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Afghanistan: COI Repository

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Purpose of this document

This document is a collection of Country of Origin Information (COI) jointly compiled by Asylos and Clifford Chance law firm, quality reviewed by ARC Foundation and Asylos. Its purpose is to pre-empt COI needs that will arise as Afghans who have fled the current situation will make claims for international protection.

This is a living document intended to collect a) information on sources that are (still) reporting on the situation in Afghanistan and b) to collect relevant source excerpts. As we compile this document, the situation in Afghanistan changes rapidly. We will publish an updated version of this document on a weekly basis from September 2021 onwards.

Research themes for this report are devised in consultation with UK asylum lawyers and with regards to relevant UK Home Office guidance on similar situations (notably Somalia and Al-Shabab).

Disclaimer

The *COI Repository* is intended as background reference material for legal representatives and those assisting asylum seekers from Afghanistan, to assist in their preparation of the case. The *COI Repository* should be used as a tool to help identify relevant COI. The information cited in the repository can be considered by decision makers in assessing asylum applications and appeals. Legal representatives are welcome to submit relevant excerpts cited in this document for their specific case to decision makers (including judges) to assist in the determination of an asylum claim or appeal. **However, this document should not be submitted directly, in its entirety or in isolation as evidence to decision-makers in asylum applications or appeals.**

The information cited in this document is illustrative, but not exhaustive of the information available in the public domain, nor is it determinative of any individual human rights or asylum claim. Submissions should always be complemented by case-specific COI research.

While we strive to be as comprehensive as possible, no amount of research can ever provide an exhaustive picture of the situation. It is therefore important to note that the absence of information should not be taken as evidence that an issue, incident or violation does not exist.

We are COI research experts and adhere to strict research principles of providing relevant, objective, transparent, timely and reliable sources material. We therefore include all discoverable relevant information, whether or not supportive of any human rights or asylum claim. **It is therefore imperative that legal representatives and those assisting asylum seekers read the whole *COI Repository* and submit only relevant excerpts cited in this document for their specific case in addition to conducting their own case-specific COI research.**

Due to the rapid unfolding of events in Afghanistan and the increased media interest during August 2021, as well as internal organisational matters, it was agreed that research would only start on 1st September 2021. Therefore, sources published in August 2021 have not been included.

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New weekly additions are highlighted in green throughout the document.

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SECTION 1 - COI RESEARCH COLLECTION

This section is a collection of relevant COI excerpts, organised by research topic.

Control of Territory and security situation

What territory in Afghanistan do the Taliban control?

Al Jazeera, [In Pakistan's Borderlands, Taliban quietly expanding influence](#), 8 December 2021

"Since January, at least 69 people have been killed in 37 attacks across South and North Waziristan districts, according to data from the South Asia Terrorism Portal (SATP).

The attacks have included targeted killings of anti-Taliban civilians, extortion-related killings, checkpoint raids and numerous improvised explosive device (IED) attacks targeting security forces, who account for 84 percent of all reported casualties in these areas.

"Shocks were felt in Pakistan due to evolving situation in Afghanistan," said the source. "However, this scenario was short-lived as Pakistan's security forces remain ready to deal with any internal [or] external threats." [...]

In [] North Waziristan, the security situation appears to be even worse.

"After the collapse of Kabul, they have gotten internal strength and confidence, and they have come onto the front foot," says Mohsin Dawar, North Waziristan's sole member of Pakistan's lower house of parliament, who travels often to the district. [...]

"For normal people, their lives are completely at a standstill," says one resident, who requested anonymity fearing reprisals. "They are very distressed, because they can't say anything to the army or to the Taliban.

"People are afraid."

Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [ICC judges ask UN for help identifying who represents Afghanistan](#), 8 October 2021

"The International Criminal Court on Friday said it cannot rule on a prosecutor's request to resume a war crimes investigation of Afghanistan until it can decide who represents the country in international bodies. The judges asked U.N. Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the ICC's governing body for help identifying which group officially rules Afghanistan from an international law standpoint. It asked for a response by Nov. 8."

RUSI, [Afghanistan: A Safe Haven for Global Jihadism Once More?](#), 20 September 2021

"The Taliban's leadership still seems to want to proceed with its policy of confining foreign jihadists in 'reserves' where their movements can be controlled. Taliban sources in Badakhshan say that just days ago the Central Asian jihadists clustered near Jurm were told to get ready to be transferred to their assigned areas and registered. The possibility of taking away their weapons was also raised, to their dismay.

Still, the pro-jihadist lobby has fairly good hopes of prevailing in Kabul. The Haqqani network has a powerful presence in the cabinet, with four ministerial posts – including the minister of the interior – and has obvious influence on government activities due to its control over Kabul. In any case, Al-Qa'ida is not trusting its fate to the uncertain outcome of power struggles in Kabul and has been preparing back-up options in case its allies within the Taliban lose out. In recent months it has encouraged the TTP to move to the Loya Paktia region, under the protection of the Haqqani network. Now old members of Al-Qa'ida are moving from Waziristan to the Afghan province of Paktia, local sources say, a further sign that it might be seeking to turn the area into its new safe haven."

TOLO News, [Taliban Says Panjshir is Captured, Resistance Claims War Not Over](#), 10 September 2021

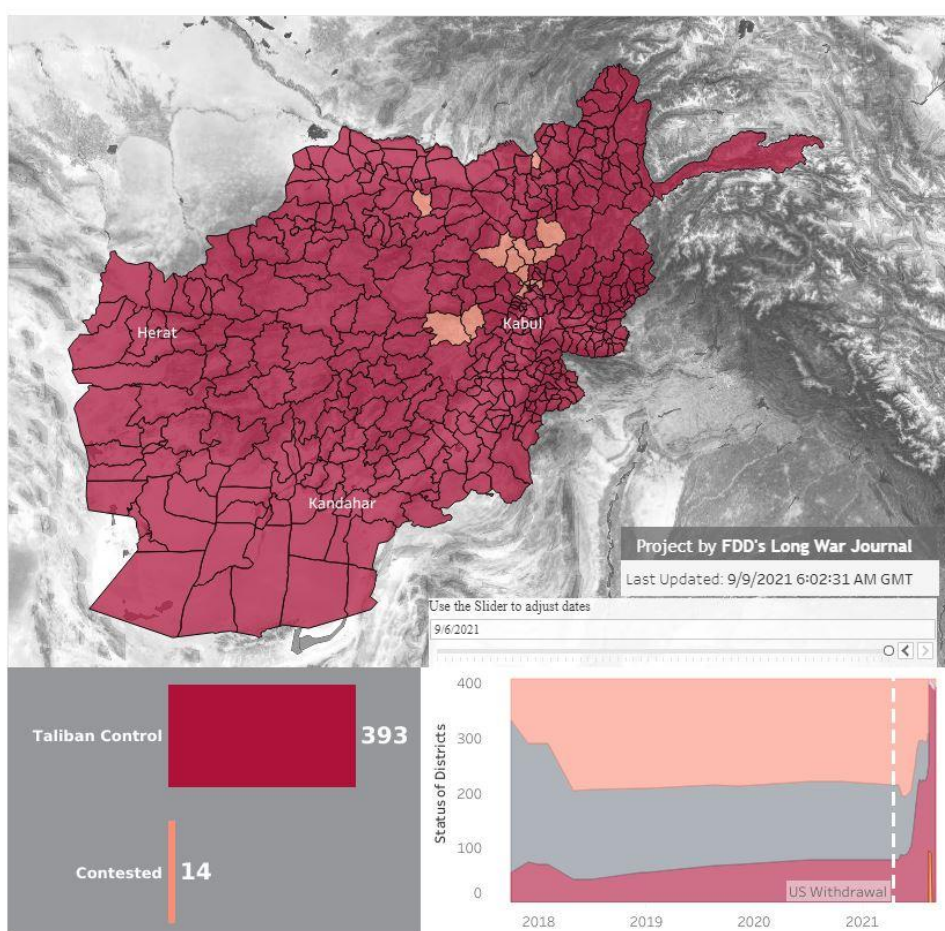
This COI Repository is intended as background reference material to assist in case preparation. It should not be submitted directly, in its entirety or in isolation as evidence to decision-makers in asylum applications or appeals.

"The Taliban said they are in control of Panjshir and the resistance forces are hiding in "valleys and caves." Fives days after all districts of Panjshir and the provincial center were captured by the Taliban, a commander of the Resistance Front on Friday in a recorded video message said the Taliban's presence in Panjshir does not mean the end of the war."

FDD's Long War Journal, [Taliban completes conquest of Afghanistan after seizing Panjshir | FDD's Long War Journal](#), 6 September 2021

"The Taliban completed its military conquest of Afghanistan and took control of the mountainous province of Panjshir after seven days of heavy fighting. The fall of Panjshir puts the Taliban in full control of the country and eliminates the final vestige of organized resistance to its rule."

FDD's Long War Journal, [Mapping Taliban Control in Afghanistan | FDD's Long War Journal](#), 9 September 2021



UNAMA, [Report of the Secretary-General: The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security](#), 8 September 2021

"The situation in Afghanistan remained highly fluid, after a Taliban military offensive took control of provincial

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capitals and Kabul. The departure of President Ghani and entry of Taliban forces into the capital on 15 August saw the de facto disintegration of the Government. [...]

4. The Taliban extensively expanded its territorial control in a military campaign in which it seized 33 out of 34 of the provincial capitals within a 10-day period in August. Following the Taliban forces' entry into Kabul on 15 August, President Ghani left the country, stating via social media that his aim had been to prevent bloodshed. On 15 August, Taliban deputy leader and head of the Political Commission, Mullah Baradar, issued a video announcing the group's "unexpected" victory. [...]

16. Insecurity in Afghanistan steadily increased during the reporting period as the Taliban initiated a large-scale offensive amid the withdrawal of the remaining international military forces. As at 18 August, they controlled all of Afghanistan, except Panjshir Province."

FDD's Long War Journal, [National Resistance Front repels multi-day Taliban assault on Panjshir](#), 2 September 2021

"After weeks of fruitless negotiations between the Taliban's political leadership and senior leaders of the National Resistance Front in Panjshir, the Taliban launched a multi-pronged attack on the Panjshir Valley beginning on Aug. 31. The Taliban timed the assault on Panjshir for immediately after the U.S. military pulled out of Kabul airport and ended efforts to evacuate American citizens and Afghan allies.

To this point, the National Resistance Front has mostly successfully warded off the Taliban by virtue of easily defended positions in the mountainous region, inflicting heavy Taliban casualties along the way."

Where do actors other than the Taliban exert influence?

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA) Muttaqi, [Afghanistan Seeks Good Relations With World](#), 11 January 2022

"Acting Foreign Minister Amir Kahn Muttaqi said that the new government is exercising power over the whole country, and the Islamic Emirate-led government will not pose a threat to any country in the world. He said that the political isolation of Afghanistan is not in the interest of anyone."

RUSI, [The Taliban's Homemade Counterinsurgency](#), 4 January 2022

"Another reason for the Taliban not to hurry in mobilising resources for a massive campaign against IS-K bases in the east has to do with the value that the IS-K threat represents for the Emirate: the Taliban argue to their neighbours that they are the only defence against IS-K, and hence deserve to be supported adequately. A successful campaign against IS-K would undermine that argument.

As a result, instead of mounting a determined strike against IS-K's 'centre of gravity' in the east, the Taliban have been battling it, mostly in the rural areas of Nangarhar – where IS-K has been particularly active – and in the cities affected by the group's campaign of terrorist attacks, primarily Kabul and Jalalabad. Information about the repression unleashed by the Taliban is sketchy. In Nangarhar in particular and, during September, in Kunar, the Taliban seem to have been rather indiscriminate in their repression. In Kunar, the governor appointed by the Emirate went as far as closing down all Salafi mosques and madrasas, causing a major backlash. The Taliban's leadership had to replace him and rescind his orders, and the repression seems to have become less indiscriminate since. In Nangarhar, there are claims that Taliban death squads are executing IS-K suspects without trials and on the basis of little, if any, evidence. To be sure, a lot of unclaimed killings of Salafis have been taking place, although the pace has slowed down in recent weeks."

Gandhara, [Two Killed, Four Wounded After Bombs Hit Kabul Shi'ite Neighborhood](#), 10 December, 2021

"The Taliban says two separate bomb explosions in a predominately Shi'ite neighborhood of the Afghan capital claimed the lives of two civilians and wounded four others.

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Two were killed and three others wounded when a car bomb exploded in the Dasht-e Barchi area of western Kabul, the Taliban's Interior Ministry spokesman, Sayed Khosti, told RFE/RL on December 10.

A woman sustained injuries in another bomb blast in the same area, Khosti added.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blasts, which followed similar attacks in Kabul claimed by the local affiliate of the Islamic State extremist group, the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K).

Twin bombings in Dasht-e Barchi on November 17 that killed or wounded a total of seven people were claimed by IS-K.

IS-K is an enemy of the Taliban, which came back to power after toppling the Western-backed government in Kabul in mid-August.

Afghanistan's Shi'ite Hazara minority has been the target of repeated attacks by IS-K militants.

Hazara represent Afghanistan's third-largest ethnic group. They have faced long-term discrimination and persecution in predominantly Sunni Afghanistan."

DW, [Afghanistan: Deadly bomb blast in Shiite neighborhood in Kabul](#), 17 November 2021

"A bomb blast killed at least one person in a neighborhood of Kabul populated largely by people from the Hazara Shiite minority on Wednesday, the Taliban confirmed.

The explosion happened in the Dast-e-Barchi district. One civilian was killed and six were injured, Interior Ministry spokesperson Qari Sayeed Khosty said on Twitter. Other witnesses reported more casualties. [...]

The so-called Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) militant group claimed responsibility for the attack."

KHAAMA PRESS, [Taliban arrests 11 Daesh suspects in central Daikundi province](#), 16 November 2021

"Provincial officials in central Daikundi province said that their intelligence personnel arrested 11 people who are suspected to be ISIS-K affiliates.

The officials said that the suspects are from Helmand, Ghazni, and Urozgan provinces but added that further investigations have been started.

The Taliban have also seized weapons with the suspects.

It comes a day after the Taliban fighters in large-scale operations in four districts of Kandahar province arrested ten ISIS-K affiliates and killed three more.

Provincial officials of Kandahar province said that four hideouts of the terror group have been eliminated in the province.

Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan branch (ISIS-K) is now the only terror group that operates against the Taliban in Afghanistan and inflicts casualties on civilians people mainly the Shi 'ite Muslims."

[The Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) published on 15th November 2021 a [Brief compilation on recent developments and key actors in Afghanistan](#), which you may wish to consult. The compilation covers: *Developments in 2021, The Taliban, Taliban-associated groups (Haqqani Network; Al Qaeda); Islamic State - Khorasan Province; National Resistance Front (NRF)*]

KHAAMA PRESS, [Taliban conducts large-scale operations against ISIS-K in Kandahar province](#), 15 November 2021

"Provincial officials in southern Kandahar province said that the Taliban officials conducted large-scale operations against ISIS-K fighters in four districts of Kandahar province on Monday night, November 14.

It is the first time that the Taliban launched operations against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan branch in Kandahar province.

Local residents have said that the operations started Monday midnight and continued until early morning the following day and claimed that three civilians have also been killed during the operations.

Taliban's provincial officials in Kandahar said that they killed three ISIS-K affiliates and arrested ten more but did

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not say anything about civilians.

In the meantime, it is rumored that an ISIS-K affiliate has blown his explosives in a room that killed the affiliate.

The provincial officials and interior ministry have not said anything about the casualties of the Taliban fighters.

The ISIS-K has recently escalated their attacks in Afghanistan and has lately claimed responsibility for a deadly attack on Saturday in Kabul that left three killed and six wounded."

Al Jazeera (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan: Taliban leader warns of infiltrators](#), 4 November 2021

"The supreme leader of the Taliban, Haibatullah Akhunzada, has warned the group that there may be "unknown" entities among their ranks who are "working against the will of the government."

Lawfare, [The Taliban Haven't Changed, But U.S. Policy Must](#), 31 October 2021

"When it comes to IS-K, the notion that the Taliban will be able to provide anything more than short-term, tactical gains against the group is optimistic. Although the Taliban may succeed in rooting out some IS-K cells in the next few months, the history and current trajectory of the Islamic State-Taliban rivalry suggests that a much longer, protracted war between the two organizations is likely if the Taliban are left alone to manage IS-K. Civilians will bear the brunt of the costs. Boosted by thousands of jailbroke fighters, new leadership, and a revamped messaging campaign that paints the Taliban as illegitimate puppets of the United States and the international community, IS-K recently embarked on a lethal campaign of attacks in its former stronghold of Nangarhar province to challenge Taliban rule. With likely support from Salafist sympathizers, veteran jihadists, younger Afghans and others, IS-K has already begun to implement the same method of insurgency as its namesake in Iraq and Syria, including the assassination of prominent members of the "moderate middle" in IS-K's target recruiting pool in order to weaken its opponents."

EurAsia.net, [Event | Russia looks to Taliban to contain Islamic State in Afghanistan](#), 28 October 2021

"Moscow seems willing to tolerate Taliban rights abuses, if the movement can get the job done."

AVA Press, [ISIS unable to threaten region, Taliban are way stronger: Taliban's minister](#), 27 October 2021

"Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has assured the region not to be threatened by ISIS-K from their soil and said that their fighters are way stronger and serious when it comes to suppressing the group.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_Afghanistan's acting minister of information and culture Khairullah said that they will eliminate not only -K but any group who wants to insecure the region.

On the other hand, US undersecretary of defense said that they suspect the ability of the Taliban in suppressing ISIS-K and .

Colin Kahl has said that the Taliban have relations with the Al Qaida terror group and that will make it difficult for the former to fight against the group.

Our intelligence assessment indicates that ISIS and Al Qaida are willing to conduct operations abroad including in the US. The assessments show that ISIS-K will be able to do so in six months while Al Qaida will gain the ability in upcoming 12 or 24 months." Said Kahl.

The concerns over the appearance of ISIS-K come after the group conducted bloody attacks in Kandahar and Kunduz province that inflicted casualties to Shite worshippers."

Gandhara News, [Taliban Wages Deadly Crackdown On Afghan Salafists As War With IS-K Intensifies](#), 22 October 2021

"Since seizing power, the militant group has waged a deadly crackdown on Salafists, who accuse the Taliban of detaining and killing members of the community. They also allege that the Taliban has raided and closed down dozens of their mosques and madrasahs, or religious seminaries.

The Taliban's clampdown on Salafists has coincided with its escalating war with rival Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K) militants, many of whom are Salafists. There are believed to be several hundred thousand Salafists in Afghanistan,

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mainly concentrated in the eastern provinces Fof Nangarhar, Kunar, and Nuristan.

Salafists like Hakimullah say civilian members of the community are caught in the middle of the intensifying conflict between the two groups in eastern Afghanistan, an IS-K stronghold.”

The Khaama Press News Agency, [Taliban underrate Daesh, do not call it danger in Afghanistan](#), 17 October 2021

“Afghanistan’s acting foreign minister Amir Khan Motaqi during his visit to Turkey said that ISIS-K (Daesh) is not a threat in Afghanistan and the group does not have training centers in the country.”

Al Jazeera (Afghanistan), [Will Afghanistan’s powerful neighbours engage the Taliban?](#), 16 October 2021

“The withdrawal of US and NATO forces from Afghanistan is inevitably leaving a political vacuum in South and Central Asia. The question that many are asking is who will step in to fill it. Afghanistan’s immediate neighbours – Pakistan, Iran and China – all have special interests in the country that they are likely to pursue with renewed vigour.”

Afghan Voice Agency, [Blasts Hit Mosque in Kandahar, 32 Killed](#), 16 October 2021

“A bombing attack occurred at Imam Bargah Fatimeyah mosque in the southern province of Kandahar on Friday.”

Al Jazeera (Afghanistan), [Deadly explosion hits Shia mosque in Afghanistan’s Kandahar](#), 15 October 2021

“ISIS-K claims responsibility for attack that killed at least 47 people inside a mosque in southern city during Friday prayers.”

[The Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) published on 5th October 2021 a [Brief compilation on recent developments and key actors in Afghanistan](#), which you may wish to consult. The compilation covers: *Developments in 2021, The Taliban, Taliban-associated groups (Haqqani Network; Al Qaeda); Islamic State - Khorasan Province; National Resistance Front (NRF)*]

Ariana News, [IEA says Daesh is not a threat to Afghanistan’s security](#), 3 October 2021

“MoI officials also said that Daesh claims responsibility for attacks in Afghanistan that are carried out by criminals.

“Daesh is not a serious threat to Afghanistan’s security, and they (Daesh) are not able to threaten Afghanistan’s security,” said Saeed Khosti, spokesman for the MoI.

Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) officials say that Daesh has no active presence in the country and falsely claim responsibility for attacks.[...]

This comes after IEA forces raided a Daesh (ISIS-K) hideout north of Kabul on Friday, killing and arresting an unspecified number of militants, an IEA spokesman said.

IEA spokesman Bilal Karimi told The Associated Press that Friday’s raid took place in the city of Charikar in Parwan province. He did not provide more details.

The raid followed an arrest by the IEA of two Daesh members linked to a roadside bombing that targeted an IEA vehicle in the city on Friday, wounding four members. The two were questioned and the information they provided helped the IEA identify the hideout, Karimi said.”

The Guardian, [Civilians killed in deadliest Kabul attack since US withdrawal](#), 3 October 2021

“IS militants have stepped up attacks against the Taliban since their mid-August takeover, signalling a widening conflict between them. IS maintains a strong presence in the eastern province of Nangarhar, where it has claimed responsibility for several killings in the provincial capital of Jalalabad. [...]

Attacks in Kabul have so far been rare, but in recent weeks IS has shown signs it is expanding its footprint beyond

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the east and closer toward the capital. On Friday Taliban fighters raided an IS hideout just north of Kabul in Parwan province. The raid came after an IS roadside bomb wounded four Taliban fighters in the area.”

Long War Journal, [Testimony: The Biden’s Administration policy in Afghanistan](#), 30 September 2021

“Al-Qaeda retained a significant footprint in Afghanistan throughout the war. At *FDD’s Long War Journal*, my colleague Bill Roggio and I have documented this footprint for more than a dozen years. Other sources have recently recognized al-Qaeda’s current network inside the country. For example, a team of experts working for the UN Security Council reported earlier this year that al-Qaeda has an active presence in at least 15 of Afghanistan’s 34 provinces.² This assessment is broadly consistent with al-Qaeda’s own reporting, via its Arabic newsletter *Thabat*, as well as with reporting by other sources.³ The U.S. Treasury Department warned in January that al-Qaeda has been “gaining strength in Afghanistan while continuing to operate with the Taliban under the Taliban’s protection.” Al-Qaeda has a “network of mentors and advisers who are embedded with the Taliban, providing advice, guidance, and financial support.”⁴ Much of al-Qaeda’s focus inside Afghanistan has been on winning the war. Now that the war has been won, al-Qaeda’s personnel in Afghanistan will have the resources to devote to other missions, both throughout the region and globally. [...]

ISKP continues to pose a threat throughout the region. ISKP’s network extends into Pakistan, where it has conducted a string of attacks. The group has also demonstrated some capability to strike in the Central Asian nations. In July 2018, a team of Islamic State terrorists ran over American and European cyclists in Tajikistan, killing four people.⁵ ISKP has also recruited members from throughout Central Asia who could potentially return to their home countries to conduct attacks.

ISKP poses some degree of threat outside of Central and South Asia as well. In the summer of 2016, three men allegedly conspired to carry out terrorist attacks in New York City on behalf of the Islamic State.⁶ American investigators discovered that the trio had at least some contact with ISKP’s jihadists. In April 2020, German authorities broke up a cell of four Tajik nationals who were allegedly preparing to attack U.S. and NATO military facilities.⁷ Given ISKP’s open hostility to the United States, as demonstrated by the August 26 suicide bombing outside the airport in Kabul, military and intelligence officials will have to continue monitoring the group.

2 U.N. Security Council, “Twelfth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2557 (2020) concerning the Taliban and other associated individuals and entities constituting a threat to the peace stability and security of Afghanistan,” April 28, 2021, page 12. (<https://www.undocs.org/pdf?symbol=en/S/2021/486>)

3 Bill Roggio, “Analysis: Al Qaeda continues to operate throughout Afghanistan,” *FDD’s Long War Journal*, April 8, 2021. (<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2021/04/analysis-al-qaeda-continues-to-operate-throughout-afghanistan.php>)

4 U.S. Department of the Treasury, Memorandum for Department of Defense Lead Inspector General, “Operation Inherent Resolve - Summary of Work Performed by the Department of the Treasury Related to Terrorist Financing, ISIS, and Anti-Money Laundering for First Quarter Fiscal Year 2021,” January 4, 2021. (<https://oig.treasury.gov/sites/oig/files/2021-01/OIG-CA-21-012.pdf>)

5 Thomas Joscelyn, “Assailants in Tajikistan swore allegiance to Baghdadi before attack,” *FDD’s Long War Journal*, July 31, 2018. (<https://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2018/07/assailants-in-tajikistan-swore-allegiance-to-baghdadi-before-attack.php>)

6 U.S. Department of Justice, Press Release, “Charges Unsealed Against Three Men for Plotting to Carry out Terrorist Attacks in New York City for ISIS in the Summer of 2016,” October 6, 2017.

(<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/charges-unsealed-against-three-men-plotting-carry-out-terrorist-attacks-new-york-city-isis>)

7 Nodirbek Soliev, “The April 2020 Islamic State Terror Plot Against U.S. and NATO Military Bases in Germany: The Tajik Connection,” *CTC Sentinel*, January 2021, Volume 14, Issue 1. (<https://ctc.usma.edu/the-april-2020-islamic-state-terror-plot-against-u-s-and-nato-military-bases-in-germany-the-tajik-connection>)”

Long War Journal, [Islamic State bombs Taliban convoys in eastern Afghanistan](#), 20 September 2021

“The Islamic State’s Khorasan Province has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings that targeted Taliban convoys throughout the city of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province. The group claims that 35 Taliban members were killed or wounded in the attacks, though the casualty figures could not be independently verified. [...]

The so-called caliphate’s men previously controlled a number of districts in Nangarhar. The Islamic State even

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seized ground in the Tora Bora Mountains, which were once home to Osama bin Laden.

