

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 suppressed.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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