

2. Security situation

2.1. Recent security trends

Following the Taliban takeover in 2021, levels of armed violence⁵³⁹ and civilian harm declined significantly compared to previous years of conflict.⁵⁴⁰ UN sources have described the subsequent period as marked by a ‘relative absence of armed conflict’⁵⁴¹ and a ‘virtual halt of active conflict’.⁵⁴² In 2022, UCDP assessed that the intensity of the conflict in Afghanistan no longer met its threshold to be classified as a ‘war’.⁵⁴³

Similarly, Bertelsmann Stiftung reported in 2024 that there was ‘no indication of systematic or scattered combat’.⁵⁴⁴

Nevertheless, the de facto government has faced armed opposition from resistance groups (see section 2.2.1) and the ISKP.⁵⁴⁵ While violence from such groups has generally decreased⁵⁴⁶ after peaking in 2022,⁵⁴⁷ resistance groups have continued to carry out low-intensity attacks,⁵⁴⁸ targeting mainly the de facto authorities.⁵⁴⁹ Until 2024, dozens of explosions and suicide attacks were reported annually,⁵⁵⁰ targeting the de facto authorities⁵⁵¹ and civilians.⁵⁵² Many attacks were claimed by the ISKP,⁵⁵³ while some remain unattributed.⁵⁵⁴

De facto security forces have also clashed with Pakistani border forces, causing casualties on both sides.⁵⁵⁵ Pakistan has faced recurring attacks that they attribute to Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP, ‘the Pakistani Taliban’), and they accuse the Afghan de facto authorities of harbouring this organisation. In December 2024, tensions resurged as Pakistan carried out airstrikes in Paktika Province. While Pakistan claimed to target the TTP, the Afghan de facto authorities stated that nearly 50 civilians were killed in the attack.⁵⁵⁶ Following a TTP attack against the Pakistani military in a border area on 9 October 2025,⁵⁵⁷ Pakistan carried out an airstrike against Kabul City.⁵⁵⁸ In the following days the de facto security forces fired at Pakistani posts along the shared border, and Pakistan responded with mortar fire and drone strikes,⁵⁵⁹ including airstrikes against Kabul City,⁵⁶⁰ the border town of Spin Boldak in Kandahar Province,⁵⁶¹ and in Paktika Province.⁵⁶² On 19 October 2025, Pakistan and the Afghan de facto authorities agreed on a ceasefire,⁵⁶³ but negotiations ended without a long-term settlement,⁵⁶⁴ and sporadic cross-border incidents continued to be reported in November 2025.⁵⁶⁵

There are conflicting assessments of Al-Qaida’s presence in Afghanistan.⁵⁶⁶ The UN Sanctions and Monitoring Team noted reports of Al-Qaida maintaining presence, although it had limited resources and ‘drastically downsized’. It also noted reports of Al-Qaida training camps across the country, although ‘small and rudimentary’, as well as alleged links with the TTP.⁵⁶⁷ Some sources have questioned some of the reports noted by the UN Sanctions and Monitoring Team, in particular claims of Al-Qaida running overt training camps in Afghanistan.⁵⁶⁸

A comparison of ACLED data covering the same January–November period in 2024 and 2025 suggests a decrease in violence levels, from 958 events down to 684 events. The same trend could be noted as regards events codified as ‘battles’ (from 371 down to 222 events) and ‘violence against civilians’ (from 493 down to 337). In contrast, the number of events codified as ‘explosions/remote violence’ increased from 94 to 125 events, and was mainly driven by Pakistani airstrikes, but also increased activity of the Afghanistan Freedom

Front (AFF) and the National Resistance Front (NRF).⁵⁶⁹ As regards violence against civilians, UCDP data covering 2025 (as of November), compared to data covering the same period in 2024 suggest a 33 % decrease in civilian deaths (down to 287 from 426 deaths).⁵⁷⁰ Rawadari also noted a decrease in civilian casualties from ‘explosive and suicide attacks’, with 11 civilian deaths and 35 injured recorded in the first six months of 2025, respectively constituting a 33.3 % and 50 % decrease from the same period in 2024 and 2023.⁵⁷¹

Figure 1. Conflict data covering 1 October 2024–30 November 2025

Source	Total no. events	Battles	Explosions and remote violence	Violence against civilians	Civilian deaths
ACLED	971	336 (35 %)	168 (17 %)	467 (48 %)	N/A
UCDP	682	N/A	N/A	N/A	412

Source: EUAA table based on ACLED and UCDP data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan covering the period

1 October 2024–30 November 2025, as of 10 December 2025, [url](#); UCDP, data covering the period 1 October 2024–30 November 2025, provided by courtesy of UCDP in an email, 8 December 2025.

