



Afghanistan – Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 2 February 2010

Information regarding ongoing violence / frequency of violence in Gardez, Afghanistan.

A report from the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* under the heading ‘Afghanistan Annual Report On Protection Of Civilians In Armed Conflict, 2009’ states:

“AGEs have also undertaken a number of “complex attacks” involving multiple, well coordinated teams, including individuals equipped as suicide bombers and others armed with a range of weapons, including grenades. These frequently target government buildings where civilians are often present. Three complex attacks carried out in Gardez and Jalalabad on 21 July, and in Khost on 25 July on government and security forces’ installations, reveal well-planned and sophisticated operations.”(United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (January 2010) *Afghanistan Annual Report On Protection Of Civilians In Armed Conflict, 2009* p.10)

A report from the *United Nations* under the heading ‘Security and security sector reform’ states:

“There has been an average of 898 incidents in the first seven months of 2009, compared to 677 during the same time frame in 2008. Incidents involving improvised explosive devices have risen dramatically, to an average of more than eight per day, 60 per cent higher than the average during the first seven months of 2008.

Complex attacks now average one per month compared to one per quarter in 2008. In the majority of these attacks, security forces responded professionally and quickly, effectively containing and limiting the impact of the attacks. The most recent such incidents include an attack against the Khost Police headquarters building by multiple attackers on 25 July and a suicide attack on 21 July against the Gardez National Directorate for Security headquarters, Police headquarters and Governor’s compound, one of which shared access with the United Nations Multi-Agency Compound.” (UN (22 September 2009) *Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security* par.31-32)

Under the heading ‘Insurgent Abuses against Afghan Civilians’, a December 2008 report from the *Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission* states:

“During the research for this report, AIHRC documented several cases of insurgents targeting Ulema Council members in Kandahar, Gardez, and Khost. The cases span from 2004 to 2008. In two cases the insurgents killed

the members and in another case a member's son was killed..." (Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (December 2008) *Insurgent Abuses against Afghan Civilians*)

A January 2010 article from *The New York Times* under the heading 'Attack Leaves 10 Dead in Southeast Afghanistan' reports:

"KABUL, Afghanistan — A suicide bomber attacking a pro-government militia commander detonated his bomb-laden vest in a southeastern provincial capital, Gardez, on Thursday, and witnesses said he killed 10 people and wounded 27, most of them civilians. Also on Thursday, the governor of a neighboring province survived a bomb attack.

In Gardez, capital of Paktia Province, witnesses said the suicide bomber walked up to the commander, Nasir Paray, who leads one of the many pro-government armed groups in the area, and detonated his vest. The commander died in the blast, which also killed four children." (The New York Times (8 January 2010) *Attack Leaves 10 Dead in Southeast Afghanistan*)

The same article continues:

"Khost and Paktia Provinces are among the most volatile in Afghanistan. They are dominated by Pashtuns, the ethnic group that supplies most of the manpower for the Taliban. Khost Province borders the Pakistani tribal agency of North Waziristan, a sanctuary for both Al Qaeda and the Taliban" (ibid)

Under the heading 'Long Firefight With Militants Immobilizes Afghan City', a December 2009 article from *The New York Times* notes:

"KABUL, Afghanistan — A provincial government official said that Afghan security forces and American troops killed five heavily armed men who attacked a police headquarters in the center of Gardez, the capital of the southeastern province of Paktia Province.

The firefight immobilized the city for about four hours, said the official, Rahullah Samon, a spokesman for the governor's office. But he said that only two of the attacker's bodies had been recovered, raising the possibility that several had in fact escaped" (The New York Times (22 December 2009) *Long Firefight With Militants Immobilizes Afghan City*)

The same article adds:

"There have been repeated attacks on police and army service members in recent weeks, as NATO and the United States focus on increasing the size and efficiency of Afghan security forces. Adding to the Taliban's volatility in Paktia, where the group has been active, is a widespread sense that the central government is unresponsive to their needs." (ibid)

References

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Sources consulted

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BBC News

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House

Human Rights Watch

Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada

United Kingdom Home Office

UNHCR

UNHCR Refworld

United States Department of State