As of early 2016, the Islamic State's men reportedly controlled 10 districts in Nangarhar. However, their safe haven shrunk in the months that followed. They lost their turf after battling the U.S. military, security forces for the now deposed Afghan government, as well as rival jihadists from the Taliban and al Qaeda.

Even after losing its turf, the Islamic State retained a terror network in Nangarhar. That network received a new influx of personnel in recent months, as thousands of jihadists were freed from Afghanistan's jails, including in Jalalabad."

Danish Immigration Service, [Afghanistan Recent developments in the security situation, impact on civilians and targeted individuals](#), 8 September 2021

[The Danish Immigration Service lists the National Resistance Front (NRF), Al-Qaeda, Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), and Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) as actors in Afghanistan besides the Taliban.]

"Although these rapid developments in the conflict have put the Taliban in control of all of Afghanistan but the Panjshir Valley and other small pockets of resistance, it should be noted that the Taliban does not constitute the only actor in the country."

General security situation

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [At Least Four Shot Dead In Eastern Afghanistan](#), 19 January 2022

"A Taliban commander and three other people were killed when a man opened fire on a vehicle in Afghanistan's eastern Kunar Province, a local Taliban official said on January 19.

The incident occurred in the Narang district of Kunar, the Taliban director of information and culture in the province, Mawlawi Najibullah, told the media.

Another nine people were wounded, Najibullah said, adding that the attacker had escaped to a civilian house and when the owner had denied him shelter, he killed him too.

The attacker was detained after being wounded and police are investigating the case, he said.

A local elder put the number of dead at six, including four Taliban members.

The elder said the attacker had switched allegiance from the Taliban to the Islamic State (IS) group in the past.

"He opened fire on the car with a machine gun," the elder said.

IS, which is active in eastern Afghanistan, has claimed responsibility for numerous attacks since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August.

The Taliban and IS have been fighting each other since the latter emerged in Afghanistan in early 2015."

Khaama Press, [Sarajudin Haqqani asks Taliban commanders not to seek revenge on previous officers](#), 19 January 2022

"Local officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in the eastern Kunar province confirmed that a local commander including six others was killed in gunfire on Wednesday, January 19, 2022.

Intelligence officials of the IEA said that the commander, his son, and five others were shot killed in the Narang district of the province.

The officials said that the people were killed as a result of personal enmity.

The incident is not new in Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover, people across Afghanistan have often been killed as a result of the enmity.

In the meantime, shooting civilians by the Taliban affiliates in check posts is another issue that has concerned people across Afghanistan."

Khaama Press, [Two killed in Taliban's gunfire in western Herat province](#), 18 January 2022

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“Local residents in the western Herat province said that the Taliban affiliates opened fire at a car in their checkpoint in Kazemi area of the city that resulted in the killing of the driver.

Eyewitnesses also said that a local doctor named Jalali was also shot on the scene and was killed.

The incident happened on Monday night, January, 17.

Local officials of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan in Herat province have not commented on the incident yet.

Shooting at people is not something new since the Taliban’s takeover on August 15 last year, the affiliates have shot civilians in Kabul and Laghman province as we

Two days ago, the Taliban shot at two women and a boy that killed the boy and wounded the two women.

Earlier, the Taliban in the Afghan capital Kabul had shot killed a girl and a boy.”

Avapress, [The End of Unrest in Faryab: Taliban Fails to Quell Protests](#), 16 January 2022

“Four days ago, hundreds of residents of province and Uzbek forces affiliated with the Taliban protested over the detention of Makhdoom Mohammad Alam , a senior Taliban commander from the ethnic group. After Makhdoom Alam was arrested by the Taliban’s intelligence forces, protestors rallied in Maimana to demand his release. [...]

Rashid added that there were no differences between the Uzbek, Pashtun, and Tajik Taliban, stressing that the situation in the province had returned to normal. [...]

Ghulam Nabi Ghafoori, the deputy head of the Ulema Council in Faryab province, told a rally that people had no right to protest against the Islamic regime. He added that the government has the authority and responsibility to detain, imprison or even fire its agent for his reform. [...]

On the second day of the protests in Maimana, two civilians and three Taliban militants were killed. Before the fall of the previous regime, Makhdoom Alam was in charge of the Taliban’s military in Faryab province. The senior Taliban commander is being detained as some former government officials accuse the Taliban-led government of suppressing and detaining non-Pashtun Taliban militants.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Takeover Worsens Rights Crisis](#), 13 January 2022

“The number of civilians killed and injured in the conflict surged in the first six months of 2021 from attacks by both Taliban and Afghan government security forces, the latter primarily from airstrikes. The ISKP carried out numerous attacks on civilian facilities, including schools and mosques, killing hundreds, most of them members of Afghanistan’s Hazara community. ISKP attacks continued after the Taliban takeover.”

OCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Response Plan \(2022\)](#), 11 January 2022

“Following decades of war, intense conflict in the first seven months of 2021 brought severe harm to the people of Afghanistan. According to the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), civilian casualties in the first half of 2021 reached record levels, with particularly sharp increase in killings and injuries since May 2021 when international military forces began their withdrawal and fighting intensified. 5,138 civilian casualties (1,659 killed and 3,524 injured) were recorded between January and June 2021 – a 47 per cent increase from the same period in 2020.

“While the significant decrease of widespread armed conflict in most parts of Afghanistan after 15 August led to a drastic reduction in civilian casualties from ground engagements and airstrikes, UNAMA continued to document civilian casualties from improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war. From 15 August to 31 December 2021, UNAMA documented more than 1,050 civilian casualties, including more than 350 civilians killed.

“Close to 700,000 people were internally displaced by conflict in 2021 - 60 per cent children and 20 per cent women while close to 9.2 million people are estimated to remain in situations of forced displacement since 2012. Following the takeover in August, although violence overall has reduced, attacks by NSAG continue to occur, with violence associated with the Islamic State – Khorasan province (ISK) in particular increasing from 60 to over 300 attacks by November 2021. Further complicating the situation is the presence of explosive hazard contamination across the country, particularly improvised mines and explosive remnants of war, which continue to impact at least 1,500 Afghan communities.”

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ACLED, [Regional Overview: South Asia and Afghanistan, 4-10 December 2021](#), 16 December 2021

"In Afghanistan, IS attacks on the Taliban more than doubled last week. In addition to ongoing attacks in Kabul and Nangarhar provinces, IS also attacked the Taliban in Logar and Takhar provinces, killing one Taliban member and injuring another. This marks the second IS attack recorded in Logar since 2018, while no previous IS attacks have been recorded in Takhar since the beginning of ACLED's Afghan coverage in 2017. "

"Meanwhile, IS also detonated three IEDs in Kabul city last week, killing two civilians in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood. This is the third IS attack in the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood, an area heavily populated by members of the Hazara Shiite minority (Al Jazeera, 10 December 2021), since the Taliban regime came to power in August 2021. Since the Taliban takeover, ACLED records more than a dozen IS attacks in Afghanistan that have directly targeted civilians. The ongoing attacks come as a Taliban spokesman again claimed that IS is not a "big threat" in Afghanistan, and that IS had been "dismantled in Kabul and Jalalabad" (Anadolu Agency, 9 December 2021)."

Al Jazeera, [Taliban rule marked by killings, 'litany of abuses,' UN says](#), 14 December 2021

"The United Nations says it has received "credible allegations" of extrajudicial killings of more than 100 former Afghan national security forces and others associated with Afghanistan's former government since its fall three months ago, with most taking place at the hands of the ruling Taliban.

[...]

In a speech to the Human Rights Council on Tuesday, Nada Al-Nashif, the UN deputy high commissioner for human rights, said at least 72 of the more than 100 alleged killings were "attributed to the Taliban".

In several cases, Al-Nashif added, "the bodies were publicly displayed. This has exacerbated fear among this sizeable category of the population."

AVA Press, [One dead in Kabul explosion](#), 14 December 2021

"The incident took place at around 10:00 a.m. Tuesday in the -e-Logar area of Kabul's PD8, a spokesman for the ministry of interior confirmed.

He said two other civilians were also injured in the blast.

The incident was caused by the detonation of an IED planted in a pot in the side of the road, the MoI said.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the incident."

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'Former Taliban insurgents are now joining their police forces,'](#) 12 December 2021

"According to Taliban sources, they are planning a police force of 30,000 to 40,000 people, which they believe will be sufficient because the war is over.

Former Taliban insurgents are now joining their police forces. This is a gradual process that will necessitate training for these individuals. The average number of so-called Taliban police in the districts is roughly 20 to 30 people who are in charge of guarding the district center and occasionally patrolling on motorcycles. Taliban police are not present in the villages, and the Taliban have chosen one or two Arbaki representatives from each village to report to them on what is going on in the villages. If the Arbakis are unable to solve problems at the village level, the center will dispatch a larger force.

The Ministry of Interior's personnel are concentrated in cities, particularly Kabul, where they work to maintain public order and combat ISIS. According to Taliban sources in Kabul, the main challenge is tracking down terrorist cells and ISIS-K. ISIS-K has been able to increase the intensity of its attacks in Kabul and Jalalabad. In the last three days there were three major attacks by the ISIS-K in Kabul which killed at least ten people and injured many others. According to the Aamaq website, which is affiliated with the ISIS-K group, members of the group carried out "three attacks" on vehicles in Kabul's Shiite neighborhood on Saturday. Saeed Khosti, a Taliban spokesman for

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the Interior Ministry, told reporters that a bomb had exploded in Kabul's Barchi neighborhood, killing two civilians and injuring three others. Another woman was injured in another blast in the same area, he said. Because the Taliban is unable to effectively track down the perpetrators of these attacks, it appears that they are killing any suspected members of the group as well as any suspected supporters. The justice system is currently almost paralyzed. So far, there have been several cases of people being hanged without even a formal trial. The Taliban recently announced the reactivation of the judiciary, which will be entirely based on Sharia law. They also stated that the majority of judicial staff would be Taliban members, who had previously been part of the Taliban during the insurgency."

Pajhwok, [13 people suffer casualties in Afghanistan last week](#), 11 December 2021

"[C]asualties remained low last week when seven people were killed and six others injured in four incidents in Kabul, Nangarhar and Kapisa provinces. [...]

Seven people were killed and six others injured during separate incidents of violence in the country. Two alleged armed robbers were killed and another two injured during a clash with security forces in central Kapisa province. [...]

Two civilians were killed and four others injured as a result of bomb blasts in Kabul's Dashti Barchi area. Also in Kabul armed thieves killed a woman and a child and a child was killed after being hit by a stray bullet in Nangarhar province's Kama district.

The blasts in Kabul were claimed by Daesh.

In the previous week, four civilians had been killed and a fifth injured during separate incidents across the country, bringing the casualties to record low."

Al Jazeera, [Deadly blasts hit Afghan capital Kabul](#), 10 December 2021

"At least two people have been killed and four others injured in two separate bomb explosions in the Afghan capital Kabul, according to the Taliban government.

"Two civilians have been killed and three others were wounded" when a bomb exploded on Friday on a minibus in the Dasht-e-Barchi district of Kabul, the Taliban's interior ministry spokesman Sayed Khosti told reporters."

Guardian, [Nearly 100 former British Council staff remain in hiding in Afghanistan](#), 9 December 2021

"Nearly 100 former British Council staff employed to teach British values and the English language remain in hiding in Afghanistan after having so far been refused the right to come to the UK by officials. [...]

He told the Guardian: "These people are living in constant fear of their lives. They were contracted under a British government-funded scheme to teach English teachers British values of diversity, inclusion and equality, the values that ... the Taliban oppose. They were always told they were employees of the British government."

In an email he sent to the prime minister soon after the fall of Kabul in September, he warned Boris Johnson: "Many of them have had the Taliban visit their homes, or the homes of their relatives, asking questions and making threats. Many of them have had to relocate, while others are living in hiding.""

Gandhara, [Taliban Accused of Forcibly Evicting Ethnic Uzbeks, Turkmen In Northern Afghanistan](#), 9 December 2021

"Taliban fighters have been accused of helping to forcibly evict more than 1,000 people in northern Afghanistan, with the evictions targeting members of the ethnic Uzbek and Turkmen communities.

Ethnic Uzbeks and Turkmen allege that Pashtuns seized their homes and land in the northern province of Jowzjan with the help of the Taliban, a predominately Pashtun group.

The evictions came as Taliban fighters have expelled hundreds of Shi'ite Hazara families from their homes and farms in five provinces since the militants seized power in Afghanistan in August.

Rights groups say the Taliban's forced displacement of residents is an attempt to distribute land to their own supporters and collectively punish communities that backed the former government. [...]

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"Nobody could resist," he says. "If we raised our voices, we would be killed." [...]

But in comments to the BBC on November 29, Taliban spokesman Bilal Karimi denied any forced displacements had taken place in Jowzjan."

OCHA, [Global Humanitarian Overview 2022 \(Part Two\)](#), 2 December 2021

"Threats to civilians and acute protection needs remain high, and there are grave concerns about the rollback on women's rights and restrictions on their participation in life and society. Densely populated areas are also contaminated with explosives, putting more people, particularly those trying to return, at risk of death and maiming."

Khaama Press, [Bomb blast in Kabul wounds five civilians including Taliban](#), 30 November 2021

"A bomb that was planted on the main road in Police District six of the Afghan capital wounded five people including the Taliban fighters but the Taliban have not commented on the casualties".

Pajhwok Afghan News, [2 civilians wounded in Kabul blast; suspect arrested](#), 30 November 2021

"Two people were injured as a result of blast on Dar-ul-Aman Road of Kabul on Tuesday morning, an official said"

Thomson Reuters, [Afghan humanitarian crisis, drug trafficking alarm India, Russia, China](#), 26 November 2021

"The spread of illicit drug trafficking in opiates and methamphetamine from Afghanistan and beyond... poses a serious threat to regional security and stability and provides funding for terrorist organizations"

Humanitarian Response (Afghanistan)(UNOCHA), [Afghanistan Weekly Humanitarian Update \(15-21 November 2021\)](#), 26 November 2021

"During the reporting period, 17 civilians including women and children were injured by abandoned Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs) in rural areas in Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces." [...]
"On 17 November, a magnetic IED attached to a civilian minibus detonated and reportedly resulted in the death of four people and injured eight others. Also on 17 November, another magnetic IED attached to a minibus detonated in Kabul City, Police District 3, Charahi Saheed area, and resulted in six injuries"

Pajhwok Afghan News, [2 people injured in Kabul explosion](#), 23 November 2021

"Two security personnel were injured in a magnetic mine blast in second police district of capital Kabul on Tuesday, police officials said."

REUTERS, [Islamic State claims twin blasts in Afghan capital Kabul](#), 17 November 2021

"Islamic State claimed responsibility for two explosions that hit a heavily Shi'ite Muslim area of the Afghan capital Kabul on Wednesday, killing at least one person and wounding at least six others including three women.

The blasts were the latest in a series of attacks in Kabul claimed by the militant Sunni group in recent days, with Shi'ite areas in the west of the city targeted several times. The group has also launched attacks on Shi'ite mosques in the northern city of Kunduz and the southern city of Kandahar.

One car bomb blast in Dasht-e Barchi, in western Kabul, killed a civilian and wounded six, interior ministry spokesman Qari Sayeed Khosty said in a tweet.

There was no confirmation of casualty numbers. A Taliban official who spoke on condition of anonymity said seven people had been killed and nine wounded.

A second explosion was reported in the nearby Karte 3 area, local residents said. A Taliban official said security forces were still gathering information."

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PAJHWOK AFGHAN NEWS, [4 children injured in Badghis blasts](#), 16 November 2021

“Four children have been injured in two separate blasts in the Jawand and Muqar districts of northwestern Badghis province, according to hospital sources on Tuesday. [...]

Separately another child was injured in a blast in Muqar district. He was evacuated to the hospital and was currently under treatment.

He said these children were playing and landmines planted in the past went off on them.”

AVA Press, [2 Civilians Killed in Operations against ISKP Hideouts in Kandahar](#), 16 November 2021

“Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_Taliban interim government officials in have confirmed that some civilians have been killed in operations by Taliban forces against the Islamic State of Khurasan Province () hideouts in this province.

The commander of Kandahar says that he simultaneously carried out six operations against ISKP hideouts in the different areas of Kandahar.”

[The Austrian Centre for Country of Origin and Asylum Research and Documentation (ACCORD) published on 15th November 2021 a [Brief compilation on recent developments and key actors in Afghanistan](#), which you may wish to consult. The compilation covers: *Developments in 2021, The Taliban, Taliban-associated groups (Haqqani Network; Al Qaeda); Islamic State - Khorasan Province; National Resistance Front (NRF)*]

KHAAMA PRESS, [ISIS-K claims responsibility for Kabul’s explosion](#), 15 November 2021

“The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria-Khorasan branch (ISIS-K) confirmed that Saturday’s explosion in the western part of Kabul was conducted by them.

The explosion that happened on Saturday, November 13 in Dasht-e-Barchi of Kabul left three dead and six more wounded. [...]

ISIS-K has claimed that they have planted bombs in a minivan that killed 20 people but the Taliban spokesperson Zabiullah Mujahid had said the incident that killed a civilian and wounded three more happened after the car caught fire.

ISIS-K is now the only terror group that conduct a terror attack after the Taliban takeover on August 15.

The Taliban on the other hand has been underrated by the militants and has claimed to have arrested 600 ISIS-k affiliates in the past three months.”

GANDHARA NEWS, [Kabul Bomb Blast Wounds Two As Islamic State Claims Responsibility For Earlier Explosion](#), 14 November 2021

“Two people were reported wounded after a bomb exploded on a busy avenue in the Afghan capital -- the latest attack hitting the Afghan capital since the Taliban seized power three months ago.

[...] A magnetic bomb attached to a car detonated in Kabul's fifth police district, wounding two civilians.

The Taliban spokesman for Kabul police said that the blast was caused by a roadside bomb that detonated as a taxi was passing, according to AP. [...]

No one claimed responsibility, but militants of a local IS affiliate of the Islamic State (IS) extremist group have carried out multiple deadly bomb attacks across the country after the Taliban toppled the internationally backed Kabul government in Kabul in mid-August.

The bomb attack came two days after a bomb blast hit a Shi'ite neighborhood of western Kabul in an attack claimed by the Islamic State-Khorasan Province (IS-K).”

PAJHWOK AFGHAN NEWS, [World once again turns attention to Afghanistan last week](#), 13 November 2021

“Attacks and civilian casualties:

According to reports, nine people were killed and 20 others were injured in different incidents last week.

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Local officials said that a bomb blast at a mosque in Spin Ghar district of Nangarhar province injured 15 worshipers. Also in Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province, three civilians were killed while a child was killed and another was injured in an IED blast in Hesarak district of the province.

More than 65 percent of last week's casualties happened in Nangarhar, while 46 percent casualties of the previous week when 18 people were killed also happened in this province.

According to another report, a bomb blast in Tirinkot city, capital of Uruzgan province, killed three members of a family and injured five others. In addition, unidentified gunmen killed two former government soldiers in Chahab district of Takhar province.

ISIS has claimed responsibility for the bomb blast at a mosque in Nangarhar's Spin Ghar district, but no one has claimed responsibility for the other attacks."

KHAAMA PRESS, [Explosion in Kabul killed and injured civilians](#), 13 November 2021

"An explosion killed at least one and wounded three more civilian people in Police District 18, Dasht-e-Barchi of Kabul on Saturday afternoon, November 13.

Spokesperson of the Taliban Zabiullah Mujahid in a Twitter post confirmed the casualties but said that the incident happened after a car caught fire but eyewitnesses have said that the car was targeted by a magnetic bomb.

Though no group has claimed responsibility for the incident, the Taliban officials have acknowledged that they have started investigations about that.

Dasht-e-Barchi in the west of Afghanistan is a residence where mostly the Hazara (Shite Muslims) are living who are often targeted by the ISIS-K affiliates."

Al Jazeera, [Afghanistan: Deadly explosion hits mainly Shia suburb of Kabul](#), 13 November 2021

"At least one person has been killed and four others wounded in an explosion that hit a vehicle in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, officials said.

The incident on Saturday took place in Dasht-e Barchi, a Kabul suburb dominated by members of the mostly Shia Hazara community, who for years have been targeted by ISIL-affiliated fighters."

KHAAMA PRESS, [Explosion in Nengarhar killed three and wounded 15 worshipers](#), 12 November 2021

"Provincial officials of the eastern Nangarhar province have confirmed the explosion in a mosque of Spin Ghar district but did not disclose the exact number of casualties.

Local officials and eyewitnesses said that the blast killed at least three people and wounded 15 more.

The explosion has targeted worshipers in a mosque during Friday prayer and those killed include the Imam of the mosque too. [...]

No one has claimed responsibility for the explosion yet but the ISIS-K fighters have been targeting mosques in Afghanistan.

This is the third mosque being targeted by ISIS-K affiliates since the Taliban takeover on August 15."

Al Jazeera, [Afghanistan: Mosque in Nangarhar province hit by blast](#), 12 November 2021

"An explosion has hit a mosque in the Spin Ghar area of Nangarhar province in eastern Afghanistan during Friday prayers, killing at least three people and wounding 15 others, according to residents and Taliban officials.

A doctor at the local hospital told AFP news agency that at least three people have been killed. "So far three killed, 15 wounded," the doctor said. Al Jazeera was unable to independently verify the toll."

TOLO News, [Officials: 2 Killed in Blast at Nangarhar Mosque](#), 12 November 2021

"A blast occurred inside of a mosque on Friday in Spinghar district of Nangarhar province, local officials confirmed.

The blast occurred while dozens of people gathered to perform the Friday prayers.

The worshipers suffered casualties, but the number of fatalities has yet to be reported.

Local officials said two people were killed and 17 were injured in Friday's explosion in Nangarhar, all of whom were

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worshippers.

Eyewitnesses, however, said the number of casualties is higher.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.”

ACLED, [Regional Overview: South Asia and Afghanistan | 30 October-5 November 2021](#), 11 November 2021

“In Afghanistan, IS continued attacks targeting the Taliban and civilians last week. In Kabul, IS militants killed at least 25 Taliban members and civilians during an attack on the Kabul Military Hospital. IS suicide bombers detonated themselves at the Kabul Military Hospital gate before militants exchanged gunfire with Taliban fighters. Five IS militants also died in the attack. This is the fourth deadliest IS attack since the Taliban regime came into power in August 2021. IS and Taliban fighters also clashed in Balkh and Nangarhar provinces. Despite these attacks, the Taliban have claimed that IS is “more or less under control” and lacks support from the local population (Al Arabiya, 5 November 2021).

Separately, ACLED also records unclaimed attacks on civilians across five Afghan provinces last week. In one instance, the bodies of four women civil society activists were recovered in Balkh province, including a well-known women’s rights defender. Taliban forces have considered personal feuds a potential reason for the killings (The Guardian, 5 October 2021). However, a victim’s husband claims that she was killed by an organized network targeting civil society activists, who introduced themselves as representatives of a human rights organization (Hasht-e Subh, 5 November 2021).”

Tolo News, [US Worried by Increase of Daesh Attacks in Afghanistan](#), 9 November 2021

The United States is worried about an uptick in attacks by Islamic State's affiliate in Afghanistan and remains deeply concerned about al Qaeda's ongoing presence there, U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Tom West said on Monday.

World Politics Review, [Addressing Afghanistan’s Crisis Will Require Dealing With the Taliban](#), 9 November 2021

As the Taliban government struggles to contain the crisis with minimal resources, it will likely fail to maintain control over all of its territory. The Islamic State’s affiliate in Afghanistan, known as ISIS-Khorasan, is stepping up its attacks in the country and could establish a firm territorial base there.

UNHCR, [Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 8 November 2021

The Afghanistan security situation remains of high concern, with people describing parts of the country as being in “total chaos”. Last week, the Deputy Spokesperson for the UN Secretary-General, Farhan Haq, reported ongoing violence resulting in casualties in Afghanistan: in Jalalabad, unverified pictures appeared online showing bodies swinging from a rope; residents also reported various targeted killings and video footage circulated of gunmen firing into a car, apparently killing its occupants, one of whom was identified by local journalists as a Taliban official. The Taliban have downplayed such incidents, saying that after decades of war, it will take time for the country to be completely pacified.

BBC News, [More than 20 killed in attack on Kabul military hospital](#), 2 November 2021

More than 20 people have been killed and at least 16 injured in a gun and bomb assault on a military hospital in the Afghan capital Kabul.

Attackers targeted the 400-bed Sardar Daud Khan hospital starting with two massive explosions outside the building, officials said.

Gunmen then broke into the hospital grounds, witnesses said.

An affiliate of the Islamic State group, IS-K, later said it had carried out the attack.

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ACLED, [Regional Overview: South Asia and Afghanistan](#), 27 October 2021
“Last week in South Asia and Afghanistan, violence continued between the Taliban and the National Resistance Front (NRF) in Afghanistan, as the Islamic State (IS) sustained its attacks on Taliban forces. [...] In **Afghanistan**, the number of armed clashes increased last week, amid ongoing clashes between the Taliban and the NRF. Clashes were reported in the Pul-e-Hisar, Andarab, and Deh Sala districts of Baghlan province. While the exact number of casualties remains unknown, several NRF and Taliban fighters were reportedly killed, including two NRF commanders.”

UN News, [Act swiftly and with determination on Afghanistan, UN chief urges](#), 27 October 2021
““Afghanistan is confronting an epic humanitarian crisis and is on the verge of a development catastrophe”, the UN chief [Antonia Guterres] told the gathering. He urged countries to speak with one voice. [...] Mr. Guterres said **he was deeply disturbed by violations of human rights**, including the rights of women, children and ethnic minorities, and recent deadly terrorist attacks on religious institutions. **He called for ongoing engagement “to help move things in the right direction.”** For his final point, the UN chief stressed that Afghans, and the region, “also need a country that is secure – not one that is a haven for terrorism or a centre for drug trafficking.” This, he said, is vital to peace and stability, both in the region and around the world. “

TOLO News, [16 People Killed in Herat Clashes: Sources](#), 25 October 2021

“At least 16 people including seven children and three women were killed in clashes that erupted between the forces of the Islamic Emirate and a group of armed men in the western province of Herat, sources claimed on Monday.

The sources said that the house belonged to Daesh. Three members of the Islamic Emirate were also killed, the sources added.

