



Briefing Notes Summary

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

Afghanistan – January to June 2025

30 June 2025

13 January 2025

Security situation

On 07.01.2025, two religious scholars from the Taliban were attacked by armed men in Baghlan province (Baghlan-e-Markazi district). One survived with serious injuries, the other was killed. The Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) has claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taliban have confirmed the incident. On 06.01.25, an explosion took place at a Taliban police compound in the city of Kunduz, injuring several Taliban members.

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. The National Resistance Front (NRF) said it attacked the convoy of the Taliban Minister of Energy and Water, Abud Latif Mansour, in Kabul on 31.12.24, killing his bodyguard and injuring two other members. On 28.12.24, an attack was carried out near the Taliban Ministry of Interior in which four people were injured.

On 24.12.24, the Pakistani army carried out airstrikes in the province of Paktia (Barmal district), killing at least 46 people, including civilians. The declared aim was to hit camps of the terrorist group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) as part of a new counter-terrorism operation. The Taliban confirmed the attack and subsequently attacked Pakistani army border posts. In the crossfire of the skirmishes, 15 Taliban members were reportedly killed. On 02.02.25 and 10.01.25, the Pakistani army fired dozens of missiles at the border region of the eastern Afghan provinces of Kunar (Sirkanay District) and Khost.¹

Governance and persecution

According to media reports issued on 11.01.25, the Taliban arrested three former soldiers from Panjshir province. On 06.01.25, a former police commander was also arrested by the Taliban in Badakhshan province (Kuran wa Munjan district). The Taliban imposed a night curfew after 9 p.m. in Qadis District of Badghis province on 02.01.25. At a two-day meeting held between Emir Akhunzada and the head of the Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice (PVPV), Khalid Hanafi, in Kandahar, the Emir emphasised that the so-called mohtasibs (enforcers of the Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice) were responsible for reforming the people and the younger generation within the meaning of the Islamic regime. On 07.01.25, PVPV enforcers arrested nine people in the city of Kabul (police districts 3 and 5) for "moral corruption" and gambling. In December 2024, the morality police arrested a total of 44 people across the country on charges ranging from "moral corruption" and gambling to "sorcery", illicit relationships and violations of Islamic law.

The Taliban have installed 350 surveillance cameras in the city of Pul-e-Khumri (Baghlan province) in order to increase security there, according to their own sources. They have also launched a campaign to confiscate "banned books" in the city of Sheberghan (Jawzjan province) as part of an effort to "safeguard Islamic values and prevent

the spread of misleading content". Shirin Akhund, the Taliban governor in Kandahar province, has urged some local international NGOs to cease operations.

Neda Mohammad Nadim, Taliban Minister of Higher Education, stated that disobeying the orders of Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada is tantamount to "disobedience to God". According to media reports issued on 28.12.24, Hibatullah Akhundzada has issued a directive banning the construction of windows in residential buildings that overlook neighbouring homes, particularly those housing women. If an existing building has windows violating this directive, the owner is required to block the view by erecting a wall or using appropriate coverings.²

20 January 2025

Security situation

An explosion occurred near the Hanzala Mosque in the Shahr-e-Naw district of Kabul on 14.01.25. The National Resistance Front (NRF) has claimed responsibility for the attack which was directed against the Taliban's Military Prosecutor's Office in the city's 10th district. Two Taliban members were reportedly killed and others injured in the attack.³

Governance and persecution

According to Human Rights Watch (HRW), the human rights situation in Afghanistan deteriorated in 2024 as the Taliban intensified its repression of women, girls and minority groups.

According to the Taliban, they have issued around 9 million electronic identity cards since seizing power. Currently, 73 distribution centres, known as Asan Khedmat centres, are operational across the country. These include a mobile distribution team and a centre in the UAE that supplies Afghan nationals abroad. The ID cards continue to feature the logo of the former government.

The Taliban arrested three people in Panjshir province, including a former employee of the National Directorate of Security (NDS), a former soldier and a doctor from the emergency medical centre in Dara district.⁴

Return of Afghan refugees from Iran, Tajikistan and Pakistan

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has reported that 1.2 million undocumented Afghan nationals returned from Iran between January and December 2024. According to the IOM, 67 percent of the returnees were deported.

In Daman district, Kandahar province, a refugee camp originally set up for internally displaced persons has become a temporary shelter for hundreds of returnees from Pakistan. They report very poor conditions there due to the harsh winter conditions and a lack of food, water, medical care and fuel and are calling on aid organisations for urgent help.

The Afghan consulate in Tajikistan's eastern city of Khorugh, which represents the Taliban-led government in Kabul, announced that around 60 Afghan nationals had been expelled from Tajikistan in December 2024 despite having valid visas. Most of Tajikistan's Afghan community live in the town of Vahdat, which is on the outskirts of Dushanbe.⁵

27 January 2025

Security situation

According to media reports, an explosion occurred in the Shar-e Naw area of Kabul on 26.01.25. No further details were reported and the Taliban did not comment on the incident. On 25.01.25, a suicide attack took place in front of the Taliban governor's office in Taloqan (Takhar province). Several Taliban members were killed or injured in the attack. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack. A Chinese national was killed by members of the Islamic State Province of Khorasan (ISPK) in Takhar province (Khwaja Bahauddin district) on 21.01.25.⁶

Governance and persecution

According to media reports released on 26.01.25, eight people have been arrested and killed by the Taliban throughout the country for allegedly cooperating with the armed opposition. On 24.01.25, the Taliban sentenced

the filmmaker Sayed Rahim Saidi to three years in prison for allegedly spreading propaganda. Furthermore, an advisor to the former chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, Abdullah Abdullah, was arrested in Kapisa province on 21.01.25 along with his son. This incident follows the recent arrest of Abdullah's former bodyguard in the province of Panjshir on 18.01.25.⁷

International Criminal Court: arrest warrant against Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhunzada and others

On 23.01.25, the Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, Karim Khan, filed two applications for arrest warrants against Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhunzada and Taliban Chief Justice Abdul Hakim Haqqani stemming from criminal responsibility for crimes against humanity (persecution on gender grounds) under Article 7 (1) h of the Rome Statute. Arrest warrants against other high-ranking Taliban members are to follow.⁸

03 February 2025

Security situation

On 01.02.25, an attack was carried out on the Taliban police headquarters in the provincial capital Taloqan (Takhar province). The Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF) claimed responsibility for the attack and reported that five Taliban members were killed and three others were injured.

According to media reports, several members of the Pakistani Taliban (Tehrik-e Taliban Pakistan, TTP) and their families have been relocated by the Taliban from the Afghan-Pakistani border to the province of Kandahar. The Pakistani army recently carried out repeated airstrikes against TTP positions in Afghanistan (cf. BN of 13.01.25).⁹

Governance and persecution

According to media reports, a high-level Taliban meeting led by Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhunzada is to take place in the city of Kandahar in the coming days. One of the topics to be discussed is the new US administration under President Donald Trump. Immediately after his return to the White House, US President Trump suspended almost all foreign aid for three months, including aid to Afghanistan. As a result, the Taliban government informed all government employees that the payment of their monthly salaries would be suspended for three months. However, Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid announced on 30.01.25 that the Ministry of Finance had given assurances that the salaries of public employees would be paid this month. According to him, at least 1.04 million people are employed in public institutions under the Taliban.

