



Afghanistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on Tuesday 1 July 2014

Information on Kunar province including: Taliban activity; Available state protection for someone previously threatened returning; Available state protection for someone now living with western influences

A report issued in May 2014 by the *International Crisis Group* states:

“The withdrawal of U.S. troops from Kunar’s outlying districts in 2012-2013 has brought a measure of calm to some of the war’s most iconic battlefields but not reduced the overall number of insurgent attacks in the province. The conflict has shifted to new locations, generally from the highlands to the settled valleys, where Afghan forces have patrols and outposts. Government forces struggle to clear insurgent blocks on the main road to Nuristan, and several district centres are besieged” (International Crisis Group (17 May 2014) *Afghanistan’s Insurgency after the Transition*, p.17).

This document also points out that:

“Kunar remained the fifth-most violent province in 2013, with insurgent attacks averaging three or four per day” (ibid, p.19).

This report also states that:

“The Taliban [are] the largest group of insurgents in the province...” (ibid, p.21).

A report issued in February 2014 by the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* commenting on events of the preceding year notes:

“UNAMA documented increased civilian casualties from ground engagements in every region.¹⁷³ In the southern region, for example, civilian casualties from ground engagements almost tripled, with 361 civilian casualties (54 civilian deaths and 307 injured), up 184 percent from 2012.¹⁷⁴ UNAMA recorded the highest number of civilian casualties from ground engagements in Kunar province, confirming 339 civilian deaths and injuries, followed by Helmand province (276 civilian casualties), Nangarhar province (261 civilian casualties), Ghazni province (160 civilian casualties) and Faryab province (153 civilian casualties)” (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (February 2014) *Afghanistan, Annual Report 2013, Protection Of Civilians In Armed Conflict*, p.39).

A *BBC News* report in February 2014 states:

“Taliban fighters have killed 21 Afghan soldiers in an attack on a checkpoint in Kunar province close to Afghanistan's border with Pakistan” (BBC News (23 February 2014) *Afghan soldiers die as Taliban attack checkpoint in Kunar*).

Commenting on the elections in April 2014, a report published in April 2014 by the *British Agencies Afghanistan Group* notes that:

“Kunar saw a high level of attacks by the Taliban during the voting day” (British Agencies Afghanistan Group (April 2014) *BAAG Monthly Report: Afghanistan in April 2014*).

No further information on any of these issues could be found among sources available to the RDC.

References

BBC News (23 February 2014) *Afghan soldiers die as Taliban attack checkpoint in Kunar*

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-26312095#>

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British Agencies Afghanistan Group (April 2014) *BAAG Monthly Report: Afghanistan in April 2014*

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<http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/256-afghanistan-s-insurgency-after-the-transition.aspx>

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United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (February 2014) *Afghanistan, Annual Report 2013, Protection Of Civilians In Armed Conflict*

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre 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.

Sources Consulted

Amnesty International

BBC News

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House

Google

Human Rights Watch

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

International Crisis Group

IRIN News

Lexis Nexis

Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld

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