

# **Afghanistan: Individuals associated with the former Afghan Government**

**September 2021**

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## **Research Request**

Following the United States' withdrawal from Afghanistan, IRAP has asked for help in researching and drafting country condition guides that would be used by Afghans trying to establish eligibility for refugee protection in countries of first asylum, as well as attorneys representing asylum-seekers in countries of asylum. In particular, we have been asked to focus on conditions relating to individuals associated with the former Afghan government.

## **Research Timeframe**

The earliest source dates from 26<sup>th</sup> February, 2001 and the most recent sources date from 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

## **Sources Consulted**

All web sources were consulted in September, 2021.

### **1. Government Sources**

- United States Department of State “2020 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan/>)
- United States Department of State “2019 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan/>)
- United States Department of State “2018 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan/>)
- United States Department of State “2000 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6aaa54.html>)
- House of Lords, Select Committee on International Relations and Defence, 2<sup>nd</sup> Report of Session 2019-21: “The UK and Afghanistan.” Published January 13, 2021 (<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/4185/documents/43162/default/>)
- United States Department of State “Afghanistan 2020 International Religious Freedom Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/afghanistan/>)

### **2. International Organizations**

- United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights: “Oral update on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan”, 13 September 2021 (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27445&LangID=E>)
- United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights: “High Commissioner for Human Rights Urges Special Session of the Human Rights Council on Afghanistan to Establish a Dedicated Mechanism to Closely Monitor the Evolving Human Rights Situation in Afghanistan”, 24 August 2021 (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27406&LangID=E>)

### **3. NGOs and Think Tanks**

- International Federation for Human Rights, World Organisation Against Torture, Amnesty International: “The Fate of Thousands Hanging in the Balance: Afghanistan’s Fall into the Hands of the Taliban”, Published 21 September 2021 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa11/4727/2021/en/>)
- Amnesty International: “Afghanistan: Continued presence of UN mission essential to monitor and report on abuses”, 14 September 2021 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/09/afghanistan-continued-presence-of-un-mission-essential-to-monitor-and-report-on-abuses/>)
- Freedom House: 2021 Country Report on Afghanistan (<https://freedomhouse.org/country/afghanistan/freedom-world/2021>)
- International Crisis Group: Taliban Rule Begins in Afghanistan, 24 August 2021 (<https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/taliban-rule-begins-afghanistan>)
- Human Rights Watch: 2021 World Report on Afghanistan (<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/afghanistan>)
- Human Rights Watch: “Afghanistan: Advancing Taliban Execute Detainees”, 3 August 2021 (<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/03/afghanistan-advancing-taliban-execute-detainees>)
- Human Rights Watch: “Afghanistan: Threats of Taliban Atrocities in Kandahar”, 23 July 2021 (<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/23/afghanistan-threats-taliban-atrocities-kandahar>)

### **4. Media**

- Newsweek: “Taliban Reportedly Engaging in Revenge Kills of Afghan Security Forces, U.N. Official Says”, 13 September 2021

(<https://www.newsweek.com/taliban-reportedly-engaging-revenge-kills-afghan-security-forces-un-official-says-1628429>)

- Politico: “‘An enormously valuable trove’: America’s race against Afghan data”, 24 August 2021 (<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/24/taliban-afghan-data-target-allies-506638>)
- BBC: “Afghanistan: Taliban carrying out door-to-door manhunt, report says,” 20 August 2021 (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58271797>)

NPR: “An Ex-Senior Afghan Official Is Hiding From The Taliban, And Growing Angry At America”, 17 August 2021  
(<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/17/1028406748/an-ex-senior-afghan-official-is-hiding-from-the-taliban-and-growing-angry-at-ame>)

- The Wall Street Journal: “Kabul Under Taliban Control: Checkpoints, Beatings, Fear”, 16 August 2021 (<https://www.wsj.com/articles/taliban-kabul-afghanistan-next-11629146114?mg=prod/com-wsj>)
- Reuters: “Taliban attack near Afghan parliament kills more than 30”, 10 January 2017 (<https://www.reuters.com/article/afghanistan-blast-idINKBN14U1DH>)

## Findings

*The findings in this report are presented beginning with government sources, moving to international organizations and ending with NGOs and media outlets.*

### 1. Summary of Findings

**Individuals associated with the now-former Afghan government are subject to persecution by the Taliban and are at risk of death at the hands of the Taliban.**

