

HUMAN RIGHTS BULLETIN – AFGHANISTAN

July – August 2025

The reporting period of July and August 2025 reflects a continued and deepening deterioration of the human rights situation in Afghanistan. Violations during these two months demonstrate not only the persistence of abusive practices observed earlier in the year, but also their expansion in scope, severity, and geographic spread. Patterns of violence, repression, and social control have become increasingly entrenched, affecting nearly every aspect of civilian life.

Extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, and mysterious deaths continued to be reported, particularly targeting former security personnel, professionals, and civilians, often without investigation or accountability. Economic collapse and social neglect further intensified psychological distress, contributing to suicides and suspicious deaths linked to poverty, unemployment, and debt.

Women and girls remained among the most severely affected groups, facing heightened domestic violence, forced restrictions on movement, denial of education, and aggressive morality enforcement. Public punishments, including executions and mass floggings, were widely carried out across multiple provinces, reinforcing fear and demonstrating the institutionalization of corporal punishment as a tool of governance.

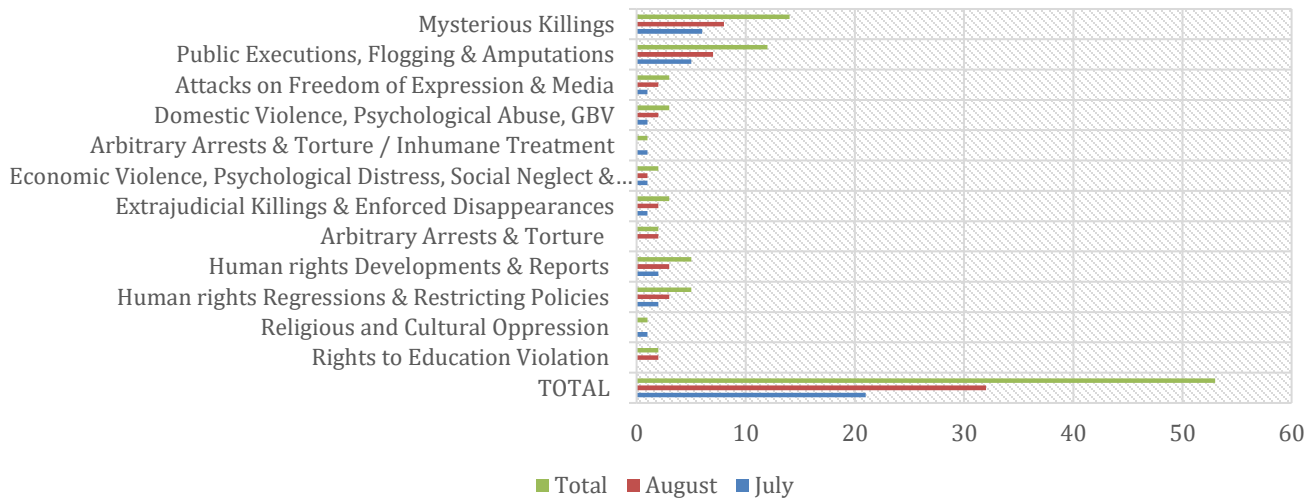
At the same time, freedom of expression and media space continued to shrink, with journalists and media workers detained, equipment confiscated, and reporting severely restricted. New policies and practices imposed under the banner of moral regulation further eroded basic rights, while humanitarian access remained constrained amid growing needs.

Overall, the incidents documented in July and August underscore a human rights environment marked by systematic repression, escalating violence, and deep social harm. These developments highlight the urgent need for sustained international attention, protection of vulnerable populations, and accountability for ongoing violations.

| Category | Details | Examples / Locations | Key Notes |
|---|--|--|--|
| EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS & ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES | Death sentences without due process; deaths following arrest; large-scale documentation of extrajudicial killings and disappearances | Paktika (Abdul Alim Khamoosh), Ghor (Mohsen Rasouli), Nationwide (Rawadari report) | Lack of transparent trials; deaths in custody; systematic impunity; violations may amount to crimes against humanity |
| ECONOMIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS, SOCIAL NEGLECT & SUICIDE | Suicides and suspicious deaths linked to economic hardship and social pressure | Kandahar (Mohammad Yousuf), Jawzjan (Allah Nazar) | Poverty, debt, unemployment; no official investigations or support mechanisms |
| ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE, AND INHUMANE TREATMENT | Arbitrary arrests, torture, deaths in custody | Panjshir/Kabul, Bamyán, Kabul (Dasht-e-Barchi) | No due process; detainees held incommunicado; torture reported |