According to a media report released on 30.01.25, three clerics, inter alia from the provinces of Panjshir and Takhar, were taken into custody by the Taliban's intelligence agents after they had allegedly spoken out at a conference against the Taliban leader Akhunzada's monopoly on power in Kandahar.

According to media reports, the Taliban's deputy foreign minister, Abbas Stanekzai, is said to have criticised Akhunzada again for the ban on education for women and girls, whereupon the latter reportedly ordered his arrest. Other Taliban ministers asked Hibatullah Akhunzada to pardon Stanekzai, but he is said to have refused. Stanekzai is said to have left for Dubai as a result. The Taliban have not yet commented on the incident.

Last week, the Taliban arrested the former director of the National Defence and Security Forces (NDS) in Daikundi province, the son of the former head of the NDS in the Miramur district of Daikundi, a former soldier from Daikundi and two former soldiers from Baghlan province.

The Taliban's local Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice in the city of Herat has banned pictures and graphics on book covers. Booksellers say they have been forced to cover book covers with stickers to comply with the new directive.¹⁰

Humanitarian situation

Almost 40 percent of households in Afghanistan are struggling with water shortages as sources dry up, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) announced on 31.01.25.¹¹

10 February 2025

Security situation

On 08.02.25, an attack was carried out on a Taliban intelligence vehicle convoy using a magnetic bomb in front of the Taliban-run Ministry of Agriculture in Taloqan, the capital of Takhar province. Three Taliban insurgents are said to have been killed and two others injured. The Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF) has claimed responsibility for the attack; the Taliban have not commented on the incident.

On 05.02.25, the Taliban instructed residents in the border areas of Bahram Chah district in Helmand province to leave the area due to fighting with Pakistani border guards. The Taliban have deployed additional soldiers to the region.

A Nepalese UN security official was shot dead by a Taliban fighter outside a UN building on 03.02.25.

Explosive ordnance continues to be a major cause of child fatalities in Afghanistan. This is according to a new report released by the NGO Children and Armed Conflict, which is dedicated to the protection of children in war zones. According to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), 47 children (eight girls and 39 boys) were killed by explosive remnants of war between October and December 2024.

According to media reports released on 31.01.25, three children were killed in Laghman province on the same day when an explosive grenade detonated while they were playing.¹²

Governance and persecution

An unknown hacker group has published hundreds of pages of Taliban documents from around 21 ministries and government agencies on the website "Talib leaks", some of which were classified information. The Taliban stated that the leaked documents were not confidential and were publicly accessible.

One of these leaked official letters from the Taliban reveals that around 8,000 people, mainly former government officials, have been banned from leaving the country. Overseas academic travel is also prohibited. According to the documents, Hibatullah Akhundzada, the supreme leader of the Taliban, has personally ordered that these people must not leave Afghanistan without his written authorisation. The Taliban Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice has conducted extensive research on hijab enforcement and religious policing in 12 provinces (Helmand, Bamiyan, Kunar, Paktika, Sar-e Pol, Samangan, Maidan Wardak, Baghlan, Kapisa, Paktia, Jowzjan and Laghman). To this end, around 500 people were questioned in each of these provinces. It came to light that the province of Bamiyan, in which mainly Shia Hazara live, and the province of Kunar, in which many Salafists live who practise Islam differently from the Taliban's ideas, were particularly notable for violations. The published documents also show that the Taliban's morality police in the capital Kabul and the provinces are authorised to carry weapons and use armoured vehicles, although this has yet to be implemented. It is not clear from the documents why the morality police should be armed, as they were originally supposed to emphasise their role through "advice"; in exceptional cases through flogging.

Radio Begum, a Kabul-based station that focuses on women's rights and education, confirmed on 05.02.25 that its operation had been suspended following a raid by the Taliban in which two of its staff were arrested.

A member of the former National Security Directorate from Kapisa province has reportedly been arrested by Taliban intelligence agents in Kabul.

The Taliban-run Ministry of Information and Culture has set up a committee to regulate and standardise the phrases, terms and titles used in media broadcasts, the ministry announced on 10.02.25.¹³

Humanitarian situation

The humanitarian situation for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees (particularly from Pakistan) in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province remains critical, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has said. As of early 2024, Afghanistan had approximately 1.7 million internally displaced people, with Nangarhar

among the most affected provinces, according to UNDP. Many returnees face homelessness, unemployment and extreme poverty.

Conditions in the refugee camp in Kandahar province are also deteriorating. Returnees report that they lack access to medical care and vital medicines there.¹⁴

17 February 2025

Security situation

According to media reports issued on 16.02.25, at least four people were injured in a grenade attack carried out during Friday prayers at the Jui Zindajan mosque in Aybak, the capital of the northern province of Samangan.

On 13.02.25, according to Taliban reports, a suicide bomber attempted to enter the Taliban-controlled Ministry of Urban Development and Housing in Kabul but was intercepted and killed. One person was killed and five others were wounded in the attack, including Arsala Kharoti, the Taliban's Deputy Minister for Finance and Administration. The Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

According to local reports, around 20 people were killed and 30 injured in an attack carried out against Taliban members by the ISKP outside a branch of Kabul Bank in the city of Kunduz on 11.02.25. The Taliban themselves say five people were killed and seven were wounded. The Amaq news agency, which has links with ISIS, reported that a suicide bomber from the group had targeted Taliban members as they gathered outside the bank branch to collect their salaries.¹⁵

Governance and persecution

The Taliban have issued a new directive banning all domestic media organisations from broadcasting political programmes until further notice.

According to media reports released on 17.02.25, the Taliban have paid only one month's salary to public servants, after nearly three months of delays. The Taliban's spokesperson had previously stated that all government salaries would be paid starting on 10.02.25 (cf. BN of 03.02.25).

The Taliban have flogged 11 people in the province of Nimruz. In the last three weeks, a total of 62 people have been flogged across the country, including nine women.¹⁶

24 February 2025

Security situation

According to media reports, violent clashes erupted between Taliban insurgents and unidentified armed men on the outskirts of Lashkargah, the capital of the southern province of Helmand, on 20.02.25. The Taliban have not commented on the incident and have not released any details about possible casualties. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

On 19.02.25, a bomb exploded near the Kifayat Exchange Market in the centre of the city of Mazar-e-Sharif in the northern province of Balkh, injuring at least three people. On the same day, according to media reports, gunfire erupted outside the Taliban-controlled Ministry of Interior in Kabul. The number of casualties is not known. Also on 19.02.25, the Taliban carried out an attack on a Pakistani army border post in the province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan. According to Pakistani reports, one soldier was killed by the Taliban. The Pakistani army then launched a counterattack on a Taliban border post, with the Taliban reportedly suffering heavy casualties.

On 17.02.25, there was an explosion near the airport in the capital Kabul. Details about the cause of the explosion or possible casualties remain unclear. The Taliban have not commented on the incident.

Resistance groups carried out five attacks on Taliban checkpoints in Kunduz province between 17.02.25 and 20.02.25. A Taliban intelligence officer was shot dead by unknown assailants in Takhar province on 18.02.25.¹⁷

Governance and persecution

On 22.02.25, the Taliban conducted house searches in the Khair Khana neighbourhood in northern Kabul. The searches come at a time of reported internal divisions within the Taliban and a series of security incidents across the country.

On 18.02.25, Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada held an emergency meeting in the city of Kandahar with the Taliban governors of Kandahar, Zabul, Uruzgan and Helmand provinces. The focus was on security problems, including the prevention of possible ISIS attacks in the spring, the presence of unidentified armed groups in Bahramcha (an important smuggling centre near the Pakistani border), tensions within the Taliban, border problems with Pakistan and securing important border routes.