However, Mawllavi Naeemulhaq Haqqani, provincial director of information and culture, said that a number of kidnappers were killed in the clashes. [...]

In the past two months, Herat has not seen a deadlier incident.”

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Last week, casualties in Afghanistan fall to record low](#), 23 October 2021

“Casualty figure in Afghanistan fell to its lowest level or [sic] nine people in the past week, when some countries stressed aid to Afghanistan at a summit in Moscow and the Afghan government said it was ready for any civilized interaction with the world.

Attacks and civilian casualties

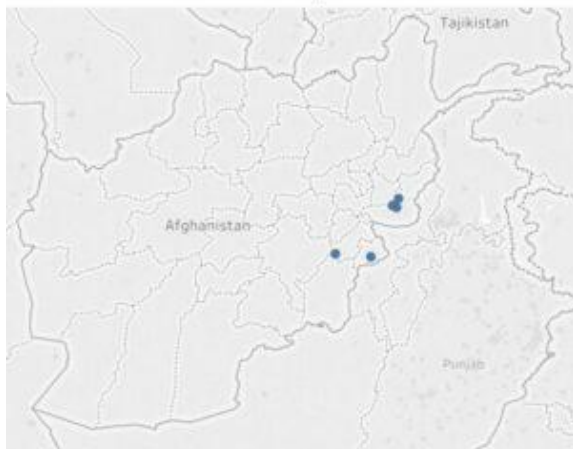
According to reports, six people were killed and three others wounded in different attacks last week.

Three children were killed and one was injured in a roadside bomb blast in Mata Khan district of Paktika province. A man was found stabbed to death and unidentified gunmen killed a former border policeman in Khost city, capital of Khost province. No one has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Casualties were also low six weeks ago when eight people were killed and one was wounded.

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9 Civilians were killed and injured in different incidents



Last week's death toll was 16 times lower than the previous one.

Previous week, 56 people were killed and 90 others injured in various incidents across the country. Forty-seven of them were killed and 90 others were injured in an attack on a Shia mosque in Kandahar province. ISIS claims responsibility for Kandahar attack."

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(11-17 October 2021\)](#), 21 October 2021

On 15 October, scores of civilians were killed and injured after a suicide bomb attack at a Shia mosque in Police District 1 of Kandahar City; 23 civilians including women and children were injured by abandoned IEDs in rural areas during the reporting period.

UNHCR, [UNHCR Iran: Afghanistan Situation Update](#), 18 October 2021

"The overall security situation in the country remains relatively calm, though isolated but violent incidents continue to take civilian lives. On 15 October, suicide bombers attacked a mosque in Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, killing dozens of people and wounding dozens more, the second such attack on a Shiite place of worship on successive Fridays in the country. The Islamic State Khorasan, also known as ISIS-K and ISKP, claimed responsibility. These attacks can be seen as a display of the organization's newly established reach, as it begins a reinvigorated campaign of violence against the people of Afghanistan and the new Taliban government."

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Efforts on to build strong, independent army: Mazloom](#), 16 October 2021

"The first deputy defense minister says they are trying to train an army that can defend Afghanistan's borders and people."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [Intensifying Violence Between Taliban, IS-K Heralds New War In Afghanistan](#), 13 October 2021

"But the Taliban's intensifying rivalry with the Islamic State-Khorasan (IS-K), a rival militant group, has signaled the beginning of another phase of war in Afghanistan -- a development that many Afghans dread will provoke further bloodshed.

"Every day, two or three people are killed," Abdullah, a resident of the eastern province of Nangarhar, a stronghold of IS-K, told RFE/RL's Radio Azadi.

Abdullah said IS-K bomb attacks and assassinations have increased since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan on August 15."

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA), [Last week was again deadliest for Afghans](#), 10 October 2021

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"Last week, 223 people suffered casualties in Afghanistan.

Attacks and civilian casualties:

According to reports last week 58 people were killed and 165 others injured in different incidents of violence in the country.

The deadliest incident last week happened in Kunduz province where 46 civilians were killed and 143 others injured in a suicide attack. Daesh or Islamic State (IS) claimed responsibility for the attack.

Elsewhere, three people including a were killed and three civilians injured in two incidents in Nangarhar province.

One person was found dead in Nangarhar. In province, a bride was killed and two people were injured after a person hurled a hand grenade to a wedding party. Two people were killed and three others injured in an explosion in a gathering of people attending the funeral of the mother of Zabihullah Mujahid, deputy information and culture minister.

In Laghman province, an Islamic scholar was shot dead while a person was killed and 14 others injured in an explosion in a seminary in Khost province. A robber was killed during a clash with Taliban in Kapisa province. A person was killed by unidentified armed men in Achin district of Nangarhar province. A former policeman was killed in an attack of armed robbers in province.

No groups have so far claimed responsibility for these attacks and explosions.

A week before 16 civilians were killed and nine others wounded in various incidents."

The New York Times, [ISIS Bomber Kills Dozens at Shiite Mosque in Northern Afghanistan](#), 8 October 2021

"An Islamic State suicide bomber devastated a Shiite mosque in the northern Afghan city of Kunduz on Friday, killing dozens of worshipers in a deadly continuation of the terrorist group's campaign against the Hazara minority. The massacre, while the mosque was crowded for Friday Prayer, was the group's second attack against a mosque in just a few days. And it was the realization of Afghan Hazaras' fears that the Islamic State's predation would go unchecked under the rule of the Taliban, which itself preyed on the Hazara in the past.

Witness accounts described a powerful explosion with many casualties. Matullah Rohani, a Taliban official in Kunduz, told local media that at least 43 people were killed by the attack and more than 140 were injured.

A local Shiite community leader put the death toll much higher. Sayed Ahmad Shah Hashemi, who represents Kunduz Province's Shiite population, told The New York Times that more than 70 people were killed in the attack."

"Hours after the bombing, it was claimed by the [Islamic State Khorasan](#), also known as ISIS-K. It was the group's deadliest strike since the suicide bombing at the international airport in Kabul on Aug. 26 that [killed about 170 civilians](#) and [13 U.S. troops](#)."

Khaama Press, [ISIS-K claims responsibility for explosion on Eidgah mosque in Kabul](#), 5 October 2021

"The Khorasan branch of the Islamic State (ISIS-K) claimed responsibility for the deadly explosion on the Eidgah mosque on Sunday, October 3.

The explosion took the lives of at least eight and leftover 20 more wounded among them the Taliban fighters.

The Taliban did not disclose an exact number of their fighters killed and wounded though, a source told the Khaama Press that most of them were the Taliban fighters.

The explosion which is said to have been conducted by a suicide bomber targeted a big mosque close to the Presidential Palace where people and the Taliban officials had gathered for the mourning and prayer ceremony of the slain mother of Zabiullah Mujahid- spokesperson and deputy minister of information and culture.

The Taliban fighters raided a house in the northern suburb of Kabul only hours after the incident and killed ISIS-K affiliates.

Zabiullah Mujahid had later said that they eliminated a cell of the ISIS-K fighters and killed all those existed in [who were part of it]."

The Guardian, [Civilians killed in deadliest Kabul attack since US withdrawal](#), 3 October 2021

"At least five civilians have been killed in a bomb blast at the entrance to a Kabul mosque on Sunday, a Taliban

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official said, the deadliest attack in the Afghan capital since US forces left at the end of August. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but suspicion fell on Islamic State extremists, who have stepped up attacks on the Taliban in recent weeks, particularly in the IS stronghold in eastern Afghanistan. It is believed that a roadside bomb went off at the gate of the sprawling Eidgah mosque in Kabul when a memorial service was being held for the mother of the Taliban's chief spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid. Five people were killed, said Qari Saeed Khosti, a spokesman for the interior ministry."

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(13-19 September 2021\)](#), 23 September 2021

"In the reporting period, the security situation in the south remained calm but uncertain. The presence of Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) is affecting access of people to areas in Uruzgan, Hilmand, and some parts of Kandahar provinces."

"The security situation in the East remains volatile and unpredictable. On 18 September, five people were reportedly killed and 21 people were wounded by multiple IED detonations across the city of Jalalabad in Nangarhar Province"

"On 18 September, two civilians were reportedly injured by an IED attached to a private vehicle in Police District 13, Kabul. On 14 September, two civilians were reportedly killed and 12 others were wounded when an old mortar shell exploded in Ajristan district in Daykundi province."

Long War Journal, [Islamic State bombs Taliban convoys in eastern Afghanistan](#), 20 September 2021

"The Islamic State's Khorasan Province has claimed responsibility for a series of bombings that targeted Taliban convoys throughout the city of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar province. The group claims that 35 Taliban members were killed or wounded in the attacks, though the casualty figures could not be independently verified.

Amaq News Agency, a media arm for the Islamic State, released a single-page statement on the attacks, as well as a short video showing an improvised explosive device being detonated underneath a Taliban vehicle. A screen shot from the video can be seen above.

Amaq claimed that seven bombings were carried out on Sept. 18 and 19, with the final explosion occurring outside of the Indian consulate in Jalalabad. Other jihadists have assaulted the Indian consulate inside the city in the past, but there is no indication in Amaq's reporting that the diplomatic location was deliberately targeted on this occasion."

Lawfare, [Thinking Long Term About the Future of Afghanistan](#), 19 September 2021

"With good relations between al-Qaeda and the Taliban, the latter may successfully convince the former to focus on local and regional issues, helping the Taliban to shore up and extend their influence throughout South Asia over time. That still leaves IS-K, a group previously linked to an international terrorist plot against U.S. and NATO bases in Germany, as a significant threat. There are serious doubts about whether the Taliban, overwhelmed and stretched thin by the challenge of attempting to govern a war-ravaged nation, will be able to prevent IS-K or other rogue groups from operating on Afghan soil."

Reuters, [U.N. Afghanistan mission extended, Afghan envoy asks to keep seat](#), 17 September 2021

"The United Nations Security Council extended a U.N. political mission in Afghanistan on Friday [17 September] for six months to allow for Secretary-General Antonio Guterres to work out what changes might be needed after the Taliban seized control of the country."

Afghanistan Analysts Network, [The Focus of the Taleban's New Government: Internal cohesion, external dominance](#), 12 September 2021

"It has been very difficult to follow what is happening. There has been almost no independent reporting, since communications were and the road into the Panjshir closed. The information vacuum has been filled by pro-Taleban and pro-resistance social media accounts and media appearances, often making unverifiable and

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conflicting claims in an attempt to dominate the narrative. (See, for an example, this [Tolo News report](#) from 2 September in which the Taleban claimed to have captured Shutul district centre and 11 outposts, killing 34, while the National Resistant Front denied the loss of the district and claimed to have killed at least 350 Taleban fighters in the various clashes.)

It has been even more difficult to get a handle on reports of possible atrocities, in Panjshir and Andarab, or of the rounding up of young Panjshiri men in neighbourhoods like Khairkhana in Kabul. The online clamour by diaspora pro-resistance supporters that there is both an ongoing genocide and a Pakistani invasion going on in Panjshir – generally without much details or ‘supported’ by footage that is either old, from other places, and in one case even from a computer game – threatened to drown out the gathering of corroborated reporting.

On the other hand, the Taleban’s apparent determination to completely root out Panjshir’s armed resistance, coupled with an almost complete information black-out and emerging anecdotal detail, does suggest that the onslaught in Panjshir is likely to have been brutal. This impression is only strengthened by the fact that ‘news’ from Panjshir has so far been very carefully managed, with only friendly journalists or those with minders having been allowed in.

Ahmad Massud and other members of the National Resistant Front have reiterated that the struggle continues, whether armed or not, and have tried to link their stand in Panjshir to other recent expressions of dissent – with some success.”

OCHA, Afghanistan, [Weekly Humanitarian Update \(30 August – 5 September 2021\)](#), 13 September 2021

“In the reporting period, the overall security situation in the south remained relatively calm. Civilians including women and children reportedly continued to be affected by roadside Improvised Explosive Device (IED) detonations and gunfire.”

ACLED, [Regional Overview: South Asia and Afghanistan, 31 July - 3 September 2021](#), 9 September 2021

“Meanwhile, an anti-Taliban resistance, known as National Resistance Front (NRF), began to form in the Panjshir valley in northeastern Afghanistan following the Kabul takeover. The valley had previously hosted Northern Alliance Forces, a military alliance against the Soviet and then Taliban invasion, in the 1980s and 1990s (BBC News, 3 September 2021). Led by the son of a late Northern Alliance leader, the group consists of local militia and former members of Afghan security forces. It is also supported by former Vice President Amrullah Saleh and former Acting Defense Minister Bismillah Mohammadi (Washington Post, 18 August 2021). From 18 August to 3 September, ACLED records over 20 clashes between the NRF and Taliban forces around Panjshir valley and in the neighboring Baghlan and Parwan provinces. Since then, the Taliban claim to have entered the Panjshir valley, although it remains uncertain whether they have taken complete control over all remaining NRF territory (CNBC, 7 September 2021).”

Crime rates under the Taliban, including kidnappings and abductions

BBC, [Meth and heroin fuel Afghanistan drugs boom](#), 12 December 2021

“Drugs are big business in Afghanistan, and under the Taliban, trade is booming. The country has long been linked with heroin, but in recent years, it has also emerged as a significant producer of crystal meth - another dangerously addictive drug.

One source involved in the trade says that about 3,000kg of crystal meth are now manufactured every day by more than 500 makeshift “factories” in a single remote drug-producing district in the south-west of the country.”

AVA Press, [Kunduz Residents Complain of Assassinations and Kidnappings Amid Rising Poverty](#), 5 December 2021

“After the Taliban took control of the country, crime in [sic] has increased. In recent days, this issue has raised

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concern to businessmen and residents of the province. In the last few weeks, kidnappers have abducted a doctor and a former member of national security, according to local sources. Sources say that about a week ago, the body of a former national security officer was found in the district of the province, but the fate of the is still unknown. Some residents of Kunduz told Hasht-e Subh that unknown individuals had robbed several shops and killed several people recently. They state that they are worried about their lives and property. According to the residents, unknown individuals were robbing and kidnapping in broad daylight, but Taliban officials did nothing to prevent the incidents. They call on the authorities of the Taliban-led government to stop the kidnappings and targeted killings in the province and arrest the perpetrators.

[...] Armed robberies and kidnappings in Kunduz have prompted some businessmen and social figures to leave Kunduz for Kabul and neighboring Afghanistan. A civil activist in Kunduz province, who did not want to be named, said he had been threatened with death several times by unknown individuals and now had to leave the province with his family. According to this civil activist, if the situation continues like this, life will be difficult for all sections of the province and eventually, all the people will leave the province.

Meanwhile, Taliban intelligence and culture chief Matiullah emphasized their efforts to prevent kidnappings in the province. According to Rouhani, Taliban forces recently arrested two militants from the provincial capital.

With the Taliban taking control of the country, hopes were that crime would fall to a record low, yet, contrary to expectation, crime was on the rise in some provinces. Increasing poverty and unemployment in the country have been cited as the main reasons for the increase in criminal offenses.”

TOLO News, [Kabul Residents Urge Govt to Tackle Crime](#), 26 November 2021

“Residents of Kabul expressed concerns over the surge in criminal activity in various parts of the city and urged the government to take the necessary steps to counter the criminal issues. The insecurity is on a high-level all over Kabul. I live in Darul Aman and I can’t leave home after 6:00pm because of insecurity,” said Mohammad Ameen, a resident.”

Arab News, [Prominent Afghan doctor kidnapped, killed in northern city](#), 20 November 2021

“A prominent doctor was kidnapped and killed in northern Afghanistan, his family said Saturday [20 November].

Mohamed Nader Alemi was abducted two months ago in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, and his kidnappers demanded a ransom for his release, his son Roheen Alemi said. The family eventually paid them \$350,000, after negotiating down their initial demand of more than twice that, he said.

Despite the payment, the kidnappers then killed Alemi, leaving his body in the street, his son said. They called the family and told them where to find it on Friday, he said.

“My father was badly tortured, there are signs of harm on his body,” Roheen Alemi said.

Alemi, a psychiatrist, worked for the government’s provincial hospital in Mazar-i-Sharif. He also owned a private clinic, said to be the city’s first private psychiatric clinic.

Under the previous, US-backed government, crime swelled, including frequent kidnappings for ransom, which prompted several businessmen to flee Afghanistan. The abductions have continued since the Taliban seized power on Aug. 15, though with lower frequency.

The Taliban Interior Ministry spokesman, Saeed Khosty, said Taliban forces arrested eight suspected kidnappers who were behind the abductions of three people, including Alemi, in Balkh Province, where Mazar-i-Sharif is located. He said two of those abducted were rescued but that Alemi was killed before the rescue. Police were searching for two associates of the eight arrested men who were believed to have killed the doctor.”

The Guardian, [Abducted Afghan psychiatrist found dead weeks after disappearance](#), 19 November 2021

“One of Afghanistan’s most prominent psychiatrists, who was abducted by armed men in September, has been found dead, his family has confirmed.

Dr Nader Alemi’s daughter, Manizheh Abreen, said that her father had been tortured before he died. [...] He had received threatening calls and messages in the months before his abduction.

The kidnappers originally demanded a ransom of \$800,000 (£600,000).”

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AVA Press, [A Doctor Kidnapped in Kunduz Province](#), 17 November 2021

"Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_ Sources in Kunduz city say that Dr. Hoshang Rastaqi, a dermatologist, was abducted last night (Tuesday) from the center of Kunduz.

The armed kidnappers abducted him from his home.

According to the source, a weapon of the is left in the doctor's home.

Taliban officials haven't said anything about the incident to the media yet.

Meanwhile, the residents of had earlier complained about the increase of and theft cases in this province."

QANTARA, [Can the Taliban avert a food crisis without foreign aid?](#), 15 November 2021

"Those with money are at risk

The security situation in Afghanistan under the Taliban has deteriorated along with the economy. There are ever more reports of kidnapping and hostage-taking of businessmen and others with money. Kabul-based economic expert Khanjan Alokozay revealed that in the last two months, more than 40 shopkeepers and businessmen have been kidnapped in different parts of the country, and that some of them had also been killed."

Foreign Policy, [Afghan Crime Wave Adds to Taliban Dystopia](#), 29 October 2021

"Kabul residents said gangs roam the streets, stopping, searching, and robbing people at random. They say armed men routinely stop cars and rob the occupants. [...]

Officials of the former government, intelligence service, and military have been snatched from their homes after applying for passports and providing biometric and other identification information, he said.

The Taliban are also using lists of former officials and civil activists to pinpoint their children. "They took four such sons from a prominent school in Kabul. When the police station was asked, they said, 'We don't know who entered the school,'" the source said. "Life is broken."

Another Kabul resident said the father of an associate was kidnapped and a ransom of \$3 million demanded for his release. "But no one has that sort of money; they couldn't pay, and he was killed," he said. Cars are being stolen almost daily from homes in previously safe neighborhoods, he added.

Local media have reported more than 40 kidnappings of businessmen in the two months since the Taliban took control. Other sources have said the number is much higher, though the lack of a functioning bureaucracy means there are paltry official statistics. The bulk of the kidnappings occurred in Kabul, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Kunduz, Herat, and Balk provinces, the deputy head of the Afghanistan Chamber of Commerce and Industries told Tolo News."

Coercion / Forced Recruitment to join Taliban

What instances of forced recruitment and use of children/young men are there under the Taliban?

Byline Times, ['The Taliban Protection Racket'](#), 10 January 2022

"My whole reason for coming here was because the Taliban wanted to recruit me," Azlan (not his real name) told *Byline Times*. "They come to your house, and the first time, they ask nicely. But if you don't agree, then they use force."

Azlan, who originally comes from a province in northern Afghanistan, told this newspaper that he was beaten three times by the Taliban. He eventually came to the UK via a circuitous route in 2015, leaving shortly after the Taliban kidnapped him in a bid to forcibly recruit him.

"I was there for two days and I told them, I don't believe in your fight," he said. "No matter what colour or religion you are, you are human."

The Taliban beat him so hard that they thought he was dead. Fearing that the next beating would be fatal, his

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family sent him to Pakistan, Iran, and he then travelled across Europe to the UK.

He told *Byline Times* that the Taliban took his younger brother, who then disappeared in 2016. Rumours circulated that he had died in a bomb blast. His sister also died in a blast. His father died in 2019, leaving just his mother and his youngest brother, who is now 14.

"This is the age when they recruit and I will do anything to save him," Azlan said. "It's not that I am afraid he will die, but I don't believe in this fight."

The Taliban suggested a solution – that the family pay to avoid him being taken. Azlan now works long hours to send his mother money for what is effectively a protection racket – £300 a month. That money, however, raised hopes in the local community, many members of which are near destitute.

A few days ago, the family was raided as local people had heard that they had money. The house was looted and precious family belongings, such as a watch belonging to Azlan's father, as well as his mother's jewellery, was taken. His brother was beaten."

Human Rights Watch, '[This is our opportunity to end the Taliban's use of child soldiers](#)', 20 September 2021

"For more than two decades, the Taliban have put children on the front lines of Afghanistan's armed conflicts. They have used children [as fighters](#), to plant and detonate improvised explosive devices (IEDs), and as suicide bombers. Thousands of children may [remain in their ranks](#) today."

"The Taliban have [denied](#) that they use children in "jihadic operations" and their [code of conduct](#) states that "boys without beards" are not allowed in military centers. Nevertheless, the U.N. has verified hundreds of individual cases in which the Taliban have recruited and used children in recent years, including a [sharp spike](#) in 2020, and warned that the true figures are likely much higher."

Leaving and 'defecting' from Taliban

What may be reasons for leaving?

What legal prosecution is there for defectors?

How are defectors treated by the Taliban?

How are they treated by society?

Justice, Law and Order in Taliban-controlled Territory

How is governance, law and order regulated under the Taliban?

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Deprive Women of Livelihoods, Identity](#), 18 January 2022

"Much of the state bureaucracy is no longer functioning because many workers from the previous Afghan government have fled the country, or are afraid of returning to work, and the Taliban authority lacks funds to pay workers. Some humanitarian aid and other assistance provided by UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations has gradually restarted but remains [severely curtailed](#) due to Taliban restrictions, logistical difficulties including barriers to transferring money into the country, security concerns, staff evacuations, closures, and legal uncertainties including fear of violating sanctions. [...]

Taliban authorities have also used intimidation to extract money, food, and services. "When the Taliban visit a village, they force the households to feed them and collect food items from people," a woman from a village said. "The Taliban and their fighters call us in the middle of the night to cure and give special treatment to their patients

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and families,” a health worker said. “They enter the hospital with their guns, it’s difficult for the doctors and nurses to manage.”

Interviewees said the Taliban extorted money. They sometimes said they were demanding “taxes,” but the demands were made without standard rates or transparency and in a context in which communities have lost many government services. One woman said the Taliban had dramatically increased taxes on her farming community to a level that families simply could not afford. [...]

After the Taliban takeover, the national police, which had functioned as a counterinsurgency force, largely disintegrated. Fighting has mostly ended in the country, but people expressed fear of violence and arbitrary arrests by the Taliban and lack of rule of law, and reported increased crime in some areas. “Since the Taliban started their government, the security situation in [a district of Ghazni] hasn’t gotten any better – in fact, it has been getting worse,” a student said. “Previously, women could go outside and commute freely to the town, but now even men don’t feel safe walking outside. There are increasing cases of robbery and theft in the district...And there’s no [organized] police to protect the area or to monitor the situation.”

“We kept hearing from some people that with Islamic Emirate there will be more security, no explosions and theft, but we see that they still happen,” a teacher said. [...]

Women also felt more insecure because the Taliban dismantled systems that assisted women facing gender-based violence.”

Khaama Press, [Nearly 3,000 Taliban affiliates dismissed so far: officials](#), 16 January 2022

“Head of Purification Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan Latifullah Hakimi said that they have so far dissociated 2,840 Taliban members accused of abusive practices across Afghanistan.

The commission that was launched after the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan regained power last year in August, is responsible for vetting the Taliban affiliates.

The commission mostly works on the complaints of people, videos on social media, and reports of common people about misdemeanors of the Taliban members, violation of law, and their abusive practices.

Speaking with AFP on Saturday, January 15, 2022, Hakimi said that the people were giving a bad name to the IEA and were removed in this vetting process so that they build a clean army and police force in the future.

“They were involved in corruption, drugs and were intruding in people’s private lives. Some also had links with Daesh [ISIS],” Hakimi said.

Hakimi further added that those dissociated were from 14 provinces and the process of filtering out will continue in other provinces.

In the meantime, the Taliban affiliates are also accused of extrajudicial killings of former security forces which is an act against the general amnesty announced by supreme leader of the IEA Mullah Hebtullah Akhundzada.”

OCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Response Plan \(2022\)](#), 11 January 2022

“Following the takeover of the Government by the de facto authorities, the status of the legal system more broadly is in flux with a range of new policies being proposed, and the status of previous legal frameworks in doubt.

The lack of government-issued identification documents continues to be a limiting factor for many of people in Afghanistan, blocking access to government services and increasing risk of statelessness. According to the 2021 Whole of Afghanistan assessment data, only 35 per cent of households (HH) reported that all HH members had a tazkira (identification card), while 31 per cent of households reported that no women had a tazkira, 63 per cent of displaced households reported that some HH members were missing a tazkira, while 3 per cent of displaced households said that nobody in the household has a tazkira.

Similarly, land rights and tenure are a challenging issue. 40 per cent of the displaced households surveyed in the 2021 Whole of Afghanistan Assessment reported insecure tenure in their current shelter: verbal rental agreement, a Safayee notebook, or no rental agreement. This is a particularly serious challenge for those living in informal settlements where people lack land tenure, reducing their access to essential services and placing them at constant threat of eviction and negative coping mechanisms.

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For issues around gender-based violence (GBV), despite the creation of the elimination of violence against women (EVAW) law, the judicial system still places an enormous burden on individual women to make the justice system work for them, rather than the system working on their behalf.

Lack of progress in passing proposed legislation on asylum continues to leave refugees and asylum seekers in Afghanistan without the necessary legal framework to enable them to obtain necessary documentation to move freely throughout the country, work in the formal sector, pursue higher education, or enter into contracts, leaving them dependent on humanitarian assistance and remittances to meet basic needs.”