Dating as far back as their initial rise to power in 1996, the Taliban has targeted government officials. Back when they were first in power, the Taliban scoured paper documents like military commendation records to target those who supported the former communist regime, according to an autobiography by former Taliban official Abdul Salam Zaef.<sup>1</sup> Not only within Afghanistan, but the Taliban directed the harassment and killings of former Afghan leaders that had fled to Pakistan<sup>2</sup>

Since losing power in 2001, the Taliban has operated as an insurgent group within Afghanistan specifically targeting Afghani government officials. Nearly every report by the United States Department of Justice between 2010 and 2021 has referenced the Taliban's dedicated attacks on Afghani government offices, and their detainment of government officials, individuals alleged to spying for the government, or any individuals associated with the government.<sup>3</sup>

**Taliban promises of amnesty are contradicted by evidence of reprisal killings and detention of individuals associated with the former Afghan government.**

When the Taliban seized control of Afghanistan in August 2021, they issued public statements purporting to grant amnesty to civil servants.<sup>4</sup> However, sources on the ground paint a different picture – former Afghan government officials continued to be targeted, detained, and killed by the Taliban. The Taliban may be quoting a message of peace to the world, but their actions are consistent with when they were in power between 1996-2002.

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<sup>1</sup> Politico: “An enormously valuable trove’: America’s race against Afghan data”, 24 August 2021 (<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/24/taliban-afghan-data-target-allies-506638>)

<sup>2</sup> United States Department of State “2000 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6aaa54.html>)

<sup>3</sup> United States Department of State “2020 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan/>)

<sup>4</sup> United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights: “Oral update on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan”, 13 September 2021 (<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27445&LangID=E>)

Since the Taliban takeover in August 2021, the UN has received “credible allegations of reprisal killings of a number of former [Afghan National Security Forces] personnel, and reports of civilians who worked for previous administrations and their family members being arbitrarily detained” as well as reports of the Taliban “conducting house-to-house searches looking for specific government officials and people who cooperated with US security forces and companies.”<sup>5</sup> Moreover, the Taliban has obtained stores of biometric data and tax records related to individuals who worked with the United States and NATO forces or former Afghan government making such individuals targets of Taliban retribution.<sup>6</sup>

As such, based on historical practices and current reporting out of Afghanistan, individuals that were previously associated with the former Afghan government are currently at grave risk of being persecuted and executed by the Taliban.

## 2. Highlighted Findings

### a. Government Sources

- Although armed conflict continued in the country, on September 12, representatives of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban commenced Afghan peace negotiations. **Before and during negotiations, armed insurgent groups conducted major attacks on government forces, public places, and civilians, killing and injuring thousands.”**

Source: United States Department of State “2020 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan/>)

- **“During the year the Taliban detained government officials, individuals alleged to be spying for the government, and individuals alleged to have associations with the government.** For political cases, according to NGOs, there were no official courts; cases were instead tried by Taliban military commanders.”

Source: United States Department of State “2020 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan/>)

- **“The Taliban also attacked schools, radio stations, and government offices.”**

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> Politico: “An enormously valuable trove’: America’s race against Afghan data”, 24 August 2021 (<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/24/taliban-afghan-data-target-allies-506638>)

Source: United States Department of State “2020 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan/>)

- “There were reports that ISIS-K, an affiliate of ISIS and a U.S.-designated terrorist organization, continued to target and kill members of minority religious communities and that **the Taliban targeted and killed individuals because of their religious beliefs or their links to the government.**”

Source: United States Department of State “Afghanistan 2020 International Religious Freedom Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/afghanistan/>)

- **“UNAMA recorded five election-related incidents, all attributed to Taliban.** On June 19, in Ghazni City, an IED detonated in the yard of a school that was being used as a voter registration center, injuring three ANP officers who were serving as guards. **The Taliban threatened to increase election-related violence ahead of the September 28 elections.**”

Source: United States Department of State “2019 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2019-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan/>)

- **“Antigovernment elements also continued to target government officials and entities, as well as political candidates, throughout the country.** On July 31, attackers assaulted the offices of the Ministry of Refugees and Repatriation in Jalalabad, Nangarhar Province, killing at least 15. On April 12, the governor of Khawaja Omari District, Ghazni Province, was killed when the **Taliban attacked the district headquarters, leaving more than 12 dead.**”