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE | Killings and suicides of women due to domestic abuse and denial of divorce | Helmand (Zargona), Kandahar city (second wife suicide), Ghor (Fatima, pregnant) | Women lack legal protection; domestic abuse normalized; clerics deny divorce requests |
| ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & MEDIA | Arrests of journalists; confiscation of equipment; mass detentions; closure and restriction of media | Nangarhar (Aziz Watanwal), Kabul & provinces (AFJC cases), Nationwide | Media freedom collapse; enforced censorship; intimidation to silence reporting |
| PUBLIC EXECUTIONS, FLOGGING, AND AMPUTATIONS | Executions after torture; widespread public floggings for moral and criminal accusations | Panjshir (Hakimullah & Ahmad Ali executed), Sar-e-Pul, Kabul, Wardak, Baghlan, Parwan, Logar, Ghor | Corporal punishment institutionalized; mass public spectacles; women among victims |
| MYSTERIOUS KILLING | Killings by unknown perpetrators; family massacres; targeted killings of former officials and professionals | Kandahar, Helmand, Kabul, Ghazni, Nangarhar, Herat, Kunar, Jawzjan | No accountability; rising insecurity; former officials and civilians targeted |
| RIGHTS TO EDUCATION VIOLATION | Mass dismissal of teachers; violent expulsion of female students from schools | Kandahar (3,000 teachers dismissed), Herat (private education centers raided) | Women's education forcibly dismantled; violence used to enforce bans |
| RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL OPPRESSION | Suppression of religious expression; violent disruption of cultural rituals | Herat (Muharram processions attacked) | Minority religious practices targeted; use of force despite prior approvals |
| HUMAN RIGHTS REGRESSIONS & RESTRICTING POLICIES | Mass arrests for dress, music, beards; public beatings; identity erasure policies | Kabul (Dasht-e-Barchi), Kandahar, Herat, Panjshir, Laghman, Takhar | Morality policing expanded; climate of fear; gender apartheid indicators |
| HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS & REPORTS | UN and NGO reports documenting hunger, repression, aid obstruction, terrorism | Nationwide (UNAMA, HRW, WFP, OCHA, UNSC) | Confirms systemic violations; humanitarian access shrinking; women disproportionately affected |
| ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE | Prolonged detention without charge; enforced disappearance of relatives of activists | Bamyan (Peter & Barbie Reynolds), Kabul (Mohammad Naseri) | Due process absent; health risks in detention; intimidation of activists |

Summary Analysis of Human Rights Violations July - August 2025



The data for July and August 2025 highlights a continued and severe deterioration of human rights conditions in Afghanistan. Across these two months, a total of 54 documented incidents were recorded, reflecting persistent violence, repression, and social neglect. Public punishments including executions and mass floggings remain widespread, with at least **175** individuals subjected to corporal penalties, demonstrating the Taliban's continued reliance on fear and punitive control to enforce societal norms.

Compared with the previous four months (January–June), the July–August period shows both continuity and escalation in certain areas. Extrajudicial killings and mysterious deaths remain alarmingly high, indicating that accountability mechanisms are still absent. Suicides and domestic violence cases continue to reflect severe economic hardship and psychological distress, while attacks on freedom of expression and media have expanded, further limiting independent reporting.

Relative to the first half of 2025, July–August demonstrates a shift toward more systematic repression targeting women, civil society, and vulnerable groups, including widespread arbitrary arrests and forced compliance with restrictive cultural policies. When combined with earlier months, the overall picture shows a cumulative intensification of abuses, with public punishments and gender-based oppression forming the most visible and alarming trends.

Incident Reports

The human rights situation in Afghanistan during July and August 2025 remained dire, with widespread abuses affecting civilians, women, children, journalists, and former government personnel. The period was marked by systematic violence, expanding repression, and continued social distress.

Extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances persisted, including targeted killings of former security personnel and educators, arbitrary executions, and enforced disappearances. Reports indicate a significant rise in extrajudicial killings during the first eight months of 2025, reflecting impunity and the absence of legal accountability.

Economic hardship and psychological distress fueled several suicides, highlighting deep financial insecurity and lack of social support networks. Vulnerable populations, particularly youth and economically marginalized individuals, faced growing pressures, exacerbating mental health crises.

Gender-based violence and domestic abuse remained prevalent, with numerous cases of women being killed by family members, subjected to forced confinement, or enduring long-term domestic conflict without legal protection. Women's autonomy and safety continue to be severely restricted.

Freedom of expression and media rights faced increasing repression. Journalists and media workers were detained, equipment confiscated, and media outlets were forced to comply

with strict Taliban restrictions, including bans on showing images of living beings. These measures severely curtailed independent reporting and public access to information.

Public punishments, flogging, and executions escalated dramatically, with multiple mass floggings and several executions reported across provinces. In total, at least 175 individuals were publicly punished, signaling the systemic use of corporal penalties to enforce control and instill fear.

Mysterious killings of civilians, including targeted assassinations, family killings, and abductions, continued to undermine security and foster an environment of fear, with perpetrators largely unaccountable.

Education and cultural restrictions intensified, with mass teacher dismissals and forced expulsion of female students from private learning centers. Religious and cultural expressions, such as Muharram mourning processions, were violently suppressed.

Regressive policies and arbitrary enforcement targeted minor infractions, such as beard length, dress code violations, and music, disproportionately affecting women and youth. Humanitarian and aid operations were disrupted, particularly for female workers, limiting access to essential services.

International monitoring reports highlighted worsening conditions: two-thirds of female-headed households lack sufficient food, aid delivery faces severe interference, and Afghanistan remains a hub for active terrorist groups exploiting governance gaps.

Overall, July–August 2025 reflects a continuation and intensification of the human rights crisis observed throughout the first half of the year. The combination of targeted killings, public punishments, gender oppression, restrictions on education and media, and widespread insecurity underscores an urgent need for sustained international attention, intervention, and protection for vulnerable populations.

Incident Records

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS & ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

Authorities announced that a man named Abdul Alim Khamoosh from Janikhel district, Paktika, has been sentenced to death for allegedly insulting religion and the Prophet. A spokesperson claimed he confessed, but no details were given about his arrest date, court hearing, or trial process. Social media users say he is a schoolteacher from Jalalzo village, arrested around 20 days ago for telling students that while religious education is necessary, modern education is even more important. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Ghor
29.07.2025

In Ghor province, the body of Mohsen Rasouli, a former security officer under the previous government, was found two days after his arrest by local intelligence forces in Allahyar district. His body was discovered alongside another unidentified corpse in Safid Rakhna village. Rasouli had reportedly been detained by the Kohistanat intelligence unit and had previously been arrested on two other occasions. [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)

30.08.2025

The rights group Rawadari reports a 30% rise in targeted and extrajudicial killings in Afghanistan during the first half of 2025, with 251 people killed, mostly by Taliban forces or unknown gunmen. It also recorded 27 enforced disappearances and over 1,500 arbitrary arrests, including women. The report says torture in detention led to several deaths, and ethnic and religious minorities faced severe discrimination and forced religious conformity. Women continue to face restrictions on work, movement, and justice access. Rawadari concludes that Taliban authorities have not investigated or punished these violations, which UN experts consider crimes against humanity. [Source](#)

ECONOMIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS, SOCIAL NEGLECT, AND SUICIDE

Kandahar
06.07.2025

A local (anonymous) source in Kandahar reports that a 19-year-old man named Mohammad Yousuf committed suicide by hanging himself in a school in the village of Loqman, Spin Boldak district. The reason given is economic hardship. It is stated that he ran a cosmetics shop but had recently become indebted. [Source](#)

Jawzjan
10.08.2025

A 36-year-old teacher named Allah Nazar was found dead, hanging from a tree in the Eid-Mahala area of Sheberghan, Jawzjan province, on Friday, 18 Asad (August 9, 2025). Authorities have not clarified whether his death was a suicide or a murder. [Source](#), [Source](#)

ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE, AND INHUMANE TREATMENT

Panjsher
01.08.2025

A resident of Panjshir named Mukhtar has reportedly died under torture after being detained with his two sons in the Khayrkhana area of Kabul. His sons were released two days later, while his body bearing visible signs of torture was returned to the family. Mukhtar, formerly accused of kidnapping under the previous government, had been re-arrested following a recent abduction case. [Source](#), [Source](#)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Helmand
01.07.2025

In Helmand's Nad Ali district, a 25-year-old woman named Zargona was fatally stabbed by her husband on 9 Saratan. The killing occurred in Shawal village and was confirmed by medical staff at Bust provincial hospital, who said the victim had suffered multiple knife wounds. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kandahar
05.07.2025

A local source reported that a 29-year-old woman in the third district of Kandahar city hanged herself this afternoon in her room, ending her life. According to the source, she was her husband's second wife and had been subjected to domestic violence. She had met her husband via telephone and married him, but he later sent her back to her father's house due to financial problems. So far, the Taliban's local authorities in Kandahar have not responded to this report. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Ghor
04.08.2025

In Ghor province's Lal wa Sarjangal district, a 32-year-old pregnant woman named Fatima was found hanged in her home. She had been five months pregnant and left behind two young daughters. Local sources said she had endured years of domestic conflict, and despite repeated appeals, local clerics denied her request for divorce. [Source](#)

ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & MEDIA

Nangarhar
12.07.2025

Taliban intelligence forces in Nangarhar arrested journalist Aziz Watanwal at his home in Jalalabad on the morning of 21 Saratan. Two friends detained with him were released later the same day, but Watanwal remains in custody. Taliban personnel also seized his computer, camera, and other reporting equipment. His family has asked for clarification about the reasons behind the arrest, but Taliban officials have not made any statement. [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kabul
29.07.2025

The Afghanistan Journalists Center reported that at least seven journalists and media workers have been detained in recent weeks. Arrests occurred in Kabul and another province, carried out by intelligence and morality officers. Among those detained were a journalist and two activists accused of holding educational courses for girls, with their equipment confiscated. Another individual was arrested in Kabul's Karte-Seh area, accused of designing and technically supporting news websites based abroad. The detainees were taken to the intelligence directorate, and their whereabouts remain undisclosed. [Source](#), [Source](#)

14.08.2025

The Afghanistan Journalists Center (AFJC) reported that media freedom has sharply declined in the past year, documenting 190 violations, including 45 journalist arrests, with 10 still in detention. Many media outlets have been shut down or forced to limit operations after bans on showing images of living beings under Taliban media rules. [Source](#)

PUBLIC EXECUTIONS, FLOGGING, AND AMPUTATIONS

Reports from credible local sources in Panjshir indicate that the Taliban arrested two men, Hakimullah and Ahmad Ali, accusing them of links with the National Resistance Front. After keeping them in detention for about a week and subjecting them to torture, Taliban fighters reportedly executed the men by firing squad on Malam Khak mountain. Their bodies remain at the site, and relatives have been prevented from retrieving them for burial. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Panjsher
06.07.2025

In Sar-e-Pul province, eighteen people—five women and thirteen men—were flogged in public on 25 Saratan following a Supreme Court ruling. They had been accused of gambling, adultery, murder, and improper phone contact. Sentences included 20 to 35 lashes and prison terms ranging from six months to two years. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Sar e Pul
16.07.2025

Six people in Kabul were publicly flogged after being convicted of involvement in the sale and purchase of drugs and alcohol, including K tablets, Dicap, opium, alcohol, and hashish. According to court statements, they received punishments of 10 to 30 lashes along with prison sentences ranging from seven months to two years. [Source](#)

Kabul
26.07.2025

Five men were publicly flogged in Maidan Wardak and Baghlan provinces following court rulings. In Sayedabad district, three were punished with 39 lashes and three months' imprisonment for alleged same-sex relations, while in Central Baghlan, two were sentenced to 20 lashes and six months in jail for alleged document forgery. [Source](#), [Source](#)