Jurist, [Taliban proceed with plans to strip independence of Afghanistan lawyers](#), 3 January 2021

“Afghanistan’s Justice Ministry **reiterated** Monday that the country’s independent lawyers will need to re-certify under a new qualification process set by the Ministry, signaling the intent of the Taliban authorities to plough ahead with plans to strip the country’s legal profession of its independence. “According to the statement, the country’s lawyers will be authorized to continue practicing with their previous licenses until the new certification process has been finalized. “This was the latest step in a series of efforts by the new regime to crack down on the activities of the **Afghanistan Independent Bar Association** (AIBA), an organization established in 2008 to oversee the licensing of new lawyers, and to champion the rule of law and social justice.”

AP News, [Taliban-run government dissolves Afghan election commissions](#), 27 December 2021

The Taliban dissolved Afghanistan’s two election commissions as well as the state ministries for peace and parliamentary affairs, an official said Sunday.

Bilal Karimi, deputy spokesman for Afghanistan’s Taliban-run government, said the country’s Independent Election Commission and Electoral Complaint Commission have been dissolved.

He called them “unnecessary institutes for the current situation in Afghanistan.” He said if there is a need for the commissions in the future, the Taliban government can revive them.

The international community is waiting before extending formal recognition to Afghanistan’s new rulers. They are wary the Taliban could impose a similarly harsh regime as when they were in power 20 years ago — despite their assurances to the contrary.

Both elections commissions were mandated to administer and supervise all types of elections in the country, including presidential, parliamentary and provincial council elections.

Karimi said the Taliban also dissolved the Ministry for Peace and the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. He said they were unnecessary ministries in the government’s current structure.

The Taliban had previously shut down the former Women’s Affairs Ministry.

Gandhara, [“Judge, Jury, And Executioner: Taliban Brings Afghanistan’s Justice System Under Its Thumb”](#), 1 December 2021

“In a decree issued a day earlier on November 22, the Taliban put the AIBA under the control of its Justice Ministry, stripping the organization of its independence.

Taliban Justice Minister Mullah Abdul Hakim also declared that only Taliban-approved lawyers can work in their Islamic courts, effectively revoking the licenses of some 2,500 lawyers in Afghanistan.

His order has raised deep concerns about the impartiality and fairness of criminal trials under the Taliban, which seized control of the country in August after toppling the internationally recognized government.

Those fears have been exacerbated by the Taliban’s brutal form of justice. Under their tribal interpretation of Shari’a law, Taliban judges have routinely ordered public executions and amputations for convicted criminals.”

Gandhara, [Afghans Complain Of Beatings, Harassment As Taliban Inspects Smartphones](#), 29 November 2021

Afghans across the country have complained that Taliban fighters are prying into the personal photos and videos,

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contacts, and social media accounts on their smartphones. The presence of music or videos that the Taliban deems to be violating its strict moral code has often led to harassment and violence, residents said. In many cases, Taliban fighters have confiscated, broken, or erased data from smartphones.

AVA Press, [Interim cabinet expanded; corps commanders named](#), 23 November 2021

“spokesman for the interim government, said the appointments had been made in compliance with orders from Taliban’s supreme leader Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada.”

“The residents of Balkh province welcomed security forces’ efforts in maintaining security in their city. Security officials of Balkh province said that at least 200 suspected people who are accused of murder and kidnapping were arrested during the past three months in Mazar-e-Sharif city and districts of Balkh province.

The head of the security department, Abdul Hai Abed, further said that the level of criminal cases has significantly declined in Balkh province.

“During the last three months when the Islamic Emirate took power we have arrested 200 accused of murder, kidnapping and robbery, and they are waiting for the courts,” said Abdul Hai Abed. “Forty of them were arrested during the two weeks,” he said.

Meanwhile, Abdul Hai Abed added that the Islamic Emirate has begun the process of purging the ranks and reforming in the province. [...]

At the same time, residents of Mazar-e-Sharif confirmed that the level of crimes has decreased, but some mysterious killings are often reported in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif.”

AVA Press, [IEA to establish ‘strong, orderly and educated’ army](#), 17 November 2021

“Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_Qari Fasihuddin, chief of staff of the IEA, said during a visit to a military camp in Kabul, that the IEA is committed to establishing an army.

“Mujahidin of Islamic Emirate are not simple people, for which the world shows contempt, but they are the people that defeated the biggest power in the world with their equipment,” said .

“The Islamic Emirate will be united to establish an army in Afghanistan Inshallah. The army will have some characteristics and will be united, strong and will be an educated army in military and religious sections,” added Faihuiddin.

The high ranking official called on his forces to stand ready to defend Afghanistan and to fight its enemies.

“As we see, the world has disciplined armies and modern equipment. It is compulsory for us (Muslims) to have an equipped, developed, and orderly army to defend the country,” he said.

The exact number of forces is not clear. However, Amir Khan , the IEA’s foreign minister said recently that Afghanistan will establish a much smaller army than the one under the previous government.”

KHAAMA PRESS, [Taliban bans arbitrary operations and courts](#), 13 November 2021

“The Purification Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan ordered a ban on arbitrary military operations and courts and warned that those accountable will be brought to justice or dissolved. [...]

The Purification Commission of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan emphasized good behavior of the Taliban fighters as vital and added that tens of those who ill-treated people were either punished or dissolved.

The members also warned that those who impersonate the Taliban affiliates and annoy people will be identified and punished.

The commission also banned arbitrary courts around the country and ordered the Taliban affiliates to take action against those who do.

The Commission is aimed at purifying the Taliban formation and identifying and dissolving those who mistreat people and do not abide by rules.

The Taliban are willing to create five sub-commissions that will soon be activated in all provinces of Afghanistan.

The members warned that no one is allowed to abuse or beat the former security personnel and that the culprits will be brought to justice.”

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UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE, [Winter is coming in Afghanistan. Are the Taliban ready?](#), 11 November 2021

The Taliban announced the composition of its caretaker government in early September, which consisted almost entirely of members of its senior leadership. There are no women, no prominent non-Taliban politicians and 30 of the 33 figures are ethnic Pashtuns. "I think one of the reasons they didn't move for inclusive government was they were too busy trying to sort out their own internal differences," said Brooking.

Members of the group's brutal Haqqani Network wing hold key positions such as the Interior Ministry. "The Haqqanis are way more powerful than the rest," said Lotfullah Najafizada, the director of Tolo News, Afghanistan's top news network. "And it does not necessarily send good signals about a more moderate Taliban governance in the future."

The tension between conservative and reform wings of the movement has yet to be reconciled. Chief among the issues dividing the group is women and girls' rights and roles in society. "Taliban foot soldiers would question their leaders," if they were willing to give women and girls the rights and freedoms they had over the last two decades, said Farid, who also served of Afghanistan's House Standing Committee for Human Rights, Civil Society and Women Affairs. "What was the reason we fought for 20 years?"

This could push Taliban fighters to form splinter groups or even join the Islamic State Khorasan, which has already perpetrated numerous deadly attacks since the Taliban takeover. "I think the Taliban are very concerned about that split in the movement and therefore ... have been cautious in their decisions," said Brooking.

Reuters, [Taliban says failure to recognise their government could have global effects](#), 30 October 2021

"The Taliban called on the United States and other countries on Saturday to recognise their government in Afghanistan, saying that a failure to do so and the continued freezing of Afghan funds abroad would lead to problems not only for the country but for the world.

No country has formally recognised the Taliban government since the insurgents took over the country in August, while billions of dollars in Afghan assets and funds abroad have also been frozen, even as the country faces severe economic and humanitarian crises. "Our message to America is, if unrecognition continues, Afghan problems continue, it is the problem of the region and could turn into a problem for the world," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told journalists at a news conference on [30 October]."

Ariana News, [MoD to form a new, independent national army](#), 24 October 2021

"Afghan Ministry of Defense (MoD) officials said Saturday that they will establish a new army that is independent in order to defend Afghanistan's territory and airspace.

Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, acting minister of defense and son of Mullah Mohammad Omar, founder of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), said in a voice clip on Sunday that efforts are being made to safeguard Afghanistan's territory and airspace. [...]

The caretaker minister did not however provide further details about how the IEA will finance the army or whether it will include soldiers from the former government."

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'maybe the international community's pressure on the Taliban concerning human rights and women rights is producing results'](#), 21 October 2021

"Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. Here, a lawyer in Kabul offers his personal observations and perspective on an apparent Taliban reversal of their decision to suspend the Ministry of Women Affairs in Afghanistan. [...]

In a press conference, one of the top leaders of the Taliban has announced that they did not actually remove the Ministry of Women Affairs and they are looking into options to resume its operations based on Islamic rules and under the supervision of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan."

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Thomson Reuters Foundation News, [Taliban pledge to step up security as Shi'ite victims buried in Afghanistan](#), 16 October 2021

"Taliban authorities pledged to step up security at Shi'ite mosques as hundreds of people gathered on Saturday to bury the victims of the second Islamic State suicide attack on worshippers in a week."

Al Jazeera, [UN to appoint special rapporteur to monitor rights in Afghanistan](#), 7 October 2021

"The UN has voted to create a new special rapporteur on Afghanistan to probe violations carried out by the Taliban and other parties to the conflict, amid growing concerns for the erosion of civil rights as the country transitions to an "Islamic emirate".

The UN Human Rights Council on Thursday passed a resolution brought by the European Union to have a special rapporteur working on the ground in March 2022, supported by UN experts in legal analysis, forensics and women's rights."

TOLO NEWS, [Officials: 200 Arrested in Balkh in Past 3 Months](#), 17 November 2021

"Security officials of Balkh province said that at least 200 suspected people who are accused of murder and kidnapping were arrested during the past three months in Mazar-e-Sharif city and districts of Balkh province.

The head of the security department, Abdul Hai Abed, further said that the level of criminal cases has significantly declined in Balkh province.

"During the last three months when the Islamic Emirate took power we have arrested 200 accused of murder, kidnapping and robbery, and they are waiting for the courts," said Abdul Hai Abed. "Forty of them were arrested during the two weeks," he said."

Al Jazeera, [Taliban: From Afghanistan's rugged mountains to policing streets](#), 5 October 2021

"One fighter after another, the Taliban is trading in their characteristic long flowing garb for stiff military uniforms. It is a symbol of the moment of transition its fighters find themselves in: Once warriors embedded in Afghanistan's rugged mountains, now they are an urban police force. [...]

By winning the country – after two decades of war – with the August 15 seizure of Kabul, the Taliban also inherited a city marked by lawlessness.

Immediately, it set to work, making its presence known in daily street patrols. Some fighters have done away with the typical AK-47 rifles replacing them with US-made M16s left behind by Afghan forces.

They halt street fights, summon suspected criminals to police stations and chase those who do not heed their call."

In Kabul's Police District 8, there is a long queue leading to two rooms. In one, there are criminal cases. In another, civilian disputes.

Victims of stabbings, robbery and other misdeeds sit in the same room as alleged perpetrators, staring into the distance until it is their turn to plead their case.

For lesser crimes, Taliban police offer the accused three days to show up at the station. After that, they go after them.

The court system is a work in progress, officials said. Meetings are still under way between Taliban officials – used to tribal justice prevalent in rural Afghanistan – to work out the process in a sprawling city with an active judiciary. Even those who fear them in the embattled city welcome the peace their arrival has brought.

The Taliban has empowered local elders to pass judgement based on their interpretation of Islamic law for minor criminal cases.

In the Sheikh Zayed City residential area of Kabul, a committee of elders ordered the father of a man accused of stabbing a neighbour to pay 35,000 Afghanis, about \$400.

The father counts the banknotes in a rapid shuffle and hands it to the imam, who offers it to the family of the victim. They embrace. Justice served."

Long War Journal, [Testimony: The Biden Administration's Policy on Afghanistan](#), 30 September 2021

"The Taliban's new regime is, in many ways, just its old regime. Many of the Taliban's cabinet ministers are

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veterans of the Taliban's first Islamic Emirate from 1996 through 2001.⁸ More than one dozen of them have already been sanctioned by the United Nations, including for their ties to terrorism. All five of the former Guantanamo detainees who were exchanged for Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl in 2014 now serve the Taliban in senior leadership roles. Four of the five are Taliban cabinet ministers, while the fifth is the governor of Khost province."

Pajhwok Afghan News, [Taliban to temporarily adopt Zahir Shah era constitution](#), 28 September 2021

"KABUL (Pajhwok): The Ministry of Justice on Tuesday said the caretaker government would adopt the constitution of King Mohammad Zahir Shah era without the parts which are in conflict with Islamic Sharia.

The ministry in a statement said that justice minister Abdul Hakim Shar'ee during a meeting with Chinese ambassador, Wang Yu, said that Taliban would temporarily enforce the constitution of Zahir Shah era without the parts which are in violation to Islamic Sharia.

He said that any international documents which were not in conflict with Sharia and Emirate rules, the Taliban respected them.

The source said that the Taliban wanted good relations with all countries and assures the world that the soil of Afghanistan would not be used against them."

United States Institute of Peace, [Taliban Seek Recognition, But Offer Few Concessions to International Concerns](#), 28 September 2021

"Much of the Taliban's overtures to seek or establish international recognition seem to be driven by the group's pressing economic needs, their desire to see funds unfrozen and various forms of assistance delivered.

As part of their announcement of senior figures to formal government posts, the Taliban nominated Suhail Shaheen, a longtime member of and former spokesperson for the group's political office in Qatar, to serve as ambassador to the United Nations. In press statements, they have repeatedly encouraged foreign embassies to return to Kabul, including the United States and European states. And the group has maintained a steady tempo of high-level diplomacy with neighboring and regional states, including Russia, China and even India.

However, the Taliban have repeatedly revealed a clear prioritization of maintaining their own internal cohesion and demonstrating their authority domestically. The current caretaker government is made up entirely of their own leadership, excluding women and other political stakeholders while including a number of internationally sanctioned figures. The group has renamed the Afghan government the Islamic Emirate, in spite of a joint diplomatic statement by the United States, Russia, China and Pakistan lobbying against a revival of the title. The group's rank and file have suppressed demonstrations across the country; protestors and journalists are being detained and beaten. Taliban leadership have effectively banned girls' education, discouraged women from returning to work in a number of sectors and disbanded the Ministry of Women's Affairs (replacing it with its historically notorious Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice). At least some elements of the group have begun enforcing brutal law enforcement policies, including public execution."

AP News, [Taliban official: Strict punishment, executions will return](#), 23 September, 2021

"One of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan said the hard-line movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban's executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan's new rulers."

"On at least two occasions in the last week, Kabul men have been packed into the back of a pickup truck, their hands tied, and were paraded around to humiliate them. In one case, their faces were painted to identify them as thieves. In the other, stale bread was hung from their necks or stuffed in their mouth. It wasn't immediately clear what their crimes were."

"He said now the Taliban would allow television, mobile phones, photos and video "because this is the necessity of the people, and we are serious about it." He suggested that the Taliban saw the media as a way to spread their

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message. “Now we know instead of reaching just hundreds, we can reach millions,” he said. He added that if punishments are made public, then people may be allowed to video or take photos to spread the deterrent effect.”

AP News, [Taliban name deputy ministers, double down on all-male team](#), 21 September 2021

“The Taliban expanded their interim Cabinet by naming more ministers and deputies on Tuesday [21 September], but failed to appoint any women, doubling down on a hard-line course despite the international outcry that followed their initial presentation of an all-male government lineup earlier this month.”

Al Jazeera, [Rights groups accuse Taliban of rolling back civil liberties](#), 20 September 2021

“Rights groups have accused the Taliban of “steadily dismantling” human rights in Afghanistan since the group captured power last month. In a briefing released on Tuesday, Amnesty International, the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH) and the World Organisation Against Torture (OMCT) accused the Taliban of a number of rights violations including limits on the freedom of the press, restrictions on women and targeted killing of civilians and former government officials.”

Jurist.org [legal news commentary in collaboration with the University of Pittsburgh], [Afghanistan dispatches: “Now there are no clients for lawyers...”](#) 20 September 2021

“Currently, there is no judicial and prosecution system active and running in the country. All criminal, civil, and commercial cases are stopped. With the limited capacity that the Taliban have, re-start of this system will take a long period of time.”

“Now there are no clients for lawyers – not even local clients – because all the matters they had before the courts are either closed and/or will take at least a year or two for them to be resumed. All law firms face the same situation in Afghanistan right now.”

Afghanistan Analysts Network, [The Focus of the Taleban’s New Government: Internal cohesion, external dominance](#), 12 September 2021

“As the twentieth anniversary of al-Qaeda’s 9/11 attacks that brought the US to Afghanistan to topple the Taleban’s emirate came round, it was the Taleban who were back in power. This week, they announced their new interim administration. It is all-male, almost all-Pashtun, almost all clerical and all-Taleban. Set alongside their sustained military campaign in the Panjshir, the only province that held out against the Taleban takeover, and their violent response to protests across the country, it seems the movement’s priorities have coalesced – internal cohesion, monopolisation of power, silencing of open dissent and dividing the ‘spoils of war’, in terms of government posts, between themselves. Also noticeable, reports AAN’s Martine van Bijlert (with input from Kate Clark and Thomas Ruttig), is the absence, still, of Taleban supreme leader, Mullah Hibatullah Akhundzada.” [...]

The list of ministers and other senior officials is almost exclusively Pashtun, with just two Tajiks and one Uzbek, and no Hazaras, Shia Muslims or members of Afghanistan’s smaller minorities. The list is further all-male and made up mostly of clerics, either mullahs or mawlawis (who have a higher Islamic madrassa education). All are from within the Taleban’s own ranks and many are old-timers – familiar faces from the 1990s.

The one possible exception is the minister of public health. No new acting minister was announced for this post and the Republican-era incumbent, Dr Wahid Majruh, has been pictured in office since the Taleban took power on 15 August. [...]

The most senior position announced, that of prime minister (*rais-e wuzera*), was given to Mullah Muhammad Hassan Akhundzada. [...]

Many of the Taleban government’s newly appointed senior officials are on the United States and/or United Nations sanctions list and two of them have an FBI bounty on their heads. [4] Many have long held leadership positions and have been implicated in terror attacks or atrocities. [...]

Having so many officially appointed leaders who are on international sanctions lists hugely complicates the new

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government's chances of receiving international aid and interacting with other governments."

TOLO News, [Uniformed Police to be Stationed in Kabul](#), 12 September 2021

"The current Taliban forces who are stationed in Kabul will soon be replaced with police forces of the former government and Taliban forces and all will have uniforms, the Taliban said on Sunday.

Anaamullah Samangani, a member of the Taliban's cultural commission, told TOLONews that the current Taliban forces, who do not have uniforms, will be transferred from Kabul to military posts in the provinces.

Samangani, however, did not say how many police and Taliban forces will be deployed in Kabul.

"Police and uniformed forces who have received training and gained skills in their specific fields should soon take charge of maintaining Kabul security and start their jobs. After that, the Mujahideen who are stationed in different police departments and who do not have uniforms will be stationed in police headquarters and army corps (in the provinces)," Samangani said.

A number of Kabul residents, meanwhile, said uniformed forces should be deployed to the city to maintain security and to prevent criminal activity by gunmen identifying as Taliban."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Afghan Women At Forefront Of Nonviolent Resistance To Taliban](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban formed a new, all-male government on September 7 that is made up exclusively of senior militants. It did not include any women, even in secondary roles. The Taliban said women were not suited to serve in the cabinet.

The militants also abolished the Women's Affairs Ministry and reestablished the feared Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice.

In the 1990s, that ministry was responsible for enforcing the Taliban's morality laws, including its strict dress code and gender segregation in society. The ministry's dreaded police were notorious for publicly beating offenders, including women.

United States Institute of Peace, [Five Questions on the Taliban's Caretaker Government](#), 9 September 2021

"As part of the Taliban's bid to re-establish the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan," the militant group announced the line up for its caretaker government on Tuesday. Despite several leading Taliban figures saying the movement would govern in a more moderate and inclusive fashion, the acting appointments made this week were mostly old guard members who played similar roles when the group ruled Afghanistan in the 1990s. USIP's Andrew Watkins discusses who the key players are, what it signals about the Taliban's commitment to inclusivity, the key challenges the government will face and how the West and regional countries should engage."

International Crisis Group, [Who Will Run the Taliban Government?](#), 9 September 2021

"The Taliban announced an "interim" cabinet on 7 September, their first step since taking power on 15 August toward forming a government and signalling how they intend to rule. The cabinet is filled with long-time key Taliban figures from their days as a government and later an insurgency, and it bears a strong resemblance to their former regime of the 1990s. The appointments will reassure the Taliban's rank and file that their leadership remains unified and has not succumbed to pressure to show a more moderate face, but it will not be appreciated by many others. The roster does not reflect Afghan diversity, and it offers no olive branches to a wary international community."

FDD's Long War Journal, [Taliban's government includes designated terrorists, ex-Guantanamo detainees](#), 8 September 2021

"The Taliban has announced the formation of an "interim government" to rule over Afghanistan. The Taliban's regime will be known as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan. This is entirely unsurprising. The first emirate was

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toppled during the U.S.-led invasion in late 2001. The jihadis, members of both the Taliban and al Qaeda, waged jihad for the next two decades in order to resurrect it. The Taliban was clear about its political goal all along. Many of the newly appointed leaders in the Islamic Emirate are actually old Taliban leaders. More than a dozen of them were first sanctioned by the U.N. Security Council in early 2001. Some new faces have joined them. Brief profiles for 22 of the Taliban men who will govern under the emirate are offered below. This list does not include all of the figures appointed to lead. FDD's Long War Journal will likely add to this list in the future. Many of the Taliban leaders discussed below have either current or historical ties to al Qaeda. Indeed, some of them worked closely with al Qaeda throughout their careers. Some them are U.S.-designated terrorists." Five of the newly-appointed Taliban leaders were once held at the detention facility in Guantánamo, but exchanged for Bowe Bergdahl in 2014. They are discussed at the end of this analysis."

The Guardian, [Taliban name all-male Afghan cabinet including minister wanted by FBI](#), 7 September 2021

"The Taliban have announced an all-male caretaker government including an interior minister wanted by the FBI, on a day when at least two people were killed by violent policing of street protests against the new authorities. The leadership unveiled on Tuesday is drawn entirely from Taliban ranks, despite promises of an inclusive cabinet, and many of its senior figures are on UN sanctions lists, which is likely to complicate the group's search for international recognition."

"Afghanistan will once more be officially known as an Islamic emirate, as it was under Taliban rule in the 1990s, and its chief, Hibatullah Akhundzada, will be supreme leader."

"The prime minister will be Mullah Mohammad Hassan Akhund, one of the founding members of the group who was close to its original leader, one-eyed Mullah Mohammed Omar."

"Mullah Omar's son Mullah Yaqoob will be defence minister, and the acting interior minister is Sirajuddin Haqqani, who is on the FBI wanted list with a \$5m (£3.6m) bounty on his head."

"The new cabinet is also heavily dominated by the Pashtun ethnic group that formed the Taliban's original power base but which makes up only about 40% of Afghanistan's population. Just three appointees appeared to be from other ethnic groups."

How is the media regulated under the Taliban?

Khaama Press, [Taliban systematically censoring Afghan media, journalists lost independency: statement](#), 18 January 2022

"Home of Freedom of Speech in Afghanistan has expressed concern about the situation of media, Afghan journalists, freedom of speech, and freedom of media after the Taliban takeover.

The foundation on Monday, January 17, 2022, in a statement said that media and journalists in Afghanistan have lost their independence and they have systematically been censored by de facto authorities in Kabul.

The statement reads that censorship has different roots and that most of the roots belong to the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan.

"Afghan media and journalists have been pressurized by the intelligence of the IEA unprecedentedly and they want to turn the media into their propaganda platforms. The intelligence has succeeded to do so to a certain extent because they are using different methods as a threat, force, and pressures." Reads the statement.

The Home of Freedom of Speech has claimed that the Taliban go to the Newsrooms of media and tell the journalists to cover stories in their favor as they live under their rule.

It adds that most of the prominent journalists have left jobs because they did not want to be used for propaganda for the Taliban.

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The foundation has asked the IEA to stop censoring media and putting pressure on Afghan journalists and also asked international media advocates so that the lives of journalists are protected and the gain of past two decades be preserved."

Khaama Press, [Lack of access to information may lead to closure of media in Afghanistan: survey](#), 17 January 2022

"National Union of Afghanistan's Journalists said that they do not have a legal document and guideline for media coverage by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan that has put media and Afghan journalists in great trouble.

The union said that during the past twenty years there was a legal document for the activities of media in Afghanistan that had facilitated media coverage and access to information.

Members of the union said that lack of the document and guidelines has led to a lack of access to information that will definitely lead to the collapse of the Afghan media outlets.

They said that after the Taliban takeover, the life of Afghan journalists is getting worse day by day and more restrictions are being imposed on access to information.

Head of the union Masroor Lutfi said that the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan has promised not to cause troubles for male and female journalists and the situation is also getting better in Kabul but provinces still have the problem of access to information.

"Absence of a legal document and guideline is a serious problem that has made people cover stories by themselves and based on their interests. We cannot address incidents happen to journalists until we have a guideline by IEA." Said Masroor.

It comes as more than 70% of Afghan media have close due to economic woes after the Taliban takeover on August 15 last year."

Khaama Press, [95% Afghan journalists cannot cover stories independently: polling](#), 16 January 2022

"National Union of Afghanistan's Journalists said that 95 percent of Afghan journalists have the problem of access to information and they cannot cover stories independently.

The union has cited its polling that was conducted in all 34 provinces of Afghanistan during which 500 Afghan journalists were questioned.

Statistics of the polling were released in Kabul on Sunday, January 16, 2022, in a press conference.

As per the numbers, 90% of the attendants are facing serious problems in collecting information as there is no specific law of access to the information after the Taliban regained power.

"We asked attendants if the media are censored, 90% said yes and only 10% said no, 90% attendants said yes to the question of access to information while the same percentage said they have been censored by de facto authorities." Said Masroor Lutfi head of the Union.

The polling has also found that 30% of Afghan journalists found it difficult to interview Taliban authorities while 50% said that they have problems in interviewing common people.

It comes as journalists have been accusing the Taliban of censoring, beating, intimidating, and threatening them while covering stories especially outdoor ones."

