

HUMAN RIGHTS BULLETIN – AFGHANISTAN

September – October 2025

The incidents documented during September and October reveal a continued and deepening deterioration of Afghanistan’s human rights situation, marked by lethal violence, institutionalized repression, and the near-total erosion of civic and social protections. These two months demonstrate not only the persistence of earlier patterns of abuse but also their expansion in scale, coordination, and geographic reach.

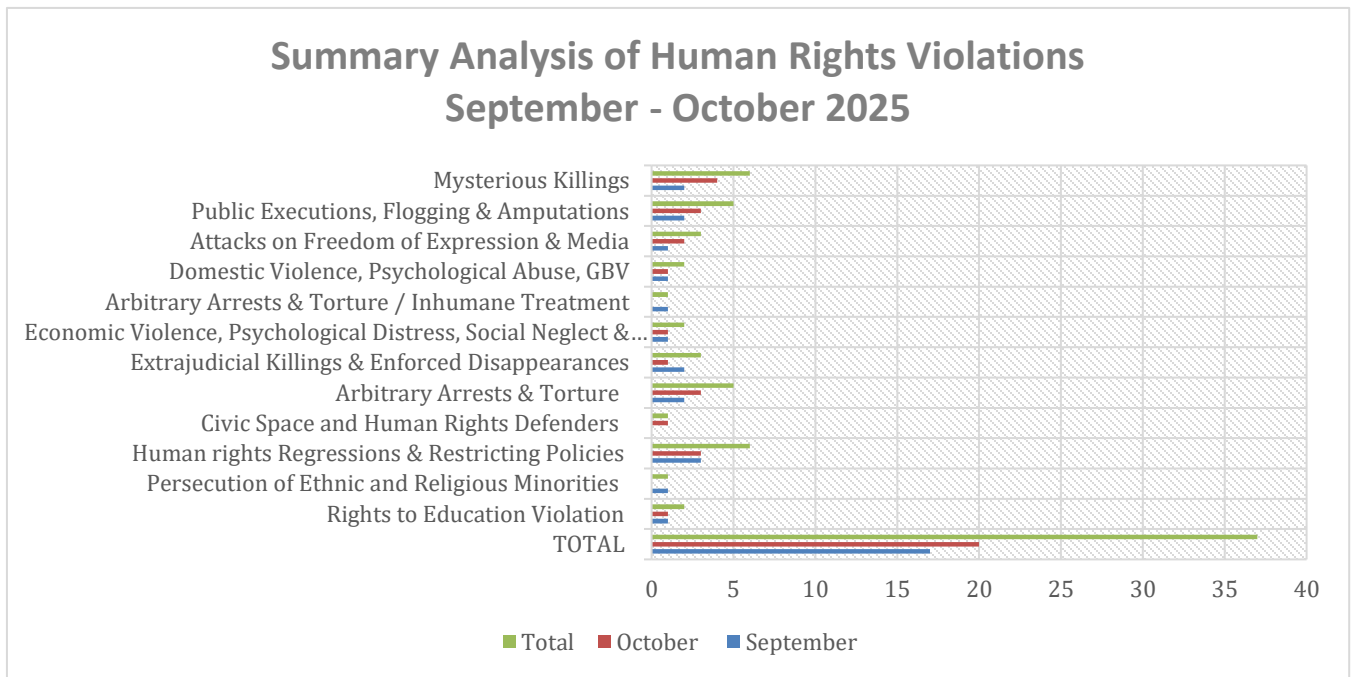
Extrajudicial killings, mysterious deaths, and targeted violence against former security personnel, activists, and civilians underscore an ongoing climate of fear and impunity. Economic collapse and social neglect continue to drive severe psychological distress, with suicide and self-harm emerging as tragic indicators of a society under extreme pressure. Women and girls remain disproportionately affected, facing forced marriage, domestic abuse, exclusion from education, healthcare, and employment, and increasingly rigid moral policing.

