

2.5. Recent crime trends

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No crime statistics are available in Afghanistan,[754] and available reporting on armed crime 'has not been sufficiently systematic to allow reliable estimates of the scale', as reported by Saleem and Semple.[755] Furthermore, the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) indicated that, according to journalists' reports from Herat, Nangarhar, Faryab, and Bamyan provinces, crime was not allowed to be reported.[756]

Following the Taliban takeover, some sources suggested that crime levels increased.[757] Freedom House noted that high levels of violent crime were reported across the country, including kidnappings and armed robberies,[758] while USDOS noted that armed groups engaged in violent activities, such as threats, robberies, and kidnappings against civilians, medical and NGO workers and foreigners.[759] Other sources also noted that de facto officials had been involved in violent crime against the population, including kidnapping for ransom,[760] robberies, and crime under the pretext of house searches,[761] while some robberies were allegedly committed by individuals dressed as Taliban or wearing de facto security-personnel uniforms.[762]

However, an Afghan analyst, who regularly visits Afghanistan to conduct field-based research, told the EUAA in October 2024 that the situation concerning violent crime had significantly improved, although it had not been completely supressed.[763] By contrast, during 2025, some media outlets reported that violent crime, such as robberies, targeted killings and kidnappings, have increased in many parts of the country,[764] including in Kabul City.[765] Some of these sources attribute this rise to unemployment levels, lack of job opportunities, economic hardship and poverty,[766] as well as to 'weak law enforcement'.[767] According to such media reports, some of these crimes targeted children.[768] AW also reported on a de facto official allegedly being involved in the rape and subsequent killing of a teenage boy.[769] Local media Khaama Press also noted a recent 'string of robberies and murders' in November 2025, creating 'public concern over deteriorating security conditions'.[770] In the period 1 November 2024–30 April 2025, the UN Secretary-General recorded 283 robbery incidents in total, with numbers marking an increase as compared with the respective same period in 2023–2024.[771] During the first half of 2025, Rawadari documented at least 251 cases of people killed or injured 'in targeted, mysterious, and extrajudicial killings', including 20 women, and 12 children, noting a 30 % increase compared to the same period last year. Many incidents have been linked to Taliban members or unidentified individuals.[772]

The de facto authorities have reportedly carried out arrests for some incidents relating to violent crimes.773 However, according to Afghan media in exile, despite claims of combatting violent crime and provide security, the de facto authorities did not provide effective protection.774

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