

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON 7 APRIL 2025

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COI QUERY RESPONSE

AFGHANISTAN – ALCOHOL ISSUES

In May 2024 the *European Union Agency for Asylum* states that: “Cases of lashing for consuming alcohol and for drug trafficking were...reported...”¹

A report issued in June 2024 by *Agence France Presse* states that: “Since their return to power in August 2021, the Taliban authorities have reintroduced an extreme interpretation of Islamic law -- or sharia. Crowds have watched public executions and corporal punishments, mainly flogging. The latter is mostly employed for crimes including theft, adultery and alcohol consumption.”²

In July 2024 the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* comments on: “...judicial corporal punishments in some instances, particularly on individuals who committed crimes in the category of immorality such as adultery or alcohol-related offences.”³

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty states in August 2024 that: “Drinking alcohol, the use of illicit drugs, and gambling are considered serious crimes.”⁴

A report issued in September 2024 by the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* states that: “The implementation of such corporal punishments is usually announced by the de facto Supreme Court via its X social media account and concerns a variety of offences, including zina...running away from home, theft, homosexuality, consuming alcohol, fraud and drug trafficking.”⁵

¹ European Union Agency for Asylum (23 May 2024) Country Guidance: Afghanistan, p.55

² Agence France Presse (6 June 2024) UN condemns mass public flogging in Afghanistan

³ United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (9 July 2024) De Facto Authorities’ Moral Oversight in Afghanistan: Impacts on Human Rights, p.17

⁴ Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (29 August 2024) Afghanistan Slides Into 'Ever More Hellish Conditions' After New Morality Law Enacted, p.2

⁵ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (3 September 2024) The human rights situation in Afghanistan: Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, p.7

The *International Crisis Group* in September 2024 states that: “In March 2023...instructed authorities to set out punishments for those involved in the production and trade of drugs and alcohol...”⁶

A report issued in November 2024 by the *Agence France Presse* states that: “Corporal punishments -- mainly flogging -- have been common under the Taliban authorities and employed for crimes including theft, adultery and alcohol consumption.”⁷

In November 2024 the *United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* notes the: “Last week, a woman and a man convicted of running away from home were lashed in public at a high school in Parwan. In Jawzjan province, four women and 18 men were publicly lashed at a sports stadium for adultery, alcohol and drug-related crimes.”⁸

A report issued in December 2024 by the *South Asia Terrorism Portal* states that: “Penalties such as judicially sanctioned executions or corporeal punishment exercised by the Taliban, are founded on the basis of Sharia law and the rulings of Islamic scholars. There are three categories of crimes in Sharia law: ta'zir, qisas, and hudud, drawn from the Qur'an and Hadith. Both corporeal and capital punishments are examples of hudud and qisas. Hudud crimes, divided into six categories, are believed to be crimes against God and include: hirabah (waging war against God and society), zina (adultery and fornication), riddah (apostasy), sariqa (stealing), shurb al-khamr (drinking alcohol), and qadhf (slander/defamation). The death sentence, stoning, and lashing are among the penalties prescribed. While qisas covers the majority of crimes involving murder or severe cases of deliberate bodily damage, retribution in kind is imposed, based on the principle of "an eye for an eye". Ta'zir includes punishments which are derived from the discrete power of judges.”⁹

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⁶ International Crisis Group (12 September 2024) *Trouble In Afghanistan's Opium Fields: The Taliban War On Drugs*, p.11

⁷ Agence France Presse (13 November 2024) *Afghan Taliban carry out sixth public execution since 2021*

⁸ United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (14 November 2024) Comment by UN Human Rights Office Spokesperson Jeremy Laurence on public execution in Afghanistan

⁹ South Asia Terrorism Portal (23 December 2024) *Afghanistan: Public Executions*, p.2

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