It should be noted that within the reference period of this report (1 October 2024–30 November 2025) ACLED codified 467 events as ‘violence against civilians’. Event details suggest that at least 80 % of events involved de facto security forces as the perpetrating actor; this included arrests based on various motives, and the use of excessive violence in various situations, including in combatting crime but also situations where de facto officials exploited their position to exert violence. Moreover, about 104 cases were related to the enforcement of *sharia*, including floggings, and in addition, 92 events were related to arrests and killings of former government officials and their family members, although the motive was often unclear. A handful of cases concerned arrests of individuals suspected of being affiliated with opposition groups, and in one case the de facto security forces assaulted and beat up civilians in Nahreen District in Panjsher Province, following clashes with the NRF.⁵⁷²

Afghanistan is moreover highly contaminated with landmines and explosive remnants of war⁵⁷³ especially in the countryside.⁵⁷⁴ Children make up the majority of victims,⁵⁷⁵ and in the period 9 September 2024–5 September 2025, the UN recorded 49 civilian deaths due to unexploded ordinances (UXOs), and injuries to 29 boys, 8 girls, and 12 men, and 151 civilians, including 76 boys, 28 girls, 32 men, and 15 women.⁵⁷⁶

Figure 2. Events and civilian deaths by month, 1 January 2024–30 November 2025

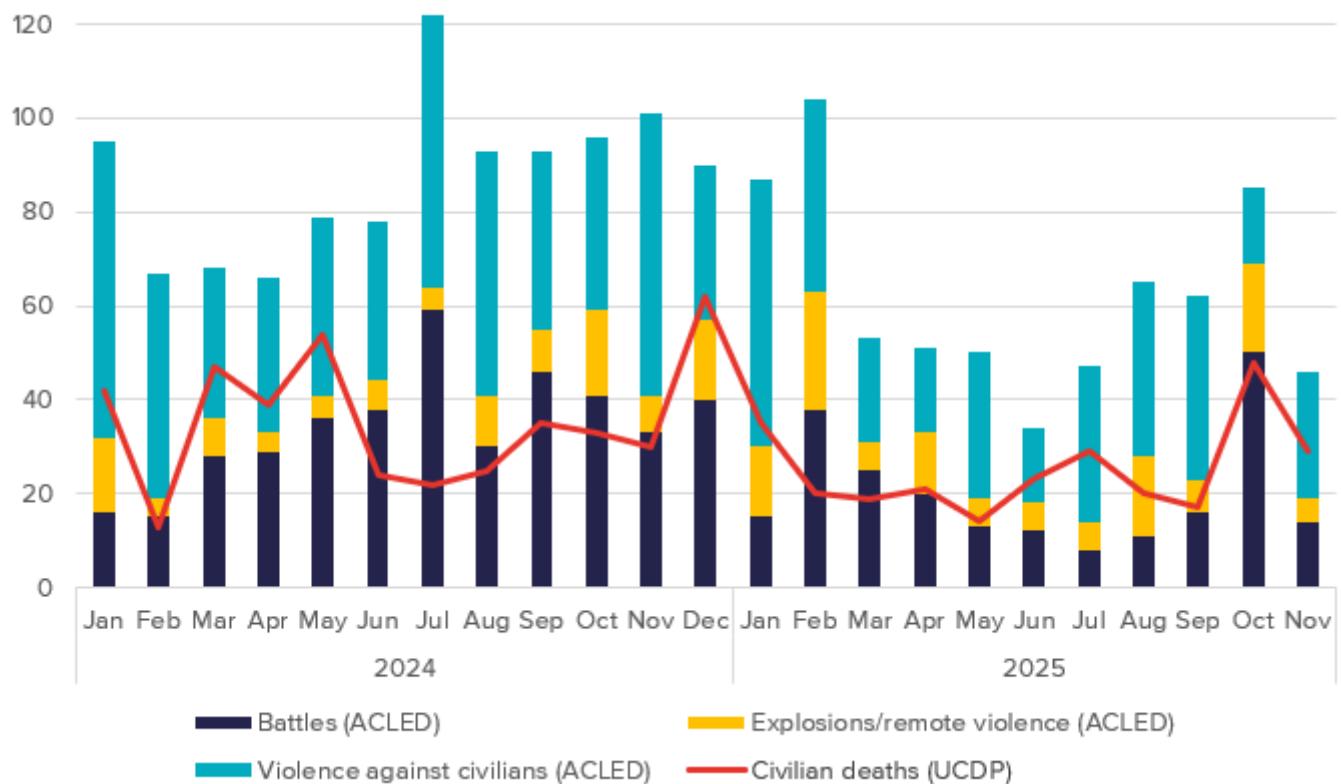
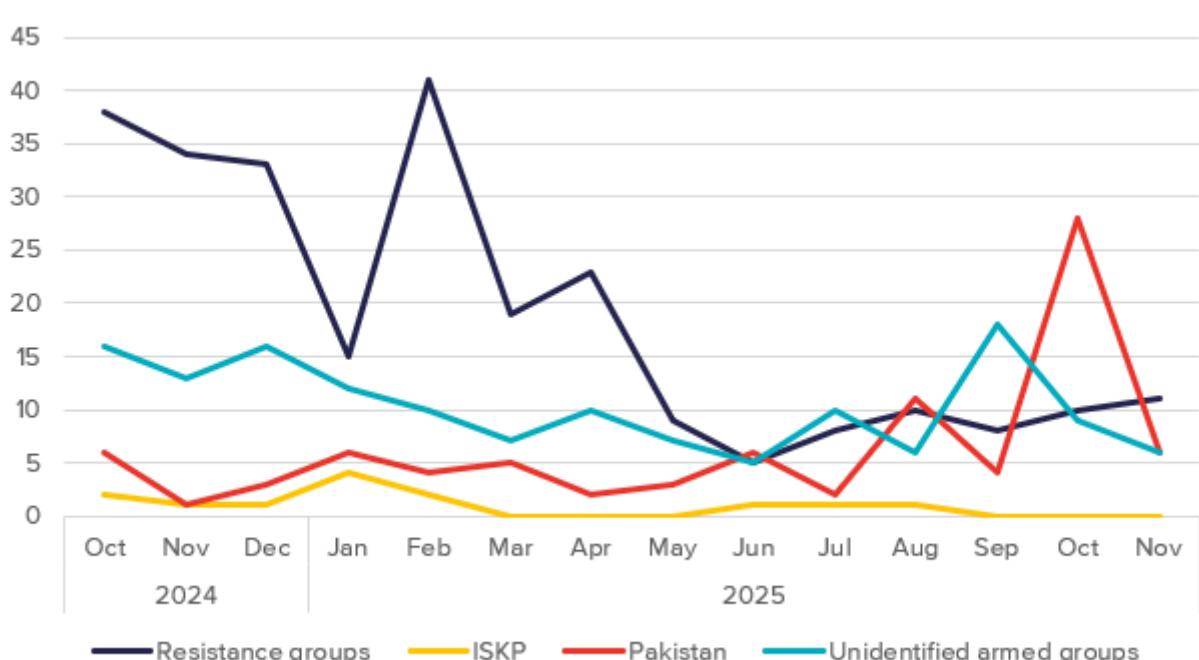


