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WATCH

“No Forgiveness for People Like You”

Executions and Enforced Disappearances under the Taliban in Afghanistan



“No Forgiveness for People Like You”

Executions and Enforced Disappearances
in Afghanistan under the Taliban

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Printed in the United States of America

ISBN: 978-1-62313-953-7

Cover design by Rafael Jimenez

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Map



Glossary

<i>Arbaki</i>	A local militia force.
ALP	Afghan Local Police, a local security force set up and funded by the US from 2010 to 2020.
ANA	Afghan National Army.
ANP	Afghan National Police.
ANSF	Afghan National Security Forces (an umbrella term covering the military, police, intelligence agency, and designated local militias of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan).
<i>Delgai</i>	“Small group,”—Taliban military units under lower-level commanders who often have direct knowledge of local political dynamics.
IEA	Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, the formal name of the Afghan state under the Taliban
Republic	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Afghan government from January 26, 2004, until August 15, 2021.
KPF	Khost Protection Force, a US CIA-backed paramilitary strike force based in Khost.
NDS	National Directorate of Security, the intelligence agency of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, created by the CIA in 2002.
<i>Patsun kawanki</i>	“Uprising forces,”—a militia force formerly supported by the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
<i>Sara kheta</i>	“Red unit,” the Taliban’s elite special forces.

Summary

The Taliban have told my family that my brothers are on a list.... They searched our house and arrested my older brother. He was released after two days, but during those days my younger brother was arrested and till now we don't know where he is, how he is, if he is alive.

– Former Afghan government official in hiding, October 9, 2021

This report documents the summary execution or enforced disappearance of 47 former members of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)—military personnel, police, intelligence service members, and paramilitary militia—who had surrendered to or were apprehended by Taliban forces between August 15 and October 31, 2021. The report focuses on Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar, and Kunduz provinces, but the cases reflect a broader pattern of abuses reported in Khost, Paktiya, Paktika, and other provinces.

This report is based on a total of 67 interviews, including 40 in-person interviews conducted in Ghazni, Helmand, Kunduz, and Kandahar provinces. Human Rights Watch's research indicates that Taliban forces have killed or forcibly disappeared more than 100 former security force members in just these four provinces in the three months since their takeover of Kabul, the Afghan capital, on August 15. They have also targeted family members of former security force members.

Summary killings and enforced disappearances have taken place despite the Taliban's announced amnesty for former government civilian and military officials and reassurances from the Taliban leadership that they would hold their forces accountable for violations of the amnesty order.

In the weeks before the Taliban overran Kabul, revenge killings, including the targeting of government officials, were already on the increase in major cities and along key highways. This was evident in July, when Taliban forces escalated their operations around Kandahar city and carried out summary executions of surrendered and captured members of the security forces. Similar patterns have emerged in many other provinces, including since August 15.

The Taliban, through their intelligence operations and access to employment records that the former government left behind, have identified new targets for arrest and execution. Baz Muhammad, originally from Paktika province, had been employed in Kandahar by the National Directorate of Security (NDS), the former state intelligence agency. Around September 30, Taliban forces came to his house in Kandahar city and arrested him; relatives later found his body. The murder, about 45 days after the Taliban had taken over the country, suggests that senior officials ordered or were at least aware of the killing. These continuing executions have generated fear among former government officials and others who might have believed that the Taliban takeover would bring an end to the violence characteristic of the armed conflict.

The Taliban leadership has directed members of surrendering ANSF units to register with them to receive a letter guaranteeing their safety. Under this amnesty program, individuals who have registered have been screened for ties to particular military, police, militia, and special forces units, or to commanders or former provincial authorities, in addition to being required to surrender weapons. However, the Taliban have used these screenings to detain and summarily execute or forcibly disappear individuals within days of their registration, leaving their bodies for their relatives or communities to find.

Many Afghans interviewed expressed fear that if they register with the Taliban to receive the amnesty letter, they might be identified or recognized and face violent retaliation. At the same time, the Taliban have also searched for and detained people who failed to register. Some former government and security force officials have relied on their personal connections to get letters from the Taliban via third persons. Others, including some former civil servants in key government posts, such as the judiciary, have been unaware that they could obtain this “forgiveness” letter and have faced punishments—including beatings and detention—for not having done so. Even if aware of the letters, many have not been sure how to obtain them where the Taliban have not announced specific registration centers.

In smaller Afghan towns and villages, residents tend to know each other within communities and established neighborhoods. Because of these relationships, the Taliban, even when not from the area, have been able to obtain information as well as identify individuals who have worked for the previous government. These people have been singled out for questioning or further investigation and some have been summarily

executed or forcibly disappeared. Those executed on the spot often included lower-level security force members who were less well-known or lacked the protection of tribal leaders, especially in the south.

The Taliban have also searched for known former security force members, often threatening and abusing family members to reveal the whereabouts of those in hiding. Some of those eventually apprehended have been executed or taken into custody without acknowledgment of their detention or their location, the crime of enforced disappearance.

Enforced disappearances are defined under international human rights law as the arrest or detention of a person by the authorities followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty, or to reveal the person's fate or whereabouts. Enforced disappearances violate a range of fundamental rights protected under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,¹ which Afghanistan has ratified, including prohibitions against arbitrary arrest and detention; torture and other ill-treatment; and extrajudicial execution.

Previous Afghan governments, including that of President Ashraf Ghani, extensively used enforced disappearances against their opponents. The Taliban have also engaged in abusive search operations, including night raids, to apprehend and, at times, forcibly disappear suspected former civilian and security force officials. Said a civil society activist from Helmand province:

Taliban night raids are terrifying. They are conducted on the pretext of disarming ex-security forces who have not surrendered weapons. Those that “disappear” are [victims] of night raids. The family can't report or confirm. The families can't even ask where [the person has been taken].

These killings and disappearances have occurred amid other violence in the country. The Islamic State of Khorasan Province (ISKP), an affiliate of the Islamic State (ISIS), has continued to carry out targeted killings and bombings to which the Taliban have

¹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), G.A. res. 2200A (XXI), 21 U.N. GAOR Supp. (No. 16) at 49, U.N. Doc. A/6316 (1966), 993 U.N.T.S. 3, *entered into force* January 3, 1976. Afghanistan ratified the ICCPR in 1983.

responded with intensified search operations and detentions in districts where it is operating. The collapse of the former administration has resulted in a rise in criminal activity and score-settling, including violence against prominent local officials.

Taliban officials have repeatedly denied that their forces have carried out killings and disappearances. However, as Taliban forces consolidate control over the country, they are obligated to hold to account all members of their forces responsible for human rights abuses. Increasing evidence suggests that summary executions and disappearances, among other abuses, are being carried out by senior Taliban leadership at the district or provincial level.

