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## DISCLAIMER

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses are compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

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## COI QUERY RESPONSE

### AFGHANISTAN - SECURITY

A report released in May 2024 by the *European Union Agency for Asylum* points out that “The Taliban is currently the sole entity exercising effective control of all parts of Afghanistan through a de facto administration led by all-male and predominantly Taliban members.”<sup>1</sup>

The *UNHCR* in August 2024 includes noting that the: “...regime...has shown a flagrant disregard for the principles of justice, non-discrimination, equality, and the rule of law.”<sup>2</sup>

A report issued in August 2024 by the *International Crisis Group* points out that: “...the main improvement since the Taliban took over is in peace and security. In the war’s final stages, tens of thousands of Afghans lost their lives every year, making it for some years the world’s deadliest conflict. Millions of people fled their homes. The chaos subsided with the Taliban victory, as the former insurgents gained control of more of the country’s territory than any government had enjoyed in decades. Anti-Taliban resistance, notably from the South Asian branch of Islamic State and remnants of the former security forces, simmers in remote areas, but the number of clashes has steadily declined.”<sup>3</sup>

*Amnesty International* in August 2024 comments on: “The legal and formal justice system in Afghanistan collapsed after the Taliban’s return to power...”<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum (23 May 2024) Country Guidance Afghanistan 2024, p.120

<sup>2</sup>UNHCR (14 August 2024) International community must not normalise Taliban rule in Afghanistan, p.2

<sup>3</sup> International Crisis Group (14 August 2024) Afghanistan Three Years after the Taliban Takeover, p.4

<sup>4</sup> Amnesty International (15 August 2024) Afghanistan: Three years of Taliban rule and international inaction have left Afghan community with little hope, p.2

*Amnesty International* in August 2024 states that: “Three years after the Taliban’s return to power, the Taliban has dismantled human rights institutions and mechanisms and suspended or abolished formerly existing laws...”<sup>5</sup>

This document also states that: “The return of the Taliban in Afghanistan has blocked all possible domestic avenues for justice and accountability.”<sup>6</sup>

A report issued by the *United Nations* in August 2024 states that: “The de facto Authorities have ...disregarded principles of justice, non-discrimination, equality and the rule of law.”<sup>7</sup>

In September 2024 the *United Nations Human Rights Council* states that: “...overall levels of armed conflict and civilian casualties remained relatively low throughout the period...”<sup>8</sup>

In November 2024 the *European Union Agency for Asylum* notes that: “During the reference period of this report, the Taliban maintained territorial control over the whole country...As the Taliban have consolidated administrative control of all of Afghanistan’s territory, they are the de facto authorities, despite the lack of international recognition...”<sup>9</sup>

This document also states that: “Since the Taliban came to power on 15 August 2021...they have faced armed resistance from two insurgencies...None of the groups have been assessed to pose a real threat to Taliban rule...”<sup>10</sup>

This report also states that: “After the Taliban takeover in 2021, the levels of armed violence...and civilian harm significantly dropped compared to previous years of conflict...”<sup>11</sup>

*Agence France Presse* in November 2024 points out that the: “...number of bomb attacks has fallen since the Taliban authorities returned to power in 2021...”<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> Amnesty International (27 August 2024) *Afghanistan: Oral statement on Item 6: Consideration of UPR reports, UN Human Rights Council 57th Session*

<sup>6</sup> *ibid*

<sup>7</sup> United Nations (30 August 2024) *Situation of human rights in Afghanistan*, p.3

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council (3 September 2024) *The human rights situation in Afghanistan: Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights*, p.4

<sup>9</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum (November 2024) *Afghanistan – Country Focus*, p.19

<sup>10</sup> *ibid*, p.19

<sup>11</sup> *ibid*, p.49

<sup>12</sup> Agence France Presse (22 November 2024) *Ten killed in attack on Sufi shrine in Afghanistan: interior ministry*

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