

## Refugee Review Tribunal

### AUSTRALIA

#### RRT RESEARCH RESPONSE

**Research Response Number:** AFG17450  
**Country:** Afghanistan  
**Date:** 19 August 2005

Keywords: Afghanistan – Kabul – Tajiks – Security situation – Educated families – Communists – Infidels – Returnees from the West

This response was prepared by the Country Research Section of the Refugee Review Tribunal (RRT) after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the RRT 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.

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#### Questions

**With regard to Koshal Khan, Mina, Kabul:**

1. Can you indicate on a map where this is?
2. What is the general security situation and control there by the government now? Are there independent assessments available to indicate whether the security situation at present is improving, stable or deteriorating?
3. What is the situation there for a Tajik, in terms of harm from Pashtuns, Hazaras and Uzbeks?
4. Is there evidence of Tajiks attacking Tajiks who come from an educated family?
5. Is there evidence that those whose family members were Communists or associated with the Najibullah regime are still facing harm? If so, from whom?
6. Is there evidence that those who have lived in a Western country will be labelled as an infidel?
7. Please provide a brief update on the effectiveness of the Afghan army and police force, as well as information on the status of disarmament.

#### RESPONSE

**With regard to Koshal Khan, Mina, Kabul:**

1. Can you indicate on a map where this is?

Koshal Khan, Mina is also known as Khoshal Khan, Khoshal Khan Mina, Khoshal Khan Mena, Khoshal Mina, Khoshal Mena, Khushhal Khan, Khushhal Khan Mina, Khushhal Khan Mena, Khushhal Mina, Khushhal Mena, Khushahl Khan, Khushahl Khan Mina, Khushahl Khan Mena, Khushahl Mina, Khushahl Mena, Khushal Khan, Khushal Khan Mina, Khushal Khan Mena, Khushal Mina and Khushal Mena.

Please find three maps attached:

- Afghanistan District Map (HIC (UN) 2002, 'Afghanistan UNHCR District Map', May – Attachment 1);
- Kabul Province Map (HIC (UN) 2002, 'Afghanistan UNHCR District Maps – Kabul Province', May – Attachment 2); and
- Kabul City Map (HICFA-ProMIS 2001, 'Touristical map of Kabul City', November – Attachment 3).

Koshal Khan, Mina is located in the western suburbs of Kabul, adjacent to the Poly Technic Institute and the University. Koshal Khan, Mina is marked on the attached Kabul City Map (HICFA-ProMIS 2001, 'Touristical map of Kabul City', November – Attachment 3).

According to a National Geographic Society map, the ethnic composition of Kabul City is 45% Tajik, 25% Hazara, 25% Pashtun, 2% Uzbek, 1% Baluchi, 1% Turkmen and 1% Hindu (National Geographic Society 2003, 'Afghanistan Map', source: Thomas Gouttierre and Matthew S. Backer – Attachment 38). Please note that this map is dated 2003 and since then a significant number of returnees of all ethnicities have settled in Kabul City.

**2. What is the general security situation and control there by the government now? Are there independent assessments available to indicate whether the security situation at present is improving, stable or deteriorating?**

No information on the security situation specifically in Koshal Khan, Mina was found amongst the sources consulted.

Question 1 of RRT Research Response AFG17262 dated 5 April 2005 provides information on the security situation in Western Kabul and Kabul City (RRT Country Research 2005, *Research Response AFG17262*, 5 April – Attachment 4).

The following news articles and reports provide information on the current security situation in Kabul City.

According to Dr Jonathan Goodhand of the University of London, School of Oriental and African Studies "Kabul, which used to have a population of 800,000 people before the war, now has a population of between 3.5 to 4 million and this also manifests itself in terms of localised conflicts around land, around water and around grazing" (Goodhand, Dr Jonathan 2005, *Transcription of Video Conference between RRT Melbourne, RRT Sydney and Dr Jonathan Goodhand on 13 April 2005*, 13 April – Attachment 5).

The British Agencies Afghanistan Group (BAAG) *Afghanistan: Monthly Review April 2005* reports that on 6 April 2005 two Afghan police were killed and one seriously injured in Kabul.

On the same day [6<sup>th</sup> April], three members of the Afghan National Police were ambushed in a suburb of Kabul. Two were killed and one seriously injured. This incident may have been linked to efforts to combat a marked increase in crime (British Agencies Afghanistan Group 2005, *Afghanistan: Monthly Review April 2005*, April – Attachment 6).

An article dated 8 May 2005 by *Associated Press* reports that a UN engineer from Myanmar was among three killed in a suicide attack on a Kabul Internet Cafe.

The bombing on Saturday followed a series of kidnap attempts on foreigners and the killing of a British development worker, deepening a sense of insecurity in the city just as a Taliban-led insurgency revives in the south.

...A spokeswoman for the NATO-led security force which has patrolled Kabul for three years said it was "concerned" about recent violence, but that incidents were actually lower than in previous years. She provide no statistics.

...Officials and diplomats have suggested that factions hit by a U.N. disarmament program and disgruntled at the government's growing authority could be behind the latest destabilizing threats to foreigners ('UN worker from Myanmar killed in Afghan suicide bombing, latest attack on foreigners in Kabul' 2005, *Associated Press*, 8 May, Afghan Press Online website – Attachment 7).

An article dated 12 May 2005 by *BBC News* reports that at least three anti-American demonstrations took place in Kabul.

Anti-American protests in Afghanistan over reports that interrogators at the Guantanamo Bay prison desecrated the Koran have spread to the capital.

...The largest of the protests in Kabul area was at the university where between 200 and 300 students shouted slogans against the US.

They chanted "Death to America!" and carried banners stating "Those who insult the Koran should be brought to justice."

One group of students climbed a building and set light to the US flag, to loud cheering from the crowd.

...The BBC's Andrew North in Kabul says that the authorities are concerned that the demonstrations are being orchestrated ('Anti-US protests spread to Kabul' 2005, *BBC News*, 12 May, Afghan Online Press website – Attachment 8).

An article by *Agence France Presse* reports that Clementina Cantoni, an Italian aid worker, was kidnapped from the Qala-e-Mosa district of Kabul on 16 May 2005.

It remains unclear whether Shah is linked to a criminal gang, originally thought to have been behind the kidnapping, or if he has ties to Islamic militants.

... A spate of attacks and kidnap attempts targetting foreigners in Kabul have emerged in recent weeks, leading to a tightening of security for the thousands of foreigners who work in the city.

