPS, [Afghanistan - Conflict-Driven Displacement](#), 3 September 2021

“Food

IDPs need food aid (OCHA 27/08/2020). People in Kunduz province face Stressed (IPC-2) food security conditions as of August-September, and 14.2% of children under five face some form of malnutrition in the province (Nutrition Cluster 2019). People are projected to face these levels into next year, which will likely make recovery difficult (FEWS Net 08/2020).”

### *Do IDPs have access to livelihood opportunities?*

Thomson Reuters Foundation news, [Agencies distribute food, blankets, cash as hunger and cold threaten Afghanistan](#), 13 October 2021

“Aid agencies delivered food, blankets and cash to hundreds of displaced families in Kabul on Wednesday as humanitarian assistance begins to trickle into Afghanistan following warnings the country faces potentially catastrophic famine this winter.

The distribution of aid to 324 families represents a tiny fraction of the needs in Afghanistan, which faces a severe drought as well as a near collapse of its economy following the withdrawal of Western support. [...]

But the challenge of providing the aid is massive. As well as farmers and rural people displaced by drought, poverty has extended into the cities where widespread unemployment has forced many to try to sell their household goods to raise money. “Around 50,000 Afghan people from different provinces of the country have been displaced because of recent conflicts and are in Kabul. Our assistance continues to needy people every week,” said UNHCR spokesperson Babar Baloch.”

AVA Press, [Taliban begins relocating thousands of IDPs from Kabul](#), 3 October 2021

“Officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan say that they have begun the relocation process of thousands of Internally Displaced People from Kabul to their respective provinces on Saturday, October 2.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)\_Over two thousand families were displaced mainly from the Northern provinces of Afghanistan after conflicts intensified between the Taliban and the security forces of the previous Afghan government.

They were settled in the parks of Kabul along with their children for more than two months.

Head of refugees and returnees of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, Abdul Matin said that 1,005 displaced families from -e-Naw Park in Kabul have been relocated in collaboration with different aid agencies.

Previously, the UNHCR had warned humanitarian crisis if not addressed the problems of IDPs as winter is approaching.

On the other hand, the also distributed humanitarian aid to the people in Kabul.

According to the statistics of UNHCR, around 300,000 people have been forced to displace due to heavy conflicts in 2020.”

CARE, [CARE Restarts Afghanistan Humanitarian Response - Provides Seeds, Tools, Fertilizer Ahead of Lean Growing Season and Ongoing Food Crisis](#), 30 September 2021

“In the last week, CARE has restarted its emergency humanitarian response, providing a small number of vulnerable displaced families with financial assistance to spend on key needs.

Similarly, CARE resumed some of its crucial food security and livelihoods support to small-scale farmers in several provinces - including, fertilizer, tools, seeds and trainings as part of a programme to encourage women to develop home gardens and household level livelihoods options.”

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

“KEY FIGURES

IDPs IN 2021 (AS OF 5 SEPTEMBER)  
592,531 People displaced by conflict (verified)  
280,244 Received assistance"

## Documentation

*How do people obtain ID, birth registrations and/or passports under the Taliban?*

TOLO News, [30,000 Passports Issued Since Office Reopened](#), 13 October 2021

"The passport department has distributed 30,000 passports since the office reopened ten days ago in Kabul, officials said on Wednesday.

According to officials, the department is able to issue 4,000 passports per day and efforts are underway to increase capacity to 6,000 per day.

Officials further added the department has been paid 110 million Afghanis since the office started its services.

"First, we start the process of issuing passports for those who pay the fees to the banks, and then we work on the issuing of passports for those who filed documents online," said Alim Gul Haqani, head of the passport department.

Reportedly thousands of Afghans flocked to the passport department to receive travel documents.

Many reasons caused them to come together and file documents for passport.

Some of the applicants said they are fleeing the country to seek work opportunities, while others said they were traveling for school or medical treatment."

TOLO News, [Officials: Identity Card Centers to Resume Operations Soon](#), 11 October 2021

"Following a recent announcement by the Islamic Emirate over the distribution of national identity cards, the National Statistics and Information Authority said on Monday that electronic National Identity Card (eNIC) centers are going to reopen on Wednesday across Afghanistan.

Officials further said that around 30,000 identity cards that are already printed will be distributed in the first step.

"30,000 identity cards have been printed and are ready to be distributed. The process will begin on Wednesday," said Yousuf Ahadi, who is in charge of information technology at the NSIA.

Meanwhile, several residents told TOLONews that people require ID cards for various purposes. A resident in Kabul, Shabir Ahmad, said he intends to travel abroad to get medical treatment for his family member.

Shabir Ahmad said: "We seriously need ID cards. Everyone needs to take their patients abroad. Having ID cards is necessary for getting a passport."

"Before the reopening of the passport department, it was necessary that ID centers be opened. People have many problems that are related to the opening of the ID card center," said Husamudin, a resident.

Officials at the NSIA added that so far about 6 million Afghan citizens have received their eNIC cards and there are 104 centers in total for the distribution of ID cards in the country, 25 of which are based in Kabul."

AVA Press, [Taliban to continue issuance previous government's e-NIDs](#), 10 October 2021

"Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)\_The cabinet has directed the National Statistics and Information Administration of the country to resume issuing -NIDs under the name of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, BNA reported.

The process has been stalled for the past nearly two months since the Taliban took over on August, 15.

Earlier, the Taliban had directed to resume issuance of the same passports of the previous government that started on Wednesday.

Taliban officially started the issuance of passports last week and pledged to be issuing up to six thousand each day.

E-NID is a must require card to apply for passports in Afghanistan."

Al Jazeera, [Hundreds throng passport office in Afghanistan capital Kabul](#), 6 October 2021

"Hundreds of Afghans have flocked to the passport office in Kabul a day after it was announced it would reopen to issue travel documents.

Taliban soldiers beat back some in the crowd in efforts to maintain order on Wednesday.

Taliban officials said the service will resume on Saturday after being suspended since the armed group's takeover and the fall of Ashraf Ghani's government in August, which stranded many of those desperate to flee the country."

Khaama Press, [We will issue 6,000 passports daily: Taliban officials](#), 5 October 2021

"Officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan resumed the issuance of passports on Tuesday, October 5, and promised that the previous government was issuing three thousand passports but they intend to issue six thousand passports per day.

The department of passport opens nearly two months after the Taliban took over the country.

Head of the department Alamgul Haqqani said that they currently have one million notebooks of passport-on which they print passports- and added that there are 25 thousand passports ready to be issued.

Unlike other government bodies-except for education and health sectors- the Taliban asked the female employees of the department to come to their jobs and promised to pay the salaries for the past three months.

The Taliban does not intend to print their own passport having their logo and said that they will continue with the passports and NIDs of the previous government, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan had promised to resume the issuance of NIDs as well but they did not comment on the issue in Tuesday's press conference.

As per the policy of the previous government, those who apply for passports should have electronic NID thus, there is desperate need for the issuance of NIDs first so that the applicants get eligible to apply for passports."

TOLO News, [Afghan People Call for Govt Offices to Open](#), 12 September 2021

"Even though the Taliban announced a 33-member caretaker cabinet last week, most government offices have not resumed services, residents complained on Sunday.

Speaking to TOLONews, the residents called on the Taliban to immediately provide services so citizens' problems can be addressed.

Noor Agha, who is from Herat province, along with several others is waiting for the passport office to be opened.

He intends to leave for Pakistan to receive medical treatment.

Noor Agha told TOLONews: "The department is closed. They do not distribute passports. I am sick, I want to go Pakistan." [...]

Officials from the passport department said they are waiting to receive directions from the Ministry of Interior.

The problem not only applies to the capital city of Kabul. Kunduz residents are encountering the same challenges.