At the same time, freedom of expression has been further dismantled through sweeping media shutdowns, internet blackouts, and censorship measures that have effectively isolated the country from independent reporting and external scrutiny. Arbitrary arrests, torture, and enforced disappearances particularly targeting former officials, bloggers, activists, and minority communities reflect the systematic criminalization of dissent and civic engagement.

Together, the September–October incidents illustrate a human rights environment defined by structural repression, expanding authoritarian control, and growing humanitarian risk, with vulnerable populations bearing the heaviest burden.

Category	Details	Examples / Locations	Key Notes
EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS & ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES	Civilians and refugees killed by gunfire or unidentified attackers	Panjshir (Din Mohammad), Herat (Haji Rustam Baloch)	Victims accused or suspected of opposition ties; no official investigations
ECONOMIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS, SOCIAL NEGLECT & SUICIDE	Suicide linked to economic hardship and mental health crisis	Samangan (Nematullah Rahimi)	Reflects unemployment, poverty, and lack of mental health support
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCES	Forced marriage leading to suicide	Zabul (21-year-old woman)	Women face coercion and no protection mechanisms
ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & MEDIA	Media shutdowns, censorship, internet blackouts, social media bans	Balkh, Herat, Helmand, Kabul, nationwide	Severe restrictions on images, broadcasts, and online platforms
PUBLIC EXECUTIONS, FLOGGING, AND AMPUTATIONS	Public corporal punishment for alleged moral crimes and drug offenses	Takhar, Kabul, Laghman, Balkh, Khost, Farah, Kapisa	Institutionalized corporal punishment under judicial orders

MYSTERIOUS KILLING	Unidentified or suspicious killings with signs of torture	Kabul (Walid Naeemi), Samangan (woman), Kandahar (Dawood Shah), Herat (Gul Agha Jalali), Farah (3 girls)	No accountability; victims include women and former security staff
RIGHTS TO EDUCATION VIOLATION	Closure of women's literacy schools and dismissal of teachers	Bamyan	Adult women deprived of education access
PERSECUTION OF ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES	Religious coercion and discrimination against Ismaili families	Badakhshan (Zebak)	Aid and schooling tied to religious conformity
HUMAN RIGHTS REGRESSIONS & RESTRICTING POLICIES	Internet restrictions, bans on women's visibility, healthcare access limits	Nangarhar, Balkh, Kandahar, Helmand, Herat, Bamyan	Policies institutionalize gender apartheid and isolation
ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE	Detention and torture of former officials, bloggers, elders	Kabul, Herat, Faryab, Panjshir, Daikundi	Amnesty claims contradicted by arrests and abuse
CIVIC SPACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS	Arrest of civil society activist	Parwan (Mojtaba Mohammadi)	Targeting of protest organizers and rights advocates



The data for September and October 2025 highlights a continued and deepening deterioration of human rights in Afghanistan. Across these two months, a total of 37 documented incidents were recorded, encompassing killings, arbitrary arrests, torture, public punishments, and targeted repression of vulnerable groups. Public floggings and executions remain a central tool of control, with at least 56 individuals subjected to corporal punishment, underscoring the Taliban's ongoing reliance on fear and punitive measures to enforce societal norms.

Compared with the preceding months January–August, September–October shows both continuity and escalation in several areas. Extrajudicial killings and mysterious deaths remain frequent, demonstrating the persistent absence of accountability. Suicides and domestic violence cases continue to reflect extreme economic hardship, social neglect, and psychological distress. Restrictions on freedom of expression, including internet blackouts, social media bans, and media closures, have expanded, further curtailing independent reporting and civic space.

The period also shows an intensification of targeted repression against women, human rights defenders, and ethnic or religious minorities. Arbitrary arrests, torture, and forced compliance with restrictive cultural and educational policies have become more systematic, highlighting a deliberate effort to control civil society and suppress dissent. When combined with data from earlier months, the overall trend for 2025 points to a cumulative escalation of abuses, with public punishments, gender-based oppression, and attacks on freedoms forming the most visible and alarming patterns.

