

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1492
Land:	Afghanistan
Kilde:	BAMF
Titel:	Briefing Notes
Udgivet:	18. september 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	4. januar 2024



Briefing Notes

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

18 September 2023

Afghanistan

Security situation

According to its own statements, the Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF) attacked a Taliban base in Laghman province, killing two Taliban and injuring four others.

Persecution situation

In Takhar province, a retired former soldier was shot dead on 11.09.23, on 12.09.23 a former commander of the pro-government militia "Popular Uprising" was also shot dead. The Taliban are accused of committing these murders. According to reports on 13.09.23, the Taliban arrested four former soldiers in Parwan province.

On 10.09.23, the Taliban arrested about 30 students at the university dormitory in Maimana, capital of Faryab province, for listening to music. They were released after one night with their heads shaved but were not allowed to re-enter the dormitory.

In Parwan province, the Taliban allegedly first tortured and then shot dead the brother of a member of the Jamiat-e Islami party on 12.09.23. In Ghazni, the Taliban allegedly shot dead a 23-year-old man at a checkpoint on 17.09.23. On 03.09. and 13.09.23, 18 employees of the Swiss aid organisation International Assistance Mission (IAM), including one US citizen, were arrested by the Taliban in Ghor province. It is reported that the Taliban accuse them of attempting to proselytise. IAM claims to have no further information on the arrests. IAM is mainly active in the health and education sectors.

According to reports on 15.09.23, the Taliban arrested two gardeners of Ahmad Shah Massoud's tomb in Panjshir province. Ahmad Shah Massoud was one of the most important so-called Mujaheddin of the 1980s and father of the leader of the National Resistance Front (NRF).

On 12.09. and 17.09.23, Taliban courts in Kandahar and Zabul provinces sentenced a total of 17 people to flogging and imprisonment for murder, extramarital affairs and theft.

Ethnic conflicts

An increase in violence against Hazaras is reported from Uruzgan province. The report is prompted by an unsolved murder committed in Joy-e Naw village, Khas district, Uruzgan province on 12.09.23. The report says that in this village alone, 14 more unsolved murders had occurred since August 2021, 400 fruit trees were reportedly destroyed and 20 houses set on fire. On 12.09. and 13.09.23, the Taliban arrested 26 people in Bamyan province related to land conflicts with Pashtun nomads.

Land conflicts between Hazaras and Pashtun nomads occur time and again and the Taliban are accused of siding with the Pashtuns.

Economic situation

After nine days, the Torkham border crossing was reopened on 15.09.23 (cf. BN of 11.09.23). Hundreds of trucks were waiting at the border. Many trucks with perishable goods had already turned back.

Bangladesh

Prison sentence for human rights activist

On 14.09.23, two prominent human rights activists were each sentenced to two years in prison and fined in Dhaka. The Dhaka Cyber Tribunal found Adilur Rahman Khan and Nasiruddin Elan guilty of spreading false information under the country's Information Technology Act. The law grants the authorities wide powers to prosecute and arrest people for matters the government deems defamatory. Directed by the convicts, the major human rights organisation Odhikar had documented excessive violence and alleged killings by security forces at a protest by the ultra-conservative group Hefazat-e-Islam in Dhaka in 2013. The sentences sparked international criticism and numerous human rights organisations called for the release of the two men. Human rights organisations such as AI recently described the charges as politically motivated. Bangladesh is due to hold parliamentary elections in early 2024.

Odhikar has been documenting human rights violations in Bangladesh since the 1990s, including extrajudicial killings by security forces and cases of enforced disappearances. An application for renewal of its registration has been pending with the authorities since 2014 which made the organisation's work very difficult. In 2022, the re-registration was finally denied.

Burkina Faso

School closures due to increasing insecurity

A quarter of Burkina Faso's schools are now closed due to increasing insecurity and terrorism, according to media reports. The number of closed schools in the country has increased by almost a third in the past year. More than one million students and more than 6,100 schools are now affected, the reports say.

According to a report published by the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), UNHCR and UNICEF on 13.09.23, almost half of the approximately 13,000 schools in Central and West Africa that have been closed due to insecurity are in Burkina Faso. According to the director of UNICEF, children who do not attend school are more likely to be subjected to forced labour, forced recruitment, sexual abuse, exploitation and gender-based violence in Burkina Faso.

Colombia

In 2022, over a third of all homicides of land and environmental rights defenders worldwide were committed in Colombia

According to the latest edition of an annual survey conducted by the NGO Global Witness, at least 177 defenders of land, territories and community goods have been killed worldwide in 2022, almost 90% of them in various countries in Latin America. The situation has worsened considerably in Colombia, in particular, against last year (2021: 31), with 60 land and environmental rights defenders killed. The country thus tops the negative ranking in 2022, ahead of Brazil (34 homicides), Mexico (31) and Honduras (14). In addition, under-reporting can be assumed with regard to the case numbers cited. In addition, environmental rights defenders are repeatedly the victims of other types of assaults or criminalisation.

DR Congo

Journalist arrested

According to media reports, the Congolese authorities arrested the journalist and correspondent of several international media, Stanis Bujakera, at Kinshasa airport on 08.09.23. The reports said that an arrest warrant had