The residents are waiting for the reopening of the banks in the province."

## **Taliban's ability to track individuals of interest**

*What are the Taliban's capabilities to track individuals?*

Reuters, [The Taliban vowed no revert. One Afghan family tells a different story](#), 28 September 2021

When the Taliban won back control of the [eastern Afghan province of Nangarhar](#) last month, they set out to settle a score with an old foe.

As they searched for prominent local politician Ajmal Omar - who had helped drive the militants out of a Nangarhar district a year earlier and tried to dissuade young Afghans from joining them - Taliban members detonated explosives at his ancestral home.

UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

"20. After seizing Kabul, Taliban fighters erected checkpoints throughout the capital and increased patrols, without uniforms. Reports also suggested that some people had been shot after having crossed checkpoints without

approval. While statements by the Taliban included instructions not to enter anyone's house without permission and that "life, property and honour" would be protected, numerous reports emerged of the Taliban conducting house-to-house searches for government personnel, weapons and property, and in some cases confiscation of the latter. Some reports indicated that the Taliban were allegedly searching for people who had "worked with foreigners" and at times, beating them."

Danish Immigration Service, [Afghanistan Recent developments in the security situation, impact on civilians and targeted individuals](#), 8 September 2021

"During the course of the Taliban offensive, as well as after the conquest of Kabul, there have been reports of the Taliban targeting members of the civilian population and the Afghan military as well their families. According to SER [Sune Engel Rasmussen, Danish journalist] members of Taliban have been going door to door and arresting or threatening family members of targeted individuals. He explained how members of the Taliban came to the house in Kabul of a colleague of his knocking on the door. Being a journalist, he was hiding inside his house with his family and the Taliban left. He had been warned over the telephone by his neighbour and he immediately thereafter moved to a hotel, knowing that the Taliban knew his address."

Emrys Schoemaker\* (The Guardian), [The Taliban are showing us the dangers of personal data falling into the wrong hands](#), 7 September 2021

"The [Taliban](#) have openly talked about using US-made digital identity technology to hunt down Afghans who have worked with the international coalition – posing a huge threat to everyone recorded in the system. In addition, the extremists now also have access to – and control over – the digital identification systems and technologies built through international aid support.

These include the e-Tazkira, a biometric identity card used by Afghanistan's National Statistics and Information Authority, which includes fingerprints, iris scans and a photograph, as well as voter registration databases. It also includes the Afghan personnel and pay system, used by the interior and defence ministries to pay the army and police.

For Afghans, and for the wider community working on digital identification for development, this means that the Taliban have sensitive personal information that they have said will be used to target those they consider enemies or threats. While some Afghans are frantically trying to erase any trace of digital activity, on official databases, user deletion is not an option."

\*Emrys Schoemaker is a researcher and strategist at Caribou Digital, where his work focuses on the interaction between digital technologies and social, political and economic change.

Irwyn Loy\* (The New Humanitarian), [Biometric data and the Taliban: What are the risks?](#), 2 September 2021

"Data protection experts warn that aid groups must quickly review and safeguard sensitive information on Afghans who have received emergency relief and other services. Humanitarian agencies are among those that have tracked, stored, and shared data linked to millions of Afghans – including precise biometric data like fingerprints or iris scans. Crucially, some of this data has been collected by the now-deposed Afghan government – raising concern that the Taliban have inherited databases and technology that could be used to identify people linked to previous regimes or international forces, or members of persecuted groups who have received aid."

\*Irwyn Loy is the Asia Editor at The New Humanitarian, an independent, non-profit newsroom covering conflicts, disasters, and other crises

## Targeted Groups

*Individuals who are critical or in opposition of the Taliban (e.g. peaceful protesters)*



Khaama Press, [Taliban creates commission to expel unfavorable members](#), 13 October 2021

"Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has created a special commission to expel those who misuse the name of the Taliban, do not treat people well, and have nasty backgrounds.

The commission which has been named "filtration commission of forces" is composed of representatives from the defense ministry, interior affairs ministry, and high directorate of intelligence and was officially announced on Wednesday, October 13.

Spokesperson on the ministry of interior affairs Saeed Khostai said that the commission will get functional in all provinces of the country and heads of the intelligence of the provinces will be leading the provincial offices of the commission.

Saeed Khostai though did not disclose details of the unfavorable people, said that these are some people who stand against the government and Islamic system.

The IEA created the commission after gunmen started entering the houses of people pretending to be the Taliban fighters.

Earlier, it was said the IEA will also send back to provinces the Taliban fighters who are not trained enough to deal with people of Kabul especially the women."

BBC News, [Afghanistan: social media users delete profiles over fear of attack](#), 28 September 2021

"Since 15 August, Afghans have been deleting photos and tweets from their past - and many have turned away from social media altogether for fear of being targeted by Taliban forces."

Wall Street Journal, [Killings of Islamic State Militants Highlight Power Struggle With Afghanistan's Taliban](#), 26 September 2021

"While offering an amnesty to security officers of the former Afghan republic, the Taliban have shown no mercy to Islamic State, killing one of the group's main leaders in a Kabul prison hours after seizing the Afghan capital."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, including: [...]

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<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/07/28/nazar-khasha-afghanistan-comedian/>. ANI.  
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- FarhanAmiree. 4 September 2021. 6:06 PM. <https://twitter.com/FarhanAmiree/status/1434133338122596357> [...]
- Reuters. 10 September 2021. 9 September 2021. "Afghanistan commercial flights resume as U.N. accuses Taliban of harassment". <https://www.reuters.com/world/asia-pacific/taliban-interim-government-agrees-let-foreigners-leave-afghanistan-2021-09-09/>. New York Times. "A Qatari jet carries more than 100 foreigners from Kabul". <https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/09/world/asia/taliban-americans-afghanistan.html>. [...]

- Foreign Policy. 9 September 2021. "In Afghanistan, It's Back to the Future—of Taliban Tyranny". <https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/09/09/talibanafghanistan-government-future-tyranny/> [...]
- UN. 10 September 2021. "Taliban response to protests increasingly violent, warns OHCHR". <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/09/1099552> [...]

OHCHR, [Press briefing notes on Afghanistan](#), 10 September 2021

"Peaceful protesters across various provinces in Afghanistan over the past four weeks have faced an increasingly violent response by the Taliban, including the use of live ammunition, batons and whips. On Wednesday, 8 September, the Taliban issued an instruction prohibiting unauthorized assemblies. Yesterday, Thursday, they ordered telecommunications companies to switch off internet on mobile phones in specific areas of Kabul.

[...] From 15 to 19 August, people gathered in Nangarhar and Kunar provinces to mark national flag-raising ceremonies. According to credible reports, during these three days when protests took place, the Taliban reportedly killed a man and a boy, and injured eight others, when firing in an apparent attempt to disperse the crowds. On Tuesday this week (7 September), during a protest in Herat, the Taliban reportedly shot and killed two men and wounded seven more. That same day in Kabul, credible reports indicate that the Taliban beat and detained protesters, including several women and up to 15 journalists. On Wednesday, 8 September, reports emerged that as a largely female group of demonstrators gathered in the Dashti-Barchi area of Kabul, at least five journalists were arrested and two severely beaten for several hours. There were also reports that during a demonstration in Faizabad city in Badakhshan province held by several women, including activists and human rights defenders, the Taliban fired in the air and allegedly beat several of the protesters. A small group of women who had gathered to protest elsewhere in Kabul were violently dispersed, as the Taliban fired shots into the air over their heads. That same day, women were violently dispersed during protests in Kapisa and Takhar provinces, and several women's rights activists in Kapisa were detained."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: Suppression of protests at odds with Taliban's claims on human rights](#), 8 September 2021

"Responding to widespread reports that the Taliban are using unlawful force against peaceful protesters and journalists at gatherings across Afghanistan, including using gunfire to disperse crowds and cables to lash protesters, Samira Hamidi, Amnesty International's South Asia Campaigner said [...]