Incident Reports

The human rights situation in Afghanistan during September and October 2025 remained extremely grave, with widespread violations impacting civilians, women, children, journalists, and former government personnel. The period was marked by systematic violence, escalating repression, and persistent social neglect.

Extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances continued, including targeted killings of former security personnel, educators, and activists. Civilians were frequently shot, abducted, or executed under vague accusations of anti-Taliban activity, reflecting the ongoing lack of accountability and the impunity of perpetrators.

Economic hardship, psychological distress, and social pressures contributed to multiple suicides, particularly among young adults. These cases underscore the deepening mental health crisis and the absence of financial or social support for vulnerable populations.

Gender-based violence and domestic abuse remained widespread. Women continued to face forced marriages, domestic violence, and lethal attacks, while social and legal protections remained nonexistent. Taliban-imposed restrictions on movement, dress, and access to services further eroded women’s autonomy and safety.

Freedom of expression and media rights were increasingly restricted. Journalists and media workers faced arrests, equipment confiscation, and forced compliance with Taliban bans, including prohibitions on broadcasting images of living beings. Nationwide internet shutdowns and social media restrictions intensified, creating a communications blackout and further limiting public access to information.

Public punishments, including mass floggings and executions, were used extensively to enforce social and moral codes. At least 56 individuals were publicly flogged or executed

during this period across multiple provinces, demonstrating the Taliban's continued reliance on corporal punishment to maintain control and instill fear.

Mysterious killings, including the deaths of former military personnel and civilians under unclear circumstances, persisted, reflecting both targeted violence and generalized insecurity. Perpetrators remain largely unaccountable, contributing to a climate of fear.

Education and cultural rights were further curtailed. Female literacy programs were shut down, teachers dismissed, and universities imposed strict dress and behavioral codes. Ethnic and religious minorities faced increasing coercion, fines, and discrimination, especially in northern provinces such as Badakhshan.

Arbitrary arrests and torture continued to target former officials, activists, civil society actors, and ordinary civilians. Detained individuals often endured inhumane treatment, while human rights defenders were specifically targeted for activism, protests, or criticism of Taliban policies.

Overall, September–October 2025 reflects a continuation and intensification of abuses observed earlier in 2025. The combination of extrajudicial killings, public punishments, gender-based violence, media suppression, and targeted repression against vulnerable groups underscores a worsening human rights crisis and highlights the urgent need for international attention, intervention, and protection measures

Incident Records

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS & ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

In Panjshir's Abshar district, a local man named Din Mohammad was shot dead by Taliban fighters while hunting. Taliban forces reportedly mistook him for an opponent when they saw him with a weapon. Officials have not commented, but such incidents have been frequent in Panjshir, where civilians are often accused of ties to anti-Taliban groups. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Haji Rustam Baloch, an Iranian Sunni Baloch activist who had sought refuge in Herat to escape ethnic and religious persecution, was fatally attacked by unidentified gunmen on Herat's Customs Road. He was critically wounded on October 8 and died the following night in hospital. His killing has sparked alarm among Afghan-based Iranian Baloch refugees over the growing insecurity and possible cross-border targeting of political dissidents. [Source](#), [Source](#)

ECONOMIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTRESS, SOCIAL NEGLECT, AND SUICIDE

Panjsher
28.09.2025

Herat
10.10.2025

Samangan
22.10.2025

A 25-year-old man named Nematullah Rahimi was found dead by hanging in a garden in Aybak, Samangan province. The Taliban authorities confirmed his suicide and said an investigation is ongoing. While the reason remains unknown, such incidents are often linked to widespread mental health challenges, economic hardship, and unemployment in Afghanistan. [Source](#), [Source](#)

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE, GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Zabul
10.09.2025