Following the Taliban takeover of Helmand and Kandahar provinces, senior commanders from the Taliban's intelligence unit sought to apprehend prominent former ANSF commanders and fighters for detention and questioning; some of them are among those forcibly disappeared. Qudratullah, a well-known police commander in Kandahar city, was arrested by Taliban intelligence officers shortly after the city's takeover—his family has been unable to obtain any information from the Taliban as to his whereabouts. Human Rights Watch is increasingly concerned that revenge killings condoned by senior Taliban leaders are now becoming the basis for a deliberate policy to seek out and execute targeted former government's security officials and others.

On September 21, the Taliban announced the establishment of a commission to investigate reports of human rights abuses, corruption, theft, and other crimes. As of November 22, the commission had not announced any investigations into any reported killings, although it did report on the arrest of several Taliban members for stealing and the dismissal of others for corruption.

Human Rights Watch, on November 7, provided its findings on executions and disappearances to Taliban officials and sought information about any investigations into these cases. The Taliban responded to say that all detentions and punishments follow a judicial process, and that no one is punished without a court [ruling]. They said individuals have been detained not for “past deeds, but [because] they are engaged in new criminal activities... [and] create problems and plots against the new administration, [and] keep contacts with notorious individuals who fled the country.... It is not our policy to kill someone without trial, whether he is from ISIS or from another group.” Their full response,

including some additional details on the investigation commission, is included as an appendix to this report.

Methodology

Human Rights Watch carried out research for this report between September and November 2021. The report is based on a total of 67 interviews, including 40 in-person interviews conducted in Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar and Kunduz provinces. We interviewed witnesses to abuses, relatives and friends of victims, former government officials, members of the media, and healthcare workers, as well as Taliban fighters, commanders, and officials.

All interviewees were informed of the purpose of the interview, the ways in which the information would be used, and offered anonymity in our reporting. Most interviews were conducted in Dari or Pashto. This report withholds identifying information for most interviewees to protect their privacy and security. In some cases, we have used pseudonyms, which appear in quotation marks, to anonymize individuals for their security. None of the interviewees received financial or other incentives for speaking with us.

On November 7, 2021, Human Rights Watch sent a summary of our findings to the Taliban authorities in Kabul. Their response is included as an appendix to this report.

I. Patterns of Killings and Enforced Disappearances

Taliban forces had stepped up targeted killings of ANSF personnel and civilian government officials long before their final offensive that led to the takeover of the country in mid-August 2021. The UN and other analysts placed the surge in killings from mid-2020.² While most of these attacks targeted security force personnel and other officials, the period from late 2020 through August 2021 also saw increased attacks on journalists and civilians considered to be associated with the government. As the Taliban forces closed in on provincial capitals, targeted killings and other abuses escalated.

In the immediate aftermath of the collapse of President Ashraf Ghani's government, Taliban forces moving into Kabul appeared to adopt two approaches to exerting control. The takeover of the presidential palace and key ministries happened with little violence, as the buildings had been abandoned when government officials fled. However, in other parts of the city, Taliban forces engaged in revenge attacks. In early September—well after the Taliban had taken over the city—Taliban fighters took four policemen from their homes and summarily shot them.³ One resident, who remains in hiding from the Taliban, said:

[Those in the security forces and others] who were their target, are still their target. Never has there been an official pardon for them. Some of them have been taken, tortured, or even been killed under torture.⁴

A man in Kandahar described a typical encounter when the Taliban came looking for his brother, who was with the ANSF:

There was a knock on the door. The [Taliban] asked: "Is [your brother] home?" I said no. "Do not be scared, tell him, we want to talk to him." I said, no he is not home. A couple of days later, they took my brother from

² United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), "Special Report: Killing of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists and Media Workers in Afghanistan 2018-2021," https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/special_report_-_killing_of_human_rights_defenders_and_journalists_2018-2021_-_unama_-_14_february_2021_english_o.pdf, (accessed November 2, 2021).

³ Human Rights Watch interview with the victims' relatives, Kabul, September 18, 2021. The four were killed in the same area of Kabul.

⁴ Human Rights Watch interview with a Taliban commander, Kunduz, October 23, 2021.

the street. We looked everywhere. We went to the Taliban, who denied involvement. Two days later we found his body.⁵

People seeking to gain favor with the new authorities or take revenge on rivals may report them to the Taliban. On October 11, the Afghan filmmaker Roya Heydari accused neighbors of informing Taliban authorities in Mazar-e Sharif that her brother had been a security force member. He was later released after officials close to former Governor Atta Noor intervened.⁶

Despite Taliban denials, the nature of the killings indicates that local Taliban commanders carried out or ordered many of the executions or followed orders to do so by senior commanders or the Taliban's intelligence unit. In some provinces, Taliban commanders have said that they have lists of people—written or orally communicated—who have committed acts the Taliban deem “unforgiveable” and would be targeted.⁷ The pattern of the killings has sown terror throughout Afghanistan, as no one associated with the former government can feel secure they have escaped the threat of reprisal.

The People Targeted

The Ghani government collapsed so quickly that documents related to the security forces and those who cooperated with them were left behind. When Taliban forces entered the offices of the former intelligence agency, the National Directorate of Security, and other government offices, they were able to obtain not only data on employees but also information on those who might have acted as informants.

Many of those killed were evidently targeted because of their role in the previous government. A Taliban fighter said that “Muhammad,” the head of the disciplinary unit of Kunduz's prison, was executed on August 30 “in front of us”:

⁵ Human Rights Watch interview with the victim's family, Kandahar province, October 18, 2021.

⁶ @heydari_roya, “In these past few years, I helped so many people, IDP's, refugees, and I worked voluntarily for several charity organizations - I worked for #Afghanistan from the bottom of my heart and asked for nothing in return! But now, I am asking only for one favour ❤️,” *Twitter*, October 11, 2021, 5:44 p.m., https://twitter.com/heydari_roya/status/1447679523361787904?s=20. Her brother was later released after officials close to former governor Atta Noor intervened. @heydari_roya, “Words are not enough to thank ustad Atta's family for helping our family to release my brother from the custody of the Taliban. A special thanks to @KhalidNoorafg May God bless you!,” *Twitter*, October 13, 2021, 11:06 a.m., https://twitter.com/heydari_roya/status/1448304219094671360?s=20, (accessed November 17, 2021).

⁷ Human Rights Watch interview with a Taliban commander from Ghazni, Kabul, August 16, 2021.

The commanders called him back to the job after a few days [after taking control of Kunduz]. They said, “Your job is here, you know this job.” The prison has three gates. [“Muhammad”] crossed the first gate. He was shot dead between second and the third gate.⁸

Others targeted across Afghanistan have included NDS members, including intelligence personnel, those in charge of detention facilities, and special strike forces members such as the “Zero units.”⁹ On August 13, the day Taliban forces took control of Kandahar, they captured and killed three NDS 03 unit officers, according to former colleagues who saw the bodies.¹⁰ “Zamaryali”, a former 03 force member, said, “They were telling me not come out after the collapse of the government. Suddenly, their phones were turned off. I went to their homes. All three of them had been killed by the Taliban, their families told me.”¹¹

Since October, the Taliban have intensified searches for former members of the Khost Protection Force (KPF), a special forces unit that had been founded and supported by the US Central Intelligence Agency. A civil society activist who has been documenting the killings said, “the KPF are the [Taliban’s] first target. They are looking for them.”¹²

Others targeted have been members of militias supported by the former government, in particular, the Afghan Local Police (ALP). One Kandahar resident said, “The Taliban have not forgiven a lot of ALP commanders. Right now, they are looking for them.”¹³ A Taliban commander in Ghazni said that some ALP and other militia members “cannot be forgiven

⁸ Human Rights Watch interview with a Taliban fighter, Kunduz province, September 7, 2021.

