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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. All COI Query Responses re compiled in line with the Common EU Guidelines (2008) and the EUAA Methodology (2023). This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to international protection. Please refer to all documents cited.

COI QUERY RESPONSE

AFGHANISTAN – FORMER GOVERNMENT WORKERS

A report published in July 2025 by the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan/United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights* comments on: “...reports of human rights violations – including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests and detentions and torture and ill-treatment – carried out by the de facto authorities against former government officials...”¹

This document also states that: “The population groups at particular risk of reprisals and human rights violations by the de facto authorities include: women and girls, individuals affiliated with the former government and its security forces, media workers and civil society.”²

In July 2025 the *Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* states that: “...former civil servants or employees of the previous Afghan Government...are particularly vulnerable to reprisals and torture by the de facto authorities upon their Return.”³

In July 2025 the *Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect* notes that: “The Taliban appears to be targeting journalists, civil servants, human rights defenders and former government affiliates on a widespread and systematic basis. Targeted attacks are largely unreported due to the Taliban’s crackdown on independent media and a closed civic space.”⁴

¹ United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan/United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (24 July 2025) No safe haven: Human rights risks faced by persons involuntarily returned to Afghanistan, p.9

² *ibid*, p.19

³ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (18 July 2025) Afghanistan: Returns of Afghans creating multi-layered human rights crisis

⁴ Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (15 July 2025) Afghanistan, p.3

Rawadari in June 2025 includes commentary on: “...former government employees and individuals accused of ties to armed anti-Taliban groups, all targeted by the Taliban's arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances.”⁵

The *United Nations Security Council* in June 2025 points out that: “During the reporting period, UNAMA documented at least four killings and 10 arbitrary arrests and detentions of former government officials and former members of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces.”⁶

In May 2025 the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* states that: “Between 1 January and 31 March, UNAMA Human Rights documented at least 23 instances of arbitrary arrest and detention and at least five instances of torture and ill-treatment of former government officials and former ANDSF members, in addition to at least six killings of former ANDSF members.”⁷

In March 2025 *Human Rights Watch* states that: “Among those most at risk are people affiliated with the former Afghan government's security forces. Human Rights Watch and the UN have documented extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, arbitrary arrests and detention, and torture and other ill-treatment of people affiliated with the former government's military and police forces, some of whom had returned to Afghanistan after first seeking refuge in Pakistan.”⁸

In March 2025 the Office of the *United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights* points out that: “Despite the announcement of a “general amnesty”, former civil servants and security force officials have been targeted with reprisals.”⁹

In February 2025 the *United Nations Human Rights Council* points out that: “Former government officials and security personnel continue to suffer retaliation.”¹⁰

Khaama Press in January 2025 states that: “Since the Taliban's takeover, reprisal killings have been on the rise despite the regime's declared general amnesty. Former government officials, police officers, and military personnel have increasingly become targets, raising concerns about lawlessness and unaddressed security threats in Afghanistan.”¹¹

A report issued in April 2025 by *Amnesty International* reviewing events of the preceding year notes that: “The Taliban continued using arbitrary arrests, enforced disappearances and unlawful

⁵ *Rawadari* (25 June 2025) *Torture and Ill-Treatment: The State of Prisons in Taliban-Controlled Afghanistan*, p.13

⁶ *United Nations Security Council* (11 June 2025) *The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security*, p.7

⁷ *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* (1 May 2025) *Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: January – March 2025 update*, p.6

⁸ *Human Rights Watch* (19 March 2025) *Pakistan: Forced Returns Expose Afghans to Persecution, Destitution*, p.2

⁹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (12 March 2025) *Study on the so-called “Law on the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice”*: Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan, Richard Bennett, p.4

¹⁰ *United Nations Human Rights Council* (20 February 2025) *Situation of human rights in Afghanistan; Report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan*, Richard Bennett [A/HRC/58/80], p.2

¹¹ *Khaama Press* (29 January 2025) *Two arrested for killing 10 family members in Khost, Afghanistan*

detention against people perceived as political opponents...[which] included former government employees...”¹²

Rawadari in March 2025 issued a report commenting on events of 2024 which included stating that: “Victims of targeted, mysterious, and extrajudicial killings include former government employees (both military and civilian), supporters of the previous government, tribal elders, individuals accused of collaborating with or being members of Taliban's opposition groups, and those with past personal conflicts with the Taliban or their family members.”¹³

A report issued in November 2024 by the *European Union Agency for Asylum* includes selected profiles of those potentially at risk¹⁴

Also referenced and attached below is a report issued by the *United Kingdom Home Office* in August 2024 on those that fear the Taliban¹⁵

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¹² Amnesty International (28 April 2025) *The State of the World's Human Rights - Amnesty International Report 2024/25: Afghanistan*, p.4

¹³ Rawadari (20 March 2025) *Afghanistan Human Rights Situation Report 2024*, p.7

¹⁴ European Union Agency for Asylum (November 2024) *Afghanistan – Country Focus*, pp.84-140

¹⁵ United Kingdom Home Office (August 2024) *Country Policy and Information Note, Afghanistan: Fear of the Taliban*

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