A 21-year-old woman in Qalat city, Zabul province, took her own life by poison after reportedly being forced into marriage by her family. The Taliban authorities have not commented on the incident, which tragically occurred on September 10 — World Suicide Prevention Day. [Source](#)

ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & MEDIA

Balkh
10.09.2025

The Taliban governor of Balkh, Mohammad Yousuf Wafa, has ordered the suspension of National TV's broadcasts in the province. Sources say the halt was prompted by pressure from the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice. Over twenty staff members have been forced to stop working and are now facing an uncertain fate. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Herat
23.09.2025

The Taliban's vice and virtue department in Herat has prohibited local TV stations and YouTube channels from broadcasting or sharing images of living beings, calling it sinful. The order was issued by Azizurrahman Mohajer, head of the department, during a meeting with local media officials. At least eight TV outlets and many YouTube channels in Herat are affected by the new ban. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Helmand
25.09.2025

The Taliban's vice and virtue department in Helmand has extended its media restrictions, banning all journalists, media outlets, and social media users from sharing photos or videos of living beings. The order, issued under the Taliban's "Virtue and Vice Law," expands earlier limitations that only applied to state-controlled media. [Source](#)

Kabul
29.09.2025

The Taliban have extended their internet shutdown to Kabul, with only mobile data still working. Internet providers cited government orders for the suspension, while TOLONews confirmed that fiber-optic connections nationwide have been cut since Monday evening. The outage has affected media operations, including TOLONews broadcasts. [Source](#), [Source](#)

29.09.2025

Afghanistan has entered a total communications blackout. After the Taliban ordered internet services suspended nationwide, mobile networks have also gone down, making international phone calls impossible. Journalists outside the country report being unable to reach contacts

in Kabul, Herat, Mazar, and Uruzgan. Internet providers cite government orders for the outage, which has effectively cut off Afghanistan from the outside world. [Source](#), [Source](#)

08.10.2025

The Taliban have confirmed new social media restrictions in Afghanistan, filtering Facebook, Instagram, and X. Mobile internet users cannot access these platforms without VPNs, but home and office networks in some areas still provide open access. [Source](#), [Source](#)

PUBLIC EXECUTIONS, FLOGGING, AND AMPUTATIONS

K, L, T, B
11.09.2025

The Taliban publicly flogged 29 people, including six women, in Takhar, Kabul, Laghman, and Balkh on charges such as “illicit relations,” “moral corruption,” and “drug trafficking.” The Taliban Supreme Court confirmed the punishments, stating that each person received 20–39 lashes and prison sentences ranging from several months to several years. [Source](#), [Source](#)

K, F
15.09.2025

The Taliban’s Supreme Court has confirmed that 11 people, including one woman, were publicly flogged in Khost and Farah provinces for alleged “moral corruption,” “sodomy,” and “illicit relations.” Each received 20–39 lashes, and some were sentenced to up to five years in prison. [Source](#)

K, K
28.09.2025

The Taliban Supreme Court confirmed the public flogging of 16 people six of them women in Khost and Kapisa provinces for alleged “moral crimes” and “illicit relationships.” Each received between 30 and 39 lashes. The punishments, approved by the Taliban’s Chief Justice, reflect the group’s continued use of corporal punishment since seizing power. Human rights organizations have denounced these acts as breaches of international law and human dignity. [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)

MYSTERIOUS KILLING

Kabul
02.09.2025

A former Afghan special forces soldier, Walid Naemi, who had recently returned from Iran, was found dead in Kabul after being missing for 10 days. His brother claims he was executed in a field trial, and reports circulating online accuse the Taliban of carrying out the killing. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Samangan
03.09.2025

A woman’s body showing signs of torture was found in Kholm district of Samangan province on September 2. Her identity and the motive behind her killing remain unknown, and the body has been taken to the provincial hospital for investigation. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kandahar
17.09.2025