⁹ Before the drawdown of most international forces from Afghanistan in 2014, the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) began expanding the number of Afghan paramilitary units fighting the Taliban and other insurgents. While these forces were nominally under the Afghan government’s National Directorate of Security (NDS), they operated outside the normal chain of command of the Afghan National Security Forces as part of CIA-backed covert operations. Such so-called “Zero units” included NDS 01, which operated in Kabul and Wardak, and sometimes Nangarhar; NDS 02, which operated in Nangarhar; NDS 03, originally known as the Kandahar Strike Force, based in the former compound of the late Taliban leader Mullah Omar, renamed “Gecko” after US forces occupied it, in Kandahar; and NDS 04 in Kunar and Nuristan. See Human Rights Watch, “*They’ve Shot Many Like This, Abusive Night Raids by CIA-Backed Afghan Strike Forces*” (New York: Human Rights Watch, 2019), https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/report_pdf/afghanistan1019_web.pdf.

¹⁰ Human Rights Watch interview with the former NDS 03 unit commander, Kandahar Province, September 6, 2021. The Taliban had targeted these units early in their offensive. See “Afghanistan: Mounting Taliban Revenge Killings,” Human Rights Watch news release, July 30, 2021, <https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/30/afghanistan-mounting-taliban-revenge-killings>.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Human Rights Watch interview with a civil society activist in Afghanistan via Signal, November 4, 2021.

¹³ Human Rights Watch interview with a resident, Ghazni province, October 21, 2021.

because they have committed a lot of atrocities.”¹⁴ Because many people joined the ALP from their own communities, the Taliban also see them as a greater threat compared to locally deployed former ANSF members who were community outsiders. The Afghanistan Analysts Network noted in October 2020:

[T]he mobilisation of local men to fight each other can lead to violence which is particularly nasty and intimate. ... The cost of conflict where each side knows the other and their families and clans is high and the risk of setting up new cycles of revenge clear.¹⁵

At the local level, many Taliban fighters and former ANSF members come from the same communities and know each other. As a result, personal rivalries and grievances have played into some killings. Many have reportedly been ordered by the Taliban’s *delgai* (“small group”) units—lower-level commanders who often have direct knowledge of the local political dynamics and are able to identify and target people.¹⁶

The Taliban’s so-called *sara kheta* (“red unit”) elite special forces, highly trained commandos organized on a provincial basis, have also reportedly been tasked with searching for former security force members during night raids. The *sara kheta* are considered responsible for the Taliban’s most successful operations against the ANSF in recent years.¹⁷

Taliban forces have executed former members of local paramilitary forces operating under the ANSF umbrella known by a variety of names, such as *arbaki* or *patsun kawanki*

¹⁴ Human Rights Watch interview with a Taliban commander, Ghazni province, August 29, 2021.

¹⁵ Kate Clark, “Disbanding the ALP: A dangerous final chapter for a force with a chequered history,” *Afghanistan Analysts Network*, October 20, 2020, <https://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/en/reports/war-and-peace/disbanding-the-alp-a-dangerous-final-chapter-for-a-force-with-a-chequered-history/>, (accessed November 5, 2021).

¹⁶ “The Taliban’s smallest operating unit is the *delgai* (diminutive form of *dala*, or group), which in theory consists of 10 men but in reality can have from five to 20. The *delgai* leader typically collects the men under him by way of kinship ties, informal bonds forged through years of war ... and sometimes charisma... The *delgai* leader plans assaults, and the group conducts most of the attacks in its area of operation.” Anand Gopal, “The Battle for Afghanistan: Militancy and Conflict in Kandahar,” *New America*, 2010, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep10483>, (accessed November 7, 2021).

¹⁷ Fazelminallah Qazizai, “The Special Units Leading the Taliban’s Fight Against the Islamic State,” *New/Lines Magazine*, September 3, 2021, <https://newlinesmag.com/reportage/the-special-units-leading-the-talibans-fight-against-the-islamic-state/>, (accessed November 4, 2021); Frud Bezhan, “Explainer: Taliban ‘Special Forces Unit’ Bursts Into Spotlight with Deadly Attacks,” *Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty*, December 4, 2017, <https://www.rferl.org/a/afghanistan-taliban-special-forces-emerge-deadly-attacks/28896629.html>, (accessed November 4, 2021).

(“uprising forces”). Human Rights Watch is aware of at least one instance in which the Taliban executed detained former militia members in groups of 6 to 10. Like the Afghan Local Police, such militia forces had long earned the enmity of Taliban forces in their districts because of their abuses against communities perceived to support the Taliban or because they were rivals in exploiting these communities, and sometimes both.¹⁸

¹⁸ Human Rights Watch, *Just Don't Call it a Militia: Impunity, Militias, and the "Afghan Local Police,"* (New York: Human Rights Watch 2011, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/afghanistan0911webwcover_0.pdf, (accessed November 3, 2021).

II. Killings and Enforced Disappearances

Taliban killings and enforced disappearances have varied by district and province, the type of ANSF personnel targeted, and by time period. More opportunistic killings characterized the period immediately before and after the Taliban takeover of Kabul. Killings and disappearances appear to have become more deliberate since then, as Taliban commanders, especially at the provincial level, have used informants and information from the previous government to locate others linked to the former Afghan security forces. In some cases, the connection between the victims and the former government is not evident.

Kandahar

Kandahar province stood out in the months before the collapse of the Ghani government as a target for Taliban revenge killings. Before and after the Taliban takeover, Taliban fighters went from house to house in some areas telling men to come in for questioning. Among the first killed were former members of the security forces. Since then, the killings and disappearances have continued.

Those most at risk include people who worked for the former government and those known to have had close personal ties or working relationships with government officials, civilian as well as military. One man reported that his friend, Hikmat, a security guard by profession, was picked up by the Taliban on September 25, 2021, in Kandahar city. The Taliban beat him severely and he died as a result. His friend believes his past informal relationships with government officials—he occasionally sat and talked with them—made him a Taliban target.¹⁹

A friend of Lali, who ran a bicycle shop near the Abdul Rab Akhundzada mosque in Kandahar, described his abduction. “The Taliban picked him up on September 26 from his shop, and the next day we found his body in the city street.”²⁰ He had been severely beaten. The friend said that a Taliban official denied killing Lali, but a local shopkeeper and another witness had seen the Taliban pick him up from his shop.

¹⁹ Human Rights Watch interview with a friend of Hikmat, September 28, 2021.

²⁰ Human Rights Watch interview with a friend of Lali, September 28, 2021.

