

HUMAN RIGHTS BULLETIN – AFGHANISTAN

May – June 2025

The months of May and June 2025 show a continued deterioration of the human rights environment in Afghanistan, marked by intensified violence, expanding repression, and deepening social and economic hardship. The incidents documented during this period reflect a widening pattern of abuses affecting civilians, former military personnel, journalists, women, children, and community leaders across multiple provinces.

Extrajudicial killings and mysterious deaths remained a significant concern, with former security officials, civil society members, and community elders increasingly targeted. Arbitrary arrests and inhumane treatment continued, particularly in regions where the Taliban intensified operations against suspected opposition figures. Public punishments including widespread floggings expanded across numerous provinces, reflecting the Taliban’s increasing reliance on corporal penalties as a tool of social control.

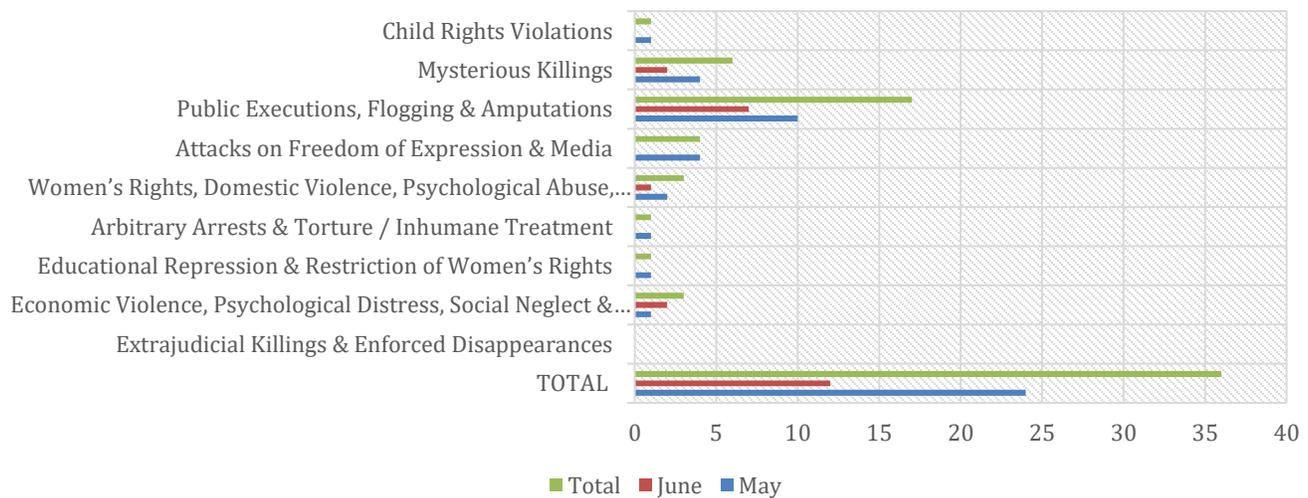
This period also saw an alarming rise in suicide cases linked to economic distress, unemployment, and domestic violence, highlighting a growing mental health crisis. Restrictions on women’s rights further deepened, with reports of near-total exclusion from employment and intensified constraints on public participation. Media repression escalated as journalists faced arrests, imprisonment, and expanding censorship measures, including new bans on broadcasting images.

Children continued to face severe rights violations, including lack of access to education and economic pressures forcing them out of school. Overall, the documented incidents paint a grave picture of systemic abuses, widespread insecurity, and deteriorating living conditions that demand urgent national and international attention.

| Category | Details | Examples / Locations | Key Notes |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS & ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES | Extrajudicial killings of civilians and former security personnel; killings by unknown armed men; enforced disappearances; civilian casualties from violent attacks | UNAMA documentation: killings and arbitrary arrests nationwide / Faryab (Mohammad Shah Baik – shot dead), / Samangan (Akbar Niazi – abducted and killed) / Nuristan (Yahya – shot dead) / Helmand (Yasin Bahar – killed) / Panjshir (man stabbed) / Daikundi (Wahid & Ali Mohammad – killed in home) | Victims often linked to former government or civil society; no investigations; perpetrators unidentified; climate of fear deepening |
| ECONOMIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS, SOCIAL NEGLECT & SUICIDE | Suicides directly connected to poverty, unemployment, and psychological distress; increasing trend among young men. | Kandahar, Arghistan (Mohammad Sarwar – hanged) / Kandahar City (Fida Mohammad – hanged) / Kandahar City/Shorandam (Abdullah – hanged) | No official response; shows strong link between Taliban economic collapse and rising suicide rates |
| EDUCATIONAL REPRESSION & RESTRICTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS | Severe restrictions on women's participation in education and employment; harassment and arrests of working women | National (Amnesty International workforce report) / National (Human Rights Watch documentation) | Women workforce reduced to 5%; mahram rules block employment; systematic gender apartheid continues |

| | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE, AND INHUMANE TREATMENT | Arrests without charge; detention of civilians and former soldiers; long-term custody without explanation | Panjshir (Anaba district – 10 arrested including ex-soldiers) | Triggered by Taliban fear of NRF presence; families not informed; detainees at risk of torture |
| DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCES | Violence against women leading to death, suicide, or honor killings; no legal protection | Nangarhar (Zainab – suicide due to domestic violence) / Nangarhar (woman killed after release from prison) / Kandahar (woman beheaded by husband) | Patterns show increasing femicide and domestic violence under Taliban impunity |
| ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & MEDIA | Arrests of journalists; censorship; punishment for peaceful cultural expression; bans on images | Nangarhar (wedding music arrests) / Takhar (3 journalists arrested) / Ghazni (Radio Khushhal editor sentenced) / 19 provinces (media imagery ban including Laghman) | Taliban expanding morality network to silence media and cultural expression |
| PUBLIC EXECUTIONS, FLOGGING, AND AMPUTATIONS | Mass wave of public flogging for adultery, drug offenses, theft, “running away,” sexual offenses | Kunduz & Paktia (public floggings) / Sar-e Pul & Paktika (gambling, counterfeit) / Bamyan (adultery) / Parwan, Ghazni, Kapisa (multiple flogging cases) / Daikundi, Kabul, Khost, Logar (large flogging wave) / Laghman & Badakhshan (running away, alcohol) / Kabul & Samangan (adultery, drug offenses) | This period shows one of the highest recorded uses of corporal punishment under Taliban |
| MYSTERIOUS KILLING | Unexplained killings; victims abducted or attacked by unknown gunmen; no investigation | Faryab (former officer) / Samangan (tribal elder) / Nuristan (former policeman) / Helmand (civil activist) / Panjshir (stabbing) / Daikundi (farmers killed) | Pattern suggests targeted intimidation, but motives remain uninvestigated |
| CHILD RIGHTS VIOLATIONS | Severe deprivation of right to education and protection; structural neglect | Nationwide UNICEF report (4 million children out of school) | Lack of school infrastructure and female teachers deepens crisis |

Summary Analysis of Human Rights Violations May - June 2025



The chart shows that public floggings and corporal punishment remain the most frequent human rights violation in both months, accounting for the majority of cases. Economic distress continues to push vulnerable individuals toward suicide, reflecting the deep collapse of livelihoods under Taliban rule.

Violence against women remains persistent, with cases of domestic killing and suicide indicating the absence of legal protection and social support. Attacks on media and freedom of expression occurred only in May but were significant, indicating increasing enforcement of morality laws on journalists and cultural expression.

Mysterious killings continue in both months, with victims often connected to former security forces or civil society, showing a pattern of targeted intimidation without accountability. Child rights violations remain structural and nationwide, representing a long-term crisis that is worsening due to education bans and poverty.

Overall Trend Across Six Months

Across the half-year:

- Violations rise every month with no evidence of stabilization.
- Violence against women and children remains systemic and increasing.
- Public punishment becomes routine and widespread.
- Suicide and psychological crises reflect deep social collapse.
- Arbitrary arrest and torture represent normalized repression.
- Media suppression destroys transparency and shields perpetrators.
- Mysterious killings create pervasive fear and insecurity.

The six-month trajectory shows not merely deterioration but collapse of rule of law, social welfare, and human rights protections. The pattern indicates:

- increasing authoritarian control
- structural oppression
- growing social despair
- total absence of accountability
- widening humanitarian impact

Without immediate international monitoring, advocacy, and intervention, these conditions will continue to escalate, producing irreversible harm to civilians, especially women and children.