Dawood Shah, husband of former Afghan MP Fariba Kakar, was shot dead inside his home in Kandahar city by unidentified gunmen. He had recently returned from Canada for a visit. The motive and identity of the attackers remain unknown. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Herat
21.09.2025

Former Afghan army officer Gul Agha Jalali was shot dead in Herat city by two armed men on a motorcycle. He had previously fought against the Taliban, lost an eye in battle, and was

recently deported from Iran. The Taliban authorities have not yet commented on the incident. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Farah
21.09.2025

The bodies of three girls aged between five and ten were found in a well in Khak-e-Safid district, Farah province. Two were sisters and the third their cousin. The Taliban police confirmed the discovery, saying the girls had been missing for 11 days, but the cause of death remains unknown. [Source](#), [Source](#)

RIGHTS TO EDUCATION VIOLATION

Bamyan
05.10.2025

The Taliban closed two women's literacy schools in Bamyan (Qalam No. 1 and Qalam No. 2), dismissed 20 female teachers, and ordered the collection of school materials, ending literacy education programs for adult women in the area. [Source](#), [Source](#)

PERSECUTION OF ETHNIC AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

Badakhshan
28.10.2025

UNAMA's latest report documents increasing religious coercion by the Taliban in Badakhshan, where Ismaili families face pressure to adopt the Hanafi sect of Sunni Islam. In some areas, aid distribution depends on religious conformity, and parents who refuse to send their children to Hanafi madrassas face heavy fines. The report also mentions the unresolved killing of an Ismaili community leader in Zebak district, underscoring growing insecurity and discrimination against religious minorities in northern Afghanistan. [Source](#), [Source](#)

HUMAN RIGHTS REGRESSIONS & RESTRICTING POLICIES

Nangarhar
06.09.2025

The Taliban's Justice Department in Nangarhar has ordered aid organizations not to photograph women or show their faces during aid distribution, citing "Islamic and Afghan values." The group has also restricted journalists from speaking to women victims, claiming that women's faces and voices should not be seen or heard publicly. [Source](#), [Source](#)

K, H, M
11.09.2025

UNAMA has confirmed that the Taliban have barred female UN employees from entering their workplaces since September 7, extending the restriction nationwide. Taliban forces have been deployed outside UN offices in Kabul, Herat, and Mazar-e-Sharif to enforce the ban. UNAMA called the measure "concerning" and urged the Taliban to immediately lift the restriction, noting that it also hinders humanitarian operations for earthquake victims and returnees. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Balkh
15.09.2025

The Taliban have reportedly restricted internet access across Balkh province under a direct order from their leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada. The provincial governor, Mohammad Yousuf Wafa, ordered internet service providers to cut Wi-Fi and cable connections, leaving only mobile data available in Mazar-e-Sharif. Government offices, including the passport and customs departments, have also lost connectivity. The Taliban have not explained the reason for the restriction. [Source](#), [Source](#)

B, K, H, N, T, P
16.09.2025

The Taliban have extended fiber-optic internet shutdowns from Balkh to Kandahar and Helmand provinces. Local residents say only mobile data remains available, while home and office connections are disabled. The Taliban's Balkh spokesperson confirmed the restriction followed a direct order from the group's leader, Hibatullah Akhundzada. [Source](#), [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kandahar
22.09.2025

Taliban officials in Kandahar have ordered male tailors to stop sewing women's clothing, leading to the closure of all related shops. The directive, issued by the Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice, follows earlier arrests of several tailors. The Taliban have not explained the reason for the ban. [Source](#), [Source](#)

H, B
27.10.2025

The Taliban have intensified control over university life in Herat and Bamyan by enforcing strict religious dress and appearance rules. Students who trim their beards or fail to wear caps are being punished through dormitory expulsion and loss of food access. Reports also indicate that students are compelled to attend daily religious sessions, and that Taliban morality officers are interfering in classrooms expelling those who do not comply with their appearance mandates. [Source](#), [Source](#)