Witnesses said they saw Hikmat and Lali being taken away from the middle of Kandahar city by official Taliban vehicles.

On September 23, 2021, Taliban fighters apprehended “Assad” and “Omar,” two brothers who had been working at the US base outside Kandahar city known as Gecko, although not as soldiers. At time of writing, their whereabouts are unknown.²¹

The Taliban summarily executed some former security force members in front of their families or have left their bodies where they were likely to be found. Others who were well known for fighting against the Taliban are among those forcibly disappeared. This includes key colleagues of former Kandahar provincial chief of police Gen. Abdul Raziq, such as Ayub Kakai, one of Raziq’s top commanders.²² The Taliban took him into custody in late August 2021 and have held him incommunicado since. Haji Lala, former chief of police of Maiwand district of Kandahar, was arrested by the Taliban in late August 2021; he was also held incommunicado even though his family had asked to meet with Taliban officials seeking information about his whereabouts. On November 13, both Lala and Kakai were released following negotiations between Taliban officials and local tribal leaders.²³

Social media attention in one case appears to have prevented an enforced disappearance. On September 11, Taliban forces raided the home of Haji Melad Rahmati, a former NDS official, in Kandahar city. His sister, Fahima Rahmati, used social media to alert her network about the raid, pleading for help, and her posts went viral. Haji Melad Rahmati said:

They took me and my younger brother to the main police station. I was beaten unconscious. They also shot me in the leg. After that they came under pressure [because of the social media attention], and they released us on one condition. They said we should come on social media to say that

²¹ Human Rights Watch interview with a former NDS o3 member, Kandahar province, September 25, 2021.

²² Human Rights Watch Interview with a former government employee, Kandahar province, September 11, 2021.

²³ Other senior commanders who were released included Syed Sharif Sartib, Sardar Khan, Mahmood Aka, Attaullah Mama, and Haji Sab Jan. All are prominent figures with powerful tribal and political ties that gave them protection. @tolokannews, “د کندهار په سپین بولدک ولسوالۍ کې د تېر حکومت بندي قوماندانان خوشي سول.”

امنیه قوماندان سید شریف سرطیب، د چټک غیرگون قوماندان سردار خان، د میوند امنیه قوماندان حاجي لالا، د کنډکونو قوماندانان محمود اکا، عطا الله ماما، ایوب کاکي،
Haji Melad Rahmati, “حاجي صاب جان او نور په دي بنديانو کي شامل وه.” *Twitter*, November 13, 2021 6:59 a.m.,

<https://twitter.com/tolokannews/status/1459491182007013382?s=20>, (accessed November 16, 2021).

the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan [officials] are good people and behaved very well with us.²⁴

After the incident, Taliban social media accounts claimed that the reason for the raid was that Haji Melad Rahmati had not registered with the Taliban.

Killing of Dadullah

Dadullah had spent only a few months with the Kandahar police, but this was apparently enough to attract the notice of local Taliban commanders. He had been working in Kandahar city's District 9, but as the fighting worsened, he quit his job and went to work as a laborer in Spin Boldak on the Pakistan border. He stayed there after the Taliban's takeover of the country and the following two months. On October 23, he returned to Kandahar city where neighbors saw him at his house in Tamanyano Kalay in District 9. Two men believed to be Taliban members were seen standing with him and then escorted him to their car and drove away with him. Taliban security forces dress distinctively, are visibly armed, and are the only group to have the power and control to have carried out an arrest in the area. One of the neighbors said, "Later that evening an ambulance brought his dead body to the house. We took the body to the [provincial] governor's house, but the Taliban would not tell us anything and did not allow us to meet the governor."²⁵

Enforced Disappearance of Ahmadullah

Ahmadullah was from the Arghandab district of Kandahar province where he had served as a police commander at checkpoints across Kandahar city and its surroundings.²⁶ Taliban security forces took him into custody in mid-October 2021. In a 29-second video apparently recorded by a Taliban fighter obtained by Human Rights Watch, a Taliban fighter speaks of Ahmadullah as being responsible for killing the brother of one of the fighters present in the room.²⁷ The speaker says that the brother "doesn't want to let him [Ahmadullah] go." In the video, Ahmadullah is lying on the ground. There are no injuries visible, but he is not moving, his eyes are closed, and he appears unconscious. As of

²⁴ Message passed to Human Rights Watch from acquaintance of Rahmati, October 13, 2021.

²⁵ Human Rights Watch interviews with a neighbor of the victim, Kandahar province, October 23, 2021.

²⁶ Human Rights Watch interviews with residents, Arghandab, October 21, 2021.

²⁷ Video obtained by Human Rights Watch, October 25, 2021. The Taliban sometimes film videos of detentions and killings to share on their social media networks.

November 22, no further information was available about Ahmadullah's fate or whereabouts.

Kunduz

Killing of Nazim

Nazim, a former member of the Afghan Local Police, surrendered to the Taliban along with other former members of his unit after the collapse of the Ghani government. A Taliban *sara kheta* special forces unit took Nazim along with other militia fighters to Nahri Sufi village in Char Dara district. When they reached the village, according to a militia member, "Nazim cursed at the Taliban, and a few minutes later he was separated from [the rest of the unit] and then [name withheld] fatally shot Nazim. The two men came from the same village and were known to have had a bitter rivalry in the past."²⁸

Killing of Ziaul

Ziaul was an NDS commander responsible for guarding a checkpoint in Ibrahim Khail village in Kunduz province. After the government's collapse, Ziaul went into hiding in Kunduz city. He tried to leave Kunduz but, according to a friend of his, "He was followed from his house and arrested at the Logir checkpoint in Aliabad district. The Taliban told him, 'There is no forgiveness for people like you.'"²⁹ His family found his body in the Angorbagh area of Kunduz city on the main road. As Ziaul had been a commander of a frontline checkpoint, he had fought the Taliban for many years. The Taliban knew him well as they had lost many fighters during attacks on his checkpoint. Neighbors believe he was targeted not only because he had been with the NDS but because local Taliban commanders knew him personally from past interactions.³⁰

Killing of Abdul Qadir

Abdul Qadir was a fighter under Ziaul's NDS command. His family said he had gone into hiding after the government fell, but went to his in-law's house, which was in a known Taliban stronghold. Around August 25, Taliban forces stopped him at a checkpoint and asked him if he had worked for the NDS. He said he was a former NDS member but pointed

²⁸ Human Rights Watch interview with a former militia member, Kunduz province, October 11, 2021.

²⁹ Human Rights Watch interview with a witness who accompanied Ziaul to the checkpoint, [location withheld]. October 15, 2021.