According to media reports, peaceful protests in Kabul, Badakhshan and Herat over the past two days have been dispersed by Taliban fighters firing rifles into the air, while some female protesters have reportedly been lashed with cables. Amnesty International has independently verified videos of Taliban fighters firing guns into the air to disperse protests in Kabul, and also verified videos of violence against women protesters between 4 and 7 September in Kabul committed by the Taliban.

Journalists and cameramen from Afghan media outlets Ariana, Tolo and Etilaat-e- Roz have said that they were beaten up and detained by Taliban fighters while trying to cover protests, before having their equipment confiscated or their footage destroyed."

*Individuals (formerly) affiliated with the Afghan government or international governments*

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Govt sets body to remove undesirable figures from military](#), 13 October 2021

"The government has created a commission to identify and remove unwanted people from military ranks, an official said Wednesday"

Financial Times, [Afghanistan's hunters become hunted as Taliban conquer old order](#), 13 October 2021

"Khalid, the former Afghan intelligence service interrogator, said it was impossible for those in his situation to adjust to the new Afghanistan. He is trying to find a way to get his family out of the country and is getting desperate. "There is no place for us here now. We have not even been able to go back to our house since the Taliban came," he said. "Either we escape or we will run out of money and die here.""

The Guardian, [Afghans seeking Australian humanitarian visas say Taliban are 'hunting us like animals'](#), 10 October 2021

"Afghans who have applied for Australian humanitarian visas say they are living in fear as the [Taliban](#) are "hunting us down like animals".

Accounts of their "painful" experiences under the Taliban regime – including testimonies of beatings, interrogations and threats to family members – are set to be provided to a Senate inquiry into Australia's engagement in [Afghanistan](#), which begins public hearings on Monday.

A Hazara man described being interrogated by the Taliban as they demanded to know whether he was a civil activist and had any links to foreigners. The man, whose name cannot be published for safety reasons, said he was taken into a cell where he was blindfolded and gagged.

"I received 26 lashes. I felt the first five lashes and after that I couldn't feel anything anymore, my back became numb."

He recounted later being threatened with execution. "I believed my life would soon be over. I was so frightened," he wrote. He was eventually released from custody and is now in hiding, sleeping in a different place every night.

"The Taliban have been calling me every night," he wrote. "They tell me not to try to run away, that wherever I am, even outside of Afghanistan, they will find me."

It is one of several testimonies compiled by an Australian citizen who has been helping Afghan nationals apply for Australian humanitarian visas, with the support of Rural Australians for [Refugees](#).

In another account provided to Guardian Australia, a former Afghan national army soldier said he had come out of hiding briefly to "send the papers and identity documents to friends who are helping me apply for a humanitarian visa to Australia".

"They [the Taliban] say they forgive everyone who has worked with foreigners, or who worked in government or in the army," he wrote. "But in reality, they are hunting us down like animals. I fear we will all be killed in the end."

A worker for a non-government organisation noted the Taliban were going door-to-door, purportedly to assess humanitarian needs.

"They are using this as a way to spot people, in the guise of a humanitarian assessment, which is disgusting basically. They are doing evil things behind 'good deeds'."

This person said he was hoping to leave Afghanistan legally and had received an acknowledgement letter from the Australian government for his family's humanitarian visa application in mid-September.

Meanwhile, a Hazara hospitality worker described the past few weeks as "the darkest of my whole life". He said many young people were "willing to gamble with their lives to illegally cross the borders into neighbouring countries".

"Living here is much more suffocating and more painful. It's a slow, gradual death," this person wrote.

"I just hope that at least we can get out of here and be somewhere where we will be treated as human."

The Guardian, [Former British embassy driver badly beaten in Kabul](#), 5 October 2021

"A former employee of the British embassy in Kabul has been badly beaten at his home by five armed men, in an attack linked to his 11 years working with UK diplomats in Afghanistan.

The British embassy driver, one of about 150 employees who applied to be evacuated in May, was at home with his family in a village on the outskirts of Kabul last Thursday when five masked men came to his house and attacked him, hitting him with their Kalashnikovs.

The attackers told him they had information he was still working for an international organisation. [...]

The driver, 44, who has asked for his name not to be printed, said his children, wife and neighbours saw the attack, and are now too afraid to leave their houses.

X-rays showed his hand had been broken in two places and his skull fractured in three places. [...] He did not report the attack to the police, believing that the Taliban-run police would not have helped him.

While he did not know the attackers, he suspected they were affiliated to the Taliban. Five years ago he had been targeted by Taliban militants because of his work with the British embassy, and was told he should leave his job. His son was hit in the head when a gun was fired during that attack, suffering brain damage.

Last month a pregnant Afghan policewoman was reported to have been killed by the Taliban, and there have been many other reports of attacks on people who worked for international organisations and the previous regime. Taliban officials have denied responsibility, citing the amnesty they announced for employees of the previous

administration. It is not clear whether these attacks are officially organised and state sanctioned, or the work of fractured groups that know they can act with impunity.

The driver worked for the embassy for 10 years under a contract with G4S and then for 18 months in the same role employed by the Canadian security firm GardaWorld, which took over the embassy contract last year. He and about 150 colleagues applied to be evacuated in May under the UK Ministry of Defence's Afghan relocations and assistance policy, but his application was refused on the grounds that British embassy employees hired through subcontracted organisations were not eligible for help."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: 13 Hazara killed by Taliban fighters in Daykundi province – new investigation](#), 5 October 2021

"Taliban forces unlawfully killed 13 ethnic Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, in Afghanistan's Daykundi province after members of the security forces of the former government surrendered, a new investigation by Amnesty International has revealed.

The killings happened in Kahor village of Khidir district on 30 August. Eleven of the victims were former members of the Afghan National Defence Security Forces (ANDSF), and two were civilians.

According to eyewitness testimony gathered by Amnesty International, the Taliban extrajudicially executed nine of the ANDSF members after they had surrendered, killings that appear to be war crimes. Two civilians were killed as they attempted to flee, including a 17-year-old girl shot when the Taliban opened fire on a crowd of people."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, including:

· BBC. 5 September 2021. "Afghanistan: Taliban accused of killing pregnant police officer". <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58455826>. Relatives have confirmed she was killed by the Taliban. Tweet. Aditya Raj Kaul @AdityaRajKaul. [...]

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [Afghan pilots start leaving Uzbekistan for UAE, despite Taliban pressure-source](#), 12 September 2021

"Afghanistan's new rulers have said they will invite former military personnel to join the country's revamped security forces and that they will come to no harm.

That offer rings hollow to Afghan pilots who spoke with Reuters. Even before the Taliban takeover, the U.S.-trained, English-speaking pilots had become their prime targets. Taliban fighters tracked them down and assassinated some pilots."

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [Brother of Afghan opposition figure executed by Taliban, family says](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban have executed the brother of Amrullah Saleh, the former Afghan vice president who became one of the leaders of anti-Taliban opposition forces in the Panjshir valley, his nephew said on Friday."

TOLO News, [Taliban Closes Bank Accounts of Officials From Former Govt](#), 10 September 2021

"Bank accounts of some former government officials who fled the country have been closed by the Taliban.

Anaamullah Samangani, a member of the Taliban Cultural Commission, said on Thursday that the Taliban has closed some bank accounts of officials who worked in the previous government, but he did not mention names. [...]

At the same time, a letter posted on social media by the Afghanistan Central Bank (Da Afghanistan Bank ) said that accounts of some ministers, deputy ministers, governors, deputy governors, members of parliament, members of provincial councils, mayors and other VIPs should be closed in other internal banks, and be reported to Central Bank.

