

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	1435
Land:	Afghanistan
Kilde:	Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF)
Titel:	Briefing Notes
Udgivet:	6. marts 2023
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	25. april 2023



Briefing Notes

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

6 March 2023

Afghanistan

New report by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan

According to the report presented at the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council on 06.03.23, the human rights situation in Afghanistan has continued to deteriorate - especially for women and girls. According to the UN Special Rapporteur, the Taliban's systematic denial of the basic human rights of women and girls amounts to gender-based persecution. The International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague had announced on 31.10.22 that it would authorise the Chief Prosecutor to resume investigations in Afghanistan. On 10.12.22, the Special Rapporteur had attended the ICC launch of the "Policy Papers on the Crime of Gender Persecution" (which calls for the increased application of the 20-year-old offence of "gender persecution" as a crime against humanity under Article 7(1)(h) of the Rome Statute and appealed for relevant investigations to be launched in Afghanistan. The UN Special Rapporteur further criticised the Taliban's increasing use of hudud punishments (such as floggings, executions and amputations of hands and feet), the ousting of ethnic groups other than Pashtuns from important posts, the failure to comply with the general amnesty for former members of the government, the Taliban's lack of state protection for minorities such as Hazaras who are being persecuted by the Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), and a worrying increase in suicides among young people due to the hopeless situation.

Persecution events

In a statement issued at the 52nd session of the UN Human Rights Council, Amnesty International called on member states to end the impunity of the Taliban for the human rights violations they have committed. The Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) in exile has also said that the Taliban's human rights violations are no longer acceptable.

According to an article published by the newspaper Etilaatroz on 04.03.23, the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) said that despite the general amnesty, the Taliban continue to search for, detain and also kill former defence and security forces on a daily basis. On 02.03.23, according to a report issued by Hasht-e Subh, the Taliban shot dead a former member of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces (ANDSF) following a show trial in Paktika province. On 28.02.23, a member of the ANDSF was killed by the Taliban in Kandahar province.

The press medium KabulNow (an offshoot of Etilaatroz) reported in an article published on 23.02.23 that over 98 people (an equal number of men and women) have committed suicide since the Taliban swept to power. Most of these cases occurred in Faryab province, followed by Ghor, Kandahar, Takhar, Paktia and Bamiyan. According to media reports issued on 03.03.23, another young woman hanged herself in Faryab province. On 28.02.23, it was reported in the media, a young woman shot herself in Badghis province and on the same day a young woman hanged herself in Kunduz province.

According to an article published in the Washington Post on 04.03.23, the Taliban have annulled countless divorces filed by women (which were carried out against the will of the mostly "drug-addicted" husbands). The Taliban are accusing women who subsequently married a second time of adultery.

Security situation and government leadership

According to a press release issued on 28.02.23, the National Resistance Front (NRF) carried out an attack on the Taliban headquarters in Takhar province (Dashti Qala district). There is no information available on the number of casualties. In addition to the Afghan embassy in Tehran (Iran), the Taliban have now officially taken over the Afghan embassy in Istanbul (Türkiye) (cf. BN of 27.02.23).

Bangladesh

Huge fire at Rohingya refugee camp

On 05.03.23, a fire that raced through an overcrowded refugee camp in Cox's Bazar destroyed at least 2,000 temporary shelters and left more than 10,000 people homeless. According to UNHCR, the fire also affected hospitals and educational institutions. It took several hours for emergency forces to extinguish the fire. The cause of the fire remains unclear. No casualties were immediately reported.

Belarus

Nobel Peace Prize laureate and founder of Viasna sentenced to 10 years in prison

Nobel Peace Prize laureate Ales Bjeljazki was sentenced to 10 years in prison by the courts on 03.03.23. According to the state news agency, the court found him guilty of organised smuggling and financing actions grossly violating public order. He has been in prison since July 2021. In 2022, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize; in 1996, he founded the human rights organisation Viasna. In the course of the violent suppression of the mass protests against President Alexander Lukashenko in the summer of 2020, Viasna documented numerous human rights violations by regime forces. Human rights organisations and representatives of western governments have criticised the sentence as politically motivated.

Central African Republic

Ex-president and rebel leader Bozizé taken in by Guinea-Bissau

As reported by the media, also citing a Facebook post by Guinea-Bissau President Umaro Sissoco Embaló, on 02.03.23, Guinea Bissau agreed to take in the coordinator of the rebel alliance Coalition des patriotes pour le changement (CPC) (Coalition of Patriots for Change) and former President of the Central African Republic François Bozizé (cf. BN of 11.01.21 and 22.03.21). The reason was reportedly a request by the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC). Bozizé had previously been residing in Chad. Chad's President, Mahamat Idriss Déby, had been looking for another place of residence for Bozizé in view of the good relations he wished to maintain with his Central African counterpart Faustin-Archange Touadéra.

Colombia

Violent clashes and hostage-taking in the wake of farmers' protests against oil companies

On 02.03.23, violent clashes broke out between members of the state security forces and farmers in San Vicente del Caguán in the department of Caquetá during farmers' protests against an oil company. Two people, including a civilian, were killed. Afterwards, farmers and indigenous demonstrators took 88 hostages, including 79 members of the police and nine employees of the Emerald Energy oil company. The protesters also blocked access to an oil field. One of the reasons for the clash was the demonstrators' demand to improve the local infrastructure, among other things, by repairing the roads. On 03.03.23, President Gustavo Petro announced that all arrested persons had been released. The Prosecutor General's Office has launched investigations.