



Afghanistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 17 January 2018

Information on Afghani civilians working as intelligence officers/ spies for the Afghani police force including death threats made to / killings of such civilians by the Taliban.

A report published by the European Asylum Support Office, in a section titled “Urban-rural divide” (section 1.1.5.5), states:

“According to analyst Borhan Osman, insurgents will also target certain individuals inside the cities in drive-by shootings, often involving motorbikes. The victims of these shootings often do not have a very high public profile, states Osman, and the targeting is often intended to intimidate other individuals under threat by showing their reach. Victims of targeting include people such as traffic police or alleged spies or mid-level human rights activists, and are often people who received death threats before.” (European Asylum Support Office (December 2017) *Afghanistan: Individuals targeted by armed actors in the conflict*, p.26)

A report from the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), in a section headed “Anti-Government Elements and Protection of Civilians”, states:

“UNAMA continued to document incidents of killings, mutilations, beatings and other human rights abuses by Anti-Government Elements following a parallel and illegal judicial procedure. These procedures imposed punishments, usually execution, after summary trials of civilians suspected of spying for the Government or other alleged crimes.” (UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (February 2013) *Afghanistan: Annual Report 2012, Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, p.4)

See also UNAMA report which, in a section headed “Targeted killings”, states:

“The increase in the number of incidents of targeted killings by Anti-Government Elements, in particular the Taliban, of civilians perceived to be supporting international military forces and/or the Afghan Government continued in the first six months of 2013. UNAMA documented incidents throughout Afghanistan of Anti-Government Elements deliberately targeting tribal elders, religious leaders, civilian government employees, civilians accused of spying for the Government...” (UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) (30 July 2013) *Afghanistan: Mid-Year Report on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict 2013*, p.20)

A report from the Afghan Islamic Press news agency states:

“Unidentified motorcyclists shot dead one Safar Murad in Bash Kapa area of Khan Aaqa district, the Jawzjan police spokesman Abdul Manan Raufi told

the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP). The deceased was a citizen and was working at his fields. The police registered a case and started investigation. Meanwhile, the Taliban claimed responsibility for the incident and their spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told the AIP: 'Safar Murad was killed on charges of spying.'" (Afghan Islamic Press (5 May 2013) *Taliban kill man on spying charges*)

An article from the online edition of the UK newspaper Daily Mail states:

"The Taliban was accused of beheading two boys for spying in southern Afghanistan yesterday. (M) Afghan officials said the boys, aged 10 and 16, were kidnapped by Taliban fighters while scavenging for food in rubbish bins near the police headquarters in Kandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city and a key base for Western forces. The boys are suspected to have accepted food from the police in exchange for information and to have been killed for colluding with police, Kandahar provincial government office said last night. In separate incident, it was claimed, the boys were questioned about spying and their heads were then cut off." (Mail Online (10 June 2013) *Taliban behead boy, 10, and his friend, 16, 'for spying' after catching them scavenging for food for their families*)

An Afghan Islamic Press report states:

"Officials in Badakhshan Province have said that armed opponents have arrested one individual on charges of spying and killed him by beating him up. Also, another two individuals have been killed after being hit by a lightning. Ahmad Nawid Forotan, spokesman for the governor of Badakhshan, told Afghan Islamic Press on Saturday 7 June that armed opponents arrested a young man in an area between Yaftal-e Bala and Yaftal-e Payan Districts of the province yesterday on suspicion of spying and killed him. He added that the young man lost his life as a result of too much beating by the opponents." (Afghan Islamic Press (7 June 2014) *Taleban kills young man for alleged spying in Afghan northeast* (translated from Pasto))

A Deutsche Presse-Agentur report states:

"Taliban kill two students suspected of spying Kabul. Taliban militants have killed two school students suspected of spying for the government in the east of Afghanistan, police said Saturday." (Deutsche Presse-Agentur (20 September 2014) *Taliban kill two students suspected of spying*)

An article published by the Afghan Analysts Network states:

"In Mohammad Agha, everyone must look after the 'guests' who arrive at night. The visitors, roaming groups of Taleban, are patrolling the district and regularly knock on doors to ask for food. If villagers in this district of Logar, a province located just southeast of the capital Kabul, refuse to help, they risk being marked as spies of the government and punished – meaning beaten or even killed." (Afghan Analysts Network (15 December 2014) *The Empty Streets of Mohammad Agha: Logar's struggle against the Taleban*)