Officials from Afghanistan Central Bank have not commented to the media over the issue.”

UNOCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Access Snapshot \(August 2021\)](#), 9 September 2021  
Violence/ Threat Against Humanitarian Personnel/ Assets/ Facilities

In August, the HAG logged 124 incidents of violence/threats against humanitarians and their assets and facilities - the highest number of such incidents on HAG record. The majority of incidents related to intimidations, thefts, occupation of facilities or assets, and hijacking of vehicles and were authored by individuals identifying as Taliban. Most incidents were recorded in Kabul, Herat, Bamyan, Balkh and Nangarhar and had a very chilling effect on humanitarian operations. The notable increase in violent incidents can be attributed to the Taliban’s rapid advancement into Kabul and other major cities, where Taliban fighters occupied many humanitarian buildings, in addition to government installations. In the early stages, humanitarian buildings were used as hideouts and as fighting positions against ANDSF. On 4 August 2021, Lashkar Gha City, Taliban members occupied an NGO compound and took position on the rooftop from where they started firing towards the Governor’s compound. Once the cities came under full Taliban control, Taliban members, often identifying as members of the intelligence unit, conducted searches of humanitarian offices, seized humanitarian vehicles and asked NGO staff about project details as well as staff and asset lists. In some cases, provincial Taliban NGO Commissioners were successful in getting previously seized vehicles back and in convincing the occupiers to vacate the humanitarian facilities. However, in many cases, seized items remain missing and facilities remain occupied. In at least 18 incidents, ACG members falsely identified as Taliban to get access to humanitarian compounds and looted assets and vehicles from NGOs offices and private residences. In at least 35 instances Taliban members threatened and intimidated UN and NGO staff through phone calls, letters as well as during house searches and accused them of spying for foreign intelligence entities. The current environment creates a lot of insecurity and concerns among the humanitarian community and highlights the need to have a functioning problem-solving mechanism with Taliban interlocutors at provincial and national level to quickly resolve issues of occupation and seized assets.

UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

“20. [...] While statements by the Taliban included instructions not to enter anyone’s house without permission and that “life, property and honour” would be protected, numerous reports emerged of the Taliban conducting house-to-house searches for government personnel, weapons and property, and in some cases confiscation of the latter. Some reports indicated that the Taliban were allegedly searching for people who had “worked with foreigners” and at times, beating them.

23. High-profile attacks by anti-Government elements occurred countrywide prior to the Taliban takeover of major cities. Between 16 May and 31 July, 18 suicide attacks were documented, compared with 11 in the prior period, including 16 suicide vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices primarily targeting Afghan National Defence and Security Forces positions. In addition, there were 68 attacks using magnetic improvised explosive devices, including 14 in Kabul. Targeted and usually unclaimed assassinations occurred countrywide, with victims including, among others, the Policy and Planning Director of the Ministry of Urban Development and Land, killed in Kabul on 30 May; the deputy of the Ulema Shura, killed in Herat on 3 June; an appeals court provincial prosecutor and a pro-government religious scholar, killed in Logar on 7 and 12 June, respectively; and the Head of the Government Media and Information Centre, killed on 6 August. On 4 August, the Taliban claimed responsibility for an attack in Kabul on the residence of the acting Minister of Defence.”

BBC, [Life in Kabul under Taliban: Where is your male escort?](#), 4 September 2021

“In some neighbourhoods, Taliban fighters go house-to-house. There's a knock on the door, a demand to hand over government phones and cars, anything of value from their old job. Sometimes even private cars are seized by Taliban who doubt it could have been afforded without some kind of corruption”

*“Westernised” young men*

*(Former) prosecutors, judges and lawyers*

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [Women Judges In Afghanistan Face Threats And 'Uncertain Future' According To Exiled Female Jurist](#), 13 October 2021

"Marzia Babakarkhil, an Afghan judge, spoke to RFE/RL's Radio Azadi from London about the dangers women judges face in Afghanistan. In a radio program on October 10, she talked about how the Taliban do not acknowledge women in the role of a judge and that her colleagues have faced threats and intimidation. Many have left the country or gone into hiding. Call-in programs focusing on women's rights, produced by Radio Azadi, are continuing to reach listeners in Afghanistan, despite the Taliban takeover of the country"

BBC News, [Female Afghan judges hunted by the murderers they convicted](#), 28 September 2021

Names have been changed for this article:

"For more than three decades, Judge Sanaa investigated cases of violence against women and children.

She says the majority of her cases involved convicting members of the Taliban as well as militant group Isis.

"I have received more than 20 threatening phone calls from former inmates who have now been released."

She is currently in hiding with more than a dozen family members.

Only once has one of her male relatives returned to their former family home. But as he was packing some clothes, the Taliban arrived at the house in several cars full of armed men, led by a commander.

"I opened the door. They asked me whether this was the judge's house," he says. "When I said I didn't know where she was, they threw me on the stairs. One of them hit me with the butt of his gun and started beating me. My nose and mouth were covered in blood."

After the armed men left, Sanaa's relative took himself to hospital.

"I told another relative we must keep changing the house where my sister is staying. There is no other way out now. We can't escape to any other country, even Pakistan."

The Times of India, [Afghanistan: Former female prosecutors in hiding to escape retaliation](#), 22 September 2021

KABUL: Afghanistan's former female prosecutors are in hiding, fearing retaliation from those who were once jailed after their judgments and have now been released.

Many prisoners in Afghanistan have been freed by the Taliban after they took over the country last month.

The female prosecutors claim that ex-prisoners are searching for them to take revenge. One female judge said that she has been repeatedly called by unknown numbers after the Taliban took over the country, The Khaama Press News Agency reported.

Many female judges who could manage to flee from Afghanistan are now abroad, but hundreds of female judges are still hiding in the country.

The female prosecutors usually handled the cases of women's rights violation, women's torture, rapes, murder, and family harassment.

Along with other female employees in Afghanistan, female prosecutors have also been at their homes and have been told not to go to their jobs, The Khaama Press News Agency reported.

*(Former) Journalists, human rights defenders, NGO representatives*

AVA Press, [Former Afghan journalist, journalism lecturer killed in eastern Nangarhar province](#), 3 October 2021

"Unknown gunmen killed four people in Police District three of Jalalabad City of eastern Nangarhar province among them a well-known journalist and journalism lecturer, Sayed Maroof Sadat.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)\_The incident happened on Saturday, October 2 and local residents say that the two others killed were the Taliban fighters.

[...]



Sayed Maroof Sadat was a journalism graduate from and was working as a journalist in radio "Sub Bakhair and Sham".

He was recently assigned as media in charge of the directorate of urban development in province and was also working for a number of foreign media in the province."

HRW, [Afghanistan: Taliban Severely Restrict Media | Human Rights Watch](#), 1 October 2021

"Taliban security forces have also arbitrarily detained journalists and beaten several. The head of a journalists' advocacy group told Human Rights Watch that the Taliban have taken at least 32 journalists into custody since they took power in Kabul on August 15. Most were released after warnings about their reporting, but some were beaten. One who was badly beaten was released with the warning not to tell anyone what happened to him. As of October 1, at least one remained in custody without access to his family.

In the city of Herat on September 6, the Taliban detained Murtaza Samadi, 21, a freelance photojournalist, while he was covering a protest. Family members said that after hearing of his arrest, they asked officials at the governor's office and police station where he had been taken. They were told that the case had been referred to the intelligence department and that Samadi was accused of organizing the protest and having "connections with foreigners." He remained in custody without access to his family until he was released on September 30.

Beyond the arrests, the Taliban's intelligence office has summoned journalists and warned them that their reporting constituted "propaganda" and needed to stop.