W, B
04.08.2025

On May 21, 2025 (31 Sawr 1404), the Taliban's Supreme Court ordered public floggings of 23 Ten individuals were publicly flogged in Kabul and Maidan Wardak, according to a court statement. Nine were punished in Kabul for alleged drug-related offenses, each receiving 10–20 lashes and up to 18 months in prison. Another person in Maidan Wardak's Daimirdad district was flogged 39 times for alleged theft following a local court verdict. [Source](#)

K, W
05.08.2025

The Supreme Court reported that 14 individuals, including one woman, were publicly flogged across Zabul and Kabul. In Zabul's Shahjoy district, four were punished for alleged theft and same-sex acts, and three including one woman for alleged extramarital relations. In Kabul, seven were flogged for alleged drug and alcohol offenses, receiving up to 39 lashes and prison sentences of up to three years. [Source](#), [Source](#)

K, Z
06.08.2025

Sixteen people in Kabul were publicly flogged after being convicted by the city's narcotics court of drug and alcohol trafficking. They each received 10 to 39 lashes and prison sentences ranging from eight months to three years. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kabul
12.08.2025

The Supreme Court announced that 27 people, among them five women, were publicly flogged across Sar-e-Pul, Laghman, Paktia, and Khost provinces. The individuals faced charges such as adultery, theft, assault, and fleeing home. Punishments ranged from 25 to 39 lashes and prison terms of eight months to three years. [Source](#), [Source](#)

S, L, P, K
13.08.2025

B, G
23.08.2025

The Taliban's Supreme Court announced that two women and two men were publicly flogged in the provinces of Baghlan and Ghazni. According to the court's statement, today (Saturday, August 23), a man and a woman in Baghlan were flogged in public for "illicit relations." Both individuals received 35 lashes each and were sentenced to three months in prison by the primary court of Baghlan city. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Parwan
26.08.2025

The Taliban's Supreme Court announced that 12 people, including two women, were publicly flogged in Parwan province. According to the statement, they were convicted by the Taliban's city court on charges of "illicit relations" and drug use or sale, receiving prison sentences ranging from one to four years and between 30 to 39 lashes. The punishments were carried out on Monday (August 25) after approval by the Supreme Court. [Source](#), [Source](#)

L, G
27.08.2025

The Taliban's Supreme Court announced that nine people, including four women, were publicly flogged in the provinces of Logar and Ghor. In Logar, a man and a woman were each given 20 lashes and sentenced to one year in prison for running away from home. In Ghor, three women and four men were flogged between 30 and 39 times and received prison sentences of six months to two years for adultery and running away from home. The punishments were carried out in public following Taliban court rulings. [Source](#), [Source](#)

MYSTERIOUS KILLING

Kandahar
01.07.2025

In Kandahar's District 12, the body of a driver from Khakrez district was found in the Mianko area on 10 Saratan. He had disappeared the previous day. According to local accounts, two passengers hired his car, killed him during the journey, and stole the vehicle. Authorities have not yet commented on the case. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Helmand
07.07.2025

A young man named Samiullah, who went missing eight days earlier in Lashkargah, Helmand, has been found dead in the Arghandab River. His family discovered the body after days of searching. Samiullah was from the Qala-e-Bost area of Lashkargah. The circumstances of his death remain unclear. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kabul
09.07.2025

Reports from credible sources indicate that Ubaidullah Panjshiri, a senior officer of the former Afghan police from Panjshir, was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in Kabul's Karte-Naw area. The motive and those responsible remain unknown. Ubaidullah, who had attained the rank of colonel before the collapse of the former government, had been unemployed since then and was living a normal life in the capital. He originally came from Jangalak village in Panjshir. [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)

Jawzjan
11.07.2025

In Sheberghan, Jawzjan province, the body of Mohammad Ruyin, a local taxi driver, was discovered after he went missing on 16 Saratan from the Aqcha port area. Sources say he had been abducted before being killed. He was a resident of Mirwais Mina in Sheberghan. The identity of those responsible and the motive remain unknown, and Taliban officials have not issued any statement regarding the case. [Source](#), [Source](#)

F, H
12.07.2025

In Farah province, armed robbers killed a young man in the Tuti area of Bala Boluk district on 20 Saratan and stole his motorcycle. Meanwhile, in Helmand's Baghran district, the body of another young man was found hanging from a cliff, with indications that he had been hanged by unknown individuals the previous day. No information has been released about the victim's identity, and Taliban authorities have not provided any comment. Reports of such unexplained killings continue to surface daily from various provinces. [Source](#), [Source](#)