Deutsche Welle (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan: How press freedom has crumbled since the Taliban takeover](#), 11 January 2022

"Thousands of journalists have lost their jobs in Afghanistan over the past few months, with many media outlets ceasing operations due to increasing security and financial challenges. Selma (name changed) was a journalist and activist living and working in Panjshir province in northeastern Afghanistan. She, like many others, lost her job following the Taliban takeover of the war-ravaged country in August. After being threatened, she left the region and is now in hiding, selling bolani, a local flat bread, on the streets to survive "I worked as a journalist and human rights activist," said Selma, who asked DW not to reveal her true identity for fear of reprisals. "As you know, women's rights are strongly related to religious ideologies, so we were always in dispute with extremists. This put

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us in danger." Selma is one of the thousands of journalists and media workers who have lost their jobs in Afghanistan since August. According to a report published in December by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), 40% of media outlets have closed over the past five months with an estimated 6,400 journalists losing their jobs. Hundreds have fled the country. The report added that over 80% of female journalists are now out of work. According to a report published in December by Reporters Without Borders (RSF), 40% of media outlets have closed over the past five months with an estimated 6,400 journalists losing their jobs. Hundreds have fled the country. The report added that over 80% of female journalists are now out of work." [...]

RUSI, [The Taliban's Homemade Counterinsurgency](#), 4 January 2022

"The Taliban have also shut down media reporting about counterinsurgency activities. The media are told to describe strikes against insurgents and terrorist cells as raids against kidnappers and other criminals. The Taliban seem to be trying to prevent IS-K and other opposition groups from using media reporting as a tool in their propaganda/recruitment strategy, even if they cannot prevent reports of attacks and counterstrikes from circulating on social media. While this move could be seen as 'brutal' in terms of media freedom, it may well be effective, at least to some degree."

Committee to Protect Journalists, [Afghan TV station owner Aref Noori detained by Taliban-affiliated militia](#), December 27, 2021

"Yesterday, dozens of armed men who identified themselves as members of a militia affiliated with the Taliban-controlled Police District 4 in Kabul stormed and searched Noori's house in the Karte Parwan area of the capital and detained him," [...]

"Noori, owner of the independent broadcaster Noorin Television, has not been seen by his family or a lawyer following his detention, according to his son, who said his whereabouts are unknown." [...]

"Noorin TV often covers security issues in Afghanistan, and frequently airs programming supportive of the opposition Jamiat-e-Islami party. Kashef Noori said that the broadcaster had operated for the last decade but paused programming this week due to technical issues."

Al Jazeera, [Almost half of Afghan media closed since Taliban takeover: Survey](#), 24 December 2021

"Afghanistan's media outlets are on the brink of a meltdown as they face a shortage of funding following the [takeover](#) by the Taliban in August this year. A survey released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the Afghan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA) indicates that about 43 percent of Afghan media outlets have shut down their operations, leaving almost 60 percent of journalists unemployed."

Reporters Without Borders, [Since the Taliban takeover, 40% of Afghan media have closed, 80% of women journalists have lost their jobs](#), December 20, 2021 - Updated on December 21, 2021

"A survey by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) and the Afghan Independent Journalists Association (AIJA) shows a radical change in the Afghan media landscape since the Taliban took power. A total of 231 media outlets have had to close and more than 6,400 journalists have lost their jobs since 15 August. Women journalists have been hit hardest, with four out of five no longer working."

"The environment for journalists in the capital and the rest of the country has become extremely fraught since the Taliban takeover. Media must now comply with the "11 Journalism Rules" issued by the information and culture ministry and with Taliban interpretation of Islamic doctrine on "Enjoining good and forbidding wrong." The dangerous "Journalism Rules" open the way to censorship and persecution, and deprive journalists of their independence, forcing them to tell information and culture ministry officials what they would like to cover, get their permission to go ahead and finally inform them about the results of their reporting in order to be able to publish.

In some provinces, the obligation to replace news and music programmes with programmes whose content is solely religious in nature has also driven some local radio stations to cease broadcasting."

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"Recognising the disappearance of many media outlets, Mujahid noted that many media "executives and managers had fled the country." This had contributed to "collapse" of their media outlets, he said. Hundreds of journalists have left Afghanistan since August for fear of reprisals or because of the impossibility of continuing to practice their profession.

IAJA executive-director Hojatollah Mujadadi said: "Beyond the numbers, the closure of nearly half of the country's media and the loss of more than 6,000 jobs are a disaster for press freedom. If international institutions do not help journalists and media in Afghanistan and if the government does not take urgent action, the other half of the media and journalists, who are still working in really difficult conditions, will suffer the same fate."

Committee to Protect Journalists, [Taliban official and bodyguards beat, detain journalist Sayed Rashed Kashefi](#), 14 December 2021

"The Taliban must immediately and thoroughly investigate the beating and detention of journalist Sayed Rashed Kashefi and ensure that members of the press can operate freely and safely, the Committee to Protect Journalists said today."

Al Jazeera, [Afghan women speak up against new Taliban media guidelines](#), 25 November 2021

"Afghan journalists and activists have expressed concern over a new "religious guideline" issued by Taliban rulers, saying the move is yet another [form of control](#) over women.

The Taliban, which [took over](#) Afghanistan roughly 100 days ago, on Sunday urged female journalists to follow a dress code and called on TV stations to stop showing soap operas featuring women, sparking fears over women's rights and media freedom.

Akif Muhajir, spokesman for the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, said "these are not rules but a religious guideline".

However, activists fear it could be misused to harass female journalists, many of whom have already fled the country in the wake of the Taliban's takeover on August 15. (...)

Sonia Ahmadyar, a journalist who lost her job in August, said the Taliban has been moving to slowly "muzzle the media".

TOLO News, [257 Media Outlets Closed in 100 Days Since Takeover](#), 23 November 2021

"We urge that the Law on Access to Information, and Media Law, which are not being used now, be amended based on the current situation and in consultation with the media," said Masroor Lutfi, media officer at Afghanistan National Journalists' Union.

NAI, an organization supporting media in Afghanistan, said that since the Islamic Emirate rule, over 257 media outlets have ceased operating in the country due to financial challenges as well as restrictions. This includes print, radio and TV stations. According to NAI, over 70 percent of media workers have become jobless or left the country. Reports show that during these 100 days, six reporters have lost their lives in various incidents including attacks by unknown armed men, explosions, committing suicide and traffic incidents.

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Crackdown on Media Worsens](#), 22 November 2021

"Taliban intelligence officials have made death threats against journalists who have criticized Taliban officials and have required journalists to submit all reports for approval before publication. New guidelines from the Vice and Virtue Ministry dictate the dress of female journalists on television and prohibit soap operas and entertainment programs featuring female actors. [...]

Several journalists said that they have been summoned by local officials immediately after publishing reports on Taliban abuses. One journalist who had reported complaints about Taliban searching houses and beating people said that the deputy governor called him into his office and told him that if he broadcast anything like that again, "He would hang me in the town square."

Other media staff have reported that heavily armed Taliban intelligence officials visited their offices and warned

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journalists not to use the word “Taliban” in their reporting but to refer to the “Islamic Emirate” in all publications. In one province, intelligence officials ordered local media to replace the word for suicide bomber with the word for martyr after a published report mentioned that Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani had honored the families of suicide bombers. [...]

The Taliban have also pressed the media, especially in the provinces, to publish the reports they want and have ordered journalists in some instances to interview them. One journalist said: “After they threatened us with death, we published what they said. Now we broadcast Quranic verses at the beginning of the programs and naat [Islamic songs] because we fear for our safety.” [...]

Many media outlets have closed their offices out of fear and are publishing only online. The chief editor for a women-led media office said that her staff use pseudonyms to hide their identities because the Taliban accuse them “of promoting Western values.” [...]

The atmosphere of fear has left people afraid to share information on incidents, such as forced evictions or violent attacks by the Taliban. Journalists said that the Taliban authorities routinely ignore their requests for information, or simply deny reported incidents.”

Al Jazeera, [Afghan journalists lament ‘bleak’ future for media under Taliban](#), 22 October 2021
“Ahmadi, who was then deputy head of news at TOLO, met the network’s top management and immediately came to two decisions.

“The first thing we did was send all the female staff home,” Ahmadi told Al Jazeera over the phone from Europe.

The other decision they made was controversial but necessary, he said. They immediately stopped broadcasting music and entertainment programmes. The Turkish serials, game shows, singing competitions, talk shows and sketch comedy shows that millions of people tuned into every evening came to a sudden end.

Though the Taliban had made no official declarations on programming at the time, Ahmadi said the decision was a preemptive one.

“If you understood the fear that night, you would see why we came to such a decision,” he told Al Jazeera. Ahmadi said he now regrets that decision, but that at the time, it seemed like a necessary one. “We wanted to be the ones to cut them off, not the Taliban,” he said. [...]

Other journalists Al Jazeera spoke to agreed with Khenjani’s assessment, saying they have faced pushback while trying to report on several issues over the last two months.

Journalists who were beaten and tortured for reporting on protests in Kabul last month told Al Jazeera they have been warned by Taliban officials not to cover such events.

Likewise, journalists also recalled being stopped by the Taliban from reporting from the northern province of Panjshir where an armed resistance against the group started after it took over Kabul.

Abdul Farid Ahmad, the former deputy director for operations at TOLO News, references all of these events when speaking about his efforts to continue working in a Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. “They have beaten journalists many times. They didn’t let journalists cover the women’s protests. They didn’t let journalists go to Panjshir when it was not under their control. We have so many examples that the Taliban didn’t and still don’t want journalists to work freely,” he told Al Jazeera.”

Human Rights Watch, [Afghanistan: Taliban Severely Restrict Media](#), 1 October 2021

“Taliban authorities in Afghanistan have imposed wide-ranging restrictions on media and free speech that are already stifling criticism and dissent, Human Rights Watch said today.

During a late September meeting with journalists in Kabul, the Taliban Ministry of Information and Culture distributed media regulations whose provisions are so broad and vague as to prohibit virtually any critical reporting about the Taliban.

“Despite the Taliban’s promises to allow media that ‘respected Islamic values’ to function, the new rules are suffocating media freedom in the country,” said Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. “The Taliban regulations are so sweeping that journalists are self-censoring and fear ending up in prison.”

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A copy of the regulations seen by Human Rights Watch says that media are prohibited from printing or broadcasting reports that “are contrary to Islam,” “insult national figures,” or “distort news content.” Journalists are required to “ensure that their reporting is balanced” and not report on “matters that have not been confirmed by officials” or issues that “could have a negative impact on the public’s attitude.” Media outlets are required to “prepare detailed reports” with the new governmental regulatory body before publication.

[...]

An editor of a media outlet led by women said that, after the Taliban takeover, they had continued to publish online but stopped after the new regulations were announced. “We have lost the space for free media with the Taliban taking over the country,” she said. “We do not have free media in Afghanistan anymore.”

A journalist in Kabul said that the regulations were “very worrying,” as they would “restrict most of the media’s activities. Those who are still operating no longer publish anything critical. They mostly interview Taliban officials. Previously, they were active in criticizing the government ... but with these regulations, censorship is the immediate result.”

A Kabul-based editor said that the prohibition on “insulting national figures” could be interpreted very broadly and curtail any reporting on corruption or other abuses.”

How is Sharia law interpreted and applied?

Gandhara, [Regional Taliban Officials Ban Beard Trimming, Impose Turbans For Male Employees](#), 17 January 2022

“Taliban officials in Afghanistan’s southern Uruzgan Province have ordered male employees to stop trimming their beards and wear a turban at work. [...]

Mulawi Taib, a senior Taliban official in Uruzgan, told a gathering on January 16 that the hard-line Islamist group wanted people to obey Islamic Shari’a law.

“All employees...should understand that the policy of the Islamic Emirate [of Afghanistan] is based on Shari’a law. All employees are forbidden to shorten their beards and must come to work wearing turbans,” Mulawi Taib said.

In November, the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice issued a set of “religious guidelines” that imposed new restrictions on life under the Taliban.

Uruzgan is one of the provinces where the group has imposed strict rules after returning to power.

According to reports, Taliban officials have appointed people at mosques to monitor the observance of prayers and religious orders. An attendance book was introduced in mosques, resulting in punishments for those who do not attend prayers.

Such punishments are meted out mainly by employees appointed by the ministry, reports said.

The Ministry of Vice and Virtue, which replaced the Western-backed government’s Women’s Affairs Ministry and took over its building after the militant group seized Kabul, was notorious for its abuses, particularly against women and girls, during the previous Taliban rule, from 1996 to 2001.”

Gandhara, [Afghans Fear for Their Rights As Taliban Resurrects Religious Policing](#), 6 January 2022

When the Taliban seized power in August, the militant group vowed it would not resurrect the violent religious policing it enforced during its first stint in power. The hard-liners claimed they would limit themselves to preaching Islamic values of modesty and dignity. But nearly five months after regaining power, the Taliban’s Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice has reclaimed its role as the enforcer of the group’s radical interpretation of Islamic law. In a spate of decrees issued in recent weeks, the ministry has imposed restrictions on the behavior, movement, and appearances of residents, particularly those of women and girls.

AVA Press, [The Taliban Issued New Instructions to the Residents of Logar](#), 12 December 2021

“The Taliban-led government has asked businessmen and shopkeepers in Pul-e-Alam, Logar, to offer their daily

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prayers in congregations and mosques. The Department of Enjoining the Good and Forbidding the Evil has also instructed the barbershops in the city of -e-Alam that taking money and shaving the beard is forbidden and should be avoided.” [...]

“He pointed out that these are not their orders, but a religious matter and a divine command.” [...]

Meanwhile, Taliban officials are assuring the people of the province that they will not be mistreated in any way. According to them, their duty is not to punish and mistreat people, but social awareness and the implementation of Islamic culture in society.

AVA Press, [Taliban Forces Confiscated 800 Liters of Wine in Parwan](#), 6 December 2021

“Local Taliban officials in province say they have seized more than 800 liters of alcohol from the province.

“The consignment was discovered and confiscated on Monday, December 6, in the seventh security district of , the provincial capital,” said Shamsulhaq Mobashir, governor spokesman of Taliban in Parwan.

According to him, 10 sellers of have also been arrested by Taliban forces.

“Meanwhile, an alcoholic beverage factory belonging to the 17th district of was seized by Taliban forces,” said Malang Jan, the commander of Parwan’s 7th security district.

According to local Taliban officials in the province, the detainees have pleaded guilty and their cases are under investigation.”

AVA Press, [Handle the Prisoners’ Cases Based on Sharia Law, Says Taliban Cabinet](#), 23 November 2021

“The Taliban interim government has ordered that the cases of all prisoners and detainees be handled and their fate must be determined in accordance with Islamic law.

The cabinet of the Taliban on Tuesday, November 23, told all relevant sections not to detain prisoners for more than a certain period of time.

The prisoners’ cases should be referred to the judiciary, the cabinet stressed.

The cabinet meeting of the acting Taliban government said that the needs of the prisoners should be solved and their rights should be fully respected.”

JURIST, [Afghanistan dispatches: Taliban Minister of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice insists that separating men and women is a fundamental Islamic value](#), 16 November 2021

“JURIST EXCLUSIVE – Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the Taliban takeover. Here, a Staff Correspondent for JURIST in Kabul offers his observations on recent activities of the Taliban Ministry for Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. [...]

The Minister for Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice said in a statement Tuesday that the Taliban are not against girls’ education, but men and women sitting together at a table is in contradiction to Islamic values. He further added that if the international community puts pressure on the Taliban for this reason, they will not leave their beliefs. [...]

In provinces like Nangarhar, Takhar, Kapisa, Nuristan, and Kandahar the ministry’s officials have sent letters to barbers and public baths stating that no barber is allowed to shave anyone’s beard. If caught, the barber will be punished.

There is no official report if they have punished anyone but according to my understanding, they are using most of their time to educate and inform the public of these policies.

The recent statements by the minister indicates one thing on the future education and higher education system in the country, and that is that there may be separate classes for girls and boys. Boys are girls were already separated in schools, but in the universities they attended the same class. This may be one reason behind the closure of public universities in the country.”

NPR via The Associated Press, [The Taliban Order Barbers Not To Shave Beards In Afghan Province Of Helmand](#), 27 September 2021

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"The Taliban on Monday banned barbershops in a southern Afghanistan province from shaving or trimming beards, claiming their edict is in line with Shariah, or Islamic, [law](#).

The order in Helmand province was issued by the provincial Taliban government's vice and virtue department to barbers in Lashkar Gah, the provincial capital.[...]

During their previous rule of Afghanistan, the Taliban adhered to a harsh interpretation of Islam. Since overrunning Kabul on Aug. 15 and again taking control of the country, the world has been watching to see whether they will re-create their strict governance of the late 1990s.

Some indication came on Saturday, when Taliban fighters killed four alleged kidnappers and later hung their bodies in the public squares of the western city of Herat."

Financial Times, [Afghanistan's young Talibs: 'No compromise with the enemy of our martyrs'](#), 18 September 2021

"There is a generation "more radical than the mainstream Taliban", said Graeme Smith at the International Crisis Group. The new Taliban rulers are "going to have their hands full".

The Guardian, [Taliban ban girls from secondary education in Afghanistan](#), 17 September 2021

"In a further sign that the recently announced Taliban government is tightening restrictions on women, the former ministry of women's affairs building in Kabul has been handed over to the newly re-established ministry for the prevention of vice and promotion of virtue.

This was the group's feared enforcer in the 1990s, charged with beating women who violated bars on everything from going out in public without a male guardian to an obsessively prescriptive dress code that even forbade high heels."

TOLO News, [Afghan Education Ministry to Modify Curriculum](#), 13 September 2021

"The Ministry of Higher Education announced on Sunday that some subjects which contrast with Islam's Sharia will be dropped from the higher education curriculum.

It comes as private universities and other higher education institutions reopened about a week ago in which classes were divided by gender.

Acting Minister of Higher Education Shaikh Abdul Baqi Haqqani said on Sunday that mixed classes between girls and boys are not acceptable and some changes will be brought to the curriculum.

He said changes will be based on Islamic Sharia.

[...]

The ministry added that it will launch a program to send students abroad for higher education in the future."

TOLO News, [Private Universities Reopen, Students Separated by Gender](#), 7 September 2021

"The Ministry of Higher Education announced that private universities and higher education institutions that are following the new gender format have reopened.

The acting Minister Abdul Baqi Haqqani told TOLOnews that the male and female university students will be taught in separate classrooms, emphasizing that only female lecturers will be allowed to teach girls' classes.

According to Haqqani, joint classes are not acceptable at universities. He said: "Some of the universities are able to use separate buildings for girls, to teach the girls separately. But a number of universities do not have buildings, they can change the time of classes."

Meanwhile, officials from the private universities and institutions said they were willing to implement the new format required by the ministry. The officials are worried about the girls' low attendance at the universities. [...]

The state universities are still closed in Afghanistan. Based on the ministry's announcements, government universities will open as soon as the separation of classes take place."

The Guardian, [Taliban name all-male Afghan cabinet including minister wanted by FBI](#), 7 September

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2021

"The Taliban have also brought back the ministry for promotion of virtue and prevention of vice, a notorious enforcement body that was one of the most hated institutions when they last controlled Afghanistan. Its main function was to police the Taliban's **extreme interpretation** of Islamic law."

"In his first statement since the Taliban seized power last month, [supreme leader] Akhundzada said Afghanistan's new rulers were committed to all international laws, treaties and commitments not in conflict with Islamic law.

"In the future, all matters of governance and life in Afghanistan will be regulated by the laws of the holy Sharia," he said."

What is the Taliban's justice and dispute resolution system?

Khaama, [Taliban to investigate torture of former security personnel](#), 31 December 2021

"Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said they will investigate cases of former security personnel being kidnapped, tortured, and arrested by rank and file of IEA.

"A spokesperson of the IEA Ahmadullah Wasiq said that they are fully committed to the general amnesty announced by Supreme Leader Hebtullah Akhundzada and will not allow anyone to violate amnesty."

Khaama, [Respect my amnesty, stop extrajudicial punishment: Mullah Hebtullah to Taliban](#), 30 December 2021

"Supreme leader of the Taliban Mullah Hebtullah Akhundzada has directed the Taliban affiliates to respect his announced general amnesty and stop extrajudicial punishment of the employees of the former Afghan government. [...]

"The emphasis on implementing general amnesty and stopping extrajudicial punishment comes after a video of a former security commander being punished and beaten by a Taliban affiliate went viral."

Al Jazeera, [Taliban: From Afghanistan's rugged mountains to policing streets](#), 5 October 2021

"In Kabul's Police District 8, there is a long queue leading to two rooms. In one, there are criminal cases. In another, civilian disputes.

Victims of stabbings, robbery and other misdeeds sit in the same room as alleged perpetrators, staring into the distance until it is their turn to plead their case.

For lesser crimes, Taliban police offer the accused three days to show up at the station. After that, they go after them.

The court system is a work in progress, officials said. Meetings are still under way between Taliban officials – used to tribal justice prevalent in rural Afghanistan – to work out the process in a sprawling city with an active judiciary. Even those who fear them in the embattled city welcome the peace their arrival has brought.

The Taliban has empowered local elders to pass judgement based on their interpretation of Islamic law for minor criminal cases.

In the Sheikh Zayed City residential area of Kabul, a committee of elders ordered the father of a man accused of stabbing a neighbour to pay 35,000 Afghanis, about \$400.

The father counts the banknotes in a rapid shuffle and hands it to the imam, who offers it to the family of the victim. They embrace. Justice served."

Afghan Analyst Network, [Creating a Hierarchy of Victims? ICC may drop investigations into US forces to focus on Taleban and ISKP - Afghanistan Analysts Network - English](#), 1 October 2021

"As to whether allegations of war crimes or crimes against humanity would be dealt with in domestic courts, the Prosecutor is correct to say that the Taleban are unlikely to prosecute their own. Taleban action against the ISKP and former government officials can be expected, but it is debateable whether that would be through their courts,

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which are even further from reaching international fair trial standards than the previous government's, or as summary executions or punishment beatings. Reprisal killings of members of the former Afghan security services have been alleged by UNAMA and of members of ISKP and other Salafists in media reporting, see for example, [here](#) and [here](#)."

AP News, [Taliban official: Strict punishment, executions will return](#), 23 September 2021

"KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — One of the founders of the Taliban and the chief enforcer of its harsh interpretation of Islamic law when they last ruled Afghanistan [Mullah Nooruddin Turabi] said the hard-line movement will once again carry out executions and amputations of hands, though perhaps not in public.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Mullah Nooruddin Turabi dismissed outrage over the Taliban's executions in the past, which sometimes took place in front of crowds at a stadium, and he warned the world against interfering with Afghanistan's new rulers. [...]

Turabi, now in his early 60s, was justice minister and head of the so-called Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice — effectively, the religious police — during the Taliban's previous rule.

At that time, the world denounced the Taliban's punishments, which took place in Kabul's sports stadium or on the grounds of the sprawling Eid Gah mosque, often attended by hundreds of Afghan men.

Executions of convicted murderers were usually by a single shot to the head, carried out by the victim's family, who had the option of accepting "blood money" and allowing the culprit to live. For convicted thieves, the punishment was amputation of a hand. For those convicted of highway robbery, a hand and a foot were amputated.

Trials and convictions were rarely public and the judiciary was weighted in favor of Islamic clerics, whose knowledge of the law was limited to religious injunctions.

Turabi said that this time, judges — including women — would adjudicate cases, but the foundation of Afghanistan's laws will be the Quran. He said the same punishments would be revived.

"Cutting off of hands is very necessary for security," he said, saying it had a deterrent effect. He said the Cabinet was studying whether to do punishments in public and will "develop a policy."

In recent days in Kabul, Taliban fighters have revived a punishment they commonly used in the past — public shaming of men accused of small-time theft.

On at least two occasions in the last week, Kabul men have been packed into the back of a pickup truck, their hands tied, and were paraded around to humiliate them. In one case, their faces were painted to identify them as thieves. In the other, stale bread was hung from their necks or stuffed in their mouth. It wasn't immediately clear what their crimes were."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Gandhara Briefing: Return Of The Taliban Emirate](#), 10 September 2021

"The Taliban, as Afghans remember all too well, has its own brand of justice. The militants' shadow courts are set to become Afghanistan's official judicial system based on their strict interpretation of Islamic law. "Soon we will see floggings for adultery and public intoxication, and we will see them executing people for murder," predicted Haroun Rahimi, an exiled Afghan legal scholar."

Livelihood

Can cultural activities take place? What restrictions and guidelines does the Taliban place on them?

Deutsche Welle, [Hundreds of Afghan artists need protection](#), 20 December 2021

"Meanwhile, more and more Afghan artists are receiving death threats, are living underground or hiding their works, or even destroying them. Some of them are attempting to flee the country across national borders on their

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own — only to end up in third countries that are also unsafe.”

NBC, [Afghanistan's only music school completes exit from Kabul fearing Taliban crackdown](#), 18 November 2021

“The last two of more than 270 students, faculty and staff from [Afghanistan's](#) only music school have left the country in the wake of the [Taliban](#) takeover, the institution's founder said on Thursday.”

AAN, [Music Censorship in 2021: The silencing of a nation and its cultural identity](#), 17 November 2021

“Music and musicians once again face serious threats following Afghanistan’s takeover by the Taleban in August this year. Over the past two decades, the theory and practice of traditional Afghan instruments, as well as other musical forms, has seen a remarkable revival after the destruction of the country’s musical heritage during the 1990s, with skills being passed on to a new generation of performers. Now, musicians are once again being forced to relocate abroad. This means they will only be able to keep their musical heritage and identity alive from beyond Afghanistan’s borders, jeopardising an already fragile but important recent shift in how music and musicians are perceived in Afghan society. Fabrizio Foschini looks at the hardships that have befallen Afghan musicians and the risks that music faces once again. [...]