Foreign aid and United Nations staff have been advised to restrict all unessential movement, avoid restaurants and crowded places and observe a 10:00 pm curfew ('Man claiming to have abducted Italian in Afghanistan issues death threat' 2005, *Agence France Presse*, 19 May, Afghan Online Press website – Attachment 9).

An article dated 9 June 2005 by *BBC News* reports that kidnapped Italian aid worker, Clementina Cantoni, has been freed.

No details about her release were immediately provided.

Afghan officials had been in contact with the kidnappers but had refused to say who they were or what demands they had ('Italy hostage released in Kabul' 2005, *BBC News*, 9 June, Afghan Online Press website – Attachment 10).

An article in *Cheragh* reports that two US military men received bullet wounds while inside their vehicle in Kabul on 17 May 2005 (Institute of War & Peace Reporting 2005, 'American soldiers shot in Kabul', *Afghan Press Monitor No 73*, source: *Cheragh*, 18 May, Afghan Online Press website – Attachment 11).

An article dated 18 May 2005 by *BBC News* reports that Shaima Rezayee, a female TV presenter who used to work for Tolo TV, was shot in Kabul.

But the music programme also attracted the attention of some conservative clerics who said it was corrupting Afghan youth.

Ms Rezayee was singled out and, under pressure, Tolo TV dismissed her.

Police say they do not yet know of any motive for her shooting, but suspect a link to the Tolo TV role (North, Andrew 2005, 'Ex-TV presenter killed in Kabul', *BBC News*, 18 May [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/4560277.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4560277.stm) – Accessed 9 August – Attachment 12).

An article dated 30 May 2005 by *BBC News* reports on a roadside bomb explosion and rocket attack in Kabul.

At least seven Afghans have been wounded in a roadside bomb explosion on the outskirts of the capital, Kabul.

Police said the remote-controlled bomb, attached to a bicycle, exploded as a Nato vehicle passed by.

The blast came hours after a rocket attack shook the Kabul headquarters of the Nato-led International Security Assistance Force in Kabul.

No injuries were reported in the earlier attack. No group has said it carried out either attack ('Bomb explosion in Afghan capital' 2005, *BBC News*, 30 May [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/4592851.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/4592851.stm) – Accessed 9 July 2005 – Attachment 13).

An article dated 20 July 2005 by *Reuters* reports that Afghan security forces seized 880kg of explosives and 5,000 fuses in Jalalabad which were intended for use in Taliban attacks on Kabul.

But the city [Kabul], home to thousands of foreign aid workers and diplomats, has largely been spared the sort of militant violence that has plagued the south and east of the country since the Taliban's overthrow in late 2001 ('Afghans say seize explosives intended to bomb Kabul' 2005, *Reuters*, 20 July, Afghan Online Press website – Attachment 14).

An article dated 25 July 2005 by Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reports that three Afghan policemen were wounded in a bomb blast which occurred on the main road to Kabul's airport ('More Blasts in Afghanistan' 2005, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, 25 July, Afghan Online Press website – Attachment 15).

An article dated 3 August 2005 by the Coalition Press Information Center (Public Affairs) reports that 20 hand grenades, one anti-personnel mine, one mortar round and materials to make an improvised explosive device were discovered near Kabul (Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan 2005, ‘Coalition discovers munitions cache’, Coalition Press Information Center (Public Affairs), 3 August, Afghan Online Press website – Attachment 16).

### **3. What is the situation there for a Tajik, in terms of harm from Pashtuns, Hazaras and Uzbeks?**

No information on the situation for a Tajik specifically in Koshal Khan, Mina in terms of harm from Pashtuns, Hazaras and Uzbeks was found amongst the sources consulted.

Question 3 of RRT Research Response AFG17065 dated 21 October 2004 provides limited information on ethnic tensions between Pashtuns and Tajiks in Afghanistan including Kabul (RRT Country Research 2004, *Research Response AFG17065*, 21 October – Attachment 17).

According to Ahmed Rashid, a Pakistani based journalist, Hazaras are scared of Tajiks.

[I]t's not just the Pashtuns they're [Hazaras] scared of, they're equally scared of Uzbek, Tajik power in their areas (Rashid, Ahmed 2004, *Transcription of Video Conference between RRT Melbourne, RRT Sydney and Ahmed Rashid in Pakistan on Wednesday 10 November 2004*, 10 November – Attachment 18).

No other reports of ethnic problems for Tajiks in Kabul were found amongst the sources consulted.

The following information relates to Tajik representation in Afghan politics.

According to the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit, seven of the 18 Presidential candidates were Tajiks: Abdul Latif Pedram, Abdul Hafiz Mansoor, Dr Ghulam Farroq Nejrabi, Abdul Hasib Aarian, Mohammad Yunis Qanooni, Masooda Jalal and Sayed Abdul Hadi Dabir (Reynolds, Andrew & Wilder, Andrew 2004, *Free, Fair or Flawed: Challenges for Legitimate Elections in Afghanistan*, Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit Briefing Paper, September, p.18 – Attachment 19).

High profile Tajik, Qanooni, competed in the 2004 Presidential Election in Afghanistan. According to the 2004 Afghan Elections Project website Qanooni came in second place winning 16.3% of the vote ('Results by Votes' 2004, Afghan Elections Project website, 3 November – Attachment 20).

An article dated 14 October 2004 in *The Washington Times* reports that a survey of more than 17,000 Afghan voters has revealed that Karzai received 40% of the Tajik vote while Qanooni received only 34%.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai won majority support from among the 10 million registered voters, including broad backing from minority voters in a nation rife with ethnic divisions, according to a survey by U.S. election observers released yesterday.

...The survey said Mr. Karzai received support from 86 percent of Pashtun voters. This was not surprising, as Mr. Karzai belongs to that ethnic group, which is the largest in Afghanistan. But, unexpectedly, 40 percent of Tajik voters also said they chose Mr. Karzai.

The IRI, a group funded by the U.S. National Endowment for Democracy and tied to the Republican Party in the United States, based its conclusion on a survey of more than 17,000 Afghan voters on election day, Saturday.

More than 450 Afghan volunteers conducted interviews at 177 locations across Afghanistan and in neighboring Pakistan, where more than 700,000 refugee voters cast ballots.

...Mr. Karzai's main rival among 15 opponents, Mr. Qanooni received the support of 5 percent of Pashtun voters, 34 percent of Tajiks, 9 percent of Uzbeks and 5 percent of Hazaras.

So, although he is Tajik, Mr. Qanooni received fewer votes from his own ethnic group than did Mr. Karzai, the IRI survey said (Iqbal, Anwar 2004, 'Poll finds Karzai with majority vote', *Washington Times*, 14 October <http://www.washingtontimes.com/world/20041013-094759-7732r.htm> – Accessed 17 August 2005 – Attachment 21).