28.10.2025

UNAMA's latest quarterly report highlights systematic restrictions on Afghan women's access to healthcare under Taliban rule. Officials from the Ministry for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice are inspecting clinics to enforce rules that bar unaccompanied women from receiving treatment and require female staff to work only when accompanied by a mahram. These policies, combined with the existing shortage of female doctors a result of bans on girls' education are worsening Afghanistan's health crisis and endangering women's lives nationwide. [Source](#), [Source](#)

ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE

Kabul
05.09.2025

Taliban intelligence forces have arrested Parwiz Sayadkhili, a former Afghan army brigade commander from Baghlan, and his younger brother in Kabul's Khair Khana area. Sayadkhili had recently returned from Iran. The motive for the arrest is still unclear, and reports indicate that two of his other brothers are already imprisoned in Bagram. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Herat
26.09.2025

Aaliya Maloreen, a popular female blogger in Herat, was arrested by Taliban vice and virtue officials while dining at a restaurant. Witnesses say she was severely beaten during the arrest and is now held in Herat's central prison. Maloreen had been using social media to promote local businesses after women were banned from working under Taliban rule. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Faryab
26.09.2025

The Taliban have detained at least 15 people, including former soldiers and tribal elders, from Badghisi village in Khwaja Sabzposh district, Faryab. The detainees were taken to Maimana city, and their families have been denied contact. The reasons for the arrests remain unknown. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Kabul
29.09.2025

Abdul Hamid Junbish, a former Afghan army officer from Panjshir, was arrested in Kabul by Taliban intelligence forces after being deported from Iran. He had previously served in the 207th Army Corps during the republic era. The reason for his detention is unknown. This follows a pattern of ongoing arrests and killings of former security personnel, despite the Taliban's public amnesty claims. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Daikundi
27.10.2025

The Taliban in Daikundi have detained Sher Mohammad, a 60-year-old farmer and father of a former NDS officer, after his forced deportation from Iran. He was arrested in Kajran district on October 18 and transferred to Pato, where he has reportedly been tortured as Taliban officials demand weapons allegedly linked to his son's former position. [Source](#), [Source](#)

CIVIC SPACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS

Parwan
14.09.2025

The Taliban have reportedly arrested Mojtaba Mohammadi, a civil and human rights activist from Parwan province, for his involvement in anti-Taliban protests. His family says he was detained about 20 days ago and is being held in Charikar prison, where activists claim he is being tortured. Civil society and women's protest groups have called for his release and raised concerns about his wellbeing. [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:

Immediate Protection for Civilians: The international community and UN agencies must prioritize protective measures for civilians, particularly women, children, and vulnerable groups, including safe shelters and emergency response mechanisms.

End Extrajudicial Killings and Arbitrary Arrests: Taliban authorities should halt extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, and arbitrary detentions, and establish transparent legal processes in accordance with international law.

Address Gender-Based Violence: Programs should be implemented to protect women and girls from domestic abuse, forced marriage, and harassment. Access to justice for survivors must be ensured.

Restore Freedom of Expression: All restrictions on journalists, media outlets, and social media should be lifted to allow independent reporting and ensure transparency.

Humanitarian Access and Aid Support: Humanitarian organizations should be granted full access to deliver aid, particularly to women-headed households and marginalized communities, without restrictions or interference.

Monitor and Report Human Rights Violations: Continuous international monitoring, documentation, and reporting are essential to hold perpetrators accountable and prevent further escalation of abuses.

Acknowledgments

This report was compiled based on information collected from credible local and international sources, including human rights organizations, UN agencies, journalists, eyewitnesses, and community monitors.

The efforts of local activists, civil society members, and field reporters who risk their safety to document violations are gratefully acknowledged. Their contributions provide essential insights into the human rights conditions across Afghanistan and serve as a basis for advocacy and policy intervention.

