



Afghanistan: Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 9 July 2010

Information regarding actions of Mujahadeen in Afghanistan

Information regarding whether Mujahadeen are to be found in all parts of Afghanistan.

A report by *Freedom House* under the heading 'Freedom in the World - Afghanistan (2010)' states:

"The mujahideen guerrilla factions finally overthrew the Marxist government in 1992 and then battled one another for control of Kabul, killing more than 25,000 civilians in the capital by 1995. The Islamist Taliban movement entered the fray, seizing Kabul in 1996 and quickly establishing control over most of the country, the rest of which remained in the hands of other factions. In response to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, the United States launched a military campaign to topple the Taliban regime and eliminate Saudi militant Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, Al-Qaeda." (Freedom House (3rd May 2010) *Freedom in the World - Afghanistan (2010)*)

A report by the *Home Office UK Border Agency* under the heading 'Journalists' states:

"The Reporters Without Borders World Report 2009, covering 2008, published in September 2009, stated that "Afghan journalists are relatively free to express themselves, as long as they do not comment critically on the country's only really taboo subject: Islam. Through the will of the Mujahideen, the Constitution prevails but Sharia law can be applied, under Articles 130 and 131 of fundamental law." (Home Office UK Border Agency (8th April 2010) *Country of Origin Information Report Afghanistan*)

In a section titled 'Hizb-e-Islami (Hisb-e-Islami/Hezb-e-Islami/Hizb-i-Islami)' this report states:

"A Reuters article in February 2009 reported that:

"Founded by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, Hizb-i-Islami was one of the main mujahideen groups fighting the Soviet invasion in the 1980s, receiving the lion's share of U.S. and Saudi arms and money channelled through the Pakistani intelligence service.

"After the Soviet withdrawal Hekmatyar fought and made fleeting alliances with most other mujahideen factions during the resulting civil war and is credited with

killing thousands in Kabul with indiscriminate rocket attacks on the capital.” (ibid) (pg. 187)

A report by the *Home Office UK Border Agency* under the heading ‘Country assessment’ states:

“Since 1973, when Prime Minister Daud overthrew King Zahir Shah and established the country as a republic, Afghanistan has been ruled by a number of different regimes. In 1978, the People’s Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) tried to impose a socialist state which led to armed resistance by conservative Islamic elements. In 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan staying for 10 years until 1989, during which time a civil war with anti-Soviet mujahideen forces raged. Following the departure of Soviet troops, the mujahideen groups struggled amongst themselves. The Pashtun Taliban emerged as the dominant power controlling most of the country by 1998, however they were opposed by the mujahideen commanders in the predominately Tajik and Uzbek United Front (previously the Northern Alliance).” (Home Office UK Border Agency (8th April 2009) *Operational Guidance Note Afghanistan* - pg. 2 par. 2.1)

A report by the *Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict* under the heading ‘Military and Other Attacks’ states:

“While the Taliban’s Code of Conduct instructs “every member of the Mujahideen [to] do their best to avoid civilian deaths, civilian injuries and damage to civilian property,” armed opposition groups have at times directed their violence at civilians to intimidate them and undermine the government, staging suicide bombings in highly populated areas, detonating IEDs on busy civilian roads, and attacking schools and hospitals (see below: Education and Health). Children have also been targeted by these armed groups and executed on allegations of spying for government or international military forces, according to UN sources. There are also reports of armed groups deliberately using children as human shields.” (Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict (14th June 2010) *Setting the Right Priorities: Protecting Children Affected by Armed Conflict in Afghanistan* -pg. 13)

References:

Freedom House (3rd May 2010) *Freedom in the World - Afghanistan (2010)*
<http://www.freedomhouse.org/template.cfm?page=22&year=2010&country=7765>
(Accessed 9th July 2010)

Home Office UK Border Agency (8th April 2010) *Country of Origin Information Report Afghanistan*
http://rds.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/country_reports.html
(Accessed 9th July 2010)

Home Office UK Border Agency (8th April 2009) *Operational Guidance Note Afghanistan*

<http://ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/countryspecificasylumpolicyogns/>

(Accessed 9th July 2010)

Watchlist on Children and Armed Conflict (14th June 2010) *Setting the Right Priorities: Protecting Children Affected by Armed Conflict in Afghanistan*

<http://www.watchlist.org/reports/pdf/Afghanistan%20Report%202010.pdf>

(Accessed 9th July 2010)

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 Monitoring

Electronic Immigration Network (EIN)

European Country of Origin Information Network (ECOI)

Freedom House

Human Rights Watch

International Crisis Group

Lexis Nexis

United Kingdom Home Office

United States Department of State