According to Ahmed Rashid, the vote for President Karzai was far less than expected from the non Pashtun areas of North and West Afghanistan.

The first thing is that the vote was far less than expected for President Karzai from the non-Pashtun areas, that is from the north and the west. In many areas in the north – in fact you got very, very few votes – in the hundreds rather than in the thousands. Most of the north and the west tended to vote for their own local ethnic leaders. The three big ones who did rather well, all 3 are warlords, General Rashid Dostam, the Uzbek, Unif Khanuni, the Panshiri Tajik, and Mohakik, the Hazara leader. So they had a very good showing, but they of course did not have a national showing, these 3 figures

...In these elections you do have another quite serious ethnic divide, in that the north by and large has not voted for Karzai (Rashid, Ahmed 2004, *Transcription of Video Conference between RRT Melbourne, RRT Sydney and Ahmed Rashid in Pakistan on Wednesday 10 November 2004*, 10 November – Attachment 18).

The First Vice President of Afghanistan, Ahmad Zia Masood is Tajik. *Sabawoon Online* provides a list of the 27 members of the new Afghan Cabinet sourced from *Afghanistan Television*, the *BBC* and *Associated Press*. Of the 27 members, eight are Tajik: Minister of Foreign Affairs Abdollah Abdollah, Minister of Economy Mir Mohammad Amin Farhang, Minister of Water and Power Mohammad Esmail Khan, Minister of Agriculture Abdollah Ramin, Minister of Information and Culture Sayed Makhdum Rahin, Minister of Health Sayed Mohammad Amin Fatemi, Minister of Women's Affairs Masuda Jalal and Minister of Labour and Social Affairs Sayed Ekramoddin Masumi ('A list of the 27 members of the new Afghan Cabinet' 2004, *Sabawoon Online*, source: *Afghanistan Television, BBC & Associated Press*, 23 December – Attachment 22).

An International Crisis Group report dated 2 June 2005 provides information on political parties in Afghanistan. There are a number of Tajik parties including, *Congra-i Milli* (National Congress) led by Latif Pedram, *Hizb-e Afghanistan-e Nawin* (New Afghanistan Party) led by Younus Qanooni, *Jamiat-i Islami* (Islamic Society) led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, *Nazhat-e Milli* (National Movement) led by Ahmad Wali Massoud and *Zazman-i Inqilabi Zahmatkishanan-i Afghanistan* (Revolutionary Organisation of the Toilers of Afghanistan SAZA) led by Mahboobullah Kushani. Younus Qanooni also leads the National

Understanding Front (NUF) (International Crisis Group 2005, *Political Parties in Afghanistan*, 2 June, pp.7 & 9-11 – Attachment 23).

#### **4. Is there evidence of Tajiks attacking Tajiks who come from an educated family?**

No information on the specific situation of Tajiks attacking Tajiks who come from an educated family was found amongst the sources consulted.

According to information posted on the Afghan Network website, Tajiks “make up the bulk of Afghanistan’s educated elite.”

The Tajiks are mostly Sunni Muslims and speak Persian. They live predominantly in the north-east and in the west. Some also live in Kabul. Because they make up the bulk of Afghanistan’s educated elite and possess considerable wealth, they have significant political influence. Their influence lies predominantly in the government ministries, public services and trade bodies. Those living in rural regions engage in agriculture and herding. They have no specific social structure and tend to adopt those of their neighbors.

... There are several important concentrations of Tajiks in Afghanistan. The plains-dwelling Tajiks live mainly in Herat Province on the Iranian border, in Parwan Province, and around Kabul. They are town-dwelling traders, skilled artisans, and farmers, many of them prosperous enough to be regarded as middle class. Because they have settled in the towns, they have replaced tribal organization with village orientation and a strong sense of community loyalty. The landowners (zamindars) have emerged as village leaders.

Another group of Tajiks lives in the northeastern mountains of Afghanistan, where they are poor, village-dwelling farmers.

The Tajiks are the second largest group after the Pashtuns. They are also the Pashtuns’ closest rivals for power and prestige (‘Tajiks of Afghanistan’ 2002, Afghan Network website <http://www.afghan-network.net/Ethnic-Groups/tajiks.html> – Accessed 16 August 2005 – Attachment 24).

Columnist Hamid Hussain provides the following information on Tajiks.

The group called Tajiks is also not a homogeneous one. They have no specific social structure of their own and Tajik of one region may be quite different from the one residing in another region. Majority of them speak Dari and most of them are Sunni Muslims. **The educated elite was concentrated in Kabul, therefore a large number of them were working in different government departments. In Kabul, Parwan and Herat, Tajiks are mainly skilled artisans and traders. In contrast, Tajiks living in northeastern mountains and adjacent valleys are farmers and economically poor** [researcher emphasis added]. Majority of Tajiks are Sunni but some are Imami Shia. Some Tajiks especially those living in mountainous areas like Shughni, Zibaki and Wakhi are Ismaili Shia. Farsiwan, a Dari speaking Imami Shia group live near Iranian border in Herat and southern and western towns. They are mainly agriculturists (Hussain, Hamid (undated), ‘Ethnic Factor in Afghanistan’, World Afghan Jirgah website – Attachment 25).

#### **5. Is there evidence that those whose family members were Communists or associated with the Najibullah regime are still facing harm? If so, from whom?**

Question 3 of RRT Research Response AFG16811 dated 15 June 2004 provides information on the treatment of former Communists in Afghanistan (RRT Country Research 2004, *Research Response AFG16811*, 15 June – Attachment 26).

Question 1 of RRT Research Response AFG17441 dated 26 July 2005 provides information on the treatment of former Communists in Afghanistan (RRT Country Research 2005, *Research Response AFG17441*, 26 July – Attachment 27).

**6. Is there evidence that those who have lived in a Western country will be labelled as an infidel?**

Question 5 of RRT Research Response AFG17437 dated 2 August 2005 provides information on the situation of returnees to Afghanistan (RRT Country Research 2005, *Research Response AFG17437*, 2 August – Attachment 28).

On 13 April 2005 Dr Jonathan Goodhand, in a video conference on Afghanistan for the RRT, provided the following information on the treatment of returnees.

There is also, to some extent, a reaction against expatriate Afghans. So radical Islam or however one chooses to describe it (some people call it Islamic fundamentalism), will continue to have an important and ongoing role in politics in Afghanistan.