³⁰ Human Rights Watch interviews with neighbors, Kunduz, October 15, 2021.

out the general amnesty the Taliban leadership had announced. According to a witness at the checkpoint, “When they stopped him, they asked for weapons. He told them he did not have any, but they took him with them anyway.”³¹

The family said that three days later they found his body on the banks of the Char Dara River.³²

Killing of Watan

Watan had been with the Afghan Local Police in Kunduz province where he had been accused of brutality against Taliban suspects. He was well-known in Kunduz and would have been known to the Taliban. While he was traveling by bus to Kabul in late August, the Taliban stopped him at a checkpoint in Kunduz. A witness on the bus said a Taliban fighter at the checkpoint fatally shot him on the spot.³³

Helmand

After the Taliban took control of Lashkargah, the capital of Helmand province, on August 13, they declared a general amnesty for the population.³⁴ They announced the amnesty via mosques, word of mouth, and social media. Nonetheless, the Taliban proceeded to forcibly disappear large numbers of people who had worked for the previous government, particularly members of the Afghan National Police, Afghan Local Police, intelligence agencies, and militias. Taliban authorities have not provided information about the whereabouts of many of those taken into custody, particularly those who were in *sangoryan*, led by well-known commander Muhammad Rasulyan, and other militias, and the ALP. Their whereabouts remain unknown.

Taliban forces in Helmand have continued searching for both civilian and military personnel affiliated with the former government, in particular senior commanders.

³¹ Human Rights Watch interview with witness who accompanied Abdul Qadir to the checkpoint, Kunduz, October 15, 2021.

³² Human Rights Watch interview with a relative of Abdul Qadir, Kunduz, October 22, 2021.

³³ Human Rights Watch interview with a witness, Kunduz, October 16, 2021.

³⁴ The Helmand amnesty was announced two days before and separate from the general amnesty the Taliban leadership announced in Kabul for former Afghan government officials and military personnel after taking Kabul on August 15.

Enforced Disappearance of Abdul Raziq

Abdul Raziq was one of the last ANSF commanders fighting against the Taliban after the collapse of Kabul. He fought Taliban forces in Gereshk and then in Sohrab at the former Camp Bastion, where he finally surrendered on August 15. The Taliban allowed him to go to his home in Gereshk, but when he arrived that night, another group of Taliban warned him that commanders and fighters might want to hurt him if they knew where he was hiding. After that warning, Abdul Raziq went with his nephew, Mudasir, who is himself a Taliban commander, to the Deh Adam Khan area of Gereshk district. A local resident said, “Abdul Raziq was there for two or three days, until another group claiming to be from the Taliban’s intelligence department took Abdul Raziq with them at night. Since then, we do not know about his whereabouts.”³⁵

Enforced Disappearance of Zaman Gul

Zaman Gul had been with a prominent militia under commander Muhammad Rasulyan in Gereshk and in Herat province. After August 15, he laid low in his home in Gereshk until the general amnesty. One of his friends said that soon after he came out of hiding sometime on August 22-24, “Taliban intelligence raided his house and Zaman was taken out from his home, handcuffed and had to go with them.”³⁶ His father and brothers searched for him but were unable to get any information. Said his friend: “When they went to the district governor or district chief of police, [Taliban officials] told them that he was in Musa Qala, or Sangin district, and recently the family was told [by a Taliban official] that he is in Nawzad.”³⁷ The Taliban have provided no more information about his whereabouts, and there is no proof whether he is alive or not.

Enforced Disappearance of Baz Muhammad

Baz Muhammad had been a member of the Afghan Local Police before joining the Afghan National Police in Helmand. After the government’s collapse, he returned to his home in Gereshk. Sometime between August 20 and August 25, the Taliban raided his house and took him away. His father went to Sangin and Nawzad districts because Taliban officials in

³⁵ Human Rights Watch interview with a villager, Helmand province, September 6, 2021.

³⁶ Human Rights Watch interview with a friend of Zaman Gul, Helmand province, September 2, 2021.

³⁷ Ibid.

Gereshk told him he was in prison there, but Taliban officials denied having him in custody.³⁸

Enforced Disappearance of Ghafoor

Ghafoor, a former police officer from Gereshk, stayed home after the government's collapse. Around August 12, two days after taking over the Gereshk bazaar, Taliban intelligence officials raided Ghafoor's house at night and arrested him. Taliban officials informed the family that he was being taken to Gereshk prison and then after three days they said he had been moved to the prison in Lashkar Gah, Helmand's provincial capital. Since then, the family has not been given any further information about his whereabouts and has not been able to have contact him.³⁹

Enforced Disappearance of Maween

Maween, a low-ranking Afghan National Police commander in Gereshk district, had been implicated in brutality. After the Taliban took Helmand, he went into hiding in Gereshk. After a couple of days, he tried to flee wearing a woman's burqa, but the Taliban captured him in a raid. His whereabouts remain unknown.⁴⁰

Ghazni

Around August 20, the Taliban detained at least 23 men from several districts in Ghazni province and killed them in groups of five or six or more. The men had been members of various Afghan security forces or militias, including the Afghan Local Police, *patsun kawanki*, and others.

Taliban fighters in Ghazni have claimed that all 23 people executed "had been provided amnesty in their districts, but they left those districts and went to Ghazni city. In Ghazni, they were arrested, and the [Taliban] court ordered them to be executed."⁴¹ A Taliban fighter said, "These were all people who once, twice, or three times surrendered to us [before], and we forgave them, but they came back and fought us again and again. So, the

³⁸ Human Rights Watch interview with a relative of Baz Mohammad, Helmand province, September 8, 2021.

³⁹ Human Rights Watch interview with a member of Ghafoor's family, [location withheld], October 2, 2021.

⁴⁰ Human Rights Watch interview with family members who witnessed the raid and with a witness who saw Maween when he was trying to flee, Gereshk, October 26, 2021.

⁴¹ Interview with a humanitarian aid worker, Ghazni province, October 29, 2021.

court ordered their deaths.”⁴² However, families of the victims questioned whether any court could have heard the cases in such a short time and that even if a court were involved it would not have had time to meaningfully consider evidence or otherwise apply fair trial standards.

A hospital official said that they received 23 bodies that were all *patsun kawanki*, which were collected from different areas of Ghazni province and brought to the hospital.⁴³ The men were identified by their ID cards and by family members as coming from Maqur, Qarabagh, Gilan, and other districts of Ghazni province.

On October 12, Taliban forces detained ALP commander Allah Dad Halimi from his home in Maqur district. Halimi was also a district governor for several districts in Ghazni. The family found his body the next day.⁴⁴

After Ghazni fell to the Taliban, “Sadaat”, a well-known commander in uprising forces and the ALP, kept to his home out of fear. Eventually, he began to move around. His cousin said that “Sadaat”’s confidence grew and...one day in mid-October he went to the bazaar on his motorcycle. We were waiting at home. Three hours were gone, he was not back.”⁴⁵ After some time, other residents of the area brought his body to the house. They told his cousin that armed men they believed were Taliban had stopped him on the road and killed him.⁴⁶

⁴² Human Rights Watch interview with a Taliban commander, Ghazni province, September 6, 2021.

⁴³ Human Rights Watch interview with a health care worker, Ghazni province, November 5, 2021.

⁴⁴ Human Rights Watch interview with a journalist, Ghazni province, October 9, 2021.