Source: United States Department of State “2018 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.state.gov/reports/2018-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/afghanistan/>)

- **“Political killings and harassment of moderate Afghan leaders and Afghan intellectuals residing in Pakistan continued during the year; many believed that these killings and harassment occurred at the direction of the Taliban.”**

Source: United States Department of State “2000 Afghanistan Human Rights Report” (<https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6aaa54.html>)

- [Referencing the US-Taliban peace negotiations] **“Notably, the agreement did not include Taliban commitments to cease attacks on Afghan government and military targets.** Dr Manza said that since the agreement there had been



‘extraordinary levels of violence carried out by the Taliban to increase its leverage at the table of the peace talks’”

Source: House of Lords, Select Committee on International Relations and Defence, 2nd Report of Session 2019-21: “The UK and Afghanistan.”  
Published January 13, 2021  
(<https://committees.parliament.uk/publications/4185/documents/43162/default/>)

- “Taliban gunmen killed progovernment imams and other religious officials throughout the country. The Taliban continued to warn mullahs not to perform funeral prayers for government security officials.”

Source: United States Department of State “Afghanistan 2020 International Religious Freedom Report”  
(<https://www.state.gov/reports/2020-report-on-international-religious-freedom/afghanistan/>)

#### **b. International Organizations**

- **“Although the Taliban has issued public statements purporting to grant amnesty to former security personnel and civil servants; prohibiting house-to-house searches; and assuring women’s rights under Islamic law, information that we have cross-checked to the extent possible, and which we assess to be well-founded, indicates that practice on the ground has often contradicted these stated commitments. Their implementation has also varied greatly between provinces. My Office has received credible allegations of reprisal killings of a number of former ANSF personnel, and reports of civilians who worked for previous administrations and their family members being arbitrarily detained. In some cases, the officials were released, and in others, they were found dead. In addition, we have received multiple allegations of the Taliban conducting house-to-house searches looking for specific government officials and people who cooperated with US security forces and companies. These searches have reportedly taken place throughout the city of Kabul, as well as Kandahar, Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif, Gardez, Maimana, Samangan and elsewhere. A number of similar incidents have affected UN staff, who report increasing attacks and threats. Deeply troubling information has also reached us regarding Taliban raids on offices of some non-governmental organisations and civil society groups.”**

Source: United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights: “Oral update on the situation of human rights in Afghanistan”, 13 September 2021  
(<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27445&LangID=E>)

- **“Michelle Bachelet, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said there were credible reports of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses taking place in many areas under effective Taliban control such as summary executions of civilians, restrictions on the rights of women, including their right to move freely and girls' right to attend schools, recruitment of child soldiers, and more. Many people now feared reprisals by the Taliban against those working with the Government or the international community; people who had worked to advance human rights and justice; or those whose lifestyles and opinions were simply perceived to be opposed to the Taliban ideology . . . Millions feared for their lives, and a humanitarian crisis was unfolding. The lives of thousands of human rights defenders, journalists, academics, professionals, and members of civil society were at risk . . .** The rapid seizure of much of Afghanistan, including the capital, by the Taliban had raised grave fears of a return to past patterns of human rights violations. The High Commissioner's Office had received harrowing reports of violations and abuses of human rights. **There were credible reports of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights abuses taking place in many areas under effective Taliban control such as summary executions of civilians, restrictions on the rights of women, including their right to move freely and girls' right to attend schools, recruitment of child soldiers, and more. Many people now feared reprisals by the Taliban against those working with the Government or the international community; people who had worked to advance human rights and justice; or those whose lifestyles and opinions were simply perceived to be opposed to the Taliban ideology.”**

Source: United Nations, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights: “High Commissioner for Human Rights Urges Special Session of the Human Rights Council on Afghanistan to Establish a Dedicated Mechanism to Closely Monitor the Evolving Human Rights Situation in Afghanistan”, 24 August 2021  
(<https://www.ohchr.org/en/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=27406&LangID=E>)

### c. NGOs and Think Tanks

- **“In an attack on 4 September, the Taliban were accused of killing Banu Negar, a former woman police officer, in front of her children. She was eight months pregnant at the time. She had worked for the police force in Ghor for 15 years. The incident took place in the night, at 10 PM local time, in her home.”** under the section titled “Reprisals against former government workers and civilians”

Source: International Federation for Human Rights, World Organisation Against Torture, Amnesty International: “The Fate of Thousands Hanging in the Balance: Afghanistan’s Fall into the Hands of the Taliban”, Published 21 September 2021  
(<https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/asa11/4727/2021/en/>)

- **“The Taliban takeover poses grave risks to vulnerable groups, especially journalists, ethnic minorities, women and girls, and those who worked with the former government, foreign states, and contractors,”** said Lawrence Moss, Senior Advocate for Amnesty International at the UN.’