...THE CHAIRMAN: Dr Goodhand, would you be able to comment on – some of our applicants claim that they state to the Tribunal they would be considered infidels and persecuted because they have now married a westerner. Would they be targeted by the local mullahs?

DR GOODHAND: I have spoken to colleagues about this very question and it is perhaps not a very useful response but it is actually a realistic one and that is, it all depends on the area and the local mullahs. Certainly, that scenario that you have painted is plausible and possible and I come across areas of Afghanistan, where those kind of situations have developed, and I alluded to earlier the kind of the radicalisation of Islam, which has been one of the characteristics of the conflict and how, Islam has become a banner issue that has been used and mobilised by a whole range of different groups and the Taliban were perhaps the most extreme manifestation of that.

But it is also, it has happened not only at the higher political levels but at the grass roots as well in terms of the changing role of mullahs and so, that situation is very plausible but it is also – would be inaccurate to kind of paint the picture that all mullahs would take that position. One of the people I spoke to on this has said, well actually an alternative way of looking at it would be, they would think, they would be respectful of someone coming from outside who had been successful and got some of the trappings of the west but I think it is tied up with a whole range of other things.

There is a lot of resentment around people coming back, particularly in terms of the pressure on land and resources, and so pretexts are created to point the finger at these people, and one of those pretexts may be Islam, it may be their kind of past political connections and so on, but the underlying issue could quite easily be either one around resources or a personalised kind of long running history of enmity.

...FEMALE SPEAKER: So would the situation then be the same for returnees who are perhaps more secular, who aren't as religious as they were when they left Afghanistan? Would that be an issue coming back, not visiting the mosque, perhaps drinking alcohol, having more secular views rather than religious?



DR GOODHAND: It depends, there is strong pressure to conform in Afghan society, you know, in lots of ways. So not conforming is frowned upon and could be dangerous for the person not to do so but clearly it is different for a person going back to Kabul than it is to going to rural Ghazni. In rural Ghazni it would certainly be frowned upon for somebody to kind of say that they were an atheist and to be un-Islamic in their practices.

So I think, you know, that that would be dangerous for people to go back into that kind of a context and be openly, if you like, “un-Islamic”. In Kabul it would be easier for that, for somebody to kind of perhaps have a more liberal lifestyle, but certainly in rural areas it would be extremely difficult.

THE CHAIRMAN: Melbourne, any further questions? Sydney, do you have any further questions? Okay. I have got just one follow-up question, Dr Goodhand, if you can shed some light on. A lot of our applicants have been in Australia for quite a long time, so consequently we were wondering would someone who had lived in a western country and returned to Afghanistan, in particular to Ghazni, encounter discrimination or persecution because of their perceived western taint?

DR GOODHAND: There is certainly a growing animosity and resentment towards expatriate Afghans coming back and walking into kind of relatively high paying positions and taking resources. I mean, anywhere there has been a war and there are people who have stayed and there are people who have left, when people return there is always, (almost always) tensions and resentment towards those who come back.

One sees this, in particular, in Kabul, with the return of a lot of technocrats but certainly in Kabul, I think it is a big issue because of the perception that the better qualified, the English speaking, the computer trained Afghans coming back and are taking relatively high paid positions.

In Ghazni, I think that certainly there would be a much more profound question around adjustments and because the difference between the lifestyle the person would have experienced in Australia and they would come back to in rural Ghazni would be much more profound and certainly that person is likely to stand out more. I think a lot of this though, comes back to whether this person is bringing in resources or competing for resources, and then if it is around trying to reclaim land, for instance, this being used then, that would become much more of a tension inducing issue (Dr Goodhand, Dr Jonathan 2005, *Transcription of Video Conference between RRT Melbourne, RRT Sydney and Dr Jonathan Goodhand on 13 April 2005*, 13 April – Attachment 5).

## **7. Please provide a brief update on the effectiveness of the Afghan army and police force, as well as information on the status of disarmament.**

Question 2 of RRT Research Response AFG17262 dated 5 April 2005 provides information on the Afghan police force and disarmament in Afghanistan including Kabul City (RRT Country Research 2005, *Research Response AFG17262*, 5 April – Attachment 4).

The following information is a brief update on the effectiveness of the Afghan army and police force as well as information on the status of disarmament.

### **Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR)**

An article dated 11 April 2005 in *The Weekly Standard* provides the following information on the disarmament process.

Nowhere is the evidence of this more apparent than in Afghanistan's "disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration" process. As its name suggests, DDR seeks to break the power relationship between Afghanistan's warlords and their foot soldiers. It is specifically aimed at the "Afghan Military Forces"-- a collective term for the anti-Taliban militias voluntarily if nominally placed under the authority of the country's new Ministry of Defense in December 2001. Run by the United Nations and funded largely by Japan, DDR has officially disarmed more than 44,000 of the estimated 45,000 Afghan Military Forces.

Much of the progress has come in just the past few months, as militia leaders like the notorious General Abdurrashid Dostum have rushed to clean themselves up to qualify for this year's coming parliamentary elections. "The Panjshir Valley is demobilizing in the middle of winter. Why? They are running like mad so they can participate in a democratic political process," says Colonel Lamm. (In order to lead a political party, the Afghan constitution requires that a candidate not have "military or quasi-military aims and organizations.")

In addition, President Karzai's dismissal of Defense Minister Marshal Muhammad Quasim Fahim, a Northern Alliance commander who had resisted disarmament and demobilization, and his replacement with General Abdur Rahim Wardak, a strong supporter of the program, has sent an unmistakable signal about the central government's growing authority and confidence. The Kabul rumor mill has it that Fahim has been telling friends that his failure to participate in demobilization was a big mistake. To some extent, whether the story is true is less important than the very fact it's circulating. "These guys are very clever. They want to be on the winning side," says one official involved in overseeing DDR.

Still, a number of questions associated with the process remain. First, it's worth noting that determining the precise number of militia fighters is more art than science, since these are not regular soldiers, but forces that are rounded up ad hoc by their commanders. While it was initially estimated that there were more than 260,000 Afghans eligible for DDR, it was later realized that the warlords were vastly inflating their figures, in the hope of boosting their prestige and receiving salaries for soldiers who did not exist.

There are also doubts about how effective the reintegration component of DDR actually has been. "If Dostum feels threatened and he snaps his fingers, how many men will rally to his call?" asks one coalition official. "Is it tribal loyalty, or will he have to pay money? Has that power structure really been broken? DDR simply hasn't accomplished that--not across the board."