⁴⁵ Human Rights Watch interview with a cousin of the victim, Ghazni province, October 9, 2021.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

III. Taliban Response to Abuse Allegations

The Taliban leadership in Kabul has officially distanced itself from the summary killings, arbitrary arrests, and enforced disappearances that have occurred since taking over the Afghan government. In addition to denying having ordered such abuses, the leadership has also issued statements that seem to directly prohibit some of these actions. It has disseminated these via social media and other public messaging. In these statements, the Taliban have not only downplayed evidence of targeted killings but disavowed any role that the leadership may have played.

On September 21, 2021, the Taliban announced the formation of a commission to purge from the Taliban ranks anyone identified as “having personal enmity, being involved in corruption, immorality, violation of people's rights, harassment, theft and robbery, or other wrongdoings.”⁴⁷ On September 24, the acting minister of defense, Mullah Mohammad Yaqoob, said that there had been “isolated reports” of unauthorized executions.

In response to a letter from Human Rights Watch setting out our findings, the Taliban said they had removed from their ranks 755 members found to have committed such acts and had established a military tribunal for those accused of murder, torture, and illegal detention. They also said that executions of people taken into custody were not allowed unless decided by a Sharia court.⁴⁸

⁴⁷ @Zabehulah_M33, “د اسلامي امارت د صفوفو د تصفيي کمیسیون خبرت,” *Twitter*, September 21, 2021, 3:09 p.m., https://twitter.com/Zabehulah_M33/status/1440392816669040653?s=20, (accessed November 17, 2021). However, following media coverage of the detention and torture of two journalists on September 7-8, 2021, Taliban authorities announced that they would investigate the incident. @MJalal313, “Acting Minister of Information and Culture to Al Araby: We believe in freedom of expression within principles. There are always problems in the beginning. We have begun an investigation into the incident in which journalists were physically assaulted while covering the protests.” *Twitter*, September 11, 2021, 10:47 a.m., <https://twitter.com/MJalal313/status/1436702996147183618?s=20>. However, in a meeting with the newspaper’s editor, two members of the Taliban’s media committee, Sarujullhaq Omari and Hujatullah Mujadidi, said the newspaper itself was responsible for covering an “illegal” protest. Sudarsan Raghavan, “As an Afghan newspaper struggles to survive, a brutal beating — and a Taliban apology,” *Washington Post*, September 17, 2021, https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/asia_pacific/afghanistan-journalists-taliban/2021/09/17/81b44d5a-1722-11ec-a019-cb193b28aa73_story.html, (accessed November 17, 2021).

⁴⁸ Email to Human Rights Watch from Abdul Wahid Rayan, adviser & spokesperson for the Ministry of Information and Culture, November 21, 2021.

Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban's official spokesperson, has used Twitter to issue Taliban statements, including some on security, and to contest allegations that Taliban forces have been targeting opponents.

- On the morning of August 15, the day the Taliban took control of Kabul, Mujahid posted an announcement perhaps meant to caution their forces and to reassure Kabul residents that the Taliban have “not been thinking to [take] revenge [on] anyone. Those who worked in [the former government] as military and civilian are granted amnesty. We ask them to stay.”⁴⁹
- That afternoon, Mujahid posted another statement saying Taliban forces are not “allowed to enter anyone’s house or harass anyone.” By this time, Kabul residents had reported dozens of home searches by Taliban forces. The statement gave no indication of any consequences for disobeying these orders, nor did it provide information about to whom any violation could be reported.⁵⁰
- On August 15, Mujahid tweeted the non-harassment directive for embassies, diplomatic centers, and residences inhabited by foreigners as those not to be searched.⁵¹
- On August 16, as reports of home searches increased, Mujahid tweeted: “No one is allowed to go to former [government employees] demanding vehicles and intimidating them. The IEA [Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan] will take serious [steps] to stop it.”⁵² The Taliban subsequently returned some vehicles that had been taken from compounds of nongovernmental organizations. However, in the ensuing weeks residents in several cities reported Taliban forces seizing vehicles that were not returned. The Taliban have also occupied a number of nongovernmental organization offices and have taken equipment from them.⁵³

⁴⁹ @Zabehulah_M33, “په کابل او نور هیواد کې د بانگونو، تجارتخانو، صرافیو او هټیو د اطمینان په اړه د اسلامي امارت د ویاند څرگندونې،” *Twitter*, August 15, 2021, 3:00 a.m., <https://justpaste.it/8foej>, https://twitter.com/Zabehulah_M33/status/1426800950749110275?s=20, (accessed November 17, 2021).

⁵⁰ @Zabehulah_M33, “کابل ښار ته د مجاهدينو د داخلیدو د اړتیا په اړه د اسلامي امارت اعلامیه،” *Twitter*, August 15, 2021, 9:56 a.m., <https://justpaste.it/645yl>, https://twitter.com/Zabehulah_M33/status/1426905752782966786?s=20 (accessed November 17, 2021).

⁵¹ @Zabehulah_M33, “به همه سفارت خانه ها، مراکز دیپلماتیک، مؤسسات و اماکن بود وباش اتباع خارجی در کابل اطمینا میدهم که هیچ گونه خطر مواجه آنها، نخواهد بود.

”*Twitter*, August 15, 2021, 1:46 p.m., https://twitter.com/Zabehulah_M33/status/1426963402992373761?s=20, (accessed November 17, 2021).

⁵² @Zabehulah_M33, “کابل ښار کې وضعیت د بشپړ کنترول کېدو به حال کې ده. هغه خپل سړي کسان چې په شرارت او آشوب یې لاس پورې کړی وو اکثره نیول شوی دی. هېچاته اجازه نشته چې د پخوانیو چارواکو کورونو ته ورشي، د موټرو غوښتنه ترې وکړي او تهدید کړي، د هغوی مخه به په جدیت سره نیول کېږي، تر جدي تعقیب لاندې دي” *Twitter*, August 16, 2021, 7:54 a.m., https://twitter.com/Zabehulah_M33/status/1427237251352776705?s=20, (accessed November 17, 2021).

⁵³ Human Rights Watch interviews with humanitarian organizations, Kabul, September 2021.

- On September 5, the Taliban authorities, for the first time, issued a statement commanding military commanders to take action against their members who violate orders by firing guns in the air, after several incidents in which celebratory gunfire had killed people.⁵⁴
- On September 13, Mujahid, in a tweet, said the Taliban “flatly reject” Human Rights Watch allegations that Taliban forces had committed war crimes.⁵⁵

⁵⁴ @Zabehulah_M33, “هدایات مقام رهبری در باره فیرهای هوایی در کابل و سائر شهرها,” *Twitter*, September 5, 2021, 7:33 a.m., https://twitter.com/Zabehulah_M33/status/1434479686021754882?s=20, (accessed November 17, 2021).

⁵⁵ @Zabehulah_M33, “واکنش#:

ما آن راپور سازمان دیده بان حقوق بشر را جدی رد مینماییم، که گفته، که گویا مجاهدین امارت اسلامی مرتکب جنایات جنگی شده اند.

سازمان مذکور باید گزارشات خود را بر اساس معلومات غلط تهیه نکند.