Incident Reports

The incidents recorded during May and June 2025 demonstrate that Afghanistan's human rights situation continues to deteriorate, with violations becoming more frequent, more public, and more severe. The pattern of violence shows both targeted killings and unexplained murders, signaling deep insecurity, growing impunity, and the absence of any effective investigative or accountability mechanisms.

The suicide crisis remains a significant and rising concern, with multiple cases linked to extreme poverty, unemployment, and social neglect. These incidents reflect increasing psychological distress and underline the collapse of basic social and economic support systems in communities across the country.

Violence against women escalated in both months, including domestic killings, gender-based violence, and suicides among young women. These violations highlight the continued absence of legal protection, social services, and enforcement mechanisms for women facing abuse.

Public punishments and corporal penalties reached unprecedented levels, with dozens of individuals subjected to flogging across multiple provinces. This trend demonstrates the transformation of punitive practices into a core method of social control and repression, and has created widespread fear within communities.

Restrictions on freedom of expression and attacks on media became more visible, with arrests of journalists, destruction of cultural property, and new morality enforcement measures. These actions further shrink the already limited space for independent reporting and public awareness.

Finally, violations affecting children and their access to basic rights continue to grow, driven by structural barriers in education, economic collapse, and exposure to violence.

Overall, the May–June incidents portray a human rights and humanitarian environment in rapid decline, characterized by escalating violence, deepening repression, severe social distress, and pervasive insecurity. Without urgent domestic and international attention, the trajectory of harm is likely to continue upward, placing vulnerable populations at ever greater risk.

Incident Records

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS & ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) has documented serious human rights and security incidents in the first quarter of 2025. Between January 1 and March 31, at least six extrajudicial killings and 23 arbitrary arrests of former Afghan military personnel were recorded. Additionally, five cases of torture or ill-treatment of former officials were documented, with several of the victims accused of ties to the National Resistance Front (NRF). UNAMA also reported on civilian casualties caused by various violent incidents:

Explosions and ISIS-K Attacks: These included the killing of 4 civilians and 15 Taliban members outside Kabul Bank in Kunduz, and an attack on the Taliban Ministry of Urban Development that left 3 men dead and 10 wounded. ISIS-K claimed responsibility.

Landmine Explosions: 42 civilians were killed or injured by leftover explosives—victims included 4 girls, 30 boys, and 8 men.

Pakistani Military Strikes: Cross-border fire and airstrikes led to civilian casualties. On February 1, a Pakistani airstrike on a mosque in Paktika killed 6 civilians, including 2 polio vaccinators. On March 28, another airstrike in Paktika killed 7 civilians, including children. Other incidents included the injury of three journalists from mortar fire in Torkham and injuries to civilians in Nangarhar from border shootings.

Hand Grenade Attacks: Two incidents—in Mazar-i-Sharif (January 15) and Pul-e-Khumri (January 18)—resulted in deaths and dozens of injuries. The second attack was claimed by the Afghanistan Freedom Front. [Source](#), [Source](#)

01.05.2025

ECONOMIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS, SOCIAL NEGLECT, AND SUICIDE

In Kandahar's Arghistan district, a 24-year-old farmer named Mohammad Sarwar hanged himself from a tree on 15 Jawza. Sources say he ended his life because of economic difficulties. Authorities have not issued a statement regarding the case. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kandahar
06.06.2025

A 24-year-old man named Fida Mohammad hanged himself in Kandahar city on 7 Saratan. Local accounts say his suicide was driven by economic hardship and unemployment. Before the act, he posted a photo on Facebook asking friends for forgiveness. Authorities have not issued a statement about the incident. [Source](#)

Kandahar
28.06.2025

In Kandahar city's Shorandam area, a 33-year-old man named Abdullah committed suicide on 9 Saratan, reportedly due to financial hardship. He worked in a raisin-processing company. Abdullah lived in the Pul-Siman area and left behind four children. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kandahar
30.06.2025

EDUCATIONAL REPRESSION AND RESTRICTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS

