

**Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale**

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# Briefing Notes

## Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

09 October 2023

### Afghanistan

#### Earthquake and humanitarian situation

According to information from the Taliban, at least 2,400 died as a result of an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.3 on the Richter scale and several aftershocks on 07.10.23. The epicentre was situated 35 km to the north-west of the city of Herat. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) has reported 1,023 dead and many more injured. A number of villages were completely destroyed.

Many people reportedly have no reserves for the winter, making the humanitarian situation even more precarious. In addition, more than 100,000 Afghans have been deported from Iran since July 2023. The Afghan embassy in Pakistan reported on 03.10.23 that 1,000 Afghans had been arrested in Pakistan in the previous two weeks, although many of these were registered as refugees in Pakistan. Pakistan's interior minister, Sarfraz Bugti, announced on 03.10.23 that more than one million Afghan refugees would be deported from Pakistan in November 2023 if they had failed to leave the country by then. He accused the refugees of supporting terrorism and smuggling drugs. Iran has also announced further deportations.

A rise in the number of COVID cases in Kabul was reported on 28.09.23. Eight people allegedly died of COVID in the space of one week at the Afghan Japan Hospital.

#### Security situation

Six children died in explosions of old munitions and land mines in the two northern provinces of Faryab and Jowzjan between 25.09. and 02.10.23. In all, 640 children were killed in such explosions between January 2022 and June 2023.

An exchange of fire between the Taliban and Pakistani border soldiers occurred at the Spin Boldak/Chaman border crossing point on 04.10.23. An elderly man and a 12 year-old boy were reportedly killed.

According to information from the Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF) and the National Resistance Front of Afghanistan (NRF), attacks on Taliban bases in Parwan and Kabul provinces took place on 27.09., 28.09. and 05.10.23. In response, the Taliban arrested 20 local residents near Kabul on 05.10.23.

#### Persecution

According to investigations by the Etilaat Roz newspaper, which is published by journalists in exile, 61 people were killed and 129 arrested in August and September 2023. Many of those concerned were former members of the security forces, but in the majority of cases the precise circumstances are unclear. Arrests of former members of the security forces were also reported on 03.10. and 06.10.23.

On 27.09.23 the Taliban closed down the Nasim radio station in Daykundi province. The station's director and two journalists were arrested. On the same day, the Taliban arrested Julia Parsi, a women's rights activist and founder of a library for women, together with her child in Kabul. Conflicts between Pashtunian nomads and the local population were reported from Bamyan province on 26.09., 03.10. and 04.10.23. The Taliban reportedly broke up the clashes by use of force.