[...]

Many Afghan journalists have fled the country or have gone into hiding, and scores of media outlets, especially outside major cities, have closed altogether. Taliban commanders and fighters have long engaged in a pattern of threats, intimidation, and violence against members of the media, and have been responsible for targeted killings of journalists."

AVA Press, [Herat Family Asks Emirate to Release Photojournalist](#), 30 September 2021

"The family of Murteza Samadi, a photojournalist who was detained in Herat province, called on the Taliban to release him from detention.

Afghan Voice Agency(AVA)\_Freelance photojournalist Murteza Samadi was detained by the Taliban about three weeks ago in western Herat province while covering a women's protest held in front of the governor's office.

[...]

At the same time, officials of the Islamic Emirate in province said that he will be released in the coming days.

"Murtaza is an ordinary person who was taking photos with his private camera. His documents were sent to the directorate of security, and he will be released after some days," said Deputy Governor of Herat Shir Ahmad Amar."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, including: [...]

BBC. 9 September 2021. "Afghanistan: Journalists tell of beatings by Taliban". <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58500579> [...]

TOLO News, [153 Afghan Media Outlets Cease Operating in Less Than 1 Month](#), 13 September 2021

"Organizations supporting free media in Afghanistan said on Monday that since the fall of the former government in mid-August, 153 media outlets have stopped activity in 20 provinces.

According to officials at the organizations, these outlets include radio, print and TV channels, and both economic problems and restrictions are reportedly the main reasons.

The officials said that if the media's financial crisis is not solved and restrictions against them are not addressed, more outlets are likely to cease operating in the country."

TOLO News, [Woman Activist in Kandahar Says Family Members Beaten](#), 12 September 2021

"Fahima Rahmati, a civil society activist and the head of a charity in southern Kandahar province, claimed on Sunday that an "armed group related to the Taliban," had entered her house and beat some of her family members last night.

Miss Rahmati, who leads a charity naming Heela, (wish) said she has received death threats and her family has also been threatened.

She added that she has never worked with the government before. "Is this their general amnesty--that the Taliban are coming to my house, and beating my family members? Is governance like this?"

A man also claimed that his wife was recently killed in a Taliban shooting in Kabul. Her husband, Abdul Khaleq said: "Is this in Islam? Can someone, in Islam, kill a woman who is outside her house?"

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [Taliban response to Afghan protests increasingly violent, UN says](#), 10 September 2021

"The U.N. rights office on Friday said that the Taliban response to peaceful marches in Afghanistan has been increasingly violent, with authorities using live ammunition, batons and whips and causing the deaths of at least four protesters. [...]

She added that the United Nations had also received reports of house-to-house searches for those who participated in the protests. Journalists covering the protests have also been intimidated.

"In one case, one journalist was reported to have been told, as he was being kicked in the head, 'You are lucky you haven't been beheaded'," Shamdasani said. "Really there has been lots of intimidation of journalists simply trying to do their job." "

BBC News, [Afghanistan: Journalists tell of beatings by Taliban](#), 10 September 2021

"Journalists in Afghanistan say that they have been beaten, detained and flogged by the Taliban when attempting to cover protests.

Photos circulating online show two journalists from Etilaatroz newspaper with welts and bruises after their arrest in the capital Kabul.

One of them, Taqi Daryabi, told the BBC he had been taken to a district police station where he was kicked and beaten." [...]

"Afghanistan's Tolo news agency reported that its cameraman had been arrested and held by the Taliban for nearly three hours.

The CPJ, an international non-governmental organisation, said at least 14 journalists had been detained and then released over the past two days."

UNOCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Access Snapshot \(August 2021\)](#), 9 September 2021

"Interference in the implementation of humanitarian activities

In August, the HAG recorded 32 interferences compared to 11 in July. Taliban members initiated 31 interferences, while ANSF members authored one incident. In at least 19 instances, armed Taliban members visited NGO offices with the aim to search and investigate about the NGO's activities, asking for staff and assets lists. In some instances, NGOs were asked to register their programs, or to stop female staff from attending offices and field work. On 31 August 2021, in Farah, the Provincial NGO Commissioner asked all humanitarian partners to submit their project proposals along with all related documents; further emphasizing that women were not allowed to resume their work until further notice. In five incidents, Taliban members attempted to interfere in health programs by demanding additional services and supplies, suspending health services and trying to replace some of their key staff. The absence of a clear Taliban policy on humanitarian activities, makes it challenging for provincial NGO Commissioners to make decisions which creates a certain limbo with lots of confusion among humanitarian partners which results insignificant delays in resuming humanitarian programs."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Live Rounds, Batons, Whips: Taliban Violence Against Protesters, Journalists Rising](#), 9 September 2021

“Since the Taliban issued an order banning protests "under any circumstances" earlier this week, protesters have also been beaten and detained, according to the UN's human rights spokeswoman Ravina Shamdasani, while Reporters Without Borders (RSF) said “incidents involving media personnel have been on the rise in both Kabul and provincial cities,” with Afghan journalists being “harassed by the Taliban, arrested, and beaten with cables.” “

UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

“On 18 August, in several provinces, including in Nangarhar and Kunar, residents celebrated the national day of Afghanistan, taking down newly raised Taliban flags. In Jalalabad, the Taliban reportedly dispersed protests by firing into crowds, resulting in the death of at least one person. Reports indicated that Taliban members had physically assaulted two local journalists taking footage of the rally. Similar incidents were reported in Kunar and Khost Provinces.

[...]

42. Human rights defenders and media workers continued to be targeted. UNAMA recorded the killing of a civil society activist and his wife by the Taliban in Helmand Province; the killing of a civil society activist in Kabul Province; the killing of an international photojournalist in Kandahar Province; and the killing of a female journalist, claimed by ISIL-K, in Kabul Province. In addition, a private radio worker was injured in an armed attack by unknown perpetrators in Ghazni Province; a journalist, a female non-governmental organization employee and a female civil society activist were threatened by unknown perpetrators in Daikundi and Herat Provinces; and a female journalist reportedly escaped an attack by ISIL-K in Nangarhar Province. In Parwan Province, Radio Bareen stopped broadcasting after one of its female staff was assaulted by unknown perpetrators.

43. Reports emerged during the reporting period of media entities temporarily ceasing their activities in districts in Baghlan, Zabul, Jawzjan, Kunduz, Nuristan and Paktia Provinces after they had been overtaken by the Taliban. On 26 July, in Kandahar, the National Directorate of Security arrested four journalists after their return from a reporting trip in Spin Boldak.

Danish Immigration Service, [Afghanistan Recent developments in the security situation, impact on civilians and targeted individuals](#), 8 September 2021

“There have also been reports of Taliban fighters going house-to-house searching for journalists. [...]

The private news outlet Tolo News, have been allowed to continue their reporting with female anchors, while the Taliban has barred female anchors at Radio Television Afghanistan from returning to work. [...]

SER advised that Taliban perceive human rights defenders as an extension of the American presence in the country because they find that the idea of human rights undermine the principles of Islam.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Severely Beat Journalists](#), 8 September 2021

“Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have been detaining and assaulting journalists and imposing new restrictions on media work, Human Rights Watch said today. [...]

On September 7, 2021, Taliban security forces detained Taqi Daryabi and Nemat Naqdi, journalists from the Kabul-based media outlet Etilaat-e Roz. The reporters had been covering protests by women in Kabul demanding an end to Taliban violations of the rights of women and girls. Etilaat-e Roz reported that Taliban authorities took the two men to a police station in Kabul, placed them in separate cells, and severely beat them with cables. Both men were released on September 8 and received medical care at a hospital for injuries to their backs and faces. [...]