On the occasion of International Workers' Day, Amnesty International reported that women's participation in Afghanistan's workforce has dropped to just 5% due to Taliban restrictions, down from around 19% before the Taliban's return to power. The report states that Afghan women now face almost impossible access to formal employment, and these restrictions have pushed more families into severe poverty. Women are banned from working in most government and NGO positions, and are only allowed to work in limited sectors such as education, health, and security—and even then, often under the condition of being accompanied by a male guardian (mahram). Human Rights Watch added that Taliban policies have shut down most jobs for women outside the home, and that women working in public are harassed or arrested by the Taliban's morality police. Even in the few sectors where work is allowed, restrictive conditions—like the requirement for a male escort and prohibitions against women's voices being heard in public—have blocked many women, particularly single women, from employment. [Source](#), [Source](#)

01.05.2025

ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE, AND INHUMANE TREATMENT

In Anaba district of Panjshir, at least ten people, including three former soldiers, were arrested on 10 Jawza in Zaman Kor village. Witnesses said they were detained by the Special Brigade and remain in custody without charges or explanation to their families. The arrests came after photos circulated showing a National Resistance Front commander in the area, prompting tighter restrictions. Sources stressed that most of those detained were civilians, with some having recently returned from Iran. No official statement has been issued on the arrests. [Source](#)

Panjsher
03.06.2025

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

A 19-year-old girl named Zainab reportedly died by suicide in the Kama district of Nangarhar province on Monday, May 12, 2025 (22 Sawr) by ingesting poison. According to a local source, the cause of her suicide was domestic violence. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Nangarhar
12.05.2025

In Nangarhar's Spin Ghar district, a woman who had recently completed a one-year prison sentence after being convicted of "illicit relations" was killed by her husband. She had been released just before Eid al-Adha, but on the second night of Eid (18 Jawza), her husband

Nangarhar
10.06.2025

hanged her in their bedroom. The victim, a mother of three, was previously subjected to flogging and imprisonment. Authorities have not made any statements regarding the case. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kandahar
11.06.2025

In Kandahar city's Yakh Kariz area, a 25-year-old woman was brutally killed by her husband, who allegedly beheaded her with a knife. The victim leaves behind three children, including a newborn. Her husband, identified as Fazel Mohammad and reported to be a drug addict, has been arrested by police in connection with the murder. [Source](#), [Source](#)

ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & MEDIA

Nangarhar
06.05.2025

In Surkh Rod district of Nangarhar, Taliban's Vice and Virtue officials detained seven people, including the groom, for playing music at a wedding on May 5, 2025. They also destroyed the music equipment. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Takhar
08.05.2025

The Afghanistan Journalists Center has confirmed that three journalists — Nosratullah Ebrahimi (Ariana News), Munir Hadaf, and Asadullah Timur (freelancers) — have been arrested by the Taliban in Takhar province. They were detained by the Taliban's criminal investigations unit. Munir and Asadullah were arrested on the night of May 5, 2025 (15 Sawr), and Nosratullah was arrested the next morning. The Center has called for their immediate release. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Ghazni
29.05.2025

A Taliban court in Ghazni provincial primary court has sentenced Sulaiman Rahil, editor-in-chief of Radio Khushhal, to three months in prison for allegedly spreading "propaganda against the Emirate." His arrest by Taliban intelligence occurred on May 5, following Facebook posts highlighting social issues like poverty. The International Federation of Journalists, citing the Afghanistan Journalists Center, condemned the verdict as part of a broader crackdown on independent media. [Source](#), [Source](#)

04.06.2025

The Afghanistan Journalists Center reported that media outlets in 19 provinces are now banned from broadcasting images of living beings, with the restriction recently introduced in Laghman. The local head of the Department of Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice ordered outlets, including both state and private stations, to comply. AFJC condemned the measure as a violation of Afghanistan's Mass Media Law and freedom of expression, urging authorities to reconsider the ban. [Source](#), [Source](#)

PUBLIC EXECUTIONS, FLOGGING, AND AMPUTATIONS

K, P
04.05.2025

According to a statement issued on Sunday, May 4, 2025 (14 Sawr), a woman and a man were publicly flogged in Qala-e-Zal district of Kunduz for "illicit relations." Each received 30–33 lashes and was sentenced to one year in prison. In a separate announcement, the court stated

that two men in Zurmat district of Paktia were publicly flogged the previous day for alleged same-sex relations (lavat). [Source](#), [Source](#)