The Taleban never publicised their official position on music during their 20-year war against the Afghan government. Musicians were occasionally targeted but most likely as a means of reasserting the Taleban’s authority in the first years of the insurgency (see for example here). In Taleban-held areas, the treatment of musicians depended largely on local commanders’ relationships with communities or the presence of musicians in areas under their control (See this report in the Telegraph). [...] However, a clearer glimpse of their future attitudes to music emerged once they consolidated their hold on towns which fell during their 2021 spring-summer offensive. In Balkh, for example, which they captured on 21 June, the Taleban implemented a ban on music. Local radio stations were only allowed to play religious chants and men caught listening to music in the bazaar were reportedly subjected to corporal punishments. [...] The days following the fall of the Republic on 15 August were marked by the destruction of musical instruments, either as a political message or acts of vandalism. This not only intimidates, it also takes away the means for people to earn their living, especially given how expensive and beloved instruments are. In the capital, unidentified armed men entered the Afghan National Institute of Music (ANIM), tried to steal the institute’s vehicles and reportedly destroyed a number of instruments (NPR reporting here). On 27 August, several pianos and *tabla* were smashed when a Radio Television Afghanistan (RTA) studio was vandalised (see, for example, this India Today report). In Jalalabad, the Taleban targeted music shops, reportedly as early as 15 August, the day they entered the city. They doused instruments with petrol, set them on fire in the city’s streets and ordered musicians to find other jobs. Music shops across the country were closed down within days and have remained so ever since (see here).

In an event that shocked the nation on 27 August, Taleban fighters took Fawad Andarabi, a player of the *ghichak*, a type of bowed lute, from his home and shot him dead (see here). The fact that the killing happened during the Taleban’s military offensive in Panjshir by way of the Andarab valley did not diminish the significance of this event. Fawad Andarabi had been at home when Taleban fighters, who had already paid him a visit, returned and summarily executed him (see here).

Since then, there have been occasional reports of incidents involving musicians or performances. For example, Kabuli musicians told AAN that a duo of *dhol* (percussion) and *sorna* (woodwind) players were on their way to a wedding when the Taleban stopped them near the old city’s main roundabout and broke their instruments. On 17 September, an Afghan journalist (@TajudenSoroush) reported on Twitter that Taleban militants had overrun a wedding party in Takhar province and beaten up a group of female musicians who were playing for an all-female audience.

More recently, on 29 October, gunmen introducing themselves as Taleban opened fire on a wedding in Surkhrod district in Nangrahar after guests tried to stop them from smashing loudspeakers, killing at least two people and injuring ten others. The couples getting married in the joint ceremony had reportedly received permission from a local Taleban commander to play recorded music in the area reserved for women. The Taleban have sought to

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distance themselves from the incident and later announced they had arrested two of the perpetrators, saying the attack had started because of a personal feud.

Like many of the Taleban's new legal provisions, their ban on music has not been officially announced or explained; it has emerged over time through a series of declarations, prohibitions and measures (see this Gandhara report). Taleban spokesmen, for example, have denounced music as un-Islamic (see Newsweek report here) and Taleban officials have met the owners of hotels, restaurants and wedding halls in Kabul and instructed them to avoid live music. As Zabiullah Mujahed told The New York Times: "Music is forbidden in Islam ... but we're hoping that we can persuade people not to do such things, instead of pressuring them."

However, the forms of 'persuasion' employed have not excluded force: Afghan musicians and DJs have been repeatedly intimidated and subject to violence by Taleban – although individuals were arguably acting beyond their mandate in the case of the worst attacks. They have also seen their instruments and professional paraphernalia destroyed. At this rate, the Taleban may succeed in convincing musicians to give up their profession, without the government having to announce a ban officially (see this AP report). What is certain, is that many musicians are nowadays burying their instruments and trying to leave the country. [...] Their current attitude towards music appears to be the same as the one they adopted then – rejection of most forms of music. Music is seen as something that is 'dangerous', distracting the mind from religion and causing people to have sinful thoughts. [...]

The Taleban's own use of music, which has been the subject of a number of studies over the past decade, has almost exclusively focused on *tarana* – poems in praise of their fighters [1] grounded in melodies and texts deeply rooted in Pashtun folk culture, but unaccompanied by instruments. The absence of instruments is a major criterion for the perceived lawfulness of music by the movement. [2] These *tarana* became a major propaganda tool for the Taleban during their nearly two-decades-long insurgency, possibly one of central importance for winning the fight "for hearts and minds" of Pashtun youths in Afghanistan and Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. They had, however, already been composed and performed by the Taleban in the 1990s. [3] Apart from the *tarana*, the only other forms of musical performance endorsed by the Taleban are compositions in their praise or strictly devotional music (see here) such as the *marsyeh* (requiem) or *na't* (a recitation in praise of the Prophet Muhammad). Yet once again, the distinction seems to be largely between vocal and instrumental performances, rather than devotional versus secular, as the musical gatherings at the Sufi Chishti Khanaqah in Old Kabul, a devotional practice considered as *ghaza-ye ruh* (food for the soul) have all but stopped since the Taleban's takeover. (See the author's piece about the music scene in Old Kabul here.)"

AVA Press, [A Young Boy Killed for Listening to Music in Badakhshan](#), 13 November 2021

"Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_A 19-year-old young boy was shot for listening to music by the , sources in Badakhshan said.

The incident took place in the Zargaran village, Ashkashum district of on (Tuesday, November 9), sources told Hasht-e Subh.

The young victim was named Wahidullah and had just graduated from school.

was shot by the Taliban while he was listening to music.

According to the sources, the Taliban first checked his cell phone, and when they found out that he was listening to music they beat and shot him.

He died due to severe bleeding while taking to the hospital, sources told Hasht-e Subh.

The Taliban haven't shown any reactions to the incident.

In addition, beard shaving and haircut as "-style" have been banned in some provinces as well by the Taliban."

BBC, [Afghanistan: Gunmen attach wedding to stop music being played](#), 31 October 2021

"Gunmen who identified themselves as Taliban attacked a wedding in eastern Afghanistan to stop music being played, killing at least two people and injuring 10 others, officials say.

A Taliban spokesman said two of the three gunmen had been arrested but denied they had acted on behalf of the Islamist movement.

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Music was banned when the Taliban ruled the country from 1996 to 2001. The new authorities have not yet issued such a decree.”

Al Jazeera, [Afghan National Music Institute strikes a chord in Qatar](#), 23 October 2021
“About 96 members of the Afghanistan National Institute of Music, or ANIM, which includes faculty and musicians have fled their homes in Afghanistan. [...] The school’s doors have been closed since mid-August. The building is now under constant patrol by the Taliban.
Situation on the ground

Since the Taliban’s return to power in Afghanistan there has not been an outright ban on music, but rather restrictions, such as no loud music is to be played in public.

Out of fear of potential consequences, several radio and TV stations in Kabul have ceased the broadcast of music or entertainment they believe might go against the Taliban’s practices and governance, which continue to be moulded and reshaped.”

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty Gandhara, [‘I Feel Like A Dead Fish’: Silenced By The Taliban, Afghanistan's Musicians Despair](#), 13 October 2021

“Ahmad Gholami, a 25-year-old Afghan musician, had dedicated his life to the art of playing a sitar-like lute called the tanbur.

But after nearly a decade mastering the instrument well enough to earn his living as a professional musician, the Taliban has banned music under its tribal interpretation of Islamic law.

Gholami and other musicians he knows have effectively been silenced by an order from the Taliban-installed police chief in the central province of Bamiyan who has declared that no singing or musical instruments are allowed in his jurisdiction. [...]

the Taliban has beaten musicians in some areas, burned instruments, and banned music. That has led hundreds of musicians to flee the country in fear of their lives. [...]

Now, the Taliban’s Information and Culture Ministry says music is “forbidden” under its strict Hanafi interpretation of Islamic law.

One of the first things Taliban fighters did in August when they seized control of Jalalabad, the capital of Nangarhar Province, was to break into a music studio used by well-known Afghan musicians.

The militants dragged their harmonium, lutes, drums, and other instruments out into the street -- dousing them with petrol and setting them ablaze.

Noman Khan and other musicians who had used the studio promptly fled the country in fear of their lives. [...]

Meanwhile, local Taliban authorities in Afghanistan continue to issue decrees outlawing music in the capital, Kabul, and in major cities like Kandahar, Herat, and Mazar-e Sharif.

Siddiqullah, the Taliban-installed police chief in Bamiyan, justifies the bans and the destruction of instruments by arguing that nobody is allowed to play music.”

Jurist.org, [Afghanistan dispatches: ‘The Taliban have banned live music in hotels’](#), 9 October 2021

“The Taliban have banned live music in hotels. Officials of Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice – which was established by the Taliban after the took control of Afghanistan – met with most of hotel owners in Kabul Wednesday.

In this meeting, the Taliban instructed the hotel owners to avoid live music, and segregate places of men and women in the hotels. They already did this in some other provinces as well. In Takhar they even beat up a groom because he brought live music to his wedding ceremony.

In Afghanistan, hotels and restaurants are regulated by the specific laws and regulations under authority of the Ministry of Information and Culture. They obtain licenses from this Ministry and the Government uses this Ministry to communicate with them. The Ministry of Propagation of Virtue and Prevention of Vice – as you understand from its name – will now establish policies for each and every government agency through which they will tell people what is right and what is wrong.

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Previously, women and men were separated but only by a partition made of plastic or other stuff, but they have now made it clear that hotel owners have to separate them by walls. This indicates that they still hold the opinion of prohibiting music in the country. I actually think that this is a starting point for them to slowly ban music. In other statements, one of the Taliban's top leaders has told the media that if singers stop singing he will give them an amount of 40K AFN on a monthly basis. These statements are clearly a sign that there will be no musicians in the country, and those who choose to stay will have to change their profession and seek another source of income."

The Guardian, [‘A friend tells me he is burning his paintings’: Afghan artists in Australia speak on 20 years of war](#), 6 October 2021

"The Afghanistan-born visual artist and poet Elyas Alavi, who gained asylum in Australia as a Hazara refugee in 2007, staged an exhibition of his work in Kabul in 2014 and returned to his home country again in 2016.

He said he now feared he may never be able to return to Afghanistan.

"A friend tells me he is burning his paintings ... and I've heard of people burning their philosophy books and art books," he said.

"Now he and some of his family, most of them are living in hiding because they just don't know what's going to happen. The Taliban are checking people's mobiles ... looking for [content] that is against Sharia law, and they are [targeting] writers, artists, the LGBTQI community."

Alavi said the Afghan-Australian community felt betrayed by the Australian government.

"The prime minister says Afghanistan is a tragic country with a tragic history and Australia cannot do anything, it is the fate of these people and it's always going to be a tragedy," the now Adelaide-based artist said.

"But the government can get more people at risk out, more than the 3,000 extra visas they've announced ... and there are no permanent visas for those who are already here."

Ariana News, [Afghan Film emphasis on making serials based on Afghanistan realities](#), 4 October 2021

"Jawed Afghan, the new director of Afghan Films, was recently appointed by the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA), and says that he will develop the directorate of Afghan Film and, using its past capabilities, show the true story of Afghanistan to the world.

The director of Afghan Film emphasized the increase in the number of employees of this institution and the production of new films.

Afghan Film is Afghanistan's main government cinema institution, which has been around for decades and has played an important role in supporting and strengthening Afghan cinema. [...]

Although the director of Afghan Film does not say anything about the continued presence of female staff in the film industry, but he emphasized that the employees of this institution will continue their work as in the past and using the past capacities, the current narratives of the country will be shown to the world. [...]

Afghan Film is considered one of the most important directorates in the production of Afghan films; an office whose archive also narrates the history of Afghanistan. But it is not yet clear what type of films and series this directorate will make and whether it will be allowed to reopen cinemas in Afghanistan."

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty's Gandhara, [Fearing Taliban Crackdown, Afghan Musicians Are Already Falling Silent](#), 10 September 2021

"Habibullah Shabab found his calling as a singer -- but since the Taliban's return to power, he's given up performing and instead makes a living as a shopkeeper. The Taliban has not yet imposed a ban on music as it did in the 1990s, but Shabab and others fear such a policy is imminent, stripping many musicians of their livelihoods."

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How are taxes collected?

Ariana News, [MoF finalizes plan to collect Zakat and Usher](#), 16 January 2022

“The Ministry of Finance (MoF) of the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said on Sunday a plan outlining the collection process of Usher (Islamic tax on certain harvests) and Zakat (Islamic tax on personal income) has been finalized and will be submitted to the council of ministers soon.

Officials said that after the approval of the plan a special board will be established to collect the Usher and Zakat from Afghan citizens.

“Two things are very important to us; first we want to collect it (Usher and Zakat) via a digital system, and second we want to spend it via a regular system based on Sharia laws,” said Ahmad Wali Haqmal, spokesman for the MoF.

Some clerics meanwhile welcomed the IEA’s plan, saying that Zakat and Usher money should be distributed to people who deserve it.

“When the officials collect Zakat from traders, it should reach deserving people, and the process should be transparent. Second, it should be done in coordination with the Ministry of Commerce and Chamber of Commerce, which registers traders’ properties,” said Amanullah Ahmadi, a cleric.”

Pajhwok, [Efforts to recover arrears from Baghlan cooperatives begin](#), 15 December 2021

Agriculture department officials in northern Baghlan province say they have started making efforts to recover money cooperatives owe to the department. [...]

Qari Mohammad Naeem Hamkar, director of the Baghlan Agriculture, Livestock, Ushr and Zakat Commission, told a news conference that he had talked to the governor’s office and police commander about collecting the arrears from the cooperatives as soon as possible and hand them over to the state treasury.

“We are trying to get the money from them. Some people have agreed to pay us and we have talked to the police commander and the governor’s office about it,” he said.

AAN, [Killing the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg: Afghanistan’s economic distress post-15 August](#), 11 November 2021

“In many districts captured by the Taleban in summer 2021, residents reported the new rulers immediately and systematically taxing the population that had fallen under their control (as well as billeting fighters in villages and expecting local people to feed them). Such ‘taxes’ are taken yearly, so unlike customs and taxes on minerals, will not provide steady revenues to the administration.”

Gandhara, [Taliban Imposing ‘Charity’ Taxes on Farmers Who Need Aid](#), 29 October 2021

War, drought, and COVID have devastated farmers across Afghanistan.

Now, Afghan farmers who’ve lost money trying to grow crops over the past year say the Taliban is dealing them another crippling blow.

The cash-strapped regime is making them pay so-called charity taxes on their land and harvests, describing the payments as an obligation under Islamic law.

The charity taxes are being collected despite the fact that farmers themselves are among the 14 million Afghans

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that the World Food Program says are already facing acute hunger.

Jurist.org, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'The Taliban Ministry of Agriculture is setting new rules to collect Islamic taxes.'](#), 22 October 2021

"Law students and lawyers in Afghanistan are filing reports with JURIST on the situation there after the fall of Kabul to the Taliban. Here, a lawyer in Kabul offers his personal observations and perspective on new Islamic taxes being levied on farmers in Afghanistan. [...]

The Taliban Ministry of Agriculture is setting new rules to collect Islamic taxes. The Ministry of Agriculture have announced that farmers are required now to pay zakat and oshr to this Ministry.

In Islamic law zakat refers to a religious obligation which requires Muslims to pay 2.5% of their income to the poor. In the previous government, the Taliban used to force the public to pay this amount because it was one of their revenue generation mechanisms. The Taliban hold the position that the money will go to the poor families but they have never provided any evidence of doing so. However, it was previously used to fund their war against the government.

Oshr also refers to one-tenth of whatever is produced or harvested and made available to the market. This type of Islamic tax can be collected in kind or in cash.

Over the past two decades a wide variety of businesses in Afghanistan have confirmed that the Taliban asked for more than it is said and meant by the terms zakat and oshr. In the former government the application of such rules was voluntary/optional. However, in the areas where the Taliban had more influence than the government it was a must.

If the Ministry's applies its decision to farmers in the country, it means that the farmers are required to add these two on top of other taxes that they are required to comply as per the taxation laws and regulations."

What is the state of the financial industry and civilians' access to money?

Deutsche Welle, [Afghanistan: Taliban PM urges international recognition for government](#), 19 January 2022

Taliban leader and acting prime minister of Afghanistan, Mohammad Hassan Akhund, called on the international community to recognize the Taliban government during a news conference in Kabul on Wednesday.

The broadcast was his first major appearance since assuming the role in September and came as the hardliner conservative administration struggles with a faltering economy and continued violence with other militant groups. [...]

No foreign government has yet recognized the Taliban as the legitimate rulers of Afghanistan, although several have taken steps to normalize relations.

The Taliban blames the current economic crisis on the freezing of billions of dollars' worth of Afghan funds by Western nations led by the United States.

Development aid, which once formed the basis of the central Asian country's economy, has also been cut off.

International aid is still entering the country to help fight the ongoing humanitarian crisis, but governments are wary of propping up the Taliban regime by providing the necessary support.

Avapress, [Displaced Families Sell Children, Organs to Survive](#), 16 January 2022

Displaced families living in a camp in the capital city of Balkh province have sold their children and their kidneys for funds to survive.

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Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_The displaced families escaped heavy conflict between the Islamic Emirate and former government forces before the fall of the republican government in the northern provinces of, Sar-e-Pul, Faryab.

A charity committee is helping displaced families with food and cash aid in order to dissuade them from selling their children and kidneys.

The price of a child is between 100,000 to 150,000 Afs and the price of one kidney is 150,000 to 220,000 Afs.

The families are living in a camp in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of Balkh province.

The families said that they were forced to make such decisions due to poverty, the economic problems in the country as well Covid-19's outbreak.

Khaama Press, [ATM to get operational in Afghanistan, first time after Taliban return](#), 14 January 2022

"Central Bank of Afghanistan- Da Afghanistan Bank- in a statement on Thursday, January 13, 2022, said that ATM services by commercial banks in the country will be resumed.

The services stalled after the IEA regained power on August 15 last year and are now supposed to be operational back from Saturday, January 15 on.

Da Afghanistan Bank in the statement said that the decision was made after a series of talks with commercial banks and the union of banks.

Based on the decision, Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) of commercial banks in specific areas will be available for customers.

"Da Afghanistan Bank is striving to return banking system and services to normal and reactivating ATMs is a good news for people that will bring further facilities." Reads the statement.

The Central Bank did not disclose the amount of money one can withdraw from the machines as the restriction of withdrawing a specific amount of money from accounts is still in place.

As per the new policy, one can only withdraw \$200 per week or 20,000 Afghani."

Al Jazeera, [UN chief warns millions of Afghans are on 'verge of death'](#), 13 January 2022

"The United Nations chief has warned that millions of Afghans are on the "verge of death", urging the international community to fund the UN's \$5bn humanitarian appeal, release Afghanistan's frozen assets and jump-start its banking system to avert economic and social collapse. [...]

The international community [froze Afghanistan's assets](#) abroad and halted economic support, unwilling to work with the Taliban, given their reputation for brutality during their 1996-2001 rule and refusal to educate girls and allow women to work. The UN has said 8.7 million Afghans are on the brink of starvation and Guterres said it was critical to rapidly inject liquidity into the Afghan economy "and avoid a meltdown that would lead to poverty, hunger and destitution for millions". [...]

Guterres said one reason for the meeting is to try and create "mechanisms that allow for an effective injection of funds into the Afghan economy and, at the same time, create the conditions for the financial system in Afghanistan to be able to operate in the local currency".

The UN chief said international funding should be allowed to pay the salaries of doctors, sanitation workers, electrical engineers and other civil servants, as well as help Afghan institutions deliver healthcare, education and other key services."

Avapress, [50% Factories Have Stop Functioning as Markets Drop](#), 13 January 2022

"Nearly 50 percent of factories have halted operations due to banking problems and the lack of raw materials as well as the drop in market demand, the Chamber of Industry and Mines said on Wednesday.

"Due to less demands in markets, banking problems, and electricity problems, 40-50 percent of activities have been stopped," said Mohammad Karim Azimi, an official at the Chamber of Industry and .

Some owners of the factories also voiced their concerns over the lack of electricity to run their operations.

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Khalid Mohammmd is the owner of a factory that has recently stopped its activity. He said that over 80 people were working at his factory but now all of them are jobless.

“Due to the recent changes in the country, there is a problem with the raw material and also the lack of good markets. We do construction work, but construction has stopped now,” he said.”

OCHA, [Afghanistan: Humanitarian Response Plan \(2022\)](#), 11 January 2022

“Even prior to the August 2021 change in Government challenges stemming from under-investment in basic infrastructure continued to hamper quality of life and access to services throughout Afghanistan. Active conflict, large-scale population movements, recurrent natural disasters and the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the social and economic fabric of the country have hindered longer-term urban planning, reduced attention on more expensive durable solutions and diminished people’s access to essential services.

The physical environment and lack of transport and communications infrastructure remain a challenge in Afghanistan, with road access impeded by conflict, the potential presence of explosive hazards, poor road conditions as well as natural hazards, including seasonal flooding and heavy snowfall.

Less than half of all of Afghanistan’s districts have phone coverage throughout the district, and disruptions remain common in many areas. The picture regarding access to electricity across Afghanistan is mixed. The United States International Development Agency (USAID) estimates that only 30 per cent of Afghans have access to electricity, while figures from Afghanistan Transparency Watch claim it may be 65 per cent. Regardless of these estimates, sustained and reliable access to electricity is an ongoing issue for many Afghans. Electricity supplies have been especially unreliable since 2020 including in Kabul. The recent financial crisis and drought have further impacted on the reliability and availability of electricity in many areas of the country”

Pajhwok, [NRC stresses cash accessibility inside Afghanistan](#), 11 January 2022

“The UN’s aid appeal for Afghanistan would be meaningless if the world and the caretaker government do not work rapidly to ensure cash accessibility inside the country, the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) warned on Tuesday. Jan Egeland, NRC secretary-general, said Afghanistan’s institutions and banking systems were paralysed at a time when they were desperately needed to reboot the economy and help families support themselves.”

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: ‘neither the central bank nor any other bank for that matter can properly conduct banking activities’](#), 5 January 2022

“The Taliban-led central bank, Da Afghanistan Bank, recently declared that the country’s banking sector will resume normal operations soon. The central bank is making such a claim while the liquidity crisis has forced commercial banks to default on payments to customers even within the central bank’s own limits.

“Whether the banking sector will return to normal depends on a number of factors such as liquidity, consumer confidence, international banking restrictions, interest rate, and the general economic outlook. However, considering the situation on the ground and the current economic crisis, it seems to me that the central bank’s claim is just an empty promise to the public.”

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: long lines and long waiting hours at the only functioning bank in northern Afghanistan becomes routine for cash-strapped citizens](#), 30 December 2021

“Long lines of more than 200 people are waiting at the door of [Azizi Bank](#) in Mazar-e-Sharif desperate to withdraw much-needed cash. The average waiting time is more than three hours while weekly withdrawals are limited to AFN 10,000 (less than US \$100).

“Azizi’s central branch is the only functioning bank open in the northern part of Afghanistan. People from other provinces, including Samangan, Sheberghan, and Faryab, travel there every week withdraw cash.”

Pajhwok, [Cabinet approves Islamic Banking Research Centre](#), 28 December 2021

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"The acting cabinet has directed the Ministry of Interior to create task forces in provinces for prevention of the use of foreign currencies, according to a statement on Tuesday.

"During its 16th meeting, the cabinet formed Disaster Management Commission under the chairmanship of Deputy Prime Minister Abdul GhaniBeradar."

Al Jazeera, [Afghan protesters call for release of frozen assets](#), 21 December 2021

"Hundreds of protesters have marched through the streets of Kabul towards the shuttered United States' embassy, urging the release of [Afghanistan's frozen assets](#).

Holding banners reading, "Let us eat" and "Give us our frozen money", the protesters chanted slogans and marched down a central avenue on Tuesday, with the ruling Taliban providing security."

Al Jazeera, [Afghanistan's tumbling currency compounds economic crisis](#), 17 December 2021

"The value of Afghanistan's currency is tumbling, exacerbating an already severe economic crisis and deepening poverty in a country where more than half the population already does not have enough to eat. The afghani lost more than 11 percent of its value against the United States dollar in the space of a day earlier this week, before recouping somewhat. But the market remains volatile, and the devaluation is already affecting Afghans."

Reuters, [Afghan central bank moves to halt currency slide as crisis deepens](#), 14 December 2021

"Afghanistan's central bank said on Tuesday it was working to ensure the stability of the afghani, a day after the currency lost almost 12% of its value against the dollar in a matter of hours amid a deepening economic crisis and soaring inflation. [...]

The crisis has accelerated sharply in recent days. On Monday the afghani, which traded at around 77 to the dollar before the fall of Kabul and at 97 a week ago, dropped from 112 to the dollar in the morning at Kabul's Sarai Shazada money market to 125 by the afternoon.

On Tuesday it had recovered slightly and was being quoted at around 114-115 following the central bank move. [...]

However the pressure on the afghani has already had a stark impact on the prices of daily necessities in an economy where unemployment is widespread and where even many in work have not been paid in months.

Within the space of a week, wholesalers said the price of a 50 kg (110 lbs) sack of flour had risen by between 20-40% to between 2,800-3,200 afghani, from 2,300 a week ago, with the price of sugar up by a third and rice up by more than 15%. [...]

Starved of dollars that used to be physically shipped into Afghanistan, and cut off from the world financial system by the fear of U.S. sanctions, the banking system is only partially functional and some \$9 billion in central bank reserves remain blocked outside the country."

Ariana News, [IEA bans use of foreign currencies in bid to stabilize Afghan currency](#), 14 December 2021

"Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) officials on Tuesday banned the use of foreign currencies for commercial transactions in the country in a bid to stabilize the plummeting national currency, the Afghani (AFN). [...]

This comes as Afghanistan grapples with an economic crisis following the sudden collapse of the previous government, the suspension of foreign donor money and the freezing of foreign assets."

Tolonews, [Counterfeit Afghani Bills Turning Up in Kabul: Merchants](#), 14 December 2021

"Amid the steep decline in value of Afghanistan's currency--the afghani--against the dollar, a number of shopkeepers on Tuesday said counterfeit banknotes are now spreading in the markets.

The shopkeepers called on the central bank to prevent the spread of the counterfeit banknotes. [...]

The spread of fake banknotes and the drop of the afghani's value caused the cabinet to call for the economic commission to take measures to prevent the injection of more counterfeit banknotes into the markets."

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Tolonews, [Value of Afghani Plunges, Price of Goods Spike](#), 13 December 2021

"The alarming drop in value of Afghanistan's currency, the Afghani, against the dollar happens amid an economic and humanitarian crisis that has also led to a sharp increase in the price of goods, including essential items like food and fuel.

