



Afghanistan - Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 24 September 2012

Information on the parts of Afghanistan that are currently considered to be areas where there is serious threat to a civilian's life due to indiscriminate violence in a situation of international or internal armed conflict

A map produced in September 2012 by the *United States Agency for International Development* show areas of the country where:

“Local (civilian) population targeted (dead and injured) in security incidents for the month of August 2012” (United States Agency for International Development (3 September 2012) *Map of Afghanistan indicating density of security incidents (August 2012)*).

Agence France Presse in August 2012 states that:

“...the country has recently been witnessing an increase in attacks on civilians” (*Agence France Presse* (18 August 2012) *Afghan bazaar bomb kills Eid shoppers*).

A report published in August 2012 by the *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* states:

“The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) in the eastern and southern regions presented its recent mid-year report on Civilian Casualties in Armed Conflict in Afghanistan. At a press conference in Kandahar, the UNAMA Human rights Officer, Alexander Loden said southern region has the highest number of civilian casualties. Majority of the victims in southern region are affected due to attacks of anti-government elements (AGE) using improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Of particular concern is the use of pressure-plate IEDs (PPIEDs). According to UNAMA's report, the highest number of incidents occurred in the provinces of Kandahar, Uruzgan, Zabul, Helmand and Nimroz” (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (16 August 2012) *UNAMA Advocates Protection of Civilians in Provinces*).

The *South Asia Terrorism Portal* in August 2012 points out that:

“In a number of cases where AGEs use remote-controlled IEDs (RCIEDs) targeting Pro-Government Forces, civilians have been disproportionately harmed, particularly when AGEs target military objectives in civilian populated areas” (*South Asia Terrorism Portal* (27 August 2012) *Targeting Stabilization*).

A report published in August 2012 by *United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan* states:

“In the first six months of 2012, the armed conflict in Afghanistan continued to take a devastating toll on civilians. Between 1 January and 30 June 2012, conflict-related violence resulted in 3,099 civilian casualties or 1,145 civilians killed and 1,954 others injured, a 15 percent decrease in overall civilian casualties compared with the same period in 2011 when UNAMA documented 3,654 civilian casualties (1,510 killed and 2,144 injured)” (United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (8 August 2012) *Afghanistan Mid-Year Report 2012 Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict*, p.1).

This report also notes:

“Civilian casualties resulting from targeted killings of civilians by Anti-Government Elements increased by 53 percent in the first six months of 2012” (ibid, p.3).

This document also states:

“The indiscriminate and unlawful use of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) by Anti-Government Elements remains the biggest killer of civilians and accounts for the majority of civilian casualties” (ibid, p.13).

A report issued in July 2012 by *BBC News* points out that:

“Northern Afghanistan is relatively peaceful compared to the east and south of the country, where militant attacks are frequent” (BBC News (14 July 2012) *Afghanistan suicide bomb kills prominent MP at wedding*).

A publication in July 2012 by *Agence France Presse* notes that:

“For the past five years the number of civilians killed in the war has risen steadily, reaching a record 3,021 in 2011 -- the vast majority caused by insurgents, according to UN figures” (Agence France Presse (8 July 2012) *Roadside bombs kill 18 civilians in Afghanistan*).

In June 2012 a document released by *Amnesty International* states, after commenting on a Taliban attack, that:

“Amnesty International has documented how they and other insurgent groups have increased their use of sophisticated suicide attacks in busy civilian areas – including hospitals, schools, hotels and mosques – and have regularly hidden behind civilians, knowingly putting them in danger” (Amnesty International (22 June 2012) *Afghanistan: Attack on hotel shows Taleban's disregard for civilian life*).

References

Agence France Presse (18 August 2012) *Afghan bazaar bomb kills Eid shoppers*
<http://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/afghan-bazaar-bomb-kills-eid-shoppers>
(Accessed 24 September 2012)

Agence France Presse (8 July 2012) *Roadside bombs kill 18 civilians in Afghanistan*

<http://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/roadside-bombs-kill-18-civilians-afghanistan>

(Accessed 24 September 2012)

Amnesty International (22 June 2012) *Afghanistan: Attack on hotel shows Taliban's disregard for civilian life*

<http://www.amnesty.org/en/news/afghanistan-attack-hotel-shows-taleban-s-disregard-civilian-life-2012-06-22>

(Accessed 24 September 2012)

BBC News (14 July 2012) *Afghanistan suicide bomb kills prominent MP at wedding*

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-asia-18839768>

(Accessed 24 September 2012)

South Asia Terrorism Portal (27 August 2012) *Targeting Stabilization*

<http://www.ein.org.uk>

This is a subscription database

(Accessed 24 September 2012)

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (16 August 2012) *UNAMA Advocates Protection of Civilians in Provinces*

<http://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/unama-advocates-protection-civilians-provinces>

(Accessed 24 September 2012)

United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (8 August 2012)

Afghanistan Mid-Year Report 2012 Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict

<http://unama.unmissions.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=-vDVBQY1OA%3d&tabid=12254&language=en-US>

(Accessed 24 September 2012)

United States Agency for International Development (3 September 2012) *Map of Afghanistan indicating density of security incidents (August 2012)*

<http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/931.pdf>

(Accessed 24 September 2012)

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 News

Electronic Immigration Network

European Country of Origin Information Network

Freedom House

Google

Human Rights Watch
Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre
International Crisis Group
IRIN News
Lexis Nexis
Minority Rights Group International
Online Newspapers
Refugee Documentation Centre E-Library
Refugee Documentation Centre Query Database
Refugees International
Reliefweb
Reuters
United Kingdom Home Office
United States Department of State
UNHCR Refworld