On May 4, 2025, the Taliban publicly flogged five individuals in Sar-e-Pul and Paktika provinces. According to official announcements from the Taliban's Supreme Court, four people in Gosfandi district of Sar-e-Pul were each given 25 lashes and sentenced to 1.5 years in prison for alleged gambling. In a separate case, one person in Argun district of Paktika was given 16 lashes and sentenced to 16 months in prison for allegedly using counterfeit money. These punishments were carried out in public and reflect the Taliban's ongoing enforcement of strict Sharia-based corporal penalties. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Sar e Pol
06.05.2025

On May 14, 2025, the Taliban's Supreme Court announced that four individuals in Bamyan province were publicly flogged for adultery and other "illicit relations." One person received 39 lashes and three others 35 lashes. Sentences included prison terms ranging from two months to one year. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Bamyan
14.05.2025

The Taliban's Supreme Court announced that 13 people, including 3 women, were publicly flogged in Parwan, Ghazni, and Kapisa provinces on May 14, 2025. In Bagram, Parwan, 5 people (1 woman) were each sentenced to 39 lashes and 2–3 years in prison for adultery. In Waghaz, Ghazni, 2 men were publicly flogged with 30 lashes each for same-sex relations (lavat); one received 1 year and the other 3 months in prison. In Hesa Awal and Hesa Duwum districts of Kapisa, 6 people (including 2 women) were flogged for running away from home, illicit relations, same-sex acts, and sexual assault. Four received 39 lashes, and two were given 22 lashes, along with 6 months to 1 year imprisonment. [Source](#), [Source](#)

P, G, K
14.05.2025

On May 21, 2025 (31 Sawr 1404), the Taliban's Supreme Court ordered public floggings of 23 individuals—4 women and 19 men—in Daikundi, Kabul, Khost, and Logar provinces. In Daikundi, a man and a woman were each given 39 lashes and one year in prison for adultery, marking the first public flogging there since the Taliban's return. In Kabul, twelve people were sentenced to 10–39 lashes and 6–8 months in prison for drug offenses. In Khost, six individuals, including two women, were publicly flogged for adultery and sodomy. [Source](#), [Source](#)

D, K, K, L
21.05.2025

On May 26, 2025 (5 Jowza), the Taliban's Supreme Court announced the public flogging of nine individuals in Sar-e-Pul, Ghazni, and Laghman provinces. In Sar-e-Pul's Sayyad district, five people were each given 15 lashes and sentenced to two months and twenty days in prison for gambling. In Ghazni's Muqur and Waghaz districts, two individuals were flogged 39 times; one was sentenced to six months in prison for illicit relations, and the other to five years for theft. These punishments were carried out publicly in accordance with Taliban court rulings. [Source](#)

S, G, L
26.05.2025

The Taliban Supreme Court announced the public flogging of three individuals—two men and one woman—in Laghman and Badakhshan provinces. According to the court's statement, a man and a woman were flogged today (Monday, 12 Jawza) in Laghman for "running away from home" and "helping someone flee," each receiving 30 lashes and a six-month prison sentence. Additionally, a man in Badakhshan was flogged with 39 lashes for allegedly selling alcohol, as ruled by the province's appellate court. [Source](#), [Source](#)

L, B
02.06.2025

K, P, K, P
05.06.2025

The Supreme Court announced that 14 people, including one woman, were publicly flogged on 15 Jawza in Kabul, Parwan, Khost, and Paktika. Punishments ranged from 10 to 39 lashes alongside prison sentences of several months to four years. The cases involved accusations of drug trafficking, theft, and “running away from home.” [Source](#), [Source](#)

K, S
17.06.2025

The Supreme Court announced that nine people—including one woman—were publicly flogged on 26 Jawza in Kabul and Samangan. Seven individuals in Kabul faced between 10 and 39 lashes and prison sentences of up to two years for alleged drug and alcohol offenses. In Samangan’s Hazrat Sultan district, a man and a woman were flogged with 39 lashes each after being accused of adultery and “running away from home.” [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kabul
21.06.2025

The Supreme Court stated that 25 people were publicly flogged in Kabul on 29 Jawza after being convicted of trafficking and selling alcohol, narcotic tablets, hashish, and crystal meth. Each received 10–39 lashes in public and prison sentences ranging from seven months to two and a half years. [Source](#), [Source](#)

