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Briefing Notes

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

31 July 2023

Afghanistan

Security situation: Taliban fighting with resistance groups

The National Resistance Front (NRF) informed that it killed six Taliban fighters in Nuristan, Laghman, Nangarhar and Kapisa provinces on 25.07. and 28.07.23.

Persecution situation

The Taliban reportedly killed a former government employee in Kunduz province and a former police commander in Laghman province on 23.07.23. On 24.07.23, a man was reportedly killed by the Taliban for failing to convince his brother, who is wanted by the Taliban, to return to Afghanistan. According to a report on 26.07.23, the director of a local radio station was arrested in Maymana, Faryab province. On 30.07.23, several government employees were detained by the Taliban in Herat for not wearing beards. On 29.07.23, a Taliban member shot and killed a man during an argument in Parwan province.

The Taliban have ordered the Shia community to refrain from hoisting religious flags and banners, setting up the usual refreshment stalls, travelling in convoys and reciting lament poems on public transport during the Islamic New Year month of Muharram. The Shia observe Muharram as a month of mourning because on the tenth day, Ashura, the third Imam for them, Hussein, fell in the battle of Karbala. On Ashura (27.07./28.07.23), the Taliban cut telecommunications and internet connections in several cities. On 28.07.23, the Taliban broke up a gathering in Ghazni using water cannons, beatings and gunshots. At least two people (four, according to other reports) died and many others were injured.

Governance

On 26.07.23, the Taliban closed down all of the approximately 12,000 beauty salons (cf. BN of 10.07.23), leaving some 60,000 women unemployed nationwide.

According to a report of 26.07.23, a high-ranking Taliban announced that ties are Christian symbols (crosses) and should therefore not be worn in Afghanistan.

Humanitarian situation

According to reports of 24.07.23, the UN World Food Programme must exclude eight million Afghans affected by hunger from humanitarian support due to a lack of funds.

Nearly 50 people have died in severe flooding in several provinces, according to a report on 25.07.23.