K, J
13.07.2025

Reports from Kunar and Jawzjan indicate that two former soldiers were killed under mysterious circumstances late last week. In Kunar's Nurgal district, a former special police officer named Nusrat was killed with a hand grenade near the district bazaar on Friday night, 20 Saratan. He had been working at a local gas station since the fall of the former government and was said to have had no personal disputes. Taliban officials have not commented. In Jawzjan, the body of another former soldier, identified as Ahmad Ruyin, was discovered on Thursday. [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)

Ghazni
16.07.2025

Authorities in Ghazni confirmed that on the night of 22 Saratan, unidentified armed men attacked a home in Tolakhil village of Qarabagh district, killing five members of one family—including four children—and injuring another child. Officials reported that several suspects have been detained, and the provincial governor, Abdul Samad Javid, visited Qarabagh on 24 Saratan to review the case. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Faryab
19.07.2025

Authorities in Ghazni confirmed that on the night of 22 Saratan, unidentified armed men attacked a home in Tolakhil village of Qarabagh district, killing five members of one family—including four children—and injuring another child. Officials reported that several suspects have been detained, and the provincial governor, Abdul Samad Javid, visited Qarabagh on 24 Saratan to review the case. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kandahar
21.07.2025

In Kandahar city's fourth district, a 24-year-old shopkeeper named Ahmadullah was shot dead in front of his home on the night of 29 Saratan. His family confirmed he was killed by armed robbers. The incident has provoked outrage among Kandahar residents on social media, where people are demanding stronger security measures. [Source](#)

Herat
25.07.2025

Khalil Ahmad Yousufi, a respected local elder in Herat, was shot dead on the evening of 1 Asad in Qafaslan village of Injil district. Gunmen on motorcycles carried out the attack. The reason for the killing remains unknown, and no official statements have been issued regarding the case. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Nangarhar
03.08.2025

In Jalalabad, Nangarhar province, a 28-year-old gynecologist named Zeba was shot dead by unidentified gunmen early Sunday morning while waiting for her transport to work. The attack occurred near the city's police headquarters. Officials confirmed the incident, saying the shooters escaped and that an investigation is underway. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Nangarhar
19.08.2025

Local sources in Nangarhar confirmed that Nik Mohammad, a former army officer who served under the previous Afghan government, was shot dead in Hisarak district. According to relatives, he was killed by unidentified armed men in the Asyab Payin area. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Nangarhar
19.08.2025

Six family members, including women and children, were killed with knives in Surkhrod district of Nangarhar. The attackers, still unidentified, targeted the victims an elderly man, two women, and three children inside their home. One family member had previously served in the former Afghan army and later migrated to Germany . [Source](#), [Source](#)

RIGHTS TO EDUCATION VIOLATION

Kandahar
28.07.2025

Reports from Kandahar confirm that 3,000 teachers have been dismissed from schools in Kandahar city as part of a restructuring initiative. The list of teachers was distributed to school principals on 6 Asad, and sources say the layoffs include women teachers as well. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Herat
30.08.2025

Sources in Herat report that Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice raided several private educational centers this morning (Saturday, August 29) and forcibly expelled female students. According to the sources, these centers offered both English and religious lessons, including Quran studies. Witnesses said Taliban officers entered one of the centers and violently removed girls from their religious studies class using whips. The officials reportedly told the school administrators that women and girls should not leave their homes. [Source](#)

RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL OPPRESSION

Herat
02.07.2025

In Herat's Jebrail and Kora Milli neighborhoods, forces reportedly tore down Muharram mourning flags and processions on the night of 10 Saratan, firing on participants and injuring two people. Several mourners were detained, despite the installations having been approved in advance. Authorities have so far remained silent about the incident. [Source](#), [Source](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS REGRESSIONS & RESTRICTING POLICIES

Kandahar
02.07.2025

In Kandahar city, agents of the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice have arrested at least 50 men over the past three days for shaving their beards. The detainees were first taken to local checkpoints and later transferred to the ministry's provincial office. Most were released after spending one night in custody. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kabul
19.07.2025