Figure 3. Events by actor (as ‘actor 1’), 1 October 2024–30 November 2025



539

UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 28 January 2022, [url](#), para. 3

540

UNAMA, Human Rights in Afghanistan 15 August 2021–15 June 2022, July 2022, [url](#), p. 3

541

UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 20 June 2023, [url](#), para. 1

542

UN OCHA, Afghanistan Humanitarian Needs and Response Plan 2025 (December 2024), 19 December 2024, [url](#), p. 5

543

UCDP, Afghanistan, [2024], [url](#)

544

Bertelsmann Stiftung, BTI 2024 Country Report, Afghanistan, 19 March 2024, [url](#), p. 5

545

International Crisis Group, Afghanistan's Security Challenges under the Taliban, 12 August 2022, [url](#), p. 11

546

ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan covering the period 1 October 2024–30 November 2025, as of 10 December 2025, [url](#)

547

ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan covering the period 1 October 2024–30 November 2025, as of 10 December 2025, [url](#); BBC News, What happened to IS in 2023, 26 December 2023, [url](#)

548

UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 6 December 2024, [url](#), para. 3

549

UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: October-December 2024, 27 January 2025, [url](#), pp. 4–5; UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: January-March 2025, 1 May 2025, [url](#), p. 4

[550](#)

BBC News, Suicide bomb kills Taliban minister in Kabul, 11 December 2024, [url](#)

[551](#)

New York Times (The), Suicide Bombing in Afghanistan Targets Taliban Heartland, 21 March 2024, [url](#); Centre on Armed Groups, Drivers of ISKP Recruitment in Afghanistan, August 2024, [url](#), p. 5; HRW, World Report 2025, Afghanistan, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