Source: Amnesty International: “Afghanistan: Continued presence of UN mission essential to monitor and report on abuses”, 14 September 2021 (<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/09/afghanistan-continued-presence-of-un-mission-essential-to-monitor-and-report-on-abuses/>)

- “The Taliban are opposed to the current political system on the basis that they consider electoral democracy un-Islamic. They have thus sought to disrupt elections and have **targeted civilians whom they accuse of being apologists for the government or political system more generally**... After the US-Taliban agreement, US forces exercised new restraint on the battlefield, only intervening to support Afghan security forces while they were being attacked by the Taliban. For their part, the Taliban generally refrained from high-casualty attacks on population centers or on international forces. But **Taliban stepped up attacks on Afghan security forces and mounted an intensified campaign of targeted killings of Afghans, in Kabul and other cities, whom they deemed to be apologists for the government or political system.** The Taliban avoided claiming responsibility for the urban target-killing, but both the Afghan government and diplomatic missions in Kabul concluded that the killings were conducted by the group.”

Source: Freedom House: 2021 Country Report on Afghanistan (<https://freedomhouse.org/country/afghanistan/freedom-world/2021>)

- **“There appear to be instances of reprisals and intimidation, especially directed at Afghans associated with the erstwhile government and its foreign supporters.”**

Source: International Crisis Group: Taliban Rule Begins in Afghanistan, 24 August 2021 (<https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/taliban-rule-begins-afghanistan>)

- **“The Taliban also continued to target civilians,** including humanitarian workers, members of the judiciary, tribal elders, religious leaders, and **civilian government employees.**

Source: Human Rights Watch: 2021 World Report on Afghanistan (<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2021/country-chapters/afghanistan>)

- **“Taliban forces advancing in Ghazni, Kandahar, and other Afghan provinces have summarily executed detained soldiers, police, and civilians with alleged**

ties to the Afghan government, Human Rights Watch said today. Residents from various provinces told Human Rights Watch that **Taliban forces have in areas they enter, apparently identify residents who worked for the Afghan National Security Forces. They require former police and military personnel to register with them and provide a document purportedly guaranteeing their safety. However, the Taliban have later detained some of these people incommunicado and, in cases reported to Human Rights Watch, summarily executed them...** *“They claimed that they would not hurt anyone and they encouraged people to inform those who have escaped from the area to come back to their houses. In practice, they have acted differently. They search houses and, in some cases, even show photos of government employees, asking for their location.”*... **He said that the Taliban had killed at least 19 security force personnel in their custody**, along with a number of civilians. Taliban fighters also burned down the house of Abdul Hakim Shujoyi, a former militia commander who had worked with US forces. Human Rights Watch was unable to confirm the exact numbers killed there. **Human Rights Watch obtained a list of 44 men from Spin Boldak, Kandahar, whom the Taliban have allegedly killed since July 16.** All had registered with the Taliban before being summarily executed. Waheedullah, a police commander from Spin Boldak, had obtained a “forgiveness” letter from the Taliban, but Taliban fighters took him from his house and executed him on August 2, activists and media monitoring these detentions in Kandahar said.”

Source: Human Rights Watch: “Afghanistan: Advancing Taliban Execute Detainees”, 3 August 2021  
<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/08/03/afghanistan-advancing-taliban-execute-detainees>

- **“Taliban forces that have taken control of districts in Afghanistan’s southern Kandahar province have detained hundreds of residents whom they accuse of association with the government, Human Rights Watch said today. The Taliban have reportedly killed some detainees, including relatives of provincial government officials and members of the police and army.** Journalists told Human Rights Watch by phone that after Taliban forces took control of Kandahar’s Spin Boldak border crossing with Pakistan on July 8, 2021, and the Spin Boldak district center on July 16, **they conducted searches to identify residents who have worked for the local government or security forces. Taliban forces that control areas around Kandahar city have carried out similar searches and have evicted some residents. Local media have reported that the Taliban have taken more than 300 people into custody and have detained them in unidentified locations...** The Taliban have told members of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), including police who have been the principal security force in Kandahar, to register with them to receive letters guaranteeing their safety, a local activist reported. Those who registered are required to report to the Taliban once a month. **Taliban forces have gone to the homes of some ANDSF members who had registered, taken them**