Skeptics cite a dearth of small arms being handed in and argue that participation in the program reflects a tactical decision on the part of the warlords to surrender stocks of heavy weapons and instead maintain lighter forces, but that there is no deep, strategic commitment to a new political order in the country. "There are a lot of people who live in Kabul, in this glass house, and they believe the figures on the little pieces of paper," warns another official of DDR.

CERTAINLY, there remain plenty of reasons not to be sanguine about the security situation in Afghanistan. Even accepting the most optimistic appraisals of DDR, for example, the program doesn't begin to take into account the problem of "informal" militias. In contrast to the Afghan Military Forces, whose leaders voluntarily placed themselves under Karzai's Ministry of Defense, the coalition is just now coming to grips with the armed groups that have intentionally avoided appearing on anyone's radar screen. And as one might expect in a place like Afghanistan, these come in every imaginable shape, size, color, and flavor.

First there are the private security corporations that provide protection to Kabul's alphabet city of international organizations, embassies, foreign commercial firms, and

nongovernmental entities. Many of these companies are highly professional, disciplined, and effective outfits, employing retired Western military officers who take their work very seriously; others, unfortunately, are a motlier bunch, mercenaries who are not above provoking incidents in order to drive up their own marketability. "They scare the crap out of the NGOs," sighs a coalition official. "They need to be controlled."

Corralling and registering the security firms, however, is relatively straightforward compared with the headaches caused by the illegal militias that populate the countryside. Some are simply local groups organized for civil defense--neighborhood watches with AK-47s--but many others are engaged in criminal activities, smuggling drugs, antiquities, and people across Afghanistan's porous borders. Many also carry political loyalties, filling a vast gray area between the Karzai government and the declared insurgent groups.

As of November 2004, there was virtually no sense of how many of these groups existed. Today, it is believed there are at least 850 unofficial militias in Afghanistan, with some 65,000 members. A plan is being spun out of the DDR process that would provide incentives for their disbanding, but it's deeply unclear how much this will actually achieve or how hard the U.S. military and the Karzai government are willing to push the issue. (Serchuk, Vance & Donnelly, Tom 2005, 'Nation Building, After All', *The Weekly Standard*, 11 April – Attachment 29).

A United States Government Accountability Office report dated June 2005 provides the following information on the disarmament process.

Although the number of known militia fighters has been reduced in recent months, the disarming, demobilizing, and reintegrating of members of Afghanistan's once-dominant militias is not complete. While many militias are under the nominal authority of the Afghan Defense Ministry, they pose a threat to the stability of the Afghan government and its ability to extend control throughout Afghanistan. Of concern, according to Japanese officials, is that former combatants may be attracted by the higher salaries provided by militia leaders in the illegal narcotics industry.

To help the Afghan government disarm, demobilize, and reintegrate militia fighters, donor nations established the Afghan New Beginnings Programme in early 2003. Under the auspices of Japan and the United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan, the program oversaw the demobilization of more than 34,000 former combatants by January 2005. The program also oversaw the seizure or destruction of more than 90 percent of the heavy weapons formerly controlled by militias. Defense is providing transportation for heavy weapons and is monitoring the surrender of militias' small arms and light weapons. Also, the U.S. Agency for International Development donated \$4 million to the Afghan New Beginnings Programme in fiscal year 2005.

However, the program's success is not assured. According to U.S. and Japanese government officials responsible for monitoring the demobilization process, the total number of troops still belonging to militias and other armed factions remains unknown. In addition, U.S. troops monitoring and assisting in the disarmament process reported that the Afghan government has collected only limited numbers of poor-quality assault rifles and that better quality weaponry may still be held by the former combatants and their commanders.

Former combatants have limited employment opportunities when they leave the militias and attempt to reintegrate into society. As of January 2005, only one reintegration center in Kabul provided vocational training to former combatants. Although Afghanistan plans to open another seven regional centers by early 2005, the eight centers together can retrain only 2,000 students per year (United States Government Accountability Office 2005, *Afghanistan*

*Security: Efforts to Establish Army and Police Have Made Progress, but Future Plans Need to Be Better Defined*, June, pp.31-32 <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05575.pdf> – Accessed 10 August 2005 – Attachment 30).

An article dated 7 July 2005 by *IRIN* reports on the end of the disarmament and demobilisation phase of Afghanistan's New Beginning Programme.

According to Afghanistan's New Beginning Programme (ANBP), the official name for the DDR, almost 63,000 former combatants have now been disarmed and demobilised, of whom up to 53,000 have been assisted with reintegration packages so far.

General Rahim Wardak, Afghan defence minister, said that in less than two years, 250 units of ex-militias have been decommissioned including nine corps with their divisions, brigades and supporting elements.

...The UN said it would still take another year to reintegrate the remaining combatants into civilian life.

...In addition to the decommissioning of ex-combatants, nearly 35,000 light and medium weapons have been collected under the DDR ('Last ex-combatant disarmed under DDR' 2005, *IRIN*, 7 July – Attachment 31).

An article dated 12 July 2005 by *IRIN* reports on disbanding illegal armed groups in Afghanistan.

More than 200 local commanders have been disarmed and tens of thousands of arms and ammunitions collected in Afghanistan since the government-led Disbanding of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) started early June, officials at the disarmament and reintegration (DR) commission confirmed to *IRIN* on Tuesday.

"In the last 36 days since DIAG was launched more than 16,000 guns and up to 100 trucks of ammunition have been collected throughout the country," Masoum Stanekzai, a minister advising Afghan President Hamid Karzai and deputy head of the DR commission, said on Tuesday in the capital, Kabul.

...The DDR is now being followed up by the DIAG initiative, which is aiming to dismantle an estimated 1,800 illegal armed bands of men consisting of up to 100,000 individuals who are still seen as a huge security headache in many parts of the country.

...Some 245 commanders have surrendered weapons under DIAG in different parts of the country and of them, 105 are prospective candidates in September's elections.

Stanekzai said the groups or individuals holding arms illegally would not be rewarded in the same way that ex-combatants were under the DDR process.

"They will not be offered cash or other incentives but a particular community or area can be granted some development projects if they help the process," he noted ('Progress on disbandment of illegal armed groups' 2005, *IRIN*, 12 July – Attachment 32).

### **Afghan National Army (ANA)**

An article dated 11 April 2005 in *The Weekly Standard* provides the following information on the ANA.

Indeed, there is no better symbol of America's progress in Afghanistan to date than the Afghan National Army, or ANA. As of February 2005, the ANA had approximately 21,000 troops out of the planned 46,000-strong ground force--a threefold increase over the past year. In a country where shelter and food remain elusive for a vast share of the population, being an Afghan soldier is a pretty good gig. Troops live indoors, enjoy the benefits of electricity and plumbing, and receive warm clothes and regular meals. The pay is also extremely attractive by Afghan standards--\$100 to \$110 a month, on average, as of late 2004.