The Taliban authorities also detained a Tolonews photojournalist, Wahid Ahmadi, on September 7, and released him the same day. They confiscated his camera and prevented other journalists from filming the protest. [...]

Taliban commanders and fighters have long engaged in a pattern of threats, intimidation, and violence against members of the media, and have been responsible for targeted killings of journalists”

TOLO News, [Well-Known Journalist Fahim Dashti Killed in Panjshir](#), 6 September 2021

“Fahim Dashti, a well-known journalist and spokesperson for the Resistance Front, was killed during a clash in Panjshir province on Monday night.

The National Resistance Front officials said that he was targeted by Pakistan Air Force drones in Anaba district of the province.

This claim was denied by the Taliban.

Fahim Dashti held various jobs over his career including media adviser, a member of the Afghanistan Journalist Federation, managing director of Subh-e-Kabul weekly magazine, and as head of the Afghanistan National Journalists Union.

He was currently working as spokesperson for the resistance front in Panjshir province.”

OCHCHR, [Afghanistan: Journalists at risk of persecution need urgent protection – UN experts](#), 3 September 2021

“A group of UN human rights experts\* today called on all States to provide urgent protection to Afghan journalists and media workers who fear for their lives and are seeking safety abroad.

“Journalists and media workers, in particular women, are facing heightened risks since the Taliban’s political takeover of Afghanistan,” the experts said. [...]

Recalling the various resolutions on the safety of journalists adopted by the Human Rights Council in recent years, the UN experts called on the Council to uphold its own commitment and do more to address the growing threat to the safety of journalists in the country.

“Reports of targeted killings of journalists and their family members, home raids, threats and intimidation in areas controlled by the Taliban have sharply increased in recent months. This is taking place in a context where Afghanistan is already considered one of the most dangerous countries for journalists,” the experts said. [...]

“We are deeply worried about the threats and systematic human rights violations faced by female journalists, as they may be targeted for working in the media or simply being a woman in public life,” the UN experts added. [...]

The experts: Ms. Irene Khan, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of expression; Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism; Clément Voule, Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and the Working Group on discrimination against women: Ms. Melissa Upreti (Chair), Ms. Dorothy Estrada-Tanck (Vice Chair), Ms. Elizabeth Broderick, Ms. Ivana Radačić, and Ms. Meskerem Geset Techane.

*Ethnic minorities (e.g. Hazaras)*

Al Jazeera, [Taliban says ‘ready for inclusivity, but not selectivity’](#), 9 October 2021

“The Taliban’s “Islamic emirate” is “ready for inclusivity but not selectivity”, the group’s senior leader has told Al Jazeera, in response to the Western pressure for an inclusive Afghan government. The Taliban says members of ethnic minorities have been represented in its Cabinet announced last month and that women would be added later. The Taliban has been cold to US suggestion to include “old guard” in the “inclusive” government, sources told Al Jazeera.

“The international community must respect the wishes of the Afghan people,” Suhail Shaheen, ambassador-designate to the UN, told Al Jazeera in an exclusive interview.”

The New York Times, [ISIS Bomber Kills Dozens at Shiite Mosque in Northern Afghanistan](#), 8 October 2021

“An Islamic State suicide bomber devastated a Shiite mosque in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz on Friday, killing dozens of worshipers in a deadly continuation of the terrorist group’s campaign against the Hazara minority. The massacre, while the mosque was crowded for Friday Prayer, was the group’s second attack against a mosque in just a few days. And it was the realization of Afghan Hazaras’ fears that the Islamic State’s predation would go unchecked under the rule of the Taliban, which itself preyed on the Hazara in the past.

Witness accounts described a powerful explosion with many casualties. Matullah Rohani, a Taliban official in Kunduz, told local media that at least 43 people were killed by the attack and more than 140 were injured.

A local Shiite community leader put the death toll much higher. Sayed Ahmad Shah Hashemi, who represents Kunduz Province’s Shiite population, told The New York Times that more than 70 people were killed in the attack.”

"Hours after the bombing, it was claimed by the [Islamic State Khorasan](#), also known as ISIS-K. It was the group's deadliest strike since the suicide bombing at the international airport in Kabul on Aug. 26 that [killed about 170 civilians](#) and [13 U.S. troops](#)."

"The Taliban's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, condemned the attack on Friday, and vowed retribution."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: 13 Hazara killed by Taliban fighters in Daykundi province – new investigation](#), 5 October 2021

"Taliban forces unlawfully killed 13 ethnic Hazaras, including a 17-year-old girl, in Afghanistan's Daykundi province after members of the security forces of the former government surrendered, a new investigation by Amnesty International has revealed.

The killings happened in Kahor village of Khidir district on 30 August. Eleven of the victims were former members of the Afghan National Defence Security Forces (ANDSF), and two were civilians.

According to eyewitness testimony gathered by Amnesty International, the Taliban extrajudicially executed nine of the ANDSF members after they had surrendered, killings that appear to be war crimes. Two civilians were killed as they attempted to flee, including a 17-year-old girl shot when the Taliban opened fire on a crowd of people."

Itv News, [Brits in Afghanistan fear for families' lives as Taliban threaten to 'cut off children's heads'](#), 5 October 2021

"One British national told ITV News he is still stuck in **Kabul**.

The man, who grew up in the UK, is at risk, not just as a former British interpreter but also as a Panjshiri, a minority targeted by **Taliban**.

Trapped in a small space with his wife and seven small children, they live in constant fear having been threatened by Taliban. Three of his relatives, including his 23-year-old cousin who was studying economics at Kabul University, have been killed since the extremists took power. He thinks he will be next.

"Being a British national has its down sides right now in Afghanistan, but being a British national with a Panjshiri heritage and family background has an even better appeal for the Taliban to either kill or kidnap me," he says.

He continues: "As the situation worsens with the failure of the western world to keep a grip on Afghanistan, more and more every day the Taliban are coming and sniffing out whatever they feel is rightfully theirs, or reprisals from their previous encounter twenty years ago."

Shortly before ITV News spoke to him, his brother-in-law had been taken away by Taliban in front of his kids and wife.

The extremists threatened his wife as they left. "They said, 'if you say anything to anybody, make sure that your family knows that we've taken your brother. If you speak about this, we will come back, cut off your kids' heads and then your head off'."

Danish Immigration Service, [Afghanistan Recent developments in the security situation, impact on civilians and targeted individuals](#), 8 September 2021, p 18

"There have also been [reports](#) of Taliban targeting ethnic and religious minorities during their conquest of Afghanistan, notably Afghanistan's Hazara population. SER [Sune Engel Rasmussen, Danish journalist] assessed that Hazaras in country would face discrimination going forward as the Taliban views them as infidels."

Naomi Conrad & Birgitta Schuelke-Gill & Samad Sharif, Qantara.de, [Shia minority in a Sunni state: Afghanistan's repressed Hazaras face a hostile Taliban](#), 7 September 2021

"To assuage fears of a return to their brutal rule, the Taliban have put on a show of moderation. Spokesmen have repeatedly vowed to refrain from retributions and to respect the rights of women and minorities.

They even made a point of sending representatives across the country to secure Afghanistan's Ashura processions last month. The annual mourning ritual is undertaken by Shias every year to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad. Hard-line Sunni groups view the practice as heresy.

Many Hazaras believe the group's self-professed inclusiveness is little more than propaganda aimed at the international community, whose development aid is a lifeline to prop up an economy teetering on the edge of collapse.

None of the Hazara men and women still in Afghanistan that we spoke to believed the assurances. Mahdi Raskih, a Hazara parliamentarian until the Taliban captured the capital, said that Hazaras face "ethnic and religious persecution" by the militant group. They were, he added, "in mortal danger." Massacres and a harrowing message

Amnesty International's latest findings seem to prove their worst fears. On-the-ground researchers documented brutal killings of nine Hazara men in Ghazni province in central Afghanistan, which took place in early July. Six of the men, according to the report, were shot; three were tortured to death by Taliban fighters.

