

4.1.2. Records of extrajudicial killings and other abuse

4.1.2. Records of extrajudicial killings and other abuse

Most recorded violations against former government officials and ANDSF members occurred in the months following the Taliban takeover in 2021 and 2022.¹¹⁰⁶ Research conducted by Human Rights Watch at the time indicated that more than 100 former members of the security forces were killed in the period 15 August–30 October 2021.¹¹⁰⁷ The New York Times released a documentary in April 2022, in which it stated that in the first semester of Taliban rule it had documented the killing or enforced disappearance of 490 former government officials and former ANDSF members. It also noted that many more killings likely occurred but remained unverified as victims' relatives were too afraid of retribution to speak out.¹¹⁰⁸ Meanwhile, by 30 June 2023, UNAMA had documented 218 extrajudicial killings, and almost half had taken place during the first four and a half months of Taliban rule in 2021.¹¹⁰⁹

Former government officials and security personnel have continued to face retaliatory violence,¹¹¹⁰ including extrajudicial killings, arbitrary arrests, torture and other ill-treatment.¹¹¹¹ In subsequent human rights reports by UNAMA covering 1 January–30 September 2025, the organisation documented 27 killings of former ANDSF members. UNAMA moreover documented 52 arbitrary arrests and detentions and 11 instances of torture and ill-treatment of both former civil and security personnel of the former government.¹¹¹² Several arrests documented in January–March 2025 had taken place in Panjsher and Kabul and 'pertained to individuals affiliated with the former government of Afghanistan being arrested on allegations of affiliation with the National Resistance Front.'¹¹¹³

Rawadari also recorded a decrease in killings but noted that the challenging information environment may be a possible explanation of the downward facing trend, rather than an improvement of the situation. In the first six months of 2025, the organisation recorded 20 killings of former government officials, in contrast with the same period in 2024 and 2023 when respectively 51 and 55 killings were recorded.¹¹¹⁴

[1106](#)

UNAMA, A barrier to securing peace: Human rights violations against former government officials and former armed force members in Afghanistan, 22 August 2023, [url](#), p. 6

[1107](#)

HRW, No Forgiveness for People Like You, Executions and Enforced Disappearances in Afghanistan under the Taliban, November 2021, [url](#), p. 1

[1108](#)

New York Times (The), The Taliban Promised Them Amnesty. Then They Executed Them [Online video], 12 April 2022, [url](#)

[1109](#)

UNAMA, A barrier to securing peace: Human rights violations against former government officials and former armed force members in Afghanistan, 22 August 2023, [url](#), p. 6

[1110](#)

UN Human Rights Council, Situation of human rights in Afghanistan, 20 February 2025, [url](#), para. 1

[1111](#)

AI, The State of the World's Human Rights, Afghanistan 2024, 29 April 2025, [url](#); UNAMA, No safe heaven: Human rights risks faced by persons involuntarily returned to Afghanistan, July 2025, [url](#), p. 9

[1112](#)

UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: January –March 2025, 1 May 2025, [url](#), p. 6; UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: April–June 2025, 24 July 2025, [url](#), p. 5; UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: July–September 2025, 28 October 2025, [url](#), p. 6

[1113](#)

UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: January–March 2025, 1 May 2025, [url](#), p. 6

[1114](#)

Rawadari, Afghanistan Mid-Year Human Rights Situation Report: January–June 30, 2025, August 2025, [url](#), p. 17