...The Task Force has been less forgiving on other points, however. Despite initial resistance from the Ministry of Defense, the U.S. military has insisted that the proportion of each Afghan ethnic group recruited to the ANA should reflect its overall share of the population, plus or minus a few percentage points. This affirmative action policy has ended the Panjshiri Tajik domination of the defense sector that characterized the initial post-Taliban period and created one of the few genuinely multiethnic institutions in the country. It also marks an important victory for the Karzai government, which has been eager to stress a nonsectarian national identity. In addition to stamping out ethnic tensions, Task Force Phoenix has striven to eliminate doctrinal prejudices in Afghan military culture, such as the weakness of the noncommissioned officers corps and the terrible treatment of conscripts, inherited from the Soviet Union.

New Afghan recruits go through basic training at the Kabul Military Training Center as "kandaks," battalion-sized units of approximately 800 men, but--critically--American efforts do not end there. When kandaks are deployed downrange to fight, U.S. military trainers go with them, reinforcing the lessons they have learned and keeping a careful check on their discipline and professionalism. These American officers are embedded with the Afghan National Army from the company to the corps level, mentoring generals and rallying grunts. They also provide an invaluable link between Afghan units and U.S. troops in the field, facilitating their interoperability, pushing opportunities for cooperation, and building trust on both sides. "Why do we work well with ANA? Because they're Army," explains one American infantryman in Ghazni. "We speak the same language."

...It's projected that Afghanistan's army will reach target strength by December 2006, at which point its basic training programs will begin to be scaled back. Professional military education will continue to expand, however, with the establishment this year of a national military academy in Kabul modeled after West Point. In addition, U.S. military planners are looking well past 2006 in developing the "sustaining institutions" of the ANA, so that it can manage its own acquisitions, logistics, recruiting, and communications. In marked contrast to Iraq, where there has been intense political pressure from Washington to stand up indigenous forces as quickly as possible, the emphasis in Afghanistan has been on the sustainability and quality of the army for the long haul ahead (Serchuk, Vance & Donnelly, Tom 2005, 'Nation Building, After All', *The Weekly Standard*, 11 April – Attachment 29).

A United States Government Accountability Office report dated June 2005 provides the following information on the ANA. It notes that as of 15 February 2005 the "ethnic composition of the Afghan army was 49 percent Pashtun, 21 percent Tajik, 6 percent Hazara, 3 percent Uzbek, and 22 percent "other" ... Individual units vary in their ethnic balance."

The United States has made important progress in training and deploying Afghan army combat troops but has not fully addressed limitations that impede its progress in establishing a self-sustaining Afghan army. Defense has established programs for recruiting and training battalions of ethnically mixed combat troops, including a field-based mentoring program. In 2004, as security concerns persisted, Defense significantly accelerated Afghan combat troop training, and as of March 2005 more than 42 percent of the army's total projected combat

strength of 43,000 troops was deployed in strategic locations throughout the country. However, OMC-A's [Office of Military Cooperation- Afghanistan] efforts to fully equip the increasing number of combat troops being trained have fallen behind. In addition, OMC-A's efforts to establish institutions needed to support these troops have not kept pace with the accelerated training program. Plans for the completion of these institutions are not clear. Nonetheless, U.S. trainers and other military officials have stated that Afghan combat troops generally perform well in small units, despite some shortcomings.

...The United States, other donors, and the new Afghan government face significant challenges to establishing viable Afghan army and police forces. Although Defense and State have not yet prepared official cost estimates, the army and police programs could cost up to \$7.2 billion to complete and about \$600 million annually to sustain. Moreover, slow progress in resolving other Afghan security problems—the lack of an effective judiciary, the substantial illicit narcotics industry, and the continued presence of armed militias—threaten to undermine overall progress made toward providing nationwide security and ensuring the stability of the Afghan government (United States Government Accountability Office 2005, *Afghanistan Security: Efforts to Establish Army and Police Have Made Progress, but Future Plans Need to Be Better Defined*, June <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05575.pdf> – Accessed 10 August 2005, pp.2-3 – Attachment 30).

An Institute of War & Peace Reporting article dated 12 August 2005 provides the following information on recruiting and training the new Afghan Army.

The men come from all over the country. Each of the 34 provinces has recruiting centres for the Afghan National Army, ANA, where volunteers between 18 and 28 years old - all of them male - sign up for a period of three years. They must pass a medical but there are no other examinations, and illiteracy is not a bar to joining.

Asifi [Brigadier General, Commander of Kabul Military Training Centre] added that after signing on, recruits are sent to Kabul for 14 weeks' training. After this, they are assigned to a battalion or "kandak" consisting of 650 to 800 soldiers.

Officials see the long-term objective as being to enable Afghanistan's army and police to carry greater responsibility for the country's security, which is currently underpinned by United States and NATO-led forces.

...An air of soldierly discipline pervades the centre. Uniforms replace the ad hoc army gear of the irregular militias, or the traditional clothes worn by Afghan farmers - who are a rich source of recruits. Saluting between officers is sharp and military, and there is an apparent camaraderie among the new soldiers.

...Recruits receive 70 dollars a month during training, with regular army sergeants and officers being paid 80 to 180 dollars a month. The men are also given uniforms, basic toiletries and food. Those standing near Reza still enjoyed the novelty of their army-issue water canteens, hospitably offering a drink to the IWPR reporter.

During their first six weeks, the new arrivals are given basic training - army discipline, parade-ground drill, the handling of weapons and their characteristics.

Then the recruits go on to specialise, spending another six weeks in the fields to which they have been assigned, such as artillery, infantry, engineering, logistics, transport and health. There are also literacy classes for those who cannot read or write.

In the last two weeks before graduation, recruits revise all they have learned before the defence ministry decides where they are to be deployed.

The base commander says all the instructors are now Afghans who have been trained by foreign officers (Saeed, Abdul Baseer 2005, 'Building the New Model Army', *Institute of War & Peace Reporting Afghan Recovery Report No 182*, 12 August – Attachment 37).

## **Police**

An article dated 11 April 2005 in *The Weekly Standard* reports that the US military is "deeply troubled by the state of the Afghan police" which remains "stagnant, corrupt, and unreliable" (Serchuk, Vance & Donnelly, Tom 2005, 'Nation Building, After All', *The Weekly Standard*, 11 April – Attachment 29).

