



Afghanistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 15 August 2011

Information on the current human rights situation in Afghanistan

An introductory paragraph in the *United States Department of State* report issued in April 2011 commenting on events of 2010 notes:

“Human rights problems included extrajudicial killings; torture and other abuse; poor prison conditions; widespread official impunity; ineffective government investigations of abuses by local security forces; arbitrary arrest and detention; prolonged pretrial detention; judicial corruption; violations of privacy rights; restrictions on freedom of the press; limits on freedom of assembly; restrictions on freedom of religion, including on religious conversions; limits on freedom of movement; official corruption; violence and societal discrimination against women; sexual abuse of children; abuses against minorities; trafficking in persons; abuse of worker rights; and child labor” (United States Department of State (8 April 2011) *2010 Human Rights Report: Afghanistan*).

In May 2011 a report published by *Freedom House* commenting on events of 2010 states:

“...Afghan civilians suffered high casualty rates during the year, while government corruption, restrictions on press freedom, and violence against women remained serious problems” (Freedom House (16 May 2011) *Freedom in the World 2011 – Afghanistan*).

In May 2011 *Reuters* states:

“Afghanistan is struggling to recover from more than a quarter-century of conflict, with violence still raging in much of the country. It is one of the most heavily landmined nations in the world and home to a booming narcotics trade. The country's infant mortality rate is among the highest in the world” (Reuters (3 May 2011) *Afghan turmoil*).

The *United Nations Security Council* in June 2011 note in a report commenting on events since March 2011 that

“The protection of civilians remained a critical concern over the reporting period” (United Nations Security Council (23 June 2011) *The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security*, p.5).

A report issued in March 2011 by the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* states:

“The worsening human impact of the conflict reinforces the urgent need for parties to the conflict to do more to protect Afghan civilians, who, in 2010, were killed and injured in their homes and communities in even greater numbers” (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (March 2011) *Afghanistan Annual Report on Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, 2010*, p.i).

An *IRIN News* article in June 2011 states:

“More civilians were killed in Afghanistan in May than in any other month since 2007, raising fears of a further escalation during the summer with serious humanitarian implications, according to Georgette Gagnon, the human rights director of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)” (IRIN News (17 June 2011) *Afghanistan: Worrying spike in civilian deaths*).

The *International Committee of the Red Cross* in July 2011 points out:

“Insecurity is at a level that is critical for Afghans everywhere, in cities as in remote rural villages” (International Committee of the Red Cross (14 July 2011) *Insecurity at a critical level for civilians*).

References

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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.

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