



## 4.1.4. Targeting of family members

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According to a human rights expert interviewed by the Norwegian COI Unit Landinfo in 2023, family members of former government officials may face various ill-treatment from the Taliban, including harassment, arrests, and, in some instances also killings.[1141](#) Reports published by Rawadari and HRRL in the same year outlined that family members of individuals who had left Afghanistan were being targeted,[1142](#) including wives, children and brothers of former security officials,[1143](#) and brothers to former civil government employees.[1144](#) These organisations also recorded cases in which family members had been detained and killed together with former military officials.[1145](#) In more recent reports on targeted killings and arrests of former officials, UNAMA and Rawadari did not outline cases in which family members had been targeted,[1146](#) while Afghan media in exile has been reporting on individuals cases in which family members of former civil and security officials have been arrested.[1147](#)

Kerr Chioyenda and Sharan noted that family members have been targeted to put pressure on former security officials,[1148](#) including to force targets to come out of hiding.[1149](#) Sharan stated that some girls related to former government officials have been forced to marry de facto officials.[1150](#) Sara de Jong, Professor in Politics and International relations with the University of York, also noted how targeting sometimes shifted to other family members, and gave as an example families in which several brothers had served in foreign forces or security forces in different capacities. If the prime target would leave the country, the target sometimes moved to another family member that had a less significant background. Professor de Jong further noted that mostly male family members had been targeted in killings