A United States Government Accountability Office report dated June 2005 provides the following information on the police force in Afghanistan.

Germany and the United States have made progress in training individual Afghan policemen and policewomen but have not addressed many limitations impeding the reconstitution of a national police force. As of January 2005, the Department of State and Germany have trained more than 35,000 police and expect to meet their goal of training 50,000 national and highway police and 12,000 border police by December 2005. However, trainees face difficult working conditions. They return to district police stations that need extensive reconstruction or renovation; militia leaders are often the principal authority; and they lack weapons, vehicles, communications, and other equipment. In addition, the police training includes limited field-based training and mentoring, although previous international peacekeeping efforts showed that such mentoring is critical to the success of police training programs. Furthermore, the Afghan Ministry of the Interior (which oversees the police force) faces several problems, including corruption and an outdated rank structure, that require reform and restructuring. Finally, neither State nor Germany have developed an overall plan specifying how or when construction tasks and equipment purchases will be completed, how much the buildup of the police will cost, and when the overall effort to reconstitute the police will be finished.

...A number of difficult conditions hamper the effort to rebuild the police in Afghanistan. Newly trained police often return to community police stations staffed by poorly trained, illiterate conscripts or former militia members who have little loyalty to the central government. According to State/INL [Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs] and Defense officials, many of the untrained officers remain loyal to local militias in an environment dominated by ethnic loyalties. Working with untrained colleagues, newly trained policemen often find it difficult to apply the principles they learned during training. For example, according to several DynCorp trainers, some recently trained police were forced to give their new equipment to more senior police and were pressured by their commanders to participate in extorting money from truck drivers and travelers. U.S. and other donor officials told us that many police resort to corrupt practices, in part because their salaries are low and inconsistently paid. The Afghan Ministry of the Interior has limited awareness over police operations outside of Kabul and has not systematically vetted existing police staff for human rights violations or corruption, which complicates the ministry's efforts to support and oversee the police.

In addition, police across Afghanistan confront shortages of equipment. According to a 2002 German government assessment, less than 10 percent of the police had adequate equipment, and U.S. and other donor government officials noted that the police are often outgunned by

militias, criminals, and drug traffickers because they lack adequate numbers of weapons or ammunition supplies. According to DynCorp, the Ministry of the Interior has approximately 36,500 serviceable rifles and pistols on hand, mainly seized weapons. DynCorp officials estimate that the police need an additional 48,500 side arms, 10,000 automatic rifles, and 6,250 machine guns. Through March 2005, trainees were not receiving firearms training, because the United States and the other donors had not yet provided weapons and ammunition. Further, DynCorp officials estimated that the Afghan national police have approximately 3,000 serviceable vehicles and require an additional 7,400 vehicles. Most police do not perform routine patrols because they lack adequate numbers of vehicles and the fuel to operate them. State/INL officials reported that police often rely on civilian complainants for transportation during law enforcement investigations.

Moreover, poor infrastructure conditions hamper police work. According to the 2002 German government assessment, approximately 80 percent of police infrastructure was destroyed. According to a Defense estimate, varying degrees of construction or renovation are needed for more than 800 buildings among Afghanistan's provincial police stations, district police and border police brigade stations, and subdistrict and village level stations.<sup>23</sup> State/INL officials reported that criminal suspects are sometimes detained in private residences because most police stations lack secure holding facilities or reliable electricity and drinking water and have only rudimentary office furniture and equipment. On our visit to a Jalalabad police station (see fig. 6), we observed prisoners in a communal holding facility with dirt floors and rudimentary toilet facilities. We also noted that police manning a nearby guard tower were sleeping outside between their shifts.

In addition, although the U.S. government recently constructed a communication network that links the provincial headquarters with the Ministry of Interior, police at the provincial, district, and subdistrict levels are generally unable to communicate with police in other locations. DynCorp officials estimate that the police need 420 base radios for district and border stations, more than 10,400 mobile-vehicle mounted radios, and 20,700 hand-held radios.

In early 2005, DynCorp deployed police trainers to the field for the first time—12 outside of Kabul and 4 at a district headquarters in Kabul. ...Field-based training and mentoring allows trainers to build on classroom instruction and provide a more systematic basis for evaluating police performance. Nevertheless, the German, U.S., and Afghan governments have only limited ability to evaluate police trainees' performance after graduation—especially in the more remote areas of Afghanistan. State/INL officials cited the high costs, the security threat to training personnel stationed in the field, and the difficulty of recruiting sufficient numbers of international police as impediments to implementing a countrywide fieldbased program. OMC-A estimates a first-year cost for implementing a countrywide training and mentoring program at approximately \$160 million.

Nonetheless, U.S. government and other donor officials reported overall improvements in police performance since the training programs began and noted that public attitudes toward the police are becoming more positive.

...The Afghan Ministry of the Interior, which is responsible for managing the country's national police force, faces a number of problems that require reform or restructuring. According to State/INL and DynCorp officials, these problems include pervasive corruption; an outdated rank structure overburdened with senior level officers; lack of communication and control between central command and the regions, provinces, and districts; pay disparity between the army and the police; and a lack of professional standards and internal discipline. To address these problems, State embedded 30 DynCorp advisors within the ministry at the end of 2004 and drafted a comprehensive reform program. According to ministry and State officials, the reform package was accepted by the Afghan Government, and implementation



has begun. The ministry adopted a new, streamlined organizational structure to address command and control problems, including a new rank structure with salaries commensurate with responsibilities. The ministry also created a professional standards unit (similar to an internal affairs unit) that is responsible for disciplining corrupt or underachieving officers throughout the police force. DynCorp officials stated that the operation of this unit will be critical to the success of the police reform effort. However, according to DynCorp officials, the overall reform program will require more than a year to implement and will not produce results across the country for several years.

The Ministry of the Interior has not yet reformed its police pay system. Patrolmen generally are paid \$30 to \$50 per month, less than the \$70 per month new army recruits are paid and often less than day laborers can earn on construction sites. According to DynCorp officials, patrolmen's salaries are insufficient to support a family's living expenses and often cause policemen to resort to corruption to augment their income. Ministry officials told us that they are aware that low salaries are hurting the professionalism of the police force and that they are working to institute a new salary structure (United States Government Accountability Office 2005, *Afghanistan Security: Efforts to Establish Army and Police Have Made Progress, but Future Plans Need to Be Better Defined*, June. pp.3 & 22-26 <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d05575.pdf> – Accessed 10 August 2005 – Attachment 30).

An article dated July 2005 in *Jane's Intelligence Review* reports that Maj Gen Jamil Junbish, a Tajik from Farah, has been appointed as the acting chief of police for Kabul.