“ان ها باید ساحات را از نزدیک به بینند و حقائق را به خود معلوم کنند,” *Twitter*, September 13, 2021, 1:00 p.m.,

https://twitter.com/Zabehulah_M33/status/1437461255640465414?s=20, (accessed November 17, 2021).

Recommendations

To the Taliban

- End all summary executions and enforced disappearances by Taliban forces, investigate reported cases of such abuses, and appropriately charge and prosecute before competent, independent, and impartial courts any Taliban officials, commanders, or members responsible for serious human rights violations.
- Immediately provide information to families of victims and the public about the fate or whereabouts of people forcibly disappeared, and release those wrongfully held.
- Inform the public about all measures taken to hold specific personnel accountable for serious abuses. Provide prompt and appropriate compensation to victims of serious abuses and their families.
- Cease all acts of intimidation, harassment, and summary punishment of former government officials and others associated with the former government, journalists, and other media workers, and individuals who have criticized Taliban policies and practices.
- Provide full access to the United Nations, the media, and human rights organizations to investigate and report on human rights inside Afghanistan without fear of retaliation or punishment.
- Provide full access to the new Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan, once appointed, and cooperate with the rapporteur in the fulfilment of the mandate.

To the United Nations

- The United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan (UNAMA) should maintain and fully implement its mandate to investigate human rights violations and abuses; be able to travel freely throughout Afghanistan and have access to places of detention; and publicly report on and engage with the authorities on the human rights situation.
- The UN Secretary-General, in his January 2022 report to the UN Security Council regarding UNAMA's mandate, should emphasize the need for maintaining robust monitoring, investigating, and public reporting of human rights abuses, with a special focus on the rights of women and girls.

- Members of the UN Security Council should strengthen UNAMA’s human rights mandate, and provide UNAMA sufficient staff and resources to fulfill that mandate.

To Afghanistan’s Donors

- Publicly and consistently press the Taliban at the national, district, and local levels to respect internationally recognized human rights, including by ending summary executions and enforced disappearances, and holding those responsible for abuses accountable.
- Place targeted conditions on direct assistance for non-humanitarian purposes until the Taliban takes credible steps toward meeting its international human rights obligations.

Acknowledgments

This report was written by a consultant to Human Rights Watch and Patricia Gossman, associate Asia director at Human Rights Watch. Brad Adams, executive director of the Asia Division, edited and provided divisional review. James Ross, legal and policy director, provided legal review; and Joseph Saunders, deputy program director, provided program review. Editorial and production assistance was provided by Racqueal Legerwood, senior coordinator for the Asia Division, and Travis Carr, senior publications coordinator. The report was prepared for publication by Jose Martinez, senior coordinator, and Fitzroy Hepkins, senior administrative manager.

Human Rights Watch wishes to thank all those in Afghanistan who agreed to be interviewed. We have honored their requests for anonymity.

Appendix: Letters

Human Rights Watch Letter to the Taliban, November 7, 2021

To: Abdul Wahid Rayan:

[Adviser & Spokesperson for the Ministry of Information and Culture]

Human Rights Watch is preparing a report on detentions, alleged killings, and disappearances of former ANSF personnel since August 15. We have conducted dozens of interviews, including with some Taliban commanders and fighters, in Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar, Kunduz, and Nangarhar, among other provinces.

We had contacted Mr. Zabihullah Mujahid, Mr. Zakir Jalali, and Mr. Sohail Shaheen about our findings but have not received a response. In this regard, I would be grateful if you could provide answers to the following questions as soon as possible (by November 22) so that we might include your responses in our report (you can send it in Pashto):

On September 21, your government announced the formation of a commission to remove from the security forces people identified as “having personal enmity, being involved in corruption, immorality, violation of people's rights, harassment, theft and robbery, or other wrongdoings.”

- Can you provide us with information on how many fighters have been disciplined by this commission and for what offenses?
- What is the procedure for investigating allegations of serious crimes, including killings, torture, and unlawful detentions?
- Is there a judicial process for determining the punishment for such crimes and if so, what is it?
- What procedure is available for people to register complaints of abusive behavior?

We are particularly concerned about reports of killings of groups of former ANP and uprising forces from Andar district, Maqur district, Gilan district, and Ab Band district of Ghazni province. Some were apparently killed in the villages of Nowghi and Isfanda on the Kandahar-Kabul highway.

Human Rights Watch is also aware of cases of detention in which the families have been unable to find their relative who has been arrested. For example:

- Ahmadullah, from Arghandab district of Kandahar province, served as one of the commanders in check posts across Kandahar city. We have received information that your forces took him into custody on October 21. As of now, no further information was available about his whereabouts.

We saw reports of the releases of a number of detained commanders from Kandahar, including Ayub Kakai, Syed Sharif Sartib, Sardar Khan, Maiwand police chief Haji Lala, Mahmood Aka, Attaullah Mama, and Haji Sab Jan. Were there any judicial proceedings held in these cases?

Abdul Raziq was an ANSF commanders fighting in Gereshk and then in Shorab. After August 15, he reportedly surrendered and was allowed to go to his home in Gereshk. We have been informed that after a few days, intelligence officials arrested him. As of now, no further information was available about his whereabouts.

We are aware that the ISKP has also continued to carry out assassinations, as have criminal, groups and possibly others with a motive against former government personnel. However, in the cases included in our report, those killed or disappeared had been first taken into custody during search operations or at checkpoints.

With regard to ISKP (also known as Daesh) could you comment on this statement by a fighter interviewed by the Washington Post: “We conduct night raids and whenever we find a Daesh member, we just kill them,” he said. “Eventually, they will be defeated.”
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/11/02/afghanistan-kabul-attack-hospital/>

We would appreciate your response as soon as possible, but by November 22, in order to be included in the report.

Official Response from the Taliban to Human Rights Watch, November 21, 2021

Not all information in this report is accurate, the Islamic Emirate does not punish anyone without a judicial process.

Some cases of chasing or detention of some people you mentioned in your report are not based on these people's past deeds, but they are engaged in new criminal activities. Our intelligence information about these figures show that they try to create problems and plots against the new administration, they keep contacts with notorious individuals who fled the country and continue their struggles for destroying this country. Their relationships are based on a plan to ruin the new administration and the country, they are engaged in destructive activities; So, the IE [Islamic Emirate] as a responsible system must chase and arrest such individuals, take them to justice and put them in jail.

About ISKP, I can say that the threat from this group is not serious compared to the group's extensive coverage by the media.

ISKP members who are arrested [are] taken to justice and sentenced for their rebellion from the government. So, we can say that no one is punished without a court.

The views of an ordinary individual cannot represent the whole position of the IE [Islamic Emirate], so if you take comments of a person as the general position of a government, it seems illogical.

About the Cleansing Commission, the commission has great achievements, and so far, removed or arrested 755 individuals.

The Islamic Emirate's Cleansing Commission has a special procedure comprised of 12 articles which has been previously announced and shared with the media. So, the ranks cleansing process is ongoing based on the mentioned procedure.