According to their own sources, the Taliban established almost 50 madrassas (Islamic religious schools) between September 2024 and February 2025, including in the provinces of Bamiyan, Balkh, Paktia, Paktika, Sar-e-Pul, Kapisa, Farah, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Khost und Ghazni, or at least laid the foundations for them.

According to media reports released on 17.02.25, the Taliban intelligence service have arrested the poet and cultural activist Alam Hashimi in Kabul and taken him to an unknown location.¹⁸

03 March 2025

Governance: floggings on the rise

According to media reports issued on 24.02.25, citing statements released by the Supreme Court, the Taliban had 18 people in Khost province flogged for engaging in same-sex relationships and "illicit affairs". In the eleven days up to 02.03.25 alone, more than 70 people were reportedly flogged in the provinces of Kabul, Khost, Nangarhar, Zabul, Faryab, Kapisa, Parwan, Herat, Ghazni and Bamiyan. According to a report submitted to the UN Human Rights Council, the Taliban carried out 311 public floggings between July and December 2024, an increase of 22 percent compared to the first half of 2024.¹⁹

58th session of the UN Human Rights Council: human rights situation worsening in Afghanistan

According to the UN, the human rights situation in Afghanistan is continuing to deteriorate. Women, minorities and civil society in particular are being subjected to extreme repression under Taliban rule. According to Richard Bennett, the UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan, the Taliban's gender-specific oppression of women has become more systematic and institutionalised.²⁰

Humanitarian situation

According to media reports, flash floods took place in Farah province (Pushtkoh, Gulistan, Farah Rod and Qala Ka districts) on 25.02.25, in which the Taliban claim 23 people were killed and 44 were injured. Further floods caused by severe rainfall on the same day occurred in the provinces of Kandahar (killing 11 people) and Helmand (killing six people).²¹

10 March 2025

Security situation

Heavy fighting took place between the Taliban and Pakistani soldiers between 02.03.25 and 06.03.25 at the Torkham border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Among others, four Taliban fighters were killed. The injured were soldiers from both sides, civilians and three journalists. Residents of border villages reported that their houses and a mosque, among others, had been damaged in the crossfire. The Pakistani authorities asked the villagers to leave the area temporarily and to move to safer areas. The border crossing had been closed since 22.02.25 after disputes arose over the official border demarcation. On 09.03.25, it was announced that Taliban representatives and Pakistani officials had agreed on a ceasefire and the reopening of the border at Torkham.

On 05.03.25, US President Donald Trump announced in his first speech to the US Congress that the mastermind

behind the suicide attack carried out on Kabul airport on 26.08.21 had been captured at the Afghan-Pakistani border with the assistance of Pakistan. The perpetrator, Mohammad Sharifullah, is reportedly an operative of the Islamic State Province of Khorasan (ISPK). The incident, in which 13 US soldiers and more than 170 Afghan citizens lost their lives, has now led to the extradition of the suspect to the US, where he is to be brought to trial.²²

Governance and persecution

According to reports issued on 06.03.25, Taliban leader Haibatullah Akhundzada is planning to convene a large assembly (Loya Jirga) to legitimise the government. Through this Jirga, Akhundzada aims to legitimise his leadership, transition the cabinet from an interim structure, and establish full control over the Taliban's governance framework.

According to media reports issued on 06.03.25, a former Afghan army officer was detained and tortured by the Taliban in Kabul.

In the three months leading up to 01.03.25, around 180 people were flogged by the Taliban throughout the country for various offences.²³

17 March 2025

Security situation

The Torkham border crossing between Afghanistan and Pakistan remained closed as of 17.03.2025. The closure has now been in place for 24 days; there is no solution in sight as talks between the Taliban and Pakistan have stalled. In an initial round of talks held on 09.03.25, both sides had agreed to a two-day ceasefire and to halt Taliban construction of new border posts. However, Taliban forces resumed building the structures the following day, fuelling tensions. The Taliban did not turn up for a planned second round of talks with tribal elders and business representatives last week. Pakistan is making the reopening of the border dependent on the Taliban halting the construction of military facilities in the disputed area.

According to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), at least 455 civilians, including 359 children, were killed or injured in 234 accidents involving unexploded ordnance in Afghanistan in 2024.

Clashes erupted between Taliban fighters and unidentified gunmen at a Taliban base near the Kunduz-Khanabad motorway in the Khwaja Pesta region of Kunduz province. According to unconfirmed reports, several people were killed and injured.

According to media reports issued on 13.03.25, armed robbers stormed a money exchange market in Paktia province, killing two security guards and stealing an estimated USD 100,000 from three shops. On 17.03.25, an explosion occurred in the Khairkhana neighbourhood in the north of Kabul.²⁴

24 March 2025

Security situation

According to a UN report, Afghanistan experienced over 9,200 security incidents between February 2024 and February 2025, in which at least 210 civilians were killed and 429 others were injured.

According to the annual report published by the successor organisation to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), Rawadari, 544 people were killed in 2024, including 40 women and 101 children. A further 224 people, including seven women and 60 children, were injured. According to the report, the casualties were caused by targeted bombings, suicide attacks, explosive remnants of war and extrajudicial killings. Victims included former government employees and their families, tribal elders and Taliban opponents. Rawadari documented 885 detentions by the Taliban in 2024, an increase of 42 percent compared to the previous year. Among those detained were 142 former government employees (an increase of 20.3 percent) and 282 people accused of collaborating with opposition groups (double the number in 2023). The increase in arrests is attributed

to the Taliban's enforcement of the so-called Law on the Prevention of Vice and Promotion of Virtue, which was enacted in August 2024.²⁵

Governance and persecution

At a ceremony held in Kabul on 20.03.25, the Taliban opened the fourth school year as girls above sixth grade remain banned from attending school, marking the fourth consecutive year of Taliban-imposed restrictions on female education.

The Taliban Ministry of Education announced on 20.03.25 that large "jihadi" religious schools with a capacity of 1,000 students each were now operating in all 34 provinces of the country.

The Taliban's Directorate of Information and Culture in Kandahar province issued a new directive on 17.03.25 banning the broadcasting of women's voices on radio stations in the province.

More than two months after the start of the financial year, many public employees, especially teachers at public schools, state that they have still not received their salaries. The average monthly salary is around AFN 8,000 (approximately USD 110 as of 24.04.2025). At the beginning of February 2025, Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid promised via social media that all government employees would be paid by the end of the month (cf. BN of 03.02.25 and 17.02.25).

According to statistics provided by the Taliban Supreme Court, the Taliban publicly flogged at least 456 people across the country, including 60 women, in the year 1403 of the Persian Hijra solar calendar (March 2024 to March 2025).

The International Committee of the Red Cross has warned that almost 80 percent of the Afghan population – around 33 million people – do not have sufficient access to clean drinking water.²⁶

31 March 2025

Security situation

According to media reports, an explosion took place at a market in the city of Grishk in Helmand province on 21.03.25. At least 17 people were injured and hospitalised in the city of Lashkar Gah. A hand grenade is said to have been thrown and detonated due to a family dispute.²⁷

Governance and persecution

According to reports, the Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice (PVPV) enforcers are conducting nighttime patrols, detaining residents found on city streets and forcing them to perform prayers in Farah Province. It has also been reported that PVPV enforcers instructed members of the Shia community not to walk the streets at night.