The Money Exchanger's Union in Sarai Shahzada, Afghanistan's biggest money exchanging market, said on Monday that one dollar was exchanged for 123 Afghani, while on Sunday it was 110 Afghani, and a month ago it was below 90.

The exchanger's union said some people have played a role in the increase of the dollar price by spreading rumors, and were pushed out of the market on Sunday.

On Monday, the market's "Boli" section, which is the main section for determining the value of currencies and also where big money exchange transactions occur, was closed.

"A number of people who in fact are not money exchangers have come here and are promoting fake rates. I hope the situation gets better in the coming days," said Sayed Ali Sadat, a member of the money exchangers' union."

TOLO News, [Afghan Currency Drops Further Against Dollar](#), 12 December 2021

"The value of Afghan currency continues to drop against the US dollar as the country's economy is on the verge of collapse.

The price of one dollar was over 110 Afs on Sunday.

The union of money exchangers of Surah-e-Shahzad said the lack of sufficient dollars available in the market is the main reason for the rapid fall of the Afs.

"The main reason for the drop in Afs is that the market faces a shortage of dollars and the demand for dollars is high. There are also some negative actors who oppose the Islamic Emirate and make propaganda to cause the drop in value of Afs," said Haji Zirak, a spokesman for the union.

"The private banks provide interest in Afs. For example, if previously a company had an account, the bank would give the company's interest in dollars but now they provide the interest in Afs," said Abdul Wahid Aslami, a money exchanger.

Meanwhile, Da Afghanistan Bank said that the third batch of humanitarian cash aid--\$19.2 million--arrived in Kabul on Sunday."

Pajhwok, [Earnings of beggars down by 55pc in Kabul](#), 12 December 2021

"Based on their data, Pajhwok's calculations show on average a beggar in Kabul used to earn 318 afghanis four months ago, but now the figure has dropped to 144 afghanis."

AVA Press, [Worn-Out Banknotes One More Difficulty in Afghan Economic Crisis](#), 11 December 2021

"There is a lot of worn-out currency in the market, particularly the 100, 50, 20 and 10 Afs bills are very worn," said Samir, a shopkeeper.

"The government should try to issue a good quality currency," said Asadullah a Kabul resident.

Zia is a money exchanger who purchases the worn-out currency and then sells it to the government's central bank.

"The bank doesn't want to take the money from us. The bank says it doesn't have the sufficient budget to buy the worn-out currency," he said.

[...]

"The worn-out currency is one the main challenges in the trade market in the current conditions in Afghanistan. This affects the circle of business," said Sayed Masoud, an economist."

TOLO News, [Afghans Despair as Prices of Food, Essential Goods Spike](#), 10 December 2021

"Business people said the rapid rise in value of the US dollar against the Afghani is one of the main reasons for the expensive prices of essential commodities.

"The reason for the surge in prices is the rise of the dollar. We purchase all the products with dollars and sell them

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in Afs,” said Saifullah, an owner of a store.

“Business has dropped compared to before. Those who previously bought five bags of flour, they now buy only two bags,” said Khan Agha, a store owner.

The price of one bag of flour is 2,400Afs, a 16-liter bottle of oil is about 2,800Afs. The price of one bag of rice is 2,700Afs.

Citizens said that they have been struggling to pay for food and basic cooking goods due to their high prices.”

TOLO News, [Govt Struggles With Plummeting Value of Afghan Currency](#), 9 December 2021

The Central Bank held a meeting with the union of money-exchangers of Sarai Shahzada.

“The Central Bank (Da Afghanistan Bank) attempted to avert the economic crisis,” said Haseebullah Noori, an official at Da Afghanistan Bank.

The union of money-exchangers said the large amount of Afs and scarcity of dollars in the market are reasons for the drop of the Afghan currency value.

“In the meeting of the Central Bank, they pledged to cooperate and drop the price of a dollar by 1.5 Afs,” said Mohammad Tahir Qayoumi, a member of the union.

The drop in value of the Afghan currency is undermining trade. The traders expressed concerns, saying that the merchandise that is imported is purchased by dollars.

“We are a country relying on imports. We import the materials, especially the food products, from foreign countries and the rise of the dollar will have a bad affect,” said Khan Jan Alokozai, a member of the chamber of commerce and investment.

“The rise of the dollar price in return for Afs is having a negative impact on the country’s economy and it unfortunately doubles the economic crisis,” said Mohammad Karim Azimi, head of the chamber of industry and mines.

AVA Press, [Devalued Afghan Currency Adds to the Miseries of Civilian Population](#), 8 December 2021

“For the first time, the value of the against the national currency exceeded 100 afghanis. [...] The decline comes as the central bank has been unable to control the value of the dollar in recent days.

[...] Unfortunately, in such a situation, the people suffer the most from the devaluation of the currency. At present, most of the buying and selling of raw materials and other goods is done in dollars. The higher the value of the dollar against the Afghan currency, the more people become incapable of buying the necessities of life. The prices of gas, flour, oil, rice, and the materials that people need daily have risen to an all-time high. If this trend continues in the current crisis, there is no doubt that the UN forecast for the spread of poverty will happen much sooner, and a large percentage of people may fall below the poverty line in a few months.”

AVA Press, [Afghanistan’s central bank receives second package of humanitarian cash](#), 8 December 2021

“The bank did not close the exact amount of money though, the statement reads that the money was delivered to Afghanistan International Bank (AIB) through the central bank of Afghanistan.

The cash in humanitarian aid by the comes as Afghanistan’s local currency is at its lowest point ever against the US dollar.

It is said that the lack of a [sic] has caused the local currency (Afghani) to lose its value and ultimately made the prices of food ingredients to be double.

De Afghanistan Bank in the statement said that the problem of the banking system and local currency will soon be resolved and banks will deliver their best services to people.

In the meantime, officials in UNAMA said that the money is not given to authorities in but to private banks in Afghanistan so that they pay the bills of humanitarian activities of the .

UNAMA has announced to be given Afghanistan central bank \$16 million in cash.”

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International Crisis Group, [Beyond Emergency Relief: Averting Afghanistan's Humanitarian Catastrophe](#), 6 December 2021

"Further revelations awaited: Taliban officials said they were astounded by the lack of currency reserves in Kabul when they captured state institutions. The previous government had almost emptied the central bank.⁵³ The Taliban may have not understood how the economy worked. The central bank had been dependent on regular shipments of dollars from the U.S. Federal Reserve, which assisted the Afghan central bank's management of foreign assets. The shipments supplied currency auctions in Kabul that traded U.S. dollars for afghanis. These auctions raised as much as \$45 million per week in cash, supporting the afghani's value and injecting liquidity into an economy in which foreign currencies (mostly U.S. dollars) represented 60 per cent of all bank deposits.⁵⁴ Afghans used their own currency to buy bread, for instance, but they imported wheat flour – and most other products – using U.S. dollars.⁵⁵ Taliban officials had known before marching on Kabul that the economy was dependent on foreign aid, and they had discussed options for cutting the state budget to become less reliant on outsiders, but the cash shortages caught them off guard.⁵⁶ [...]

53 Crisis Group interviews, Taliban officials, September 2021.

54 World Bank data.

55 Crisis Group interviews, academics and former Afghan officials, September-October 2021. See also Manuel Bautista-Gonzalez, "Cash during the fall of Kabul", Cash Essentials, 6 September 2021.

56 Crisis Group interviews, Taliban-affiliated figures, Doha and Kabul, 2020-2021."

TOLO News, [UN Seeks \\$4.5B to Assist Vulnerable Afghans](#), 2 December 2021

"The absence of cash in Afghanistan is a major impediment to any delivery of services," he added. "I am hoping that we get it up and running before the end of this month."

With the fall of the former government, the freezing of Afghan assets and the shortage of humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, the country has recently plunged into a severe economic crisis."

DTM, [DTM: EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING](#), 29 November 2021

"CFPs were also asked to rank their community's most urgent needs. Cash and food were identified as the first priority needs, which aligns with reported community shocks in the past month. These include reduced income (94%), loss of employment (96%) and food price increase (95%) (see below). Drinking water and immediate healthcare were second and third priority needs, which is reflected in the reported risk of displacement due to water insecurity (55%) and the majority of communities without a health clinic or hospital (69%)."

ATN News, [Afghani falls to record low amid pressing currency shortage](#), 26 November 2021

"Economists are warning of an acute currency shortage in Afghanistan and the subsequent economic predicament as the Afghani has plummeted to its record low in trading. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) issued a report earlier this week urging prompt actions to prevent the Afghan banking system from collapsing, which is now "in disarray" featuring inadequate liquidity and decreased deposits.

The largest currency exchange market in Kabul now has been crowded with people and the Afghani has dropped to its all-time low."

Ariana News, [Afghani falls to record low amid pressing currency shortage](#), 26 November 2021

"Economists are warning of an acute currency shortage in Afghanistan and the subsequent economic predicament as the Afghani has plummeted to its record low in trading. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) issued a report earlier this week urging prompt actions to prevent the Afghan banking system from collapsing, which is now "in disarray" featuring inadequate liquidity and decreased deposits. The largest currency exchange market in Kabul now has been crowded with people and the Afghani has dropped to its all-time low. Before the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA)'s takeover of Kabul in mid-August, one U.S. dollar was equal to about 70

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Afghanis. But now the exchange rate hovers around 90 Afghanis to the dollar. The continued depreciation of the Afghan currency sparked fears among residents, with many flocking to the exchange market. Unfortunately in these two weeks the Afghan currency has been dropping down against foreign currencies with one dollar costing 95.5 Afghanis last week. Then the Afghanistan Bank released a statement that they will put 10 million U.S. dollars into the market, more than the 2.5 million dollars they actually took out. However, the price [of the U.S. dollar] didn't go down but unfortunately have increased day by day," said Zirak, spokesman from the all money dealers of Afghanistan. Zirak said the country's currency shortage was fueled by the combination of its assets frozen by the United States, the increasing domestic demand for U.S. dollars, as well as banks' restrictions on dollar withdrawal."

Amnesty International, [Afghanistan: Country must have access to funds to avoid humanitarian disaster](#), 23 November 2021

"A combination of a suspension of foreign aid, the freezing of Afghan government assets, and international sanctions on the Taliban, have plunged a country already suffering from high poverty levels into a full-blown economic crisis. According to the United Nations Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), 22.8 million people (of a population of approximately 39-40 million) are facing acute food insecurity and hunger, while the World Food Programme estimates that at least a million children are already suffering from acute malnutrition. According to the UN, more than \$200 million of humanitarian aid a month is needed to avert disaster." [...] "In just a few months, the situation is already critical. People in the public and private sectors have not been paid their salaries, can't access money, and can't afford even essential items. [...] "The situation has left the country's banking system on the brink of collapse. Long queues have formed outside banks and ATMs, which are not dispensing cash. The price of goods has soared while the country's currency has plummeted in value." [...] "Public sector workers have not been paid for months, while about 1.2 million private sector workers' wages remain pending according to local media, with the government and employers unable to access funds to make payments. According to the UN Development Programme, the country's poverty rate, currently at 72%, is set to reach to 97% by mid-2022."

AVA Press, [UN Report: Afghanistan Faces Major Bank Crisis](#), 23 November 2021

"The UNDP report said that with current trends and withdrawal restrictions, about 40% of Afghanistan's deposit base will be lost by the end of the year."

TOLO News, [UN Warns of "Colossal" Collapse of Afghan Banking System](#), 22 November 2021

In a three-page report on Afghanistan's banking and financial system seen by Reuters, the U.N. Development Programme (UNDP) said the economic cost of a banking system collapse - and consequent negative social impact - "would be colossal." [...]

Afghanistan's banking system was already vulnerable before the Taliban came to power. But since then development aid has dried up, billions of dollars in Afghan assets have been frozen abroad, and the United Nations and aid groups are now struggling to get enough cash into the country. [...]

The United Nations has repeatedly warned since the Taliban took over that Afghanistan's economy is on the brink of a collapse that would likely further fuel a refugee crisis. UNDP said that if the banking system fails, it could take decades to rebuild.

Afghan Voice Agency, [Vulnerable Families Provided With Cash-Aid in Kabul](#), 22 November 2021

"We distribute the aids in two rounds. First, we have provided food materials. Now provide about 76 US dollars to each family,"

Al Jazeera, [Afghanistan 'on the brink of catastrophe': UN envoy](#), 18 November 2021

"The UN envoy for Afghanistan says the country is "on the brink of a humanitarian catastrophe", urging the international community to find ways to provide financial support to the Afghan people, who "feel abandoned".

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Deborah Lyons said an estimated 60 percent of Afghanistan's 38 million people are facing crisis levels of hunger in a food emergency that will likely worsen over the winter."

GANDHARA NEWS, [Afghan Currency Hits Two-Decade Low, Foretelling Higher Food, Fuel Prices](#), 15 November 2021

"Afghanistan's national currency has reached its lowest level in the past two decades against the U.S. dollar as the war-ravaged country's economy struggles to stay afloat following the Taliban takeover.

The November 14 exchange rate on the foreign-exchange market Sarai Shahzada was quoted at 95 afghanis for one dollar.

Two days earlier, the rate was 91.5 afghanis to one U.S. dollar. [...]

With the fall in the currency's value against the dollar, fuel and food prices are sure to rise in the country as costs to import products increase."

JURIST, [Afghanistan dispatches: inflation worries loom as local currency depreciates rapidly](#), 15 November 2021

"The value of Afghanistan's currency, the Afghani, decreased against the US dollar Sunday. As of Monday, the exchange rate was 1 to 95—an increase of AFN 6 per dollar in comparison to yesterday. The commercial banks have complained to the nation's central bank about running out foreign exchange reserves, particularly US dollars. The central bank has resumed US dollar auctions again and the first auction for sale of dollars to commercial banks and other financial institutions will be conducted Tuesday. The central bank is trying to increase the value of the Afghani by infusing US dollars in the market, but this is counterintuitive as the bank does not have sufficient dollars to begin with."

Kabul Now, [Afghanistan's currency hits new low against US dollar](#), 14 November 2021

"Afghanistan's afghani fell to a new low against the US dollar on Sunday, November 14, in currency exchange markets as the country's economy is faltering under the Taliban's government.

The dollar was selling for as much as 94 afghani in Sara-e-Shahzada, the country's largest exchange market in Kabul, on Sunday's afternoon, said Haji Dadgol, deputy head of the market.

[..]

The Afghan currency has continued to fall against the foreign currencies ever since the Taliban overthrew the previous government on August 15 and returned to power."

AAN, [Killing the Goose that Laid the Golden Egg: Afghanistan's economic distress post-15 August](#), 11 November 2021

"The Taleban government has taken some small steps to deal with the crisis. It has started sometimes uneasy working relationships with NGOs and UN agencies. The computerised customs system is back up and running, which should help with collection. It has also banned banks from sending money abroad in a bid to stop capital flight, with exceptions for the purchase of food and other necessities. Banks are now allowing some small withdrawals of dollars and afghanis, although the banking system remains stymied. It has transpired that there is a shortage not only of dollars and other hard currency, but also afghanis, because these were printed abroad. This dual shortage may have helped support the afghani whose value has been surprisingly stable this year, until the end of October."

HRW, [Afghanistan Facing Famine](#), 11 November 2021

"Afghanistan's dire economic situation has been exacerbated by decisions by governments and international banking institutions not to deal directly with the Central Bank of Afghanistan because of UN and bilateral sanctions by the US and other countries. This has increased liquidity problems for all banks and shortages of currency in US dollars and Afghanistan's currency, afghanis.

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Numerous banking officials and humanitarian agency staffers told Human Rights Watch that most Afghan banks cannot cover withdrawals by private actors and aid organizations. Even when funds are transmitted electronically into banks, the lack of cash means that money is not physically available and therefore cannot flow into the country's economy."

Ariana News, [Afghanistan central bank raises limit on bank withdrawals to \\$400 a week](#), 3 November 2021

Afghanistan's central bank has eased restrictions on bank withdrawals, lifting the maximum to \$400 from dollar-denominated accounts or 30,000 Afghanis a week from the previous limit of \$200 or 20,000 Afghanis, the central bank said on Wednesday. The change, which sets a monthly limit on withdrawals of \$1,200 or 100,000 Afghani, came amid growing economic hardship that has left millions in Afghanistan without work and facing hunger. Even those with savings have struggled to pay for food and household necessities because of the strict limits on withdrawals that were brought in to prevent a run on banks. Afghanistan's foreign exchange reserves have been restricted following the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) take over in August, severely limiting the new administration's room for financial manoeuvre. Some \$9.5 billion in central bank reserves remain blocked outside the country and international support given to the previous government has dried up. This week, the IEA banned the use of foreign currencies for transactions like buying a car or a house, saying all contracts must be denominated in the Afghani currency.

Al Jazeera, [Taliban bans the use of foreign currency across Afghanistan](#), 2 November 2021

"The Taliban has announced a complete ban on the use of foreign currency in Afghanistan, a move certain to cause further disruption to an economy pushed to the brink of collapse by the abrupt withdrawal of international support in the wake of the group's takeover of the country. "The Islamic Emirate instructs all citizens, shopkeepers, traders, businessmen and the general public to ... conduct all transactions in Afghanis and strictly refrain from using foreign currency," the Taliban said in a statement posted online by spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid. "Anyone violating this order will face legal action," the statement said. The use of US dollars is widespread in Afghanistan's markets, while border areas use the currency of neighbouring countries such as Pakistan for trade."

Foreign Policy, [Afghan Crime Wave Adds to Taliban Dystopia](#), 29 October 2021

"As economic collapse and humanitarian catastrophe stalk Afghanistan, a spike in serious crime and concerns about civil unrest are adding pressure on a population facing a Himalayan winter and already struggling with rising prices, vanishing cash, and unemployment.

[...] Reports are emerging of families selling baby girls to raise money to buy food as poverty and hunger bite deeper and law and order breaks down further. Sources in the capital, Kabul, said kidnappings and extortion are daily occurrences, with Taliban foot soldiers killing on contract to earn cash as they are not being paid.

"It's \$2,000 to kidnap someone and \$5,000 to kill someone," said a former Afghan security official who is closely monitoring the crime wave."

Al Jazeera, [As US freezes funds, a harsh winter awaits cash-strapped Afghans](#), 29 October 2021

"In its latest report to the United States Congress, the Special Investigator General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR) has detailed Washington's decision to cut off the Taliban government's access to billions in funds and assets that has led to devastation across the cash-strapped nation. [...] After the Taliban toppled the Western-led government in the middle of August, the US, along with international bodies including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), decided to cut off Afghanistan's access to more than \$9.5bn in assets and

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loans. The decision has had a devastating effect on Afghanistan's healthcare and other sectors, all of which are struggling to continue operations amid cutbacks to international aid. According to the World Bank, approximately 14 million people – one out of three Afghans – were on the brink of starvation due to the aid cuts until the end of the last month."

Reuters, ['Just give us our money': Taliban push to unlock Afghan billions abroad](#), 29 October 2021

"Afghanistan's Taliban government is pressing for the release of billions of dollars of central bank reserves as the drought-stricken nation faces a cash crunch, mass starvation and a new migration crisis. Afghanistan parked billions of dollars in assets overseas with the U.S. Federal Reserve and other central banks in Europe, but that money has been frozen since the Islamist Taliban ousted the Western-backed government in August."

Reuters, [U.N. urgently needs cash in Afghanistan](#), but struggles for solution, 28 October, 2021

"The United Nations cannot get enough cash into Afghanistan to deliver humanitarian aid to millions of people on the brink of starvation and is struggling to develop options to help stabilize the collapsing economy, U.N. officials said. [...] Ultimately political solutions are needed, a senior U.N. official told Reuters on condition of anonymity, an apparent reference to sanctions relief and for governments and institutions to free up billions of dollars of Afghan assets held overseas."

IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, [Afghanistan: Acute Food Insecurity Situation September - October 2021 and Projection for November 2021 - March 2022](#), 25 October 2021

"Remittance flows have been severely affected: The financial freeze in government assets is affecting international remittance flows, compounding reductions resulting from the lingering economic impact of COVID-19 across the world and greatly impacting those households relying on remittances. According to the World Bank, remittances account for 4% of Afghanistan's GDP or \$800M a year. According to the 2021 SFSA, 7.4% of households receive remittances, and 2.5% are the primary income source. Remittances are a critical buffer during shocks; the suspension of such services has had a detrimental impact on households' coping capacities. As a result, the proportion of urban dwellers in

Jurist, [Afghanistan dispatches: 'The commercial banks are unable to preserve their liquidity and that is leading them to failure.'](#), 27 October 2021

"The banking system had developed a lot during the last two decades in the country. Until 2001 only state-owned banks with limited banking system were active in Afghanistan. Upon the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001 the government – with foreign help – developed a system that attracted many financial institutions as well as investors to invest in the banking system. The central bank licensed up to 10 private banks and some branches of foreign banks to operate in the country.

Currently, 12 banks are active, of which three are state-owned and others private banks. The latest reports from the central bank (July 2021) indicate that the total assets of the commercial banks are 311 billion AFN of which 276 billion AFN includes debts/loans and only 36 billion AFN covers these banks net assets or shareholder shares.

AIB, Azizi, Bank Millie, and Islamic Bank total assets and capital are more than 30 billion AFN. Investments in capital notes, long-term investment, and loans to businesses are the major areas in which commercial banks have invested mostly. The total amount of loans on different businesses is about 32 billion AFN and about 45 billion AFN is invested in capital notes of the central bank. The problem with loans on businesses is that many businesses has collapsed already and/or are collapsing due to the current economic situation. Businesses are unable to pay debts and any interest. Therefore, commercial banks are losing and/or have already lost a big amount of revenue."

AVA Press, [IEA won't be allowed access to Afghan central bank reserves: US](#), 21 October 2021

"Deputy U.S. Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo on Tuesday said he sees no situation where the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) who regained power in Afghanistan in August, would be allowed access to Afghan central bank reserves, which are largely held in the United States.

Afghan Voice Agency (AVA)_The IEA have called for the United States to lift a block on more than \$9 billion of Afghan reserves held outside the country as the government struggles to contain a deepening ."

lønn til organisasjonens to tusen lokalt ansatte (Matre 2021).

Det meldes om lange køer utenfor landets banker. Private banker har ikke tilgang på kontanter, hvilket betyr at selv afghanere med penger i banken ikke får tilgang til egne midler (UNAMA 2021). Det er særlig i byene at afghanerne har vært avhengig av utenlandsk finansiering, enten direkte ved at de har mottatt lønn finansiert av det internasjonale samfunnet, eller indirekte ved at de har tilbudt varer og tjenester (Duncan & Clark 2021)."

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

"The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving.

Banks were closed for many days after the Taliban seized control, and while many have opened now, accessing cash is still difficult.

Many businesses shut down because their owners fled the country fearing for their lives. Many of those who had jobs haven't received salaries for months.

With no cash in the market, there has been a sharp rise in prices of day to day necessities including food. An already difficult situation created by war and drought has become much worse.

Women who had jobs and supported their families can no longer work and are now entirely dependent on handouts.

In Kabul, hundreds of people are still living in the open in tents with harsher winter months fast approaching.

Development aid given by foreign countries and agencies to Afghanistan, which helped to put cash into the economy, is all but frozen. This, on the ground, means that people

Reuters, [EXCLUSIVE Taliban launch charm offensive with Afghan banks amid funding fears](#), 1 September 2021

"Banks have mainly re-opened this week, but are operating with limited services, including \$200 weekly limits on withdrawals and few wire transfers amid liquidity worries and correspondent banks cutting ties, say bankers."

Availability of and access to food

Deutsche Welle, [Is the world doing enough to help Afghans?](#), 18 January 2022

"The international community faces a dilemma on how to deal with the [Afghan Taliban](#), who seized power in August.

The United States, which ended its two-decade presence in the country last year, does not want to legitimize or strengthen the Islamic fundamentalist group. Washington froze Afghanistan's assets after the Taliban captured Kabul, and despite repeated requests by the country's rulers, there is no sign that the sanctions will be lifted.

Meanwhile, Afghanistan is facing [an unprecedented humanitarian crisis](#) and needs immediate financial help. [...]

But aid alone would probably not be enough to help Afghans, who are facing acute hunger combined with a severe drought and the coronavirus pandemic. Millions of Afghans are currently jobless, and their bank accounts are frozen.

Many Afghans are selling possessions to buy food, and urban communities are facing food insecurity on levels similar to rural areas for the first time.

About 8.7 million people are "one step away from starvation," Mary-Ellen McGroarty, head of the World Food Programme in Afghanistan, said in October."

Al Jazeera, [Taliban seeks greater role in distribution of Afghan foreign aid](#),

Qantara, [Afghanistan's humanitarian crisis: End the economic blockade](#), 11 January 2022

"Even before the Taliban returned to power last August, Afghanistan topped the global roster of humanitarian emergencies. Successive droughts and escalating conflict had left one-third of the country's population facing acute food insecurity. Aid agencies warned that they were in a race against time as winter approached. Now, the United Kingdom's Disasters Emergency Committee believes that the race is close to being lost.

The numbers are harrowing. Some 23 million people in a country of 39 million are in a state of humanitarian emergency. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) estimates that over one million Afghan children are at risk of dying from malnutrition and hunger-related disease."

The Week, [Millions in Afghanistan are facing extreme hunger](#), 7 January 2022

"It's been a dire winter in Afghanistan, with 23 million people facing extreme levels of hunger amid the brutal cold. "Shelley Thakral, spokeswoman for the World Food Program in Afghanistan, [told NPR](#) that there are several reasons why so many Afghans don't have enough food to eat. The country is experiencing its worst drought in decades, food prices have gone up, and the Taliban government takeover last August triggered an economic crisis. Many people who are now out of work because of the new government, including teachers and construction workers, are experiencing food insecurity for the first time. "There's a new urban class of hungry people," Thakral said."

The New Yorker, [Afghanistan has become the world's largest humanitarian crisis](#), 5 January 2022

"A month after the Biden Administration pulled U.S. forces out of Afghanistan, only seventeen per cent of the country's more than twenty-three hundred health clinics were functional. Doctors in the hospital in Kabul told me that they hadn't been paid since the Taliban seized power, in August, and that medicine is in short supply. The new government is struggling to feed the country's thirty-nine million people, and the chance that an Afghan baby will go hungry and die is the highest in twenty years. Half

"Tens of millions of Afghans do not have access to food, and that number is expected to increase during the winter months as the economic situation exacerbates the crisis.