Reports from western Kabul indicate that on 28 Saratan, members of the Department of Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice detained several young women in Dasht-e-Barchi, accusing them of "improper hijab." Witnesses said more than 10 women were taken from Kocha-e-Resalat alone and transferred toward Qala-e-Naw, though their exact place of detention remains unknown. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kabul
20.07.2025

Reports from Dasht-e-Barchi in western Kabul describe a new wave of arrests targeting girls for alleged dress code violations on 29 Saratan. Patrols of morality officials and armed men detained young women along the stretch from Pul-e-Khoshk to Maghaza. A voice recording obtained by journalists indicates that two girls were arrested simply for not wearing socks. Witnesses said female officers accompanied the patrols, seizing girls and forcing them into vehicles. Residents described the atmosphere as one of extreme fear. [Source](#)

Herat
28.07.2025

Reports from Herat indicate that women seeking services at the Civil Registration Office were beaten and expelled for not wearing a burqa. One woman, recently returned from Iran, said she was applying for an electronic ID card when officers entered the office and violently forced out women who lacked a burqa, telling them they would not be served without it. Witnesses said the women were driven out with lashes and physical force. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Panjshir
04.08.2025

In Panjshir province, enforcement officers detained dozens of government employees, including 19 from the provincial education department, for allegedly having short beards. The arrests followed inspections of public offices by a committee enforcing religious codes. Most detainees were civil servants hired during the former government, and they were transferred to a detention center in Dashtak. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Laghman
10.08.2025

Local sources in Laghman confirm that ten men were arrested for playing music during wedding and engagement celebrations in Mehtarlam and Qarghayi districts. Officers reportedly entered the events during the night of Saturday, 18 Asad (August 9, 2025) and detained the participants, also seizing a sound system used for music. The arrested individuals remain in detention, and no official statement has been issued regarding their fate or charges. [Source](#)

Herat
17.08.2025

Local sources in Herat reported that officers from the Department for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice raided a private gathering and arrested local singer Jawad Naseri on the night of August 13, 2025. The officers entered the venue armed and carrying whips while Naseri was performing and took him away by force. He remains in custody. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Takhar
18.08.2025

Authorities in Takhar announced that 13 individuals were arrested in Bangi district for “playing music.” The provincial police confirmed the detentions on Monday (August 18) but did not provide further details about the individuals or their fate. In a separate incident, one person was arrested in Darqad district for allegedly possessing an illegal weapon. [Source](#), [Source](#)

31.08.2025

The Taliban-controlled National Statistics and Information Authority has declared that including women’s photos on national ID cards is now optional, a move reportedly ordered by the Taliban’s leader and based on a fatwa from the group’s religious council. Women’s rights activists have condemned the decision as a systematic attempt to erase women’s identity. Members of the Afghan Women’s Justice Movement and the Women’s Political Participation Network argue that this policy represents continued gender-based discrimination and an effort to erase women from public life in Afghanistan. [Source](#), [Source](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS & REPORTS

03.07.2025

The World Food Programme reports that two-thirds of female-headed households in Afghanistan cannot afford basic food. WFP says restrictions on women's work have deepened their vulnerability, and although 10 million women and children received life-saving food aid last year, urgent needs persist. The UN warns that half the Afghan population now requires humanitarian support amid declining international aid. [Source](#)

27.07.2025

Human Rights Watch has condemned the recent wave of arrests of women and girls in Kabul for alleged hijab violations, calling it physical and psychological violence aimed at erasing women's independence and forcing obedience. The report highlights that since July 16, dozens of women have been detained, a move HRW says is part of a broader assault on women's autonomy that fosters fear across the country. The group argues that enforcing strict dress codes is part of a systematic effort to reinforce patriarchy and remove women from public life, a practice women's rights advocates and UN experts describe as "gender apartheid." [Source](#)