[...]

Habiba Sarabi, a Hazara political leader, admitted she had proof of more atrocities, but could not share the details, as it might endanger surviving eyewitnesses. Sarabi was the first female governor of Afghanistan and one of four women representing Afghanistan in the negotiations with the Taliban in Doha. When we spoke to her, she was still reeling from the Taliban's takeover. She was, she said, "in shock."

Soon after the interview, Sarabi sent a link to a short, grainy video, which showed two Taliban fighters. Speaking into the camera, one of them says they are waiting for permission from their leaders to "eliminate" all Hazaras living in Afghanistan. While we were unable to verify the video, it has nevertheless been shared widely among Hazaras to whom it sends a chilling message.

"I'm numb," said one Hazara after watching it. It had taken her breath away, she said.

The looming resurgence of Islamic State-Khorasan (ISI-K) following the withdrawal of U.S. forces and de facto collapse of the Afghan army represents yet another threat. Many fear that once the attention of the international community and media has shifted elsewhere, the Taliban will start a campaign against those who might lead a Hazara resistance.

[...]

Many Hazaras are fleeing, among them most of the well-educated, and that exodus would, Ibrahimi said, result in the Hazaras losing their voice in Afghanistan."

BBC News, [Life in Kabul under Taliban: Where is your male escort?](#), 4 September 2021

"In western Kabul, in neighbourhoods like Dasht-e-Barchi, populated largely by members of the minority Hazara community, residents whisper of house searches, of men being taken away."

*Religious minorities (e.g. Shi'a Muslims, Sikhs, Hindus, Christians, Jews)*

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Kabul Sikhs Fear For Safety After Armed Men Attack Temple](#), 6 October 2021

"Sikhs in Kabul say more than a dozen armed men attacked and briefly occupied a Sikh temple in the Kart-e Parwan district of the Afghan capital on October 5, tying up the guards and destroying security cameras. There were no major injuries reported.

The leader of the temple, Gurnam, told RFE/RL that it was unclear who the perpetrators were, but the incident has heightened concerns about the minority Sikh community's safety.

"At around 3:30 p.m. on [October 5], 15 to 20 militants entered the shrine and tied up the guards. They also broke security cameras," Gurnam said. "They were in the gurdwara (temple) for about half an hour. Security officials did not tell us if they were thieves or the Taliban."

Video that appeared on social media showed armed men inside the Sikh temple, with some commentators claiming that "Taliban" attacked the shrine and beat some worshippers.

But that accusation could not be confirmed.

Many religious minorities have suffered discrimination at the hands of Sunni Taliban militants, including during their reign in Kabul and other wide swaths of Afghanistan from 1996-2001.

The community of Afghan Hindus and Sikhs was once estimated to be more than 80,000 strong, but many left after the collapse of the communist regime in 1992.

Many have lost their businesses and properties during the various cycles of war during the past three decades."



Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Last Afghan Jew Leaves Amid Minority Exodus In Fear Of Taliban](#), 10 September 2021

"Zablon Simintov, Afghanistan's last Jew, has left the country after the Taliban takeover. [...]

Simintov is not the only one leaving his homeland, which in the mid-1900s boasted a 40,000-strong Jewish community.

Afghanistan's Hindu and Sikh minorities have also shrunk from more than 200,000 in the 1980s to just a few hundred families today.

Most members of those communities in Afghanistan have already left while others plan to join exiled members of their community in India. Militant attacks have targeted their temples and leaders, killing scores, while criminals kidnap community members for ransom.

There is a risk that some of Afghanistan's non-Muslim minorities, many of whose members fled during the tumultuous decades following the 1978 communist coup, could vanish completely now that the Taliban has returned to power.

For its part, the Taliban has attempted to assuage the fears of non-Muslim Afghans. The militants have visited Sikh temples to try and assure the remaining members of the community of their commitment to their safety and well-being.

"The Islamic Emirate will take serious and effective steps to grant human rights, rights of the minorities and the marginalized communities within the framework of the holy religion of Islam," a September 7 statement by the Taliban government said.

But members of minority communities find it difficult to trust such statements."

*LGBTQI+ people, including hijras*

Deutsche Welle, [Trans in Afghanistan: A mortal danger under the Taliban](#), 2 October 2021

"Attacked in the street

Khalid [a gay Afghan man] has taken precautions. [As the Taliban advanced on Kabul](#), he swapped his jeans and a hooded jacket for traditional Afghan clothing. He even grew a beard — so as not to attract attention.

But he's really a feminine guy, he says. And he knows that this alone can be dangerous for him.

On August 15, the day the Islamists took Kabul, he left his room to run errands. He thought he was well prepared.

But his precautionary measures were not enough.

In the middle of the street, he felt a sudden pain in his right shoulder. "Then there was this Talib. I did not see him. He had a plastic pipe which is used for water. It was really thick and heavy. He hit me on my right shoulder. It hurt a lot, my eyes were full of tears. Then he used some curse words in Pashto, basically, he said: 'Why are you walking so feminine, don't you know how to walk [properly]?'"

Khalid has stayed at home since then.

Brutal punishment under the Taliban

[Under the Taliban](#), LGBTQ people like Khalid and Danish fear for their lives. For a man who has sex with another man there are only two possible punishments — and both are lethal, according to [a Taliban judge who spoke with German tabloid newspaper Bild in an exclusive interview](#) a few weeks before the takeover: "Either stoning or he has to be behind a wall that falls on him. The wall must be 2 1/2 to 3 meters [ca. 8 to 9 feet — Editor's note] high."

At the end of September, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, a senior founding member of the Taliban, [told The Associated Press news agency](#) that the government would reintroduce executions and hand amputations, just like they did in the 1990s.

Back then, Turabi was the justice minister in the Taliban government. According to an [Australian government report](#), homosexuals in Afghanistan were executed regularly between 1996 and the fall of the Taliban in autumn 2001."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: The fate of thousands hanging in the balance](#), 21 September 2021

"In this report, Amnesty International, International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation against Torture (OMCT) have documented incidents of human rights violations that have taken place

in Afghanistan since the takeover by the Taliban on 15 August". The report references a number of sources, including: [...]

Tracey Shelton. ABC. 2 September 2021. "LGBT Afghans are on the run, afraid they could be stoned to death under Taliban law". <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-09-02/afghans-lgbt-community-face-stoning-under-taliban-law/100412330>. [...]

India Today, [We'll be killed: Afghanistan's LGBTQ+ community forced to live in hiding under Taliban regime](#) 18 September 2021

"After the return of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan, members of the LGBTQ+ community are forced to live in hiding in fear of their lives. They urged human rights advocates outside the country to help them escape the Taliban regime."

### *Disability rights activists*

The Nation, [The Taliban Is Targeting Disability Rights Activists](#), 2 September 2021

"The day the Taliban seized control of Kabul, they lobbed a grenade into A's yard, and he promptly left home to seek refuge. A lower-limb amputee and prominent disability rights activist, he's at risk because of his disability rights organization's association with the United States. [...]

As of Monday, the Taliban has shown up at A's house three times. They also visited the office of the organization, where they asked security guards for A's whereabouts. A is moving from house to house to evade capture. At least 50 disability rights activists like A and their families are imperiled, says Isabel Hodge, the executive director of the United States International Council on Disabilities (USICD)."

