



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Afghanistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Wednesday 25 October 2023

Information on the targeting of former government officials by the Taliban including in/around Herat

A report issued in October 2023 by *Human Rights Watch* notes:

“UNAMA and Human Rights Watch have documented summary executions and enforced disappearances of members of the former government’s security forces” (Human Rights Watch (11 October 2023) *Submission to the Universal Periodic Review of Afghanistan*, pp.4-5).

In October 2023 the *European Parliament* notes that:

“...the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan has documented at least 800 human rights violations, including arbitrary detentions, extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and torture, against former government officials and ANDSF members carried out by the de facto authorities...(European Parliament (5 October 2023) *Human rights situation in Afghanistan, in particular the persecution of former government officials*).

A report issued in September 2023 by the *United Nations Security Council* notes that:

“During the reporting period, UNAMA documented at least six extrajudicial killings of former government officials and members of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, at least 30 arbitrary arrests and detentions and at least 16 instances of torture and ill-treatment against such individuals” (United Nations Security Council (18 September 2023) *The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security*, p.7).

In September 2023 the *United Nations Human Rights Council* states that:

“During the reporting period UNAMA documented extrajudicial killings carried out by de facto security forces targeting former government officials and former security force members...” (United Nations Human Rights Council (11 September 2023) *Situation of human rights in Afghanistan*, p.11).

A report published in September 2023 by the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* includes a number of applicable references (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (September 2023) *The treatment of detainees in Afghanistan; Respecting human rights: a factor for trust*, pp.4-6, p.25 & p.52).

In August 2023 the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* notes that:

“UNAMA has documented at least 14 instances of enforced disappearance of former government officials and ANDSF members. On 2 October 2021, Alia Azizi, former head of the Women’s Prison in Herat province, did not return home from work and as of August 2023, her whereabouts remains unknown” (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (22 August 2023) *A barrier to securing peace: HR violations against former government officials & former armed force members*, p.7).

This document also states that:

“Following their takeover of Afghanistan on 15 August 2021, the de facto authorities announced what they termed a “general amnesty” for former officials of the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and former members of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF). In the almost two years since, senior de facto officials have repeatedly, publicly, expressed their commitment to the general amnesty, calling for it to be upheld and for breaches to be investigated and for those found responsible to be punished. During this period, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has recorded credible reports of hundreds of human rights violations – including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detentions and torture and ill-treatment – carried out by the de facto authorities against former government officials and ANDSF members” (ibid, p.1).

References

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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 Report 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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