Unidentified gunmen shot dead Hasan Jabar Khel, a former Interior Ministry official, in Kabul's Shakardara neighbourhood on 23.03.25.

Two Afghan LGBTIQ activists were arrested by the Taliban authorities at Kabul International Airport, according to human rights activist Nemat Sadat.

The Taliban have extended their ban on broadcasting images of living beings to media in the provinces of Badakhshan, Baghlan and Nimruz, according to the Afghanistan Journalists Centre (AFJC). The ban is currently in place in 10 provinces.²⁸

Taliban measures marking Eid al-Fitr

The last day (Eid al-Fitr, the feast of breaking the fast) of the fasting month of Ramadan fell on 30.03.25 this year. The mobile phone networks were cut by the Taliban from six o'clock in the morning in Kabul and several provinces. The Taliban's Ministry of Hajj and Religious Affairs had instructed clerics in mosques across the country to include in their sermons during Eid prayers the Eid al-Fitr message of Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, according to which security in the country had been restored by the Taliban and people should be grateful. During his own speech delivered on the occasion of the religious festival at a mosque in Kandahar province, Akhundzada warned that disobedience to his orders could lead to the collapse of Taliban rule and plunge Afghanistan back into civil war. In honour of Eid al-Fitr, 2,463 inmates were released from prisons following a decree issued by Akhundzada,

and the sentences of 3,152 people were shortened. The Taliban authorities in the Malistan district of Ghazni province forced Shia residents to break their fast early, even though the holiday had not yet been confirmed by their religious leaders. Traditionally, Sunni and Shia Muslims in Afghanistan celebrate Eid al-Fitr on different days.²⁹

07 April 2025

Security situation

The NGO “Small Arms Survey” has published a new report on the availability of arms under Taliban rule, stating that there is no evidence of massive weapons losses from the stocks of the former republic by the Taliban since it assumed power. According to the report, there has now been consolidation of control over national weapons stocks. Taliban leader Akhunzada is said to have made repeated efforts to monopolise this control and to remove it from the Taliban Ministry of Defence, headquartered in Kabul under de facto Defence Minister Mullah Yaqub, and from the “Haqqani Network” (cf. BN of 11.11.24). Despite the Taliban’s efforts to restrict arms ownership among civilians, it is said that semi-authorised trafficking in arms to allied terrorist groups (Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan, al-Qaida) is continuing. These arms are still cropping up on informal arms markets in Pakistan, such as in Pakistan’s Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province, where prices are relatively stable, and lower than in Afghanistan, despite the Pakistani government’s ongoing “Azm-e Istehkam” military operation against Islamist groups.³⁰

Governance and persecution

A large group of retired government workers once more protested outside the Taliban’s Pension Administration in Kabul on 05.04.25, demanding payment of their pensions (cf. BN of 10.06.24).

Large numbers of women reported that they were being subjected to increased street interrogations by members of the Taliban’s so-called Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue, and that the latter had increased their public presence during the Eid festival.

According to media reports issued on 01.04.25, the beheaded body of a former local police officer was found in Kandahar Province. He is said to have been previously abducted by unidentified individuals. The Taliban authorities arrested a former Afghan soldier in Nimroz Province who is originally from Dara District in Panjshir Province after he was deported from Iran. His whereabouts remain unknown since his arrest. Shah Wali Khan, a senior Jamiat-e Islami commander, was killed by persons unknown in Ghor Province following his release from Taliban intelligence custody. In Kunar Province, two persons involved in an argument between two groups of young men were shot and killed by intervening Taliban.³¹

14 April 2025

Security situation

According to local witnesses and media reports, there was an explosion on the evening of 10.04.25 in the city of Kunduz (police district 2) which is said to have been aimed at a Taliban night patrol. No information was released regarding victims or the extent of the damage. No one claimed responsibility for the crime; the de-facto Taliban government did not issue a statement on the incident.

According to media reports, twelve members of two Pakistani militant groups, the Balochistan Liberation Army (BLA) and Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), were killed in an airstrike on the city of Kandahar on 10.04.25. Five others were reportedly wounded in the explosion, including Afghan Taliban. The Aino Mina neighbourhood in question was said to be known to house leadership figures from both the BLA and the TTP. The Taliban rejected claims of the attack, and stated that old ordnance stored in a warehouse had exploded. The Taliban are said to have stepped up security measures in Kandahar Province and established checkpoints subsequent to the incident.³²

Governance and persecution

On 11.04.25, the Taliban had a total of four men executed in public by the victims’ relatives in Nimroz, Badghis and Farah provinces after they had been convicted of murder (qisas, retributive justice).

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) documented in a report published on 10.04.25 the enforcement of the morality law, which came into force in August 2024, leading to an increase in arbitrary

detentions, compliance checks and harsh penalties. 3,300 male inspectors (muhtasibin) are deployed in 28 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces. September 2024 saw committees for the implementation of the law being set up in each of these provinces, chaired by the respective provincial governor, reporting to Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhunzada every two weeks. Additional sub-committees for the monitoring of universities and mosques had also been established in some cases. Over half of all documented arbitrary detentions were related to men's non-compliant haircuts or beard length. Women and girls bear the brunt of the law's restrictions; hijab enforcement for instance surged from 13 % to 70 % in surveyed areas.

Khalid Hanafi, the vice and virtue minister, at a gathering in Kabul called non-Muslims — including Hindus and Sikhs — “worse than four-legged animals”. In a speech urging ideological training for public employees, Hanafi said that while non-Muslims might perform administrative duties, their beliefs render them “morally inferior”.³³

Humanitarian situation

According to media reports of 09.04.25, the US administration is planning to cut nearly all remaining US humanitarian aid to Afghanistan, roughly 562 million USD. The reason given was that the Taliban were allegedly holding back aid money and passing it on to affiliated terrorist groups as support. The WFP warned that this move could be catastrophic for millions facing severe hunger.

By contrast, the EU announced a 97 million EUR investment in Afghanistan's healthcare sector. The funding is to support a wide range of programmes, including mental health, drug addiction, reproductive health, maternal and child care, nutrition, non-communicable diseases, and care for landmine victims.

The WHO recently warned that 80 % of its supported health facilities could shut down by June 2025, and stated that, since March, 167 health centres had already closed across 25 provinces, leaving 1.6 million people without care.³⁴

28 April 2025

Security situation

On 14.04.25 in Masar-e Sharif, the capital of Balkh province, an explosion took place close to the Shia Seh Dokan mosque in a predominantly Hazara-populated area located in the city's second security district, killing one woman and wounding three other people.

According to local sources, a teenage boy was killed in Jaghori district in Ghazni province, and at least 12 of his relatives including several school students were detained by the Taliban, in connection with an alleged attack on an administrative building.

Armed clashes took place near a checkpoint in the village of Dobandi in Chahardara district (Kunduz province) on 14.04.25 between Taliban and unidentified armed men.

According to Taliban information of 15.04.25, at least 50 people are killed or injured every month due to unexploded ordnance.³⁵

Governance and persecution

Rashid Kashifi, a journalist living in Kabul, was detained by the Taliban on 23.04.25, according to media reports.

According to media reports of 14.04.25, the Taliban have ordered the closure of all offices of the Hezb-e-Islami party across the country, the arrest of its staff, and the confiscation of its office equipment.

In Baghlan province, according to local sources, three civilians were detained by the Taliban and mistreated for allegedly being out after dark.