## SECTION 2 - COI SOURCES

*This section is a list of potentially relevant COI sources that we scanned systematically for this report. The list is non-exhaustive and will be regularly reviewed and updated. The date in brackets shows the last time a researcher consulted this source.*

### International Organisations

- [International Organization for Migration \(IOM \(Afghanistan\)\)](#) [11.10.2021]
  - [Displacement Tracking Matrix \(DTM\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [11.10.2021] - most recent report 07.10.2021
- [United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan \(UNAMA\)](#) [11.10.2021]
- [United Nations Children's Fund \(UNICEF\)](#) [11.10.2021]
- [United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner \(UNOHCHR\) \(Afghanistan news\)](#) [11.10.2021]
- [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs \(UNOCHA\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [11.10.2021]
  - [Humanitarian Response \(Afghanistan\)](#) [11.10.2021]
- United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) (Afghanistan)
  - [Afghanistan Situation Page](#) [11.10.2021]
  - [Operational Data Portal](#) [11.10.2021]
- [United Nations Secretary-General reports](#) [11.10.2021]
- [United Nations World Food Programme \(Afghanistan\)](#) [11.10.2021]
- [United Nations World Health Organisation \(Afghanistan\)](#) [11.10.2021]
- [United Nations Population Fund - UNFPA \(Afghanistan\)](#) [11.10.2021]

### Intergovernmental Sources

- [European Asylum Support Office \(EASO\) COI Portal](#) [13.10.2021]

### Government sources

- [Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#)
  - [Country Information reports](#) [11.10.2021]
- [Danish Immigration Service](#)
  - [Country Reports](#) [11.10.2021]
  - [Country Notes](#) [11.10.2021]
- [Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)
  - [ambtsbericht](#) [11.10.2021]
- [Dutch Immigration and Naturalisation Service](#)
  - [landenrapporten](#), specifically on the [situation in Afghanistan](#) [11.10.2021]
- [Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada](#)
  - [Responses to Information Requests](#) [11.10.2021]
  - [National Documentation Packages](#) [11.10.2021]
- The [Norwegian Country of Origin Information Centre Landinfo](#)
  - [Afghan publications page](#) [11.10.2021]
- [French Ministry of Foreign Affairs](#)
  - [dossiers pays](#) [03.10.2021]

## NGOS and think tanks

[Note: This list focuses on local and national organisations as well as those international organisations with a local presence]

- [Assessment Capacities Project \(ACAPS\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [11.10.2021]
- [Afghanistan Analysts Network \(AAN\)](#) [11.10.2021]
- [Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission \(AIHRC\)](#) [11.10.2021]
- [Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit \(AREU\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Amnesty International \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project \(ACLED\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Brookings \(Afghanistan\)](#) [05.10.2021]
  - [Lawfare \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Care International \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Carnegie Endowment for International Peace \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Chatham House \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Center for Strategic & International Studies \(CSIS\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Congressional Research Service](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Council on Foreign Relations \(CFR\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
  - [Global Conflict Tracker \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Danish Refugee Council \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Global Shelter Cluster \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Heinrich Boll Stiftung \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Human Rights Watch \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [International Crisis Group \(ICG\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
  - [CrisisWatch Database](#) [13.10.2021]
- [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [International Federation for Human Rights \(FIDH\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [International Institute for Strategic Studies \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [International NGO Safety Organisation \(INSO\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [International Rescue Committee \(IRC\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Jamestown Foundation \(Central Asia\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Long War Journal](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Medecin Sans Frontieres \(MSF\) \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Norwegian Refugee Council \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Refugees International \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Royal United Services Institute \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Samuel Hall \(South and Central Asia\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Save the Children \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
  - [Blog \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction \(SIGAR\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Swedish Committee for Afghanistan](#) [13.10.2021]
- [United States Institute of Peace \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]

## Media

[Additional media sources such as BBC, Reuters, France24 may be included in this report but have not been systematically checked on a weekly basis]

- [Afghan Islamic Press](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Afghan Voice Agency \(AVA\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Al Jazeera \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Ariana News](#) [13.10.2021]
- [BBC News](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Deutsche Welle \(Afghanistan\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Jurist.org](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Kabul Now](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Khaama Press \(Afghan News Agency\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Pajhwok Afghan News \(Afghan News Agency\)](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Qantara.de](#) [13.10.2021]
- [Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara](#) [13.10.2021]
- [The Guardian](#) (Afghanistan) [13.10.2021]
- [The New Humanitarian](#) (Afghanistan) [13.10.2021]
- [Thomson Reuters Foundation News](#) (Afghanistan) [13.10.2021]
- [ToloNews](#) [13.10.2021]

### **Contacts on the ground**

[Listed here are sources that may not report regularly on Afghanistan, but who might be willing to be contacted as they have a presence in Afghanistan]

- [ACTED \(Afghanistan\)](#) [12.10.2021]
- [Afghan Aid](#) [12.10.2021]
- [Afghan Women's Education Centre](#) [12.10.2021]
- [Afghanistan Institute for Civil Society \(AICS\)](#) [06.10.2021 - unable to check, website did not load]
- [Agha Khan Foundation \(Afghanistan\)](#) [12.10.2021]
- [Aschiana Foundation](#) [11.10.2021]
- [CARE](#) [11.10.2021]
- [Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres \(MSF\)](#) [11.10.2021]
- [The Liaison Office](#) [12.10.2021]
- [Mercy Corps \(Afghanistan\)](#) [12.10.2021]
- [Oxfam \(Afghanistan\)](#) [12.10.2021]

### **Additional useful COI databases for case-specific country research (non-exhaustive)**

- [Asylos's research notes](#) [Subscription only]
- [COI Forum](#) [Subscription only]
- [EASO COI Portal](#) [European Asylum Support Office's portal]
- [Electronic Immigration Network](#) [Subscription only]
- [ECOI.net](#) [European Country of Origin Information Network]
- [Refworld](#) [UNHCR's portal]
- [ReliefWeb](#)

For useful sources arranged by theme consult ARC Foundation's free [Thematic COI Sources toolkit](#).

For any case-specific research requests please get in touch with [Asylos](#).

### Additional useful databases and sources to find expert witnesses

*Please note that these experts have not been vetted by us and each database/source will have its own vetting process.*

- [EIN Experts Directory](#) – The Electronic Immigration Network Directory of Experts gives access to detailed information from a wide variety of experts in a fully searchable database.
- Rights in Exile Programme’s “[Country of Origin Information Experts database](#)”.
- The Centre for Gender and Refugee Studies’ [Expert Witness database](#) [requires registration]
- Country experts cited in relevant [UK country guidance determinations](#)
- Interlocutors cited in [EASO COI products](#)
- Interlocutors cited in fact-finding mission (FFM) reports. These are published by a range of country of asylum/receiving country’s governments. You can find them through a Google search or on [ecoi.net](#).
- Academics and/or (I)NGOs who are cited in this COI Repository
- Ask an expert who you have worked with in the past to suggest other relevant individuals who may be in a position to comment.
- [Global Experts](#) – Global Experts is a UN database of academics, analysts, former officials, faith leaders, civil society activists, private sector/business and media experts around the world. You can search for experts by area of expertise as well as by geographical area.
- [Expertise Finder](#) – Expertise Finder is a directory of experts in a variety of subjects. Search by keywords, for instance country, to find experts and their contact details.
- [SheSource](#) – Same concept as the two sources above, except that this website only lists female experts.
- [CGRS](#) – The Center for Gender and Refugee Studies – California features a webpage with a list of experts providing practice advisories and declarations for US Courts hearings regarding vulnerable groups (LGBTI, Women, Children etc.).
- [Google Scholar](#) / [Microsoft Academic](#) – Google Scholar and Microsoft Academic are search engines for academic publications, although you will find media articles on there as well. On Google Scholar, clicking on an author’s name will typically take you to his / her profile page. Contact details are not provided, but affiliation is; you can then search on his / her institution’s website.