MYSTERIOUS KILLING

Faryab
08.05.2025

In Khwaja Sabzposh district of Faryab province, a former Afghan military officer named Mohammad Shah Baik was shot dead by unknown gunmen on the night of May 7, 2025 while returning from a gathering. He had previously served in the police and local forces under the former government and was recently running a flour shop in the district market. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Samangan
11.05.2025

Akbar Niazi, a respected tribal elder from Khuram Sarbagh district in Samangan province, was found dead a day after being abducted. According to his family, he disappeared on Thursday, May 9, 2025 (20 Sawr), after leaving home following a phone call. His body was discovered the next day. He was reportedly abducted from the third district of Aybak, the provincial capital. [Source](#)

Nuristan
31.05.2025

A former local policeman named Yahya was shot and killed on Friday, May 30, 2025 (9 Jowza), in Wama district, Nuristan province. [Source](#)

Helmand
12.06.2025

In Lashkargah, Helmand, 32-year-old civil activist Yasin Bahar was killed on 21 Jawza. While some accounts attribute the killing to armed robbers, others claim he was murdered by unidentified individuals inside his uncle’s house. Bahar was known for his civil society engagement under the former Afghan government. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Panjsher
25.06.2025

In Rokha district of Panjshir, a man from Nuristan was fatally stabbed and another person wounded on 3 Saratan. [Source](#)

Daikundi
26.06.2025

In Daikundi’s Kiti district, two farmers, Wahid and Ali Mohammad, originally from Pato district, were killed on 26 Jawza by unidentified armed men. The attackers reportedly entered their home, posed as local officials, and ordered them to come along. The men were

then beaten and fatally shot in the head. Both had been living in Royan village for the past four years, working in agriculture. [Source](#), [Source](#)

CHILD RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

02.06.2025

According to UNICEF, an estimated four million children in Afghanistan are deprived of education. The main reasons include the lack of proper school buildings, clean water and sanitation, and a shortage of qualified teachers, especially women. Economic hardship is also a major factor, forcing many children to drop out and work to support their families. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Recommendations

To address the escalating human rights violations observed in May and June, a coordinated and multi-layered response is essential. The following recommendations aim to support protection, documentation, and the strengthening of humanitarian and rights-based interventions:

Strengthen Monitoring & Documentation: Expand monitoring networks, including community observers, civil society partners, and independent researchers, to ensure timely and comprehensive documentation of violations across all provinces. Increased verification and evidence collection will improve advocacy and support potential legal mechanisms.

Enhance Protection for At-Risk Groups: Develop targeted protection protocols for former security personnel, journalists, women, activists, and minorities who face elevated risk of violence, arbitrary detention, and intimidation.

Support Mental Health & Social Assistance Programs: Given the rising suicide trends and psychological distress, integrate psychosocial support into humanitarian assistance. Support local counselors, community health workers, and NGOs to deliver culturally appropriate mental health services.

Advocate for Women's and Children's Rights: Emergency advocacy is required to halt domestic violence, forced marriage, and restrictions on education and employment. Women and children must be prioritized in both humanitarian programming and protection programming.

Challenge Restrictions on Media & Expression: International partners should continue to publicly condemn media repression and support independent journalists through safety training, legal assistance, and secure communication tools.

Increase International Coordination & Pressure: Regular briefings, transparent data sharing, and coordinated diplomatic pressure are necessary to deter further violations and push for compliance with basic human rights standards.

Strengthen Community-Based Support Systems: Poverty, social neglect, and collapse of services are key drivers of violence and suicide. Community food support, livelihoods programming, and social safety initiatives can mitigate long-term harm.

Acknowledgments

We extend our sincere gratitude to all individuals and organizations whose dedication made this report possible. Our appreciation goes especially to the field monitors, community reporters, and local partners who risk their safety to collect and verify information in extremely difficult conditions.

We also acknowledge the support of international human rights bodies, humanitarian partners, and mental health practitioners, whose expertise and collaboration strengthen our capacity to document violations and support affected communities.

Their commitment to truth, transparency, and human dignity remains vital as Afghanistan faces one of the most severe human rights crises of the present era. We reaffirm our dedication to documenting violations, amplifying the voices of victims, and advocating for meaningful change.