31.07.2025

In its mid-year 2025 report, the UN's humanitarian coordination office (OCHA) stated that most barriers to humanitarian aid in Afghanistan stem from interference in aid delivery, including bans on female staff, bureaucratic delays, and control over who receives assistance. From January to June 2025, aid partners documented 489 access incidents, 73% of which were linked to interference. Despite a 41% overall decrease from late 2024, 245 programs were suspended, especially in central, southern, and western Afghanistan. OCHA also reported the arrest of 100 humanitarian workers, and noted that gender restrictions continue to severely affect operations. Only 2% of Afghan regions enjoy high access to aid, while 98% face medium to low access. [Source](#)

31.07.2025

The UN Security Council's Monitoring Team reports that Afghanistan remains a hub for multiple terrorist groups under a lenient environment. ISKP is identified as the most dangerous group, with about 2,000 fighters recruiting locally and internationally, including from Central Asia. It operates training centers for children and aims to expand operations globally. While al-Qaeda has been weakened, it retains a limited presence in six Afghan provinces, maintaining training camps alongside TTP militants. Its leadership, under Saif al-Adl, is attempting to reactivate international networks. TTP remains active with about 6,000 fighters, benefiting from logistical support and conducting deadly attacks. Internal divisions exist within Taliban leadership regarding relations with TTP. The report concludes that Afghanistan continues to pose a significant security threat beyond its borders, with terrorist groups exploiting governance gaps and weak oversight. [Source](#)

10.08.2025

A new UNAMA Human Rights report (August 10, 2025) reveals a sharp escalation in restrictions on Afghan women's movement and public presence. The report states that authorities have enforced the mandatory burqa, with women in Herat and Uruzgan detained or denied access to markets and transport for not wearing it. Some were held until relatives brought them burqas. The report also notes tightened enforcement of the male guardian (mahram) rule, with instructions to public and private service providers not to assist

unaccompanied women. Furthermore, UNAMA confirms that women's access to parks and recreation areas remains banned, citing recent incidents in Ghor and Herat where families were forced to leave leisure areas or warned not to visit with women. [Source](#)

ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE

Peter Reynolds, 80, and his wife Barbie, 76, a British couple who have lived in Afghanistan for nearly two decades, were arrested in Bamyan in February and have now spent over five months in detention without charge. Their children, based in the U.S. and U.K., warn their parents' health is deteriorating — Peter may have suffered a silent heart attack or stroke, while Barbie struggles with severe anemia. The family has appealed twice for their release and say the couple, who just marked their 55th wedding anniversary, risk dying in custody if not freed. Reports confirm they previously held Afghan passports and IDs. The UN is expected to issue a statement demanding their immediate release. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Shamayel Tawanah Naseri, head of the Afghan Women's Movement for Justice and Freedom, said her brother, Mohammad Naseri, was arrested by Taliban intelligence in Kabul's Dasht-e-Barchi area on August 9. The family has not received any information about his location or condition. Earlier, she had reported his disappearance on Facebook and has called on national and international bodies to help find him. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Recommendations

To address the escalating human rights violations and the ongoing humanitarian crisis, it is essential to strengthen monitoring, protection, and support mechanisms across Afghanistan:

Expand monitoring and reporting: Increase coverage of human rights abuses, including remote and hard-to-reach areas, to ensure comprehensive and timely documentation. Incorporate local partners, civil society, and international agencies.

Strengthen documentation and verification: Maintain rigorous standards for evidence collection to support advocacy, legal action, and international accountability efforts.

Enhance protection for vulnerable groups: Implement robust safety protocols for women, children, journalists, human rights defenders, and former officials at risk of targeted violence or arbitrary detention.

Support mental health and psychosocial care: Partner with NGOs and healthcare professionals to provide counseling, crisis intervention, and community-based mental health programs for those affected by violence, domestic abuse, and social distress.

Advocate for legal and policy reforms: Engage with international bodies to pressure authorities to halt mass punishments, arbitrary arrests, and discriminatory policies, while promoting adherence to international human rights standards.

21.07.2025

Kabul
17.08.2025

Facilitate humanitarian access: Ensure that aid organizations, particularly female staff, can deliver life-saving assistance without interference, addressing food insecurity, health, and education needs.

Promote media freedom and civic space: Support independent media, ensure journalist protection, and advocate for unrestricted access to information, combating censorship and intimidation

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We remain committed to transparency, accuracy, and partnership as we continue to monitor, document, and advocate for meaningful change in the protection of human rights.

