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COI QUERY RESPONSE

AFGHANISTAN - INFORMATION ON ADULTERY IN AFGHANISTAN

The *BBC Monitoring South Asia* in November 2024 states that: “The Taliban officials have publicly flogged six people, including a woman, on charges of "moral corruption", "adultery" and "sodomy" in the central province of Ghor. Video shows a court.”¹

The *UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)* in November 2024 notes that: “In Jawzjan province, four women and 18 men were publicly lashed at a sports stadium for adultery, alcohol and drug-related crimes.”²

The *European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA)* in November 2024 points out that: “Corporal punishments inflicted by de facto courts for both men and women have increased under Taliban rule, including many cases related to *zina* (adultery or 'running away from home').”³

The *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)* in October 2024 mentioned that: “The de facto authorities continue to implement judicial corporal punishment in public on a regular basis, sometimes against large groups. On 2 July in Uruzgan province, Tirin Kot city, provincial de facto officials publicly flogged 18 males between 19 and 39 times each in the sports stadium. They had been convicted by the de facto Court of Appeal of theft, sodomy and adultery.”⁴

In October 2024 *Voice of America News* mentioned that: “The Taliban's top court reported earlier this week that five Afghans, including a woman, were flogged in public 39 times each in Parwan and Faryab provinces for committing acts that are considered crimes in Afghanistan, including adultery

¹ BBC Monitoring South Asia (29 November 2024) Programme summary of National Afghanistan TV news in Dari 1530 gmt 28 Nov 24

² UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (14 November 2024) Comment by UN Human Rights Office Spokesperson Jeremy Laurence on public execution in Afghanistan

³ European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) (11 November 2024) Afghanistan: Country Focus (November 2024) [Chapter 4. Treatment of: 4.4. Women and girls], p.9

⁴ United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (31 October 2024) Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: July - September 2024, p.4

and homosexuality. It stated that the individuals were also sentenced to jail terms ranging from six months to one year.”⁵

Another document from *Voice of America News* in October 2024 notes that: “Hardline Taliban authorities in Afghanistan reported Wednesday that nine people, including at least two women, were publicly flogged after being convicted of various crimes, such as adultery. Five of the punishments took place at a sports stadium in Kandahar, capital of the eponymous southern province. Local Taliban officials, judicial officers, and ordinary Afghans were among the onlookers. The Taliban's Supreme Court announced the details, saying the five individuals were found guilty of adultery, sodomy, and robbery, with each of them receiving 39 lashes and prison sentences ranging from two to seven years. It did not say whether females were among the convicts. The court separately announced that two men and two women were publicly flogged Wednesday for adultery in the northern Afghan provinces of Takhar and Samangan.”⁶

The same document further states that: “In June this year, the Islamist leaders carried out a mass lashing of 63 convicts, including 14 women, in a packed northern sports stadium for committing “immoral crimes,” such as adultery and homosexuality.”⁷

Afghan Witness (AW) in August 2024 reported that: “In March 2024, the Taliban Supreme Leader vowed in an audio message to implement the stoning of women for adultery. It is also noteworthy that in March 2023, the Taliban invalidated numerous cases of divorce that had been previously settled under the previous government, spreading fear of incrimination for adultery among female divorcees who subsequently remarried.”⁸

The *US Commission on International Religious Freedom* in August 2024 points out that: “The following month, Taliban officials publicly flogged 63 individuals, allegedly for adultery, apostasy, same-sex relations, and other actions considered to be “immoral.””⁹

The *European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE)* in July 2024 notes that: “On consideration of Afghan women as a particular social group, the CNDA drew attention to reports from UNHCR, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Afghanistan and EUAA and noted that Taliban authorities have quickly and systematically removed rights from women. The CNDA referred to decrees which limited women's access to education, work and social life and noted a UNAMA report which outlined convictions and punishment taken against women for alleged adultery, zina or running away from home.” [...]”¹⁰

The *US Department of State International Religious Freedom Report* in June 2024 mentioned that: “Media outlets reported the Taliban detained and publicly punished individuals for “moral crimes” under its interpretation of sharia, which includes adultery and drug use. Following the Taliban takeover and the so-called Taliban emir's November 2022 guidance to fully enforce sharia

⁵ Voice of America News (29 October 2024) Taliban publicly flog Afghan woman, 3 men amid UN outcry

⁶ Voice of America News (9 October 2024) Taliban publicly flog 9 Afghan men, women despite UN outcry

⁷ ibid

⁸ Afghan Witness (15 August 2024) The Erasure of Women - An overview of women's rights under the Taliban: erasure from public life, violence at home and online, p.12

⁹ US Commission on International Religious Freedom (7 August 2024) Religious Freedom under Taliban-Controlled Afghanistan, p.2

¹⁰ European Council on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) (19 July 2024) France: CNDA ruled that Afghan women should be considered as a particular social group

punishments for hudood offenses, the Taliban publicly flogged hundreds of men and women for alleged adultery, drug crimes, theft, and other offenses.”¹¹

The *Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Germany)* in June 2024 states that: “Between 28.05. and 02.06.24, the Taliban flogged more than 30 people in several provinces. The accusations included drug use, transporting alcohol and adultery.”¹²

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¹¹ US Department of State (26 June 2024), 2023 Report on International Religious Freedom: Afghanistan, p.6

¹² Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Germany) (3 June 2024) Briefing Notes 3 June 2024 - Afghanistan: Security, persecution situation

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