A special court has been set up for the detainees by the cleansing commission and their cases will be investigated.

Human Rights Watch Translation of Supplemental Response from the Ranks Clearance Commission (Tasfiya Commission), November 21, 2021

The Ranks Clearance Commission (*Tasfiya* Commission) also provided the following information:

When the commission was established by the Islamic Emirate on September 21, titled “Commission on Clearing from the Ranks”, we have since started taking actions against these people in the capital and provinces and we have activated our units in the provinces and their work is going on.

The number of people who would have been removed from the list was more than 750 and those who have been reported to the list are being worked on. The procedure is that we in the provinces have set up commissions. They go into each and every district. They have created tables in units and at the centers. The units fill in the tables. They record those who acted against the rules. Then they [the commissions] investigate. After a comprehensive investigation, they included the identified persons in the lists and reported them to the center. In addition to the information collected by those commissions, we also investigate and collect information about those persons and then we send letters to the concerned commissions to remove those persons from the ranks/lines.

And for those accused of murder, torture, and illegal detention, a military court has been established by the Islamic Emirate, which has now begun its work.

And for the public, if any problem happens to them, we have numbers (hotlines) in the capital and in the provinces to report on those who go to search people’s houses, carry out raids and operations, or enter houses for any other immoral purpose, or any evil deed. We have established points of contacts for the public to easily contact us in the capital which has other branches. As well as in the provinces, we have numbers to be contacted at any time, and we hope and plan that our work will get organized with each passing day so that we can solve the problems of the people one hundred percent, God willing.

In the case of ISIS, it is the policy of the Islamic Emirate to counter those who are in a state of war or when the Mujahideen are operating and confronting them and they might be killed during the armed clash, and when a person is captured, no one is allowed to kill him

under any circumstances and such incidents will not happen. If such incidents happen, we will take the case to the Sharia court and the court will decide. We have many individuals imprisoned as people affiliated to ISIS, ours is not to kill anyone without the court's order once arrested whether they belong to ISIS or any other group.

Original Supplemental Response from the Ranks Clearance Commission (Tasfiya Commission) to Human Rights Watch, November 21, 2021

د صفونو د تصفیې د کمیسیون له لوری دا معلومات هم رالل

کله چې په یوویستم د سپتمبر باندي د اسلامي امارت لخوا د تصفیې د صفوفو په نامه باندي کوم کمیسیون جوړ شو، د یادو کسانو په وړاندې نو مور په مرکز او ولایاتو کې خپل کارونه شروع کړي دي او په ډیرو

. ولایتونو کې مور خپل تشکیل فعاله کړی ده د هغوی کارونه روان دي

هغه کسان په دغو اوصافو باندي متصف وو چې تقریباً دوی به له صغه ایستلي ول تعداد یې له اوونیم سوو 750 نه واوښت او هغه کسان چې غه لیست ته قلمداد سوي دي په هغوی باندي کار روان ده، طرز العمل زموږ دغه ده چې مور په ولایاتو کې دغه کمیسیونونه جوړ کړي دي هغوی په ولسوالیو باندي گرځي په ډلگيو باندي او په مرکزونو باندي جدولونه مو ورته جوړ کړي هغوی جدولونه ډکوي دوی هغه کسان چې د طرز العمل خلاف وي هغه ثبتوي بیا وروسته تحقیق کوي هر اړخیزه تحقیق نه وروسته به دوی هغه جدول کې شاملوي مرکز ته اطلاع راکوي مور د دوی د معلوماتو سره سره >نور معلومات هم کوو وروسته له هغه معلوماتو مور مکتوب ورلپرو او هغوی له صف نه خارجو

او هغه کسان چې په وژنو، شکنجو، او غیر قانوني توقیف خانو باندي متهم دي د دغو کسانو لپاره د اسلامي امارت لخوا > نظامي محکمه جوړه شوي ده چې اوس یې په کار باندي شروع کړي ده

او د خلکو لپاره که کله کوم مشکل ورته پېښیږي د هغو لپاره مور په مرکز او ولایاتو کې شمیرې لرو که څوک د چا کور ته د تلاشي لپاره ورځي یا هم د چاپي او عملیاتو او یا هم کوم بل غیر اخلاقي هدف او یا کوم ناوړه کار لپاره ورځي نو له مور سره د اړیکې لپاره ډېره اسانه لاره هم په مرکز کې چې نور ځایونه لري او هم په ولایاتو کې شمیرې لرو چې په هر وخت کې ورسره رابطه کیږي، او مور امید او پلان لرو چې زموږ کارونه منظم او ورځ په ورځ په مخ لاړ شي ترڅو چې د خلکو مشکلات سل په سل کې حل شي ان شاءالله

د داعش ډلې په مورد کې هم د اسلامي امارت دا پالیسي ده کوم کسان چې په جنګي حالاتو کې یا په داسې وخت کې چې مجاهدین عملیات کوي او دوی مقابله وکړي هغه وخت کې د دوی وژل طبیعي ده او کله چې یو کس نیول کیږي نو دوی ته په هیڅ صورت د مرګ اجازه نسته او داسې پېښې به هم نه وي شوې هغه مور شرعي محکمې ته وړاندي کوو او محکمه به خپله پریکړه کوي له مور سره ډیر کسان د داعش په نامه بنديان دي نو زموږ دا پالیسي نسته چې له محکمې نه بغیر یو څوک له نیول کېدا وروسته ووژني که هغه داعش وي او یا د بلې ډلې څخه وي

“No Forgiveness for People Like You”

Executions and Enforced Disappearances under the Taliban in Afghanistan

Since taking power on August 15, 2021, Taliban forces in Afghanistan have carried out summary executions and enforced disappearances of former members of the Afghan security forces and civilian government—more than 100 in four provinces alone.

“*No Forgiveness for People Like You*” documents the killing or enforced disappearance of 47 former members of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF)—military personnel, police, intelligence service members, and militia forces—who had surrendered to or were apprehended by Taliban forces between August 15 and October 31, 2021. The report is based on 67 interviews, including 40 in-person interviews in Ghazni, Helmand, Kandahar, and Kunduz provinces with witnesses, former government officials, members of the media, healthcare workers, and Taliban fighters and commanders.

These abuses have taken place despite the Taliban’s announced amnesty for former government civilian and military officials and reassurances from the Taliban leadership that they would hold their forces accountable for violations of the amnesty order. Increasing evidence suggests that such abuses have continued under the orders or with the knowledge of senior Taliban commanders at the district or provincial level.

Human Rights Watch calls on the Taliban to end all executions and enforced disappearances, investigate reported cases of such abuses, and appropriately hold accountable any Taliban officials, commanders, or members responsible for serious abuses.

Human Rights Watch also calls on governments to publicly and consistently press the Taliban to respect internationally recognized human rights, including the rights of women and girls. The United Nations should maintain a robust monitoring presence in Afghanistan to investigate and report publicly on human rights abuses.



Taliban fighters patrol in Kabul, Afghanistan, August 19, 2021.

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