On 27.04.25, the Taliban-run examination authority announced that women would be excluded from sitting university entrance exams being held in May for the fourth consecutive year.³⁶

Returnees from Pakistan and Iran

In the period from 01.04. to 16.04.25, according to Pakistani sources, 84,869 Afghan migrants, including 50,000 minors, were expelled from Pakistan. Over 5,500 Afghan nationals returned from Pakistan and Iran on one single day on 17.04.25. This corresponds to 1,072 families entering the country via the border crossings in Nangarhar, Kandahar and Herat. On 20.04.25, 175 Afghan detainees were released in Pakistan and expelled to Afghanistan; on

21.04.25, a further 115 Afghans were freed from jails and expelled. On 22.04.25, the number of Afghan nationals expelled from Pakistan since 01.04.25 passed the 100,000 mark. According to UNHCR information, roughly 120,000 Afghan migrants had returned from Pakistan in the first three weeks of April. IOM stated that roughly 100,000 Afghan nationals had returned from Pakistan in the same period. The Pakistani government has since announced that registered Afghans holding Proof of Registration Cards are also to be deported after the 30.06.25 deadline. Several hundred families are continuing to arrive back from Pakistan and Iran every day. According to UNICEF information, two-thirds of persons expelled from Pakistan are children, and many of them are becoming separated from their families.³⁷

05 May 2025

Security situation

At least 34 civilians were killed and 74 injured in strikes and attacks in Afghanistan between January and March 2025. This emerges from the latest quarterly human rights report from the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA). The report highlights that attacks carried out by armed groups – in particular Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) and the Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF) – continue to exact a high toll in terms of civilian victims, as do explosive remnants of war.³⁸

Governance and persecution

UNAMA documented six killings of former Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) members in the first three months of 2025, highlighting ongoing violence and targeting of individuals linked to the former government. UNAMA furthermore found that local Taliban authorities had forced at least 50 Ismaili men to convert to Sunni Islam between January and February 2025 in northeastern Badakhshan province.

According to media reports, Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada is said to have issued a directive to cut 20 % of civil service posts. This is said to also include military personnel. A comprehensive plan to scale down government ministries was already being implemented, according to Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's spokesman. According to anonymous sources, approximately 90,000 positions in the Taliban-run Ministry of Education are slated for elimination. Another at least 6,400 posts in the Taliban's Ministry of Public Health and 908 positions in the police department in Farah province are expected to be cut. A further 222 positions are said to have been recently removed from the administrative office of the Taliban prime minister. The Taliban is also considering further cuts to government salaries. According to media reports, these plans have raised alarm among government employees and economic experts. They warn that mass layoffs – particularly without severance or job alternatives – could exacerbate poverty in an already fragile economy. The Taliban regime has been grappling with a financial shortfall, especially following the suspension of US humanitarian aid and reduced support from other international sources (cf. BN of 03.02.25, 17.02.25 and 24.03.25). Akhundzada's directive is said to have also further intensified tensions within the Taliban.

According to media reports, Taliban leader Akhundzada has indefinitely postponed a planned "Loya Jirga", a grand assembly, due to internal disagreements among the group's top leadership. The assembly was intended to lend legitimacy to Taliban rule and provide a platform for key decisions. Senior figures within the Taliban (including Sirajuddin Haqqani and Mullah Yaqub) however reportedly objected to the planned structure of the Jirga, particularly its non-inclusive composition (cf. BN of 10.03.25).³⁹

Freedom of the press

Reporters Without Borders ranked Afghanistan 175th out of 180 countries in the recently-published World Press Freedom Index 2025. According to Amnesty International, the Taliban detained, tortured or threatened at least 336 journalists and media workers between August 2021 and September 2024.⁴⁰

Returnees from Pakistan and Iran

According to information from the UNHCR, more than 250,000 Afghans returned from Iran and Pakistan in April 2025, compounding the already dire humanitarian situation in Afghanistan. Of the total, approximately 96,000

individuals had been forcibly deported, while about 154,000 others returned voluntarily. 144,500 Afghan nationals had returned from Pakistan alone in April 2025, this being the highest monthly figure since the mass repatriation campaign began in September 2023.⁴¹

New UN roadmap for Afghanistan

The UN have drafted a proposal ('Mosaic Framework') aiming to bring about Afghanistan's reintegration into the international community. The plan outlines six key priorities for the country's future, with inclusive governance labelled as one of the most complex and time consuming. The Taliban have already rejected this demand in the UN-led consultations, and for their part have outlined three core demands: the lifting of international sanctions, the restoration of Afghanistan's diplomatic representation abroad, and access to frozen Afghan financial assets. According to media reports, UN diplomats are currently in consultations over a political framework that could lead to the handover of Afghanistan's UN seat to Suhail Shaheen, the Taliban's proposed representative. Women's rights organisations have sharply criticised the UN plan, and warn of a repeat of the failures of the USA's 2020 Doha peace talks with the Taliban.⁴²

12 May 2025

Narcotic crop cultivation eradicated by the Taliban

According to local reports, the Taliban have deployed troops to Argo district in Badakhshan province amid protests by local residents against poppy field eradication. More than 100 Taliban fighters are said to have been dispatched to Argo from Faizabad and Taloqan, where they are said to have clashed with local farmers and residents. Sources report that more than 30 people have been arrested by the Taliban.

According to media reports, Noor Agha Haidar, the Taliban's police chief in Ghor province, arrested at least 80 individuals during a recent visit to Pasaband district who were accused of having cultivated narcotic crops. The Taliban's police command in Ghor confirmed that the eradication of several poppy fields had been supervised during the visit to the district. According to local sources, those detained stated that they had been held in inhumane conditions, crammed into a small room and denied access to food and water.⁴³

Governance and persecution

As the Taliban move forward with an extensive plan to reduce the number of posts in the public service, sources inside several ministries report that women and former employees of the republic will face the greatest risk of dismissal (cf. BN of 05.05.25).

According to media reports of 11.05.25, the Taliban have dismissed hundreds of university professors, including both men and women, in Kabul, Herat and Bamiyan provinces in a sweeping and so far largely unexplained move. The Taliban have confirmed that hundreds of books have been banned and removed from libraries and bookstores across Afghanistan over the past three years. Abdulhaq Emad, head of copyright at the Taliban's ministry of information and culture, said that the content of these books was inconsistent with sharia or the Taliban's ideological principles.

According to media reports, the Taliban's general directorate of physical education and sports is said to have banned the game of chess across Afghanistan. Atal Mashwani, the authority's Taliban spokesman, stated that the decision followed concerns over the chess federation's leadership, and was furthermore based on "sharia-related considerations".

According to media reports on 06.05.25, the Taliban's morality police have detained seven people, including the groom, at a wedding party in eastern Nangarhar province for playing music. The instruments are said to have been destroyed and the detainees only freed one day later on the condition that they would not play music again.

The Taliban government has imposed a ban on the publication and broadcasting of images of living beings in local media across Panjshir province. This means that this ban now applies in 15 provinces all over the country (Kandahar, Takhar, Badghis, Helmand, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Farah, Nimruz, Badakhshan, Baghlan, Jowzjan, Zabul, Parwan, Kunduz, Bamiyan and Daykundi).