**into custody, and killed an unknown number of them.** Local activists said that in one case, on July 9, the Taliban shot and killed a man named Nangiyali, in front of family members. He was a resident of Sarposa, Kandahar, who had previously worked with the police. Media reported that on July 19, Taliban forces shot and killed two sons of a provincial council member, Fida Mohammad, who had reportedly had a close relationship with the late Kandahar police chief, Gen. Abdul Raziq, whom the Taliban killed in 2018. Under Raziq, the Kandahar police were responsible for torture, hundreds of enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings of captured Taliban fighters and suspected Taliban supporters, as well as tribal rivals and other civilians.”

Source: Human Rights Watch: “Afghanistan: Threats of Taliban Atrocities in Kandahar”, 23 July 2021  
(<https://www.hrw.org/news/2021/07/23/afghanistan-threats-taliban-atrocities-kandahar>)

#### **d. Media**

- **“The Taliban reportedly is executing revenge killings of former Afghan security forces, according to Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations human rights chief. Citing credible allegations received by her office, Bachelet also said there were reports of instances in which the Taliban detained former officials from the overthrown Afghan government and their relatives, who later turned up dead.** The human rights chief cautioned that Afghanistan could be entering a ‘new and perilous phase,’ despite initial indications from the Taliban that they would avoid retaliation tactics and form a more inclusive government than the one seen when they last held power in the 1990s, the Associated Press reported. **There have been ‘multiple’ allegations that Taliban fighters operated house-to-house searches for former Afghan government officials and others who worked with U.S. forces and enterprises, while other reports have emerged that members of the group beat journalists and violently broke up protests, Bachelet said.”**

Source: Newsweek: “Taliban Reportedly Engaging in Revenge Kills of Afghan Security Forces, U.N. Official Says”, 13 September 2021  
(<https://www.newsweek.com/taliban-reportedly-engaging-revenge-kills-afghan-security-forces-un-official-says-1628429>)

- **“U.S. officials racing to evacuate Afghan allies have limited time before another threat comes into play: vast digital data stores that will expose Afghans’ ties to American operations on a massive scale once in Taliban hands . . .** American forces and diplomats rushed to destroy their own records on Afghan citizens as they departed, but **the rapid takeover of Kabul left large stores of data open for exploitation inside Afghan businesses and government offices. That gives today’s technologically adept Taliban tools to target Afghans who worked with the U.S. or the deposed Afghan government with**

**unprecedented precision, increasing the danger for those who don't get out on evacuation flights . . .** The U.S. helped create some of the data through funding and efforts to modernize the government. The former Afghan government started collecting biometric data about Afghan citizens, including military personnel, in 2006, and the U.S. government helped the country set up the ability to wiretap and monitor phone calls for surveillance purposes. Afghan citizens' ethnicity information can also be found in databases supporting the national ID system and voter registration . . . **Afghan government offices also have troves of databases and tax records that could reveal people's connections to U.S. or other foreign-backed efforts.** International non-governmental organizations, for example, had to provide the names of key staff members, along with copies of founding and board members' 'educational and ID documents' when registering to work in the country. **During their previous rule, the Taliban scoured paper documents like military commendation records to target those who supported the former communist regime, according to an autobiography by former Taliban official Abdul Salam Zaeef. The Taliban have already gathered a lot of information on U.S. allies through on-the-ground intel. But the digital stores now available to them are more comprehensive, extremely detailed and likely very accessible . . .** It's likely government databases were at least partially compromised even before the Taliban took over, given the poor security of the systems, Samee said. 'There's no way that any of the Afghans' government databases were secure enough to stay within the government,' he argued. The Taliban could also rely on their allies in Pakistan and remaining government ministry workers left in the country to help crack leftover equipment and databases, said Mallory Knodel, chief technology officer at tech-funded nonprofit the Center for Democracy and Technology."