The acting chief of police – whose appointment is expected to be made permanent – is a Tajik from Farah province in southwest Afghanistan. His last appointment was chief of the Ministry of the Interior's anti-terrorism department, while previous postings include chief of police for Zabul province. He is known to be close to President Karzai, who appointed him to the anti-terrorism post.

Like his predecessor, he is regarded as a safe appointment who will continue to take a hard line against criminals and terrorists in the city (Bevan, Rick 2005, 'New police chief for Kabul', *Jane's Intelligence Review*, Volume 17, Number 7, July – Attachment 33).

An article posted on the Canadian Army homepage on 22 July 2005 reports on the training of Kabul police officers by Canadian Military police.

Military Police (MP) Corporal Robert Martel is speaking to a group of 30 members of the Kabul city police. "How do you tell the good guys from the bad guys?" he asks.

It is a question that Kabul police officers struggle with every day, as they try to bring peace to the Afghan capital. Like Canadians, the people here want to live in a safe neighbourhood, without fear. They want a police force they can rely on.

Cpl Martel and his colleagues in the Task Force Kabul (TFK) MP platoon meet with police officers in Police District 6 and 7 regularly to inform them of Canadian police practices and share information about local police procedures.

The emphasis is on building searches. The Kabul police force is growing rapidly and most of its members are new recruits. They sit and absorb the presentation like sponges.

... "Canada's Military Police have helped us a lot," said General Ghalam Haider, Chief of District 6, next to Camp Julien. "They have helped our police officers to become more professional. We also conduct joint night patrols with Canadians. The word about what our

officers are learning has spread and even the Afghan Ministry of the Interior has expressed interest in what Canada is doing.”

Gen Haider’s department lost most of its equipment when the war against the Taliban regime ended.

“We had nothing. Not even desks or tables. Now we have everything. Canada has been a big help to everyday police work here,” he said.

“We have been focusing on demonstrating practical police skills,” said MP Master Corporal Gary Maronese. “Vehicle, building and people searches; securing and preserving the crime scene; use of the baton; writing statements; investigation skills; traffic control; vehicle checkpoints; officer safety; and first aid.”

Captain Daniel Perron, commanding officer of the TFK MP Platoon, says members of the Kabul police want to develop impartial, professional police officers who can be relied upon by the community for support (Frank, Captain Robert 2005, ‘Peace starts at home in Afghanistan’, Canadian Army homepage, 22 July [http://www.army.forces.gc.ca/lf/English/6\\_1\\_1.asp?FlashEnabled=1&id=598](http://www.army.forces.gc.ca/lf/English/6_1_1.asp?FlashEnabled=1&id=598) – Accessed 16 August – Attachment 34).

An article dated 28 July 2005 in *The Financial Times* reports that “the US military is hoping to transform Afghanistan’s corrupt, scruffy police force into the first line of defence against” Taliban militants.

They are a rag-tag force: mismatched uniforms, ancient Kalashnikovs and sandals. But with the grinding war against Taliban militants approaching its fifth year, the US military is hoping to transform Afghanistan’s corrupt, scruffy police force into the first line of defence against its shadowy foe.

Washington plans to spend about \$1bn...over the coming year training and equipping the police as part of a strategy to speed up the development of Afghanistan’s security forces and pave the way for the US army’s exit from the battlefield.

...The US military hopes to emulate its success with the Afghan army, which is slowly emerging as a professional force.

...Diplomats and analysts in Kabul have criticised efforts to train the police as slapdash and undermined by a corrupt Ministry of Interior. Rather than recruiting a new force from scratch, as was the case with the army, the programme offers a short training course for existing policemen. Germany, which is involved in police reform, has put nearly 3,000 officers through one to three years’ training at its police academy in Kabul.

Another 35,000 lower-ranking policemen have received between five and nine weeks’ training, but many are illiterate and graduates return to dilapidated police stations that are often run by local militiamen.

Col Mark van der Lande, chief of staff for the coalition’s office of military co-operation, says the new police programme aims to reform the interior ministry, refurbish police stations, emphasise literacy and embed international trainers with police graduates. His office was rebranded the office of security co-operation this month to reflect its expanding role.

But training police is more complicated than training an army, he warns. “It’s easier to do an army because you’re not doing it at the community level they live in a barracks.” There is also the question of how to pay for the new security forces (Burnett, Victoria 2005, ‘US looks to Afghan police to hold the line’, *Financial Times*, 28 July – Attachment 35).

An article dated 4 August 2005 in *The Washington Times* reports that the monthly pay of an Afghan policeman will nearly quadruple, scores of senior police officers will be dismissed and 700 retired US policemen will act as “mentors” for the Afghan police force.

The nation’s beleaguered, ragtag police are in for a bonanza – the monthly pay of an ordinary policeman will nearly quadruple, with about \$1 billion to be spent in the next 15 months to upgrade and equip the force, especially to fight the narcotics trade.

President Hamid Karzai’s government also has decided to dismiss scores of senior police officers, many of whom are suspected of being corrupt, and import about 700 retired U.S. policemen to act as “mentors” for the Afghan national police.

“After the fall of the Taliban, we had to start from zero. Therefore, many mujahedeen commanders were inducted into the force,” said Lutfullah Mashal, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry.

“As a result, the [national police] has hundreds of generals and not enough captains, while the officer-soldier ratio is the highest in the world,” said Lt. Gen. Syed Sher Agha Rohani, commandant of the national police academy in Kabul.

Of 300 generals in the police force, he said, 64 will be retained.

During the past 3? years, 988 policemen have been killed -- the highest casualty rate of any national or international security force in Afghanistan.

...The Afghan government’s decision to implement long-overdue police reforms came shortly after the U.S. Congress in June allocated more than \$900 million for Afghanistan’s police (Rahman, Maseeh 2005, ‘Ragtag police to get better pay, training’, *Washington Times*, 4 August <http://www.washingtontimes.com/world/20050803-092747-4359r.htm> – Accessed 5 August 2005 – Attachment 36).

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World Afghan Jirgah <http://www.afghanology.com/>

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Google <http://www.google.com.au/>

UNHCR Databases:	<i>REFWORLD</i>	UNHCR Refugee Information Online
Public	<i>FACTIVA</i>	Reuters Business Briefing
DIMIA	<i>BACIS</i>	Country Information
	<i>REFINFO</i>	IRBDC Research Responses (Canada)
RRT	<i>ISYS</i>	RRT Country Research database, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, US Department of State <i>Country Reports on Human Rights Practices</i> .
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