According to local sources, the Taliban have detained three journalists in Takhar province. They are reported to

have subsequently been subjected to torture while in custody at the Taliban's criminal investigation department. According to reports, around 50 schoolgirls have been poisoned and locally hospitalised in two places in Daykundi province. Several of them were said to be in critical condition. Neswan Kiti school in Kiti district and another primary school in Chah Chah village, Shahrستان district, were said to be affected. The cause of the poisoning was said to remain unclear, and local Taliban authorities have reportedly not yet commented on the incident. There had been similar incidents in various provinces in recent years. Despite calls from the UN, the USA and the EU for investigations to be carried out, these incidents remain uninvestigated by the Taliban as well as the perpetrators unidentified.

Media reports speak of a large number of recent murders committed by unknown offenders across the country. A man is said to have been shot and killed inside his home in Sheberghan, the capital of Jowzjan province, by 15 armed gunmen. No one is said to have claimed responsibility; the Taliban has not commented on the incident. This was the fourth unsolved killing reported on 09.05.25. Similar incidents are said to have already claimed the lives of three other men, including a former soldier, on the same day in Nangarhar, Nimroz, and Faryab provinces, respectively.⁴⁴

Humanitarian situation

According to media reports, Taliban authorities in Ghor province (Saharak-e-Mahajerin and Aludal in Lal district) are forcibly reclaiming half of the cash aid (one-off payments of 180 USD per family) distributed to impoverished families by the NGO "Razi Organization", citing the construction of a local road as justification.

A new report by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) reveals that from October 2024 through April 2025, nationwide precipitation levels were 40 percent below the 40-year average, major deficits of up to more than 50 % in the north and west threatening both subsistence agriculture and broader food supply chains. The snowpack across the country is also said to be critically low. The snow water equivalent (SWE) – a key indicator for future irrigation and hydropower – is reportedly 40 to 60 percent below normal in major basins. April 2025 temperatures had been 2 to 4 degrees Celsius above average, reducing soil moisture further.⁴⁵

19 May 2025

Security situation

After an explosion at a military base in Darah district (Panjshir province) on 16.05.25 which claimed 17 casualties, the Taliban have detained at least 20 residents of the nearby village of Tankhoy whom they accuse of providing support. The National Resistance Front (NRF) claimed responsibility for the attack. The Taliban have not commented on the incident.⁴⁶

Governance and persecution

The Taliban-run ministry of virtue has issued a warning that "improper" use of social media will result in legal consequences, stating that user activity was under active surveillance. Several persons were arrested soon after who were active on social media platforms, accusing them of engaging in "illegitimate" online activities. One man was detained because he had spoken with women during TikTok livestreams. In a confession video (which seems to have been forced by the Taliban), he pledges not to interact with women again, and urges women in Afghanistan and abroad not to join his live broadcasts.

The Taliban have dismissed more than 200 professors and university employees in Khost and Paktia provinces as part of a campaign to cut posts in the public service (cf. BN of 12.05.25) in response to cuts in US aid. In Khost, 120 faculty and staff members at Sheikh Zayed University were removed from their posts in a single day. Similar dismissals from university facilities are also planned in Herat, Farah, Badghis, Ghor and Nimroz provinces. At least 16 faculties at the public university are said to be affected in Herat alone. 1,080 members of the Taliban-run security forces are said to have been removed from their positions in Logar province, including 600 from the police command, 400 from the defence ministry, and 80 from intelligence units. Sources allege that the firings have been selective, sparing individuals with close ties to the Taliban leadership, whilst disproportionately affecting those without political backing or who had previously worked for the former government. Some civil servants stated that

the layoffs are evidently especially targeting women and former republic-era staff under the guise of administrative reform.

The Taliban's ministry of education announced that it had established 269 schools and nearly 23,000 Islamic education centres (madrassas) across Afghanistan over the past three years.

Taliban intelligence agents have detained a religious scholar in Helmand province because he had criticised the regime's ban on girls' education.

According to a report of 17.05.25, the Taliban have publicly flogged at least 18 people, including three women, across four provinces over the past two days.

The Taliban have banned filming and photography at the traditional Shalimar festival in Kandahar province.⁴⁷

Humanitarian situation: Consequences of US aid suspension

The United Nations have scaled back their 2025 humanitarian aid appeal for Afghanistan (Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan), reducing it from 2.42 billion USD to 1.62 billion USD, stating that they would only be able to assist 12.5 million people in urgent need instead of 16.8 million. The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) clarified that the 31 % reduction was due to a funding crisis, not a decrease in need for assistance. A significant funding gap, worsened by the recent suspension of US aid, has forced a reduction in both the scope of the plan and the number of people it can support.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) meanwhile warned that 500 of its 900 supported health clinics in Afghanistan are at risk of closure following a significant reduction in funding from the United States.⁴⁸

26 May 2025

Governance and persecution

According to media reports, on 16.05.25, Maulawi Abdul Qahir, a local cleric and well-known critic of the Taliban, delivered a sermon in the Rawza Sharif Mosque (Masar-e Sharif, Balkh province) in which he condemned the Taliban for promoting ethnic discrimination and stated that this would lead to the downfall of the regime. The speech had also been recorded on video. During the closing minutes of the sermon, Maulawi Obaidullah, head of the Taliban's local ministry of virtue in Balkh, is said to have entered the mosque courtyard accompanied by armed special unit forces and with three military vehicles. According to local sources, they are said to have attempted to arrest the cleric following the sermon, but to have been met with resistance from worshippers, who are said to have chanted "death to the Taliban" inside the mosque. The Taliban are said to have thereupon prohibited the video recording of Friday sermons in this mosque. According to media reports of 23.05.25, the Taliban are said to have also detained the minor-age son of prominent cleric and Taliban critic Mawlawi Abdul Qadir Qanit during a raid on the family's home in Kabul. Qanit himself had been arrested two days earlier from the same residence.

It was also reported from Balkh province on 21.05.25 that the Taliban governor there, Yousuf Wafa, had declared that all laws from the previous republican government had been fully abolished in the province and replaced with the Taliban's own legal framework. The announcement follows a recent statement by Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, who declared that not a single article of Afghanistan's former constitution would be accepted any longer. He further stated that a revised version of the old legal code, submitted by the ministry of justice and the supreme court, had been rejected as it did not align with the Taliban's interpretation of Islamic governance.

According to media reports of 18.05.25, Hibatullah Akhundzada has assumed direct control over Afghanistan's financial affairs and relocated the most important fiscal authority from Kabul to Kandahar. The Taliban-run ministry of finance, led by Mohammad Nasir Akhund, is reported not to have held any formal budget meetings in at least five months.

According to reports of 23.05.25, Taliban-affiliated individuals have threatened female employees of UN agencies (UNICEF, UNDP, UNAMA, UNFPA and the WHO) in Kabul with death should they continue to go to work. They are said to have been advised by their respective employers to work from home until further notice, but they had not received any further assurances regarding their personal safety.

According to media reports of 21.05.25, the de facto Taliban government is continuing to pursue its campaign of job cuts in the civil service (cf. BN of 12.05. and 19.05.25) as a consequence of the suspension of aid from the USA. It is said to have dismissed at least 300 employees from Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA), including 91 women.

Those affected also reported that they had not received their salaries for the past two months. The Taliban's ministry of agriculture, irrigation and livestock is said to have terminated 31 employees from its provincial directorate in Parwan in earlier rounds of cuts. More than 90 female staff had also been dismissed from state-run kindergartens.