[552](#)

AOAV, Explosive Violence Monitor 2024, 21 May 2025, [url](#), pp. 31, 47; AOAV, Explosive Violence Monitor 2023, 19 April 2023, [url](#), pp. 43–44, 48; HRW, World Report 2025, Afghanistan, Events of 2024, 16 January 2025, [url](#)

[553](#)

New York Times (The), Suicide Bombing in Afghanistan Targets Taliban Heartland, 21 March 2024, [url](#); BBC News, Suicide bomb kills Taliban minister in Kabul, 11 December 2024, [url](#); AOAV, Explosive Violence Monitor 2024, 21 May 2025, [url](#), pp. 43, 47; AOAV, Explosive Violence Monitor 2023, 19 April 2023, [url](#), pp. 44, 48

[554](#)

Centre on Armed Groups, Drivers of ISKP Recruitment in Afghanistan, August 2024, [url](#), p. 5; UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: October-December 2024, 27 January 2025, [url](#), pp. 4–5; UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: April-June 2025, 24 July 2025, [url](#), p. 6; UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: January-March 2025, 1 May 2025, [url](#), p. 4

[555](#)

TOLOnews, Security Situation Considered at Three-Year Mark of Islamic Emirate Rule, 15 August 2024, [url](#)

[556](#)

Chatham House, What the West can do now in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, 5 February 2025, [url](#); Al Jazeera, As Pakistan, Afghanistan attack each other, what's next for neighbours?, 30 December 2024, [url](#)

[557](#)

Times of India (The), Pakistan: Ambush by TTP near Afghanistan border claims lives of 11 soldiers, 9 October 2025, [url](#)

[558](#)

UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 3 December 2025, [url](#), para. 20

[559](#)

BBC News, Taliban and Pakistan agree to ceasefire after days of deadly clashes, 19 October 2025, [url](#)

[560](#)

TOLOnews, Pakistan Airstrike Hits Kabul, Civilians and School Damaged, 16 October 2025, [url](#)

[561](#)

Reuters, Pakistan, Afghanistan agree to temporary truce after fresh fighting, airstrikes, 15 October 2025, [url](#)

[562](#)

UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 3 December 2025, [url](#), para. 20

[563](#)

BBC News, Taliban and Pakistan agree to ceasefire after days of deadly clashes, 19 October 2025, [url](#);

[564](#)

Al-Monitor, Explainer-Why are tensions flaring again between Afghanistan and Pakistan?, 25 November 2025, [url](#)

[565](#)

International Crisis Group, Crisis Watch, Latest Updates, Asia-Pacific, November 2025, [url](#)

[566](#)

CFR, The Taliban in Afghanistan, 14 August 2025, [url](#)

[567](#)

UN Security Council, Thirty-sixth report of the Analytical Support and Sanctions Monitoring Team submitted pursuant to resolution 2734 (2024) concerning ISIL (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals and entities, 24 July 2025, [url](#), paras. 85, 90–91

[568](#)

Obaidullah Baheer [X], posted on: 2 February 2024, [url](#); Afghan analyst, online interview, 1 October 2024. The interview was carried out by the EUAA in cooperation with the Austrian, Norwegian, and Swedish COI units.

569

EUAA analysis based on ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan covering the period 1 October 2024–30 November 2025, as of 10 December 2025, [url](#)

570

EUAA analysis based on UCDP data. UCDP, data covering the period 1 October 2024–30 November 2025, provided by courtesy of UCDP in an email, 8 December 2025; UCDP, data covering the period 1 October 2023 - 30 September 2024, provided by courtesy of UCDP in an email, 3 October 2024

571

Rawadari, Afghanistan Mid-Year Human Rights Situation Report: January-June 30, 2025, August 2025, [url](#), p. 12

572

EUAA analysis based on ACLED data. ACLED, Curated Data Files, Afghanistan covering the period 1 October 2024–30 November 2025, as of 10 December 2025, [url](#)

573

UN OCHA, Afghanistan: Unearthing hope from a legacy of mines, 3 April 2024, [url](#)

574

Britannica, Afghanistan, Political process, 4 December 2025, [url](#)

575

Rawadari, Afghanistan Mid-Year Human Rights Situation Report: January-June 30, 2025, August 2025, [url](#), p. 14

576

UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 6 December 2024, [url](#), para. 27; UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 21 February 2025, [url](#), para. 34; UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 11 June 2025, [url](#), para. 32; UN General Assembly and UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 5 September 2025, [url](#), para. 26