Source: Politico: "'An enormously valuable trove': America's race against Afghan data", 24 August 2021  
<https://www.politico.com/news/2021/08/24/taliban-afghan-data-target-allies-506638>)

- **"The Taliban have stepped up their search for people who worked for NATO forces or the previous Afghan government, a report has warned.** It said the militants have been going door-to-door to find targets and threaten their family members. The hardline Islamist group has tried to reassure Afghans since seizing power in a lightning offensive, promising there would be 'no revenge.' **But there are growing fears of a gap between what they say and what they do.** The warning the group were targeting 'collaborators' came in a confidential document by the RHIPTO Norwegian Center for Global Analyses, which provides intelligence to the UN. **'There are a high number of individuals that are currently being targeted by the Taliban and the threat is crystal clear,'** Christian Nellemann, who heads the group behind the report, told the BBC. **'It is in writing that, unless they give themselves in, the Taliban will arrest and prosecute, interrogate and punish family members on behalf of those**

individuals.’ He warned that anyone on the Taliban’s blacklist was in severe danger, and that there could be mass executions.”

Source: BBC: “Afghanistan: Taliban carrying out door-to-door manhunt, report says”, 20 August 2021 (<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-58271797>)

- **“This former high-ranking national government official is one of many who have gone into hiding or exile amid the chaos since Afghanistan fell to the Taliban, as the United States and international allies end their two-decade campaign to help fight the insurgent group. Among them was Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, who quietly slipped out of the country on Sunday. Now, expecting the Taliban will restore their brutal form of Islamist rule, people who worked in Afghanistan's Western-backed government fear for their lives.** This former official says they don't make frequent phone calls to family or anyone else to avoid detection, but they agreed to speak by phone with NPR to describe the situation in Afghanistan as the Taliban retook control. **They said militants are patrolling neighborhoods in Afghan cities and even going door to door hunting for government loyalists in some places.** In the city where this ex-official is holed up, there is occasional gunfire in the streets . . . Taliban officials promised a peaceful transfer of power and that ‘there will be no revenge’ on the Afghan people. **But the former official rejected the claims, pointing to videos circulating on social media of bodies in the streets of Afghan cities of Kandahar and Ghazni after the Taliban took over . . . And this former official says there's no question patriots like them, who want a country based on a constitution and rule of law, will remain at the top of the Taliban's target list, becoming even more vulnerable once the last international evacuation flights take off in the coming days.”**

Source: NPR: “An Ex-Senior Afghan Official Is Hiding From The Taliban, And Growing Angry At America”, 17 August 2021 (<https://www.npr.org/2021/08/17/1028406748/an-ex-senior-afghan-official-is-hiding-from-the-taliban-and-growing-angry-at-ame>)

- **“On their first day in control of Kabul, Taliban fighters commandeered streets and searched the homes and offices of government officials and media outlets, spreading fear and menace across the Afghan capital . . . Turban-clad insurgents searched the phones of passersby for evidence of government contacts or compromising material they might deem un-Islamic . . . The Taliban appeared to refrain from immediate mass detentions or violence in Kabul, but their behavior in recent weeks suggests they will seek revenge on at least some of those who worked for the government or foreign countries.** As militants gained ground across Afghanistan, **residents of places under their control reported summary executions of government soldiers,** forced marriages between women and Taliban fighters and unprovoked attacks on civilians.”

Source: The Wall Street Journal: “Kabul Under Taliban Control: Checkpoints, Beatings, Fear”, 16 August 2021  
(<https://www.wsj.com/articles/taliban-kabul-afghanistan-next-11629146114?mg=prod/com-wsj>)

- **“A Taliban suicide attack in the Afghan capital Kabul on Tuesday killed more than 30 people and wounded some 70 others, as twin blasts hit a crowded area of the city during the afternoon rush hour. Saleem Rasouli, a senior public health official, said 33 people had been killed and more than 70 wounded in the attack on the Darul Aman road, near an annex to the new Indian-financed parliament building. He said most of the victims were parliamentary staff members . . . The Islamist militant Afghan Taliban movement, which immediately claimed responsibility for the Kabul attack, said its target had been a minibus carrying staff from the National Directorate of Security (NDS), Afghanistan’s main intelligence agency. It put the casualties at more than 70 and said they were all members of the security forces.”**

Source: Reuters: “Taliban attack near Afghan parliament kills more than 30”, 10 January 2017 (<https://www.reuters.com/article/afghanistan-blast-idINKBN14U1DH>)