The Taliban's primary court in Khidir district of Daikundi province has sentenced six teachers from the Ofuq-e Nowin educational centre to prison terms ranging from three to five months because they are said to have taught English and computer skills. Taliban intelligence in Sang Takht Wa Bandar in Daikundi arrested four instructors from another educational centre back in January 2025 for teaching these subjects to girls.⁴⁹

Humanitarian situation

The Taliban-controlled ministry of finance announced on 19.05.25 that the World Bank office in Kabul was to be reopened and would start repaying outstanding debts owed to Afghan logistics and construction companies. According to the Taliban, the World Bank owes approximately USD 50 million to several Afghan firms. The ministry described this as a "significant financial development", and stated that this step would help pave the way for resuming stalled development projects and creating jobs. The World Bank however rebutted this report as untrue. It stated that the contracts were signed between the contractors and the former republic government, so that the responsibility for paying these debts lay with that government, not with the World Bank.⁵⁰

02 June 2025

Security situation: unrest in Badakhshan province

According to recent media reports, internal clashes have erupted within the Taliban in Farghamanch village (Jurm district) in Badakhshan province. Ethnic Tajik Taliban are said to be supporting the local population – who are also predominantly Tajik – in preventing the eradication of poppy fields by Pashtun Taliban. According to reports, the unrest began on 26.05.25, when a Taliban unit which had been dispatched to destroy poppy fields clashed with armed locals. According to local eyewitnesses, poppy field owners, backed by Taliban affiliates, exchanged gunfire with the unit. Several residents and poppy field owners, supported by local Taliban members, have since taken to the surrounding mountains, establishing defensive positions against the advancing Pashtun Taliban units. Mawlawi Zaidullah, who according to a report was a militia commander and critic of the Taliban and had only recently returned from Iran, was said to have been killed by Taliban on 26.05.25, along with his wife and child, as a result of the fighting in Shahada district in Badakhshan province. This confrontation is also said to have resulted in the deaths of at least four Taliban fighters and several vehicles being set ablaze. Similar clashes had already erupted in the province in early May 2025 (cf. BN of 12.05.25).⁵¹

Governance and persecution

After China mediated in the disputes between Pakistan and the Taliban government, and Pakistani foreign minister Ishaq Dar officially visited Kabul on 19.04.25, Pakistan announced on 30.05.25 that it would be elevating the head of its diplomatic representation in Kabul from chargé d'affaires to ambassador. The Taliban announced in turn that it would also be raising the rank of their diplomatic representative in Islamabad to ambassador. The diplomatic upgrade comes ahead of a planned visit to Islamabad by Amir Khan Muttaqi, the Taliban's acting foreign minister. It would be his first official visit to Pakistan in two years. Furthermore, the UAE has accepted the credentials of Abdul Rahman Fida, a Taliban-appointed diplomat, as the Afghan Consul General in Dubai and the Northern Emirates.

Khalid Hanafi, the Taliban's minister of the so-called ministry of virtue, during an internal meeting with ministerial officials in Kabul, called for the officials to engage in an "ideological struggle" against Western thought, thus signalling a continued hardening of the Taliban's cultural and religious stance.

The Taliban's local ministry of virtue in Laghman province has announced the destruction of more than 100 musical instruments in Alingar district. According to local Taliban representatives, the instruments had been collected over the past several months from various celebratory gatherings and subsequently burned.

According to local sources, the Taliban are said to have imposed fines in Herat province on men who do not attend daily congregational prayers at local mosques.

A growing number of women who were dismissed from public institutions in Herat (cf. BN of 26.05.25) say that they have been forced to turn to working informally (in tailoring shops, bakeries and carpet workshops, amongst other places) to support their families, amid increasing economic and social pressure. According to media reports of 01.06.25, the Taliban have approved the disbursement of public employees' salaries for the months of March and April **2025**, following a three-month delay that left thousands of civil servants unpaid. Whilst some employees' salaries were paid in full, others suffered cuts in their salaries.

The Taliban have once more detained and/or sentenced two religious scholars who take a critical stance vis-à-vis their policy (cf. BN of 26.05.25). Bashir Ahmad Hanafi, a graduate of Al-Azhar University in Cairo and a well-known religious leader in Helmand province, was sentenced by a Taliban court to eight months in prison and banned from international travel for two years. Another religious scholar who was arrested in Kabul on 25.05.25 is Mawlawi Sirajuddin Nabil. The Taliban have not issued a public statement regarding the detentions.

According to a media report of 27.05.25, citing a statement released by the Taliban-run supreme court, the Taliban had publicly flogged at least 31 people, including two women, in four provinces in the preceding five days.⁵²

Returns of Afghan nationals from Iran, Pakistan and the USA

Iran has given more than four million Afghan migrants until 06.07.25 to leave the country. Nader Yar-Ahmadi, head of the Iranian interior ministry's office for foreign nationals and immigrants, said that the deadline applies to Afghans without valid residence documents or to those whose census registration papers – previously used as a temporary residence status – had expired. According to state sources, approximately 6.1 million Afghan nationals are currently in Iran, some 2 million of whom hold census documents which have expired, and another two million of whom are living in Iran illegally. It was said that Iran would no longer be accepting any new Afghan migrants. Pakistan has set 30.06.25 as the final deadline for Afghan nationals holding ACC cards (Afghan Citizen Cards) to leave the country.

The US department of homeland security has terminated the designation of temporary protected status for Afghans in the USA, effective 14.07.25, and justified this with improvements in living conditions in Afghanistan.⁵³

16 June 2025

Security situation

According to reports of 10.06.25, dozens of protesters were detained by the Taliban in Afghanistan's northern Faryab province, after they had demonstrated against the group's local police command in Dawlat Abad district. They chanted "Long Live Dostum", a reference to Abdul Rashid Dostum, the former vice president and leader of the Junbish-e Milli party. The protests had been sparked by the detention by the Taliban of several young men who were involved in a confrontation over the alleged harassment of girls during Eid celebrations in Dawlat Abad.

A Taliban spokesman confirmed on 11.06.25 an overnight clash with fighters of the Islamic State – Khorasan Province (ISIS-K) near the Marjan residential complex and an area locally known as "narcotics town" in police district 15. It was said that an ISIS-K hideout had been raided there and a cache of weapons and ammunition seized. Two members of ISIS-K were killed during the operation. Local sources said that the gunfight had lasted several hours.

A US intelligence officer however stated in US media that the compound claimed to be an ISIS-K hideout actually belonged to the Taliban's intelligence service. She asserted that the operation had been staged to appease the USA and secure counterterrorism funding.⁵⁴

Governance and persecution

According to a report of 13.06.25, the dress code introduced by the Taliban for men in schools that mandates traditional clothing, including turbans, long shirts and trousers, has discouraged many students from continuing

their education. Some students who had resisted this regulation said that they had been warned by school administrators and ultimately barred from attending classes.

The local ministry of virtue in Herat province has instructed the local traffic authority to ban women from driving, effective immediately. The letter, signed by Sheikh Muhajir, head of the directorate, claims that women are incapable of learning to drive because they have “scattered minds.”

The Taliban authorities in Khost province have ordered a ban on the publication of images of suicide victims on social media. The order also instructs local religious leaders to warn young people about the moral and religious consequences of suicide. Most suicides over the past four years had involved young people, according to local sources. Unemployment, psychological stress, family problems and drug addiction were cited as key contributing factors.

At least 31 people, including six women, were publicly flogged by the Taliban across several provinces between 31.05.25 and 07.06.25, according to figures provided by the Taliban-controlled Supreme Court.

