

RESEARCHED AND COMPILED BY THE REFUGEE DOCUMENTATION CENTRE OF IRELAND ON 9 JUNE 2025

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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 re 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 – ISIS

In November 2024 the *European Union Agency for Asylum* states that: “Since the Taliban came to power on 15 August 2021...they have faced armed resistance from two insurgencies. One insurgency has been driven by self-proclaimed resistance groups, including the National Resistance Front (NRF) formed amid the Taliban takeover...Another insurgency has been driven by the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP)...that has been carrying out attacks against Taliban and civilian targets...None of the groups have been assessed to pose a real threat to Taliban rule...”<sup>1</sup>

This document also states that: “The de facto authorities have taken an ‘aggressive stance’ towards the ISKP, and have killed and detained numerous leaders and fighters...”<sup>2</sup>

A report issued in February 2025 by *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty* notes that: “...the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) extremist group continues to pose a threat to the Taliban, testing the group’s ability to maintain security.”<sup>3</sup>

In February 2025 the *United Nations Security Council* states that: “...ISIL-K nor the opposition groups seriously threatened the Taliban’s hold on power and territory.”<sup>4</sup>

A report published in March 2025 by the *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* notes that: “ISIL-K frequently claims attacks that target Shia Hazara, other Shia Muslims, Sufi Muslims, Sikhs and other minorities, as well as places of worship.”<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> European Union Agency for Asylum (November 2024) Afghanistan – Country Focus, p.19

<sup>2</sup> *ibid*, p.53

<sup>3</sup> Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (13 February 2025) Taliban Divisions Laid Bare As Afghanistan Power Struggle Intensifies, p.3

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Security Council (21 February 2025) The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, p.1

<sup>5</sup> Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (14 March 2025) Afghanistan, p.2

In March 2025 the *Institute for Economics and Peace* states that: “Since 2022, ISK has primarily focused its attacks in northeastern and southern Afghanistan, continuing to target key locations and infrastructure.”<sup>6</sup>

A report issued in April 2025 by *BBC News* states that the: “...Taliban have ...gained superiority over rival groups, such as the National Resistance Front and Islamic State Khorasan Province - the regional affiliate of the Islamic State group.”<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Institute for Economics and Peace (3 March 2025) *Global Terrorism Index 2025 [Islamic State Khorasan Province excerpt]*, p.5

<sup>7</sup> BBC News (17 April 2025) *US weapons left in Afghanistan sold to militant groups, sources tell BBC*, p.2

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