"Roughly 22.8 million Afghans, more than half the country's population, are expected to face "acute food insecurity" from last month through March 2022, according to projections from the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification. That would mark a 35% increase from the same time period a year earlier. It would also be the highest ever for the country, with 8.7 million people facing emergency-level food insecurity."

AP News, [Changing climate parches Afghanistan, exacerbating poverty](#), 23 December 2021

"I remember from my childhood ... there was a lot of snow in the winters, in spring we had a lot of rain," said 53-year-old Abdul Ghani, a local community leader in the village of Sang-e-Atash, in the hard-struck province of Badghis.

"But since a few years ago there has been drought, there is no snow, there is much less rain. It is not even possible to get one bowl of water from drainpipes to use," he said, as he observed the Red Crescent Society handing out emergency winter food supplies to farmers whose crops have completely failed."

OCHA, [Afghanistan Countrywide Weekly Market Price Bulletin](#), Covering Fourth week of December 2021

- In the week 4 of December 2021, the prices of food items were significantly higher than the last week of June (before the recent conflicts and political change).
- The average price of all food items except wheat grain, negligibly decreased in the 4th week, after it peak price in 3rd week of Dec 2021, mainly due to exchange rate fluctuations.
- Average weekly price of diesel negligibly decreased by 0.7% and reached 77.4 AFN/L, due to exchange rate fluctuations. • Work opportunities slightly improved by 2

Save the Children warned that many severely malnourished children are unable to access the specialist treatment they need to survive.”

OCHA, [Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Planned Response 2022](#), 16 December 2021

“In 2022, 24.4 million people in Afghanistan are projected to be in humanitarian need, up by over 30 percent since the start of 2021, and amounting to over 55 percent of the entire population. The main driver of this need is a massive increase in acute food insecurity, with almost 23 million people are projected to be facing acute food insecurity. Food insecurity and the potential collapse of basic health systems services would leave 1.1 million acutely malnourished children under the age of five years without access to treatment services and up to 131,000 children could die in the course of the year if no action is taken.”

Development and Cooperation, [Afghanistan faces the world’s worst humanitarian crisis](#), 16 December 2021

Afghanistan is on the brink of the world’s worst humanitarian catastrophe, the UN’s World Food Programme (WFP) warns. According to the WFP, the country’s food crisis currently looks worse than what is happening in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.

This alarming assessment is based on the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report. It was issued in October in a joint effort of the WFP and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The authors state that in September and October 2021, nearly 19 million people in Afghanistan experienced high levels of acute food insecurity. They expect this number to rise to 22.8 million in the months November 2021 to March 2022. More than half of the country’s people thus face hunger – including 3.2 million children under five, many of whom will suffer acute malnutrition by the end of this year. People all over the country are affected, including in urban areas.

Afghanistan's Chamber of Craftsmen and Shopkeepers said Tuesday that the price of an average naan bread weighing 200 grams has doubled, from 10 Afghanis (AFN) to 20 AFN on the back of rising food prices.

[...]

"When we go to the bazar, they ask for dollars, because the AFG has lost its value. Selling and buying is done in dollars, said Gull Mohammad, a shopkeeper.

"People need flour, rice, oil and other necessary materials, customers are coming, but they can't afford to buy anything," said Obaidullah, another shopkeeper.

Reuters, [Afghans face "avalanche of hunger and destitution" - UN agency](#), 14 December 2021

Almost all Afghans do not have enough to eat and a failing economy could tip Afghanistan's increasingly dire situation under Taliban rule into catastrophe next year, the U.N.'s World Food Programme (WFP) said on Tuesday. WFP surveys showed an estimated 98% of Afghans are not eating enough, with seven in 10 families resorting to borrowing food, which pushes them deeper into poverty, a spokesperson for the agency told reporters.

[...]

"The spiralling economic crisis, the conflict and drought has meant the average family can now barely cope," Tomson Phiri told a Geneva briefing. "We have a huge amount to do to stop this crisis from becoming a catastrophe."

Ariana News, [WFP survey finds about 98% of Afghans not getting enough food](#), 14 December 2021

Almost all Afghans do not have enough to eat and a failing economy could tip Afghanistan's increasingly

A total 22.8 million people, more than half the population, face acute hunger as temperatures plummet below zero.

“What’s happening in Afghanistan is just horrific,” said Beasley, who has just visited. “I met families with no jobs, no cash and no food, mothers who sold one child to feed another, and the lucky children who made it to the hospital. The world cannot turn its back as the Afghan people starve.” With more than 682,000 people displaced by drought, the economic crisis and conflict, WFP is calling for US\$2.6 billion in 2022 to provide life-saving support and work towards long-term resilience.

In addition to food assistance, cash grants from WFP empower people to buy food, complementing its efforts to boost the resilience of communities through activities such as providing training in agricultural techniques and irrigation projects.

Humanitarian needs have tripled, according to the organization, whose fleet of 170 trucks criss-cross the country, delivering nutritious food to remote villages and urban areas alike.”

The Tribune, [Pakistan agrees to let India transport wheat, life-saving drugs to Afghanistan on Afghan trucks: Foreign Office](#), 3 December 2021

According to UN figures from early November, almost 24 million people in Afghanistan, around 60 per cent of the population, suffer from acute hunger. That includes 8.7 million living in near-famine. Increasing numbers of malnourished children have filled hospital wards.

Business Standard, [Afghanistan continues to face economic hardships under the Taliban](#), 3 December 2021

CNN, [The rescue of Parwana: 9-year-old child bride is taken to safety in Afghanistan](#), 2 December 2021
 “Afghanistan's economic lifelines have been severed since mid-August [when the Taliban assumed control](#) after American and allied forces departed. Billions of dollars in central bank assets have been frozen, banks are running out of cash and wages have gone unpaid for months.
 Now, aid agencies and rights groups including Human Rights Watch are warning that the country's poorest people [are facing a famine](#) as the brutally cold winter takes hold. More than half of the country's roughly 39 million population will face [emergency levels of acute hunger](#) by March, according to a recent report by IPC, which assesses food insecurity. The report estimates that more than 3 million children under the age of five are already suffering acute malnutrition.
 "The international community is turning its back as the country teeters on the precipice of man-made catastrophe," said Dominik Stillhart, director of operations for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), who just returned from a six-day visit to Afghanistan.”

US News, [Aid Official: Afghanistan's Crises Get 'Progressively Worse'](#), 2 December 2021
 “According to U.N. figures from early November, almost 24 million people in Afghanistan, around 60% percent of the population, suffer from acute hunger. That includes 8.7 million living in near- famine. Increasing numbers of malnourished children have filled hospital wards. Afghanistan has been suffering from its worst drought in decades since last year, hitting 80% of the country. The drought has reduced crops and wrecked incomes for farming families, driving many to leave their villages. More than 700,000 people were displaced from their homes this year, whether by fighting or drought, adding to the ranks of some 3.5 million displaced from past years of fighting.”

DTM, [DTM: EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING](#), 29 November 2021

"CFPs were also asked to rank their community's most urgent needs. Cash and food were identified as the first priority needs, which aligns with reported community shocks in the past month. These include reduced income (94%), loss of employment (96%) and food price increase (95%) (see below). Drinking water and immediate healthcare were second and third priority needs, which is reflected in the reported risk of displacement due to water insecurity (55%) and the majority of communities without a health clinic or hospital (69%)."

OCHA, [Afghanistan: Weekly Humanitarian Update \(15-21 November 2021\)](#), 27 November 2021

"A total of 30,989 vulnerable and food insecure people were identified to receive humanitarian aid in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces. Some 35,399 vulnerable families (approximately 247,793 people) received food as part of WFP's seasonal assistance programme in Badakhshan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces. In addition, 11,788 internal returnees received humanitarian assistance across the North-east."

Operational Data portal, UNHCR) (Afghanistan), [Afghanistan situation: Emergency preparedness and response in Iran](#), 25 November 2021

community must continue helping Afghanistan as it heads into the winter, where pressing issues could lead to "terrible loss of life."

UNITED STATES INSTITUTE OF PEACE, [Key to Afghan Relief Efforts: Financial Engineering for Private Sector, Economy](#), 17 November 2021

The country is already facing a double-digit decline in GDP, rising prices of food and other necessities, and increasing unemployment, poverty, hunger and potential starvation. But if nothing is done the situation will get even worse, especially with the approach of winter.

In the absence of action, major parts of the Afghan economy will remain in free-fall and the urban sector will completely collapse. As a result, hunger and privation will increase further, already large humanitarian aid needs will multiply, and millions of desperate Afghans will be forced to try to leave the country.

GANDHARA NEWS, [‘No Water And Nothing To Eat’: Afghans Suffer Extreme Shocks From Global Climate Change](#), 16 November 2021

"Due to the drought, we had to leave our farm," Qudratullah tells RFE/RL's Radio Azadi. "We had no other income. Our field became barren and the crops we had planted were destroyed. We had no water and nothing to eat."

"There is nothing left of my cattle," he says. "I had to sell them off. Even if we

rate is rising every day, and with it the number of people who can no longer afford their daily bread.”

KHAAMA PRESS, [One million children suffering from malnutrition in Afghanistan: officials](#), 15 November 2021

“Officials of the Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan said that there are three million Afghan children suffering from different diseases among them one million who are malnourished.

The officials also said that there are still 700,000 Afghan women who are suffering from malnutrition along with the children.

Deputy Minister of Public Health doctor Abdul Bari Omar who was briefing journalists about the ministry’s three-month achievements said that all the hospitals and clinics have been reopened and female health workers are back to their jobs.

“All big and small clinics have been reactivated and male and female health workers are asked to return to their jobs so that they raise international aids.” Said Omar.

The Deputy Minister further said that they will soon launch capacity-building programs for male and female doctors across the country.”

REUTERS, [A million Afghan children at risk of dying amid acute malnutrition, WHO says](#), 12 November 2021

“Around

"The winter is very cold, and people cannot heat their houses. No one works, especially women, and even those who used to work have not been paid yet. One neighbor told me yesterday that she doesn't have anything in the house to feed the kids. Every night, she puts on her burqa and takes all her seven kids with her, and they go door-to-door to see if anyone will share their dinner with them. They only eat once a day if anybody gives them some food. One family offered to buy her one-year-old daughter for US\$600, but she refused the request, as she wanted to keep her daughter."

"This is the worst nightmare anyone in the world has ever imagined," she said.

"Sitara" described people foraging in already-harvested agricultural fields:

"One of the worst cases that I have witnessed in my life was seeing an old man with kids searching the potato fields hoping to find some remaining potatoes, to be able to feed themselves that night, although the crops had been harvested two months ago. If the Taliban and the international community don't pay attention and do not help people, everybody will die."

Kabul Now, [Mother puts teenage daughter up for sale in Ghazni](#), 11 November 2021

"A woman who has four daughters has put her eldest one, a 13 years old girl, up for sale in the southern Ghazni province to provide a living

WFP, [Afghanistan Situation Report](#), 10 November 2021

"In Numbers 22.8 million people – half of the population -- will face acute food insecurity from November 2021 3.2 million children and 700,000 pregnant and lactating women at risk of acute malnutrition All 34 provinces are facing crisis or emergency levels of acute food insecurity.

Situation Update

- More than half of the population will be facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) or emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity through the November 2021 to March 2022 lean season, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report.
- This is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded in the ten years in which IPC analyses have been conducted in Afghanistan. Afghanistan has one of the highest levels of acute food insecurity worldwide.
- The situation for children is especially alarming, with half of all children under five (3.2 million) expected to suffer from acute malnutrition. Acute malnutrition is above emergency thresholds in 27 of 34 provinces and is rapidly worsening.
- For the first time, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, marking the shifting face of hunger in the country.
- The report's findings come as Afghanistan's harsh winter looms, threatening to cut off areas of the country where families desperately depend on humanitarian assistance to survive the freezing winter months. • Poor families' food stocks are expected to run out, and millions will be forced to choose between migration and starvation

As per assessments from the United Nations World and the Food and Agricultural Organization, Afghanistan is facing a starvation crisis, with approximately 45 percent of its population or 19 million people being at risk of high levels of food insecurity.”

Ariana News, [Afghanistan on ‘countdown to catastrophe’ as winter looms](#), 26 October 2021

“This is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded by the UN, during 10 years of conducting IPC analyses in Afghanistan.

And globally, the country is home to one of the largest number of people facing acute hunger.

“Hunger is rising and children are dying”, said WFP Executive Director David Beasley.

“We can’t feed people on promises – funding commitments must turn into hard cash, and the international community must come together to address this crisis, which is fast spinning out of control”.

Among those at risk are 3.2 million children under five, who are expected to suffer from acute malnutrition by the end of the year.

Last month, WFP and the UN

Since the withdrawal of international forces in August, the fall of the Afghan government and the Taliban takeover, the country has been in freefall. Job losses, lack of cash and soaring prices have pushed the humanitarian crisis to a new high, creating a new class of hungry, the report said.

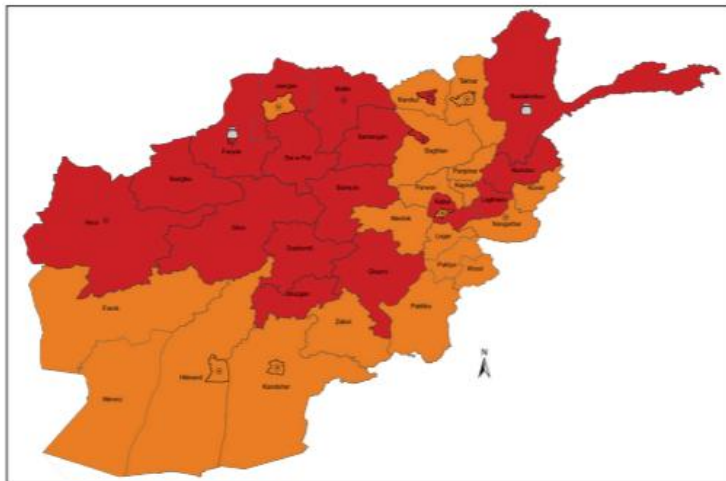
For the first time, urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, which have been ravaged by drought twice in the past three years. Across cities, towns and villages, virtually no family can afford sufficient food, according to recent WFP surveys. [...]

A crippling drought poses a further challenge to a political transition that has been met with international sanctions, and a financial and banking collapse. With COP26 kicking off in Glasgow on Friday (31 Oct), Bauer highlights the effects of the “double-dip” of the La Niña climate phenomenon, which is causing the worst drought the country has seen in years. [...]

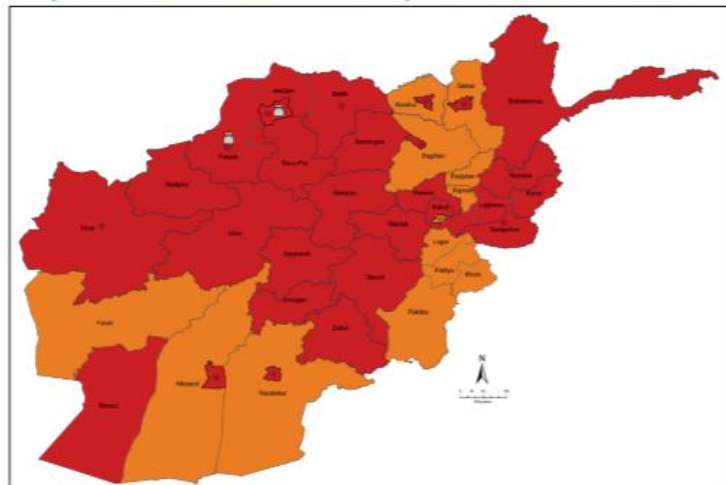
“People who used to be food-secure, people who live in urban areas, people who were part of the Afghan middle class are now facing food insecurity because they're not being paid anymore, and they don't have access to their savings anymore. If they don't have money, and they don't have food assistance, it's going to be a long, dark winter.”

Due to a cash liquidity crisis, people are currently restricted to withdrawing US\$200 a week. However, “in more remote locations the banks still don't

Current Acute Food Insecurity Sept - Oct 2021



Projected Acute food Insecurity Nov 2021 - Mar 2022



Key for the Map

November, according to the latest Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report issued today by the Food Security and Agriculture Cluster of Afghanistan, co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN and the UN World Food Programme.

The combined impacts of drought, conflict, COVID-19 and the economic crisis, have severely affected lives, livelihoods, and people's access to food. The report's findings come as Afghanistan's harsh winter looms, threatening to cut off areas of the country where families desperately depend on humanitarian assistance to survive the freezing winter months.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report has found that more than one in two Afghans will be facing crisis (IPC Phase 3) or emergency (IPC Phase 4) levels of acute food insecurity through the November 2021 to March 2022 lean season, requiring urgent humanitarian interventions to meet basic food needs, protect livelihoods and prevent a humanitarian catastrophe.

The report also notes that this is the highest number of acutely food insecure people ever recorded in the ten years the UN has been conducting IPC analyses in Afghanistan. Globally, Afghanistan is home to one of the largest number of people in acute food insecurity in both absolute and relative terms. [...]

"Afghanistan is now among the world's worst humanitarian crises - if not the worst - and food security has all but collapsed. This winter

The Guardian, [‘Countdown to catastrophe’: half of Afghans face hunger this winter – UN](#), 25 October 2021

“More than half of Afghanistan’s population is facing acute hunger as the country has been thrown into one of the world’s largest food crises.

Almost 23 million Afghans will be hungry due to conflict, drought and an economic downturn that is severely affecting livelihoods and people’s access to food as a harsh winter looms, the UN has warned; an increase of nearly 35% compared with last year.

“Afghanistan is now among the world’s worst humanitarian crises – if not the worst – and food security has all but collapsed. This winter, millions of Afghans will be forced to choose between migration and starvation,” the World Food Programme’s executive director David Beasley said, adding that “we are on a countdown to catastrophe”.

The Taliban takeover in August has contributed to the economic upheaval as billions of dollars in foreign aid payments – 40% of the country’s gross domestic product – have ceased and almost \$10bn (£7.3bn) of Afghan central bank assets have been frozen.

people (13%) were classified in Emergency (IPC Phase 4). Five out of 11 urban areas were classified in Emergency, and another six urban areas were classified in Crisis (IPC Phase 3). The urban area of Faryab (Maimana), with 65% of its total population classified in IPC Phase 3 or above, is the most vulnerable urban center, followed by Balkh (Mazar), Jawzjan, Helmand (Lashkergah), Hirat, Kunduz, Nangarhar, (e) Baghlan (Pul-e-Khumri), Kabul, and Kandahar, each having 40-55% of their respective populations classified in IPC Phase 3 or above. The impact of the transition of power on the functionality of key services (banks, markets, transports, communication) as well as on labour opportunities (e.g. civil servants and functionality of public and private economic comparts) coupled with unseasonable inflation spikes for food products, deeply affected the capacity of most urban households to produce an income and access food."

BBC News, [Afghanistan facing desperate food crisis, UN warns](#), 25 October 2021

"More than half the population - about 22.8 million people - face acute food insecurity, while 3.2 million children under five could suffer acute

He confirmed that all the children were members of a single family and died of starvation.”

Al Jazeera, [Kabul orphanage struggles to feed its children as cash runs low](#), 19 October 2021

“Ahmad Khalil Mayan, programme director at a large Kabul orphanage, says he is cutting back on the amount of fruit and meat he gives the children each week because the home is running out of money.

For the last two months, since the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan and millions of dollars in aid suddenly dried up, he has been desperately calling and emailing donors, both foreign and local, who supported him before.”

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

“The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving [...]

"Only five percent of Afghan households reported having enough food to eat, according to recent World Food Programme surveys. For the first time, there are similar levels of food insecurity among urban Afghans as drought-hit rural ones, the UN agency said: "Job losses, lack of cash, and soaring prices are creating a new class of hungry in Afghanistan."

Food worries now stretch from the country's remote rural corners – which often face the brunt of shortfalls caused by drought, conflict, or under-development – to its urban areas."

Tolo News, [WFP: 14 Million Face Food Insecurity in Afghanistan](#), 6 October 2021

"The World Food Programme (WFP) warned of the dire state of food insecurity sweeping across Afghanistan as winter approaches fast.

While visiting a food distribution center in Herat province in the west, WFP officials said that at least 14 million people in Afghanistan will face food insecurity and

WFP, [WFP Afghanistan Situation Report](#), 30 September 2021

"SITUATION UPDATE

- Winter is fast-approaching and the race is on to get food prepositioned at strategic locations before it's too late.
- Food security is deteriorating sharply: Just 5 percent of households are consuming enough food according to WFP's latest surveys.
 - Urban residents are suffering from food insecurity at similar rates to rural communities, who were ravaged by drought twice in the past three years.
 - While families with lower education levels are hardest hit by food insecurity, more than 90 percent of households with high-school or university educations are unable to afford enough food to feed their families.
- Almost no one has enough money to buy food.
 - Three out of four households now limit portion sizes; adults are eating less so their children can eat more.
 - o Households headed by women are skipping meals, and reducing their portions far more than those headed by men.
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"Afghanistan's economy is spiralling out of control. The formal banking system could collapse any day now because of a lack of cash. I've spoken to families who tell me they are surviving on tea and small scraps of old bread. "If the economy collapses, even the most basic services will no longer function, and humanitarian needs will soar even higher. Dealing with the liquidity crisis is critical as aid organisations seek to scale up to meet urgent humanitarian needs."

WFP, [In the grip of hunger: only 5 percent of Afghan families have enough to eat](#), 23 September 2021

"Due to the combined effects of unemployment, a drop in the value of the local currency and a rise in prices – cooking oil has almost doubled in

people and agriculture, explains how climate change will make drought in Afghanistan more common and looks at what should be done to mitigate their harm."

ACTED, September, [DROUGHT EMERGENCY APPEAL Situation analysis and proposed response](#), September 2021 [exact date unknown]

"While Afghanistan has sufficient water for its population and production in aggregate terms, access, storage and efficiency of water use are extremely low due to mismanagement, destruction of systems, and lack of infrastructures and investment, with 88% of irrigation done through informal systems. Overall, it is estimated that 90% of Afghanistan's water consumption is for agricultural purposes, of which over 50% is lost due to inefficient systems and management. When faced with drought conditions, these

Humanitarian Response (Afghanistan)(UNOCHA), [Afghanistan Weekly Humanitarian Update \(15-21 November 2021\)](#), 26 November 2021

“Some 7,886 families (approximately 55,200 people) have been identified in need of winterization assistance.”

BBC, [Afghanistan crisis: G20 leaders pledge to avert economic catastrophe](#), 13 October 2021

“The takeover of this country has caused a massive shock to an economy that was just about surviving. [...] In

urban employment.32
32 Crisis Group interview, World Bank official, September 2021."

[...]

DTM, [DTM: EMERGENCY EVENT TRACKING](#), 29 November 2021

"CFPs were also asked to rank their community's most urgent needs. Cash and food were identified as the first priority needs, which aligns with reported community shocks in the past month. These

"The media has financial problems in [sic]. Some media organizations have remained open but might close down because there are no advertisements," said another journalist.

Media and freedom of speech has been a major achievement in Afghanistan in the past 20 years, but the future for this sector is uncertain.

IEA officials meanwhile said they will help resolve problems regarding the financial situation in the long term.

"We will try our best to create a market for the media

"Afghanistan is currently facing numerous outbreaks including acute watery diarrhoea, measles, dengue fever, COVID-19 and malaria, which have increased the burden on the already fragile health system. Despite all efforts, more than 1,200 health facilities and over 11,000 health workers are not covered through the support provided through UN CERF or ARTF. This includes the majority of hospitals designated for COVID-19 care."

Khaama Press, [Afghanistan's 90% health centers may shut down by the end of 2022: IRC](#), 8 January 2022

women and girls could cause up to 58,000 additional maternal deaths, 5.1 million unintended pregnancies and a near doubling of the unmet need for family planning over the next four years.

In a country where a woman dies every two hours from pregnancy-related complications, Ms. Oruzgani said: “The kits are critical at this time, as hospital resources are running out and the support we were receiving has dwindled. We can’t be sure where our next assistance will come from.”

Politico, [A great suffering: starvation and the collapse of Afghan healthcare](#), 9 December 2021

"Nearly half of Afghanistan's 39 million people aren't getting enough food. One million children are at risk of dying from malnutrition as winter sets in, the WHO [said last month](#). Those on the brink of starvation sometimes make it to the hospital, but even there, resources [are scarce](#)."

“It is perhaps hard to picture a healthcare system “in collapse”, but you can see the human cost of the funding cuts at Boost hospital, in the fragile bodies of children racked with disease and malnutrition, or being wheeled to the morgue.”

UNFPA, [Mobile health teams: On the road saving lives in Afghanistan’s most remote areas](#), 21 November 2021

There are probably several reasons for the increase of malnutrition in the area, most likely indicative of the broader situation in Afghanistan: a lack of functioning health facilities in the area; the economic downturn (with up to 30 per cent inflation rate for food items); the lack of liquidity and closing of banks; and a drought that is expected to persist throughout 2021."

the absence of staff who fled the country when the Taliban seized power in August. [...]

Although the number of blast victims and war wounded have fallen since the fighting ended, Afghanistan's hospitals are grappling with the fallout of a rapidly spreading economic crisis that has threatened millions with

health care workers and the health care system in order to avoid a looming humanitarian crisis in the country, The Washington Post reported. Global Fund, a global health organization, donated \$15 million to the program at the beginning of October."

TO

“Those gains are now at severe risk with the country's health system on the brink of collapse. There has been a surge in cases of measles and diarrhoea. Almost 50% of children are at risk of malnutrition. The resurgence of polio is a major risk and 2.1 million doses of COVID-19 vaccine remain unused.”

2021

"International aid suspensions could shutter most of Afghanistan's public health facilities, essentially leaving the country without a working healthcare system, officials and aid groups say.

"So far, the mutated type of COVID-19 has not been identified because we have not received the diagnostic device and we have asked the Ministry of Health to make the device available as soon as possible," said Mohammad Anil, HR director of the hospital."

Det er stor underrapportering og upålitelige data om antallet smittede og døde som følge av pandemien. Verken før eller etter Talibans maktovertakelse har

The Associated Press gained rare access to one such raid last week.

Violence Against

More than

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