In the lead-up to the Eid al-Adha feast, which according to the Taliban began on 07.06.25, so-called Taliban morality enforcers (muhtasib) raided barbershops in Kabul and Logar provinces, detaining young men whose hair was styled in what Taliban deemed “un-Islamic” fashion, or whose beards had been shaved. Barbershops offering such services were forcibly closed, and some barbers were also detained.

The Taliban’s supreme leader Hibatullah Akhunzada has issued a directive prohibiting members of the Taliban from using mobile phones equipped with cameras. The order was delivered during Eid al-Adha meetings with Taliban provincial governors and their senior officials.

The Taliban arrested a total of 70 Shia Hazara residents in Daikundi province’s Ashterlai district on 06.06.25 for attempting to hold Eid al-Adha prayers a day earlier than the date set by the Taliban’s Supreme Court (07.06.25).

The Taliban hosted a public gathering in Ghazni province on 01.06.25 aimed at building support among Afghanistan’s Hazara and Shia communities. Several Hazara politicians who served in the former republican government (including Ghulam Ali Wahdat, former governor of Bamiyan and Mohammad Ali Akhlaqi, a former member of parliament) publicly expressed their support for the Taliban at the event, and called on opposition figures to return to the country. A statement was released asserting that a large number of former generals, senior officials and civil servants from the previous government had attended the event. The Shia Hazara may be hoping that this will result in greater participation, as the Taliban have so far only recruited them into the public service in small numbers, and they continue to be discriminated against. The Taliban still does not recognise the Jafari school of thought (Shia jurisprudence), and has removed it from the educational system. It also bans Shia religious festivals. The event was furthermore organised by the “High Shia Commission of Afghanistan”, established by the Taliban, which according to a report had been pressured back in February 2025 into bringing around 5,000 people to an event in Kabul to demonstrate a show of support for the regime.⁵⁵

Humanitarian situation

According to media reports of 15.06.25, flash floods destroyed five entire villages in the Andarab Valley (Shurabak, Upper and Lower Mad Naj Khil, Qishlaq-e-Kalan Taghank and Darband-e-Tirgaran), after a large reservoir wall had collapsed.

Farmland, bridges and livestock had been swept away. Nearby villages such as Seyedabad, Dahyak, and Nowbahar were also reportedly severely damaged. Residents are said to have been able to reach safety in time. Taliban representatives conducted two helicopter rescue missions and distributed limited food aid.⁵⁶

Returns of Afghan nationals from Iran and Pakistan

According to the governor of Tehran province, Mohammad Sadegh Motamedia, an estimated 800,000 undocumented Afghan migrants currently living in Tehran province are considered to be in the country illegally, and thus face arrest and deportation.

The comment followed recent statements by Iran’s interior ministry spokesperson, who said that up to four million Afghan nationals (including two million whose registration documents had expired) were expected to leave Iran by 06.07.25 (cf. BN of 02.06.25). Iranian authorities have detained more than 660 undocumented persons in the southeastern city of Zahedan in this context. The operation falls under a larger government initiative known as the “Social Security Promotion Plan”, which Iranian authorities say is aimed at combating organised crime and public

disorder. According to the UNHCR, more than 632,000 Afghan migrants returned from Iran in the first five months of 2025.

Returns from Pakistan also continue unabated. Media have reported that the Pakistani interior ministry has announced plans to step up its deportation campaign as part of the “Illegal Foreigners Repatriation Program”. The ministry also issued a renewed stern warning that anyone helping illegal foreigners, for instance by employing them, providing them accommodation or conducting business with them, would face legal action.⁵⁷

23 June 2025

Security situation

According to the latest situation report by UN Secretary-General António Guterres of 11.06.25, 2,299 security incidents were recorded across Afghanistan between 01.02.25 and 30.04.25. This marks a 3 % increase compared to the same period last year. 175 thefts were documented, corresponding to a 7 % rise compared to the same period in 2024. Attacks by the Islamic State – Khorasan Province (ISIS-K) were ongoing, but despite carrying out attacks, ISIS-K and resistance groups are not managing to gain control of any territory in the country. The National Resistance Front (NRF) claimed responsibility for 56 attacks in this period, the Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF) for 16, and the Afghanistan Liberation Movement for three. Border tensions also continued between Taliban and Pakistan, including the closure of key crossings. Cross-border violence involving security forces and armed groups from both countries also claimed civilian lives.⁵⁸

Governance and persecution

Richard Bennett, the UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, presented his new report at the 59th session of the UN Human Rights Council on 16.06.25. Afghanistan was reported to be still in a deep human rights crisis. Particularly women and girls were being systematically deprived of their rights to freedom of movement, education, work, healthcare and freedom of expression, and hence effectively erased from public life. The Taliban’s transformation of the legal and justice sectors was said to be not a neutral restructuring, but to actively weaponise the legal, judicial and social order to oppress women and girls, their allies, and LGBTQ+ persons.⁵⁹

30 June 2025

Mass returns from Iran

Following the ceasefire that ended the 12-day conflict with Israel, the Iranian government has returned more than 114,000 Afghan nationals through the Islam Qala border crossing in five days. Representatives of the Taliban government in Herat province had warned of a looming humanitarian crisis, following the return of more than 30,000 Afghans from Iran in a single day. According to information from the UN, the vast majority of those returning were forcibly deported, with only a small number returning voluntarily. Some of those concerned have claimed that they were expelled despite holding valid passports and visas. The conflict with Israel has furthermore prompted both Afghan migrants and some Iranian citizens to flee into Herat in search of safety. Iran’s prosecutor general, Mohammad Movahedi-Azad, had issued a warning on 28.06.25 to foreign nationals without residency documents, and Afghan nationals in particular, calling on them to leave the country “as soon as possible”, otherwise they would face legal consequences.⁶⁰

Governance and persecution

The sitting foreign minister of the Taliban government, Amir Khan Muttaqi, stated on 25.06.25 that diplomatic relations with Türkiye were now “almost normalised”, and had been upgraded to ambassadorial level. The new ambassador is Saniullah Farahmand, a Turkmen cleric with no prior diplomatic experience. The announcement was made during a ceremony at the Afghan embassy in Ankara. This continues the trend towards the partial international diplomatic rapprochement of the Taliban government (cf. BN of 02.06.25).

When the annual university entrance exam was held on 26.06.25 across several provinces, including Herat and Badghis, female students were barred from participating for the fourth consecutive year.

According to data compiled by the exiled media outlet AmuTV on 29.06.25 from statements by the Taliban's supreme court, the Taliban have publicly flogged more than 160 people across 18 provinces, including 19 women, over the past 37 days.

A six-year-old girl has been married to a 45-year-old man in Helmand province. The ceremony took place in Marjah district, where the child's father reportedly arranged the marriage in exchange for money. The groom is already married to two women, according to local sources.

Afghan filmmaker and television director Sayed Rahim Saidi has been released after eleven months in Taliban custody. Saidi, director of Anar Media, was arrested in Kabul on 14.07.24 along with colleagues Sayed Waris Saedi and Hasib Sadat. Whilst the latter were released the following day, Saidi remained in detention, and was later sentenced to three years in prison for alleged propaganda against the Taliban.⁶¹

Humanitarian situation

Heavy flooding in Logar province in Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital, has completely destroyed 50 houses and severely damaged another 200. The floods also wiped out approximately 3,000 acres of agricultural land and orchards. Maidan Wardak and Khost provinces had also been affected.⁶²

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