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Briefing Notes

Group 62 – Information Centre for Asylum and Migration

28 August 2023

Afghanistan

Security situation

The National Resistance Front (NRF) says it killed one Taliban fighter and injured two others in Parwan province on 25.08.23. The Afghanistan Freedom Front (AFF) informed that it killed three Taliban fighters and injured seven others in Laghman and Kandahar provinces on 27.08.23.

Persecution situation

On 22.08.23, the United Nations Assistance Mission Afghanistan (UNAMA) published its report on the persecution of members of the former government by the Taliban. In the period from 15.08.21 to 30.06.23, UNAMA documented at least 800 cases of human rights violations, including extra-judicial killings (218), arbitrary arrests and detentions (424), torture and ill-treatment (144) as well as enforced disappearances (14) linked to the former government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and its security forces. The media are reporting more incidents all the time. On 23.08.23, residents of Kandahar province alleged that certain local Taliban leaders are operating private prisons where they are reportedly holding former officials and military personnel of the former republic. According to news reports on 22.08.23, a military official of the former government was arrested by the Taliban in Parwan province. According to media reports on 23.08.23, a young man from Panjshir who wanted to leave for Iran was detained by the Taliban in Herat province. He died after 22 days in detention from the torture he had been subjected to. On 27.08.23, the Taliban allegedly fired on a motorcade of a wedding in Laghman province because loud music was being played. One student was reportedly killed.

Further restrictions for women

On 24.08.23, the Taliban stopped about 100 women who had received a scholarship to study in Dubai and wanted to travel there in a chartered plane from leaving the country. Some of the women had the male escort demanded by the Taliban with them. On 26.08.23, the Taliban-appointed Minister of Virtue, Mohammad Khaled Hanafi, declared that women were forbidden to visit the Band-e Amir chain of lakes in Bamyan province, which is very popular as a holiday destination.

Algeria

Prison sentences sought for journalists

As announced on 23.08.23, two journalists are facing three-year prison sentences each. Mustapha Bendjemaa, editor-in-chief of the private newspaper Le Provincial based in Annaba, had been arrested in mid-February 2023, as had Raouf Farrah, an Algerian-Canadian researcher and analyst for the Global Initiative against Transnational Organised Crime (GI-TOC).