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LEGAL AID BOARD

Afghanistan: Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 9 September 2011

Can any information be found relating to a battle between Taliban forces and Afghan National Army and their international allies (any members of the ISAF forces in Afghanistan, e.g. American or British forces)

A 30 July 2010 report from the *New York Times* regarding Baghlan Province states:

“Insurgents have resurfaced elsewhere in the province, said Alyson McFarland, the only American civilian working with the development team in Pul-i-Kumri.

Last week a group of at least 80 Taliban fighters briefly took over the main bazaar in another of the unstable districts, Dahana-i-Ghori, engaging in gun battles for several hours. Although the police ultimately forced the Taliban to retreat, eight officers were killed after firing their weapons until they ran out of ammunition, said Gen. Abdul Rahman Rahimi, the provincial police chief.

Since then, the Taliban have blocked most roads to the district and attacked any government or development workers who have tried to pass, local elders said. The police have returned but are all but confined to a 500-yard area around the district center, said Obidullah Khan, an Uzbek tribal elder in Dahana-i-Ghori.” (New York Times (30 July 2010) *Afghanistan: "Taliban Exploit Openings in Neglected Province*

BBC Monitoring details of a 29 June bulletin from the privately operated Afghan TV station *Arzu TV* states:

“[Presenter] Security officials in the northern zone [of the country] say an operation codenamed Tawhid-3 has been launched in Baghlan Province to clear vulnerable areas of government opponents and ensure the security of the [upcoming] parliamentary elections. Baghlan-e Kohna, Dand-e Ghowri, Shahab and Qaisarkhail districts will reportedly be covered by this operation.

[Correspondent] Lal Mohammad Ahmadzai, spokesman of Pamir Police Zone No 303, says these areas are vulnerable and the operation has been launched to clear them of government opponents and ensure the security of the 27 Sonbula [18 September] parliamentary elections. He adds that National Army forces are leading this operation while national police and ISAF forces are backing the Afghan National Army in the operation. Ahmadzai adds that they will launch operations in all the northern and northeastern provinces in four phases so the government opponents are completely wiped out of these areas.

The operation has been launched at a time when most areas in Baghlan Province have been cleared of Taleban members with the end of Operation Tawhid-1 and more than 80 militants were killed then. This is the third joint operation by Afghan and foreign security forces in the last three months to be launched in northern and northeastern parts of the

country. But it seems security has not improved in some parts of Konduz and Baghlan provinces so far. (BBC Monitoring, Text of report by privately-owned Afghan Arzu TV on 29 June (29 June 2010) *Third operation launched in Afghan north to remove insurgents*)

A July 2010 report from the *Federal Information & News Dispatch* states:

“Six Afghan National Police were beheaded by insurgents in Dahanah-ye Ghori district, Baghlan province, yesterday. ANP forces successfully repelled an insurgent attack on a school, clinic and the district governors' building in Dahanah-ye Ghori city, killing several insurgents. During the attack, insurgents overran a police checkpoint and killed the police officers by cutting off their heads. (2010 Federal Information & News Dispatch, Inc., Department of Defense Documents (21 July 2010) *Numerous Insurgents Killed, Captured in Afghanistan*)

An April 2010 report from *Agence France-Presse* states:

“More than 100 people including dozens of civilians were killed in violence related to Afghanistan's ongoing war against the Taliban in the past week, authorities said on Sunday.

The interior ministry registered about 144 insurgency-related incidents -- mostly roadside bombings and militant ambushes -- from April 11-18, spokesman Zemarai Bashary said.

A total of 117 people -- 36 of them civilians, 20 policemen and more than 60 insurgents - - were killed in the incidents, he told reporters.

Another 100 civilians, 39 police officers and more than a dozen rebels, were injured in the attacks, he said.

Most of the rebels were killed in an operation by Afghan and international forces against Taliban-linked militants in the restive northern province of Baghlan, he said.

In the same period, nine Western soldiers, part of the international military deployment under NATO and the United States, were killed, according to an AFP count based on the icasualties.org website which tracks coalition deaths.” (Agence France-Presse (19 April 2010) *Afghanistan: "More than 100 die in week of Afghan violence: govt*)

In the section on Baghlan, a report from the *Afghanistan NGO Safety Office* states:

“Later in the reporting period a major operation was launched as ANSF/IMF attempt to reign in the areas of Pul-e Khumri which had been essentially left to AOG control. Additional troop presence in Shahabuddin Triagle and Dand-e Ghori may temporarily curb AOG attacks and the presence on the main roads: however, as seen in the past levels of security will revert once troops have withdrawn” (Afghanistan NGO Safety Office (02 August 2010) *Afghanistan: "Bi-Weekly Data Report; 16 - 31 July 2010"*)

A report from the *New York Times* states:

"In northern Afghanistan, in Baghlan Province, the chief of police in the Burka district, Lt. Col. Abdul Haq, was shot to death by gunmen who entered his home on Thursday, Munshi Abdul Majeed, the governor of the province, said Saturday. He said Taliban and other insurgent groups were active in the area, but the authorities did not yet know who was responsible." (New York Times (22 August 2010) *Afghanistan: "15 Afghan Policemen Die as Taliban Intensify Campaign"*)

The *Reuters – AlertNet* report on the security developments in Afghanistan from the 22 August 2010 states

"BAGHLAN - Afghan police killed four insurgents in a raid in northern Baghlan province overnight, the Interior Ministry said." (Reuters – AlertNet (22 August 2010) *Afghanistan: "FACTBOX-Security developments in Afghanistan, Aug 22"*)

An 24 August report from *Reuters* states :

"BAGHLAN - NATO-led forces killed eight Afghan civilians during a raid in a mountainous area of northern Baghlan province early on Monday, provincial officials said. An ISAF official said he was checking the report. ISAF had said 12 Taliban insurgents were killed in Baghlan on Sunday." (Reuters – AlertNet (24 August 2010) *Afghanistan: "FACTBOX-Security developments in Afghanistan, Aug 24"*)

A 24 August report from the *New York Times* states:

"KABUL, Afghanistan — Officials and residents of Baghlan Province, in northern Afghanistan, accused NATO troops on Monday of killing eight civilians during an early morning raid. Mohammed Ismail, the governor of the Talah wa Barfak District, said troops entered a district house at 2 a.m. and killed 8 civilians, injured 12 and took 9 prisoners.

The province's governor, Munchi Abdul Majid, confirmed the attack, but could not provide details" (New York Times (24 August 2010) *Afghanistan: "Afghans Say NATO Troops Killed 8 Civilians in Raid"*)

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US Department of Defence
Lexis Nexis
Reuters
Associated Press

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.