An Afghan Islamic Press report states:

“Acting provincial governor of eastern Nurestan Province says that Taleban have killed four of their comrades on charges of spying for the government. Meanwhile, the police have sustained casualties in northern Jowzjan Province. Hafiz Abdol Qayyom, acting provincial governor of Nurestan Province, told Afghan Islamic Press [AIP] on Friday 8 May that the Taleban have killed four people in Kamdesh District on charges of spying for the government. He added that Taleban detained 21 of their comrades on charges of spying for the government a while ago. They hanged four of them yesterday and there is no information about the remaining 17.” (Afghan Islamic Press (8 May 2015) *Taleban execute four comrades on charges of spying in Afghan east* (translated from Pashto))

A report from the Pajhwok Afghan News agency states:

“Meanwhile, the Taliban also captured Ghora area of Qaisar district, two weeks after government forces led by First Vice-President Abdul Rashid Dostum cleared the area from Taliban, Rahmatullah Qaisari, the administrative head of the district, said. Ten Taliban fighters were killed and six policemen injured during the two-day clash in Kata wa Lang area of Qaisar district, he said. In the same district, Taliban shot dead a 12-year-old school boy for unknown reasons in Tagab Airak area, the district chief said. A resident of the area said on condition of anonymity that the militants killed the boy on the charge of being informer for the government.” (Pajhwok Afghan News (6 September 2015) *Taliban overrun more areas in Faryab*)

A report from Gandhara, the Afghan affiliate of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, states:

“Afghans have denounced the recent public execution of a university student by the insurgent from the hard-line Taliban movement. Faizul Rehman, a fourth-year student at Kabul Polytechnic University, was publicly hanged in the central Afghan province of Maidan Wardak on December 2 after Taliban militants abducted him from a highway a day earlier.” (Gandhara (5 December 2016) *Afghans Condemn Taliban’s Public Execution*)

A Voice of America news report refers to the killing of alleged spies by Islamic State militants as follows:

“Islamic State terrorists have beheaded two civilian hostages in Afghanistan’s volatile eastern province of Kunar, officials confirmed on Thursday. Provincial governor Waheedullah Kalimzai told VOA on Thursday the incident took place two days ago in the Manogi district. He said the victims had no affiliations with the government. Afghanistan’s branch of IS Khorasan Province has taken credit for slaying the men, accusing them of being American spies.” (Voice of America News (14 September 2017) *IS Beheads 2 Afghans Accused Being American Spies*)

An Afghan Islamic Press report states:

“Daesh (the self-proclaimed Islamic State) has cut off the hands and head of their own fighter on charges of spying, the Peshawar-based Afghan Islamic Press reported at 0653 gmt on 27 November. The so-called Islamic State Khorasan Province has posted a video on its website which shows beheading and cutting off hands of one of their fighter on charges of spying. The video,

which is Arabic and Pashto languages, comments that the accused person had given information about the former head of Daesh, Sheikh Abdol Hasib and some other officials to Americans. The video states that the accused person was their fighter but later he was engaged by the Pakistani intelligence agency, ISI." (Afghan Islamic Press (27 November 2017) *IS Afghanistan beheads its fighter on spy charges – agency*)

See also article from the online version of UK newspaper the Daily Mail which refers to this incident as follows:

"Bloodthirsty ISIS butchers have released their most gruesome video to date - showing a child no older than 10 standing on a decapitated head and threatening death to spies. The tiny lad - dressed in camouflage gear - was part of an execution party that ended the life of a man who was condemned as a spy. First, he was chained to two trees with his arms stretched out as he confessed to his crimes. Then two older boys - who appeared to be in their late teens - stepped forward and chopped off his arms with giant swords. One of the boys then decapitated the victim with a hunting knife before the smaller lad placed his tiny boot on the man's head and delivered his clearly coached speech. The man is said to have been a US spy and the executioners were orphans whose parents were said to have been killed in airstrikes. The alleged spy was dealt with in gruesome fashion by his ISIS captors after he was arrested for passing information to Pakistani and US forces in Afghanistan." (Mail Online (29 November 2017) *ISIS children execute a 'spy' by chopping his arms off with swords in horrific video before young child stands on victim's decapitated head to deliver threat to the group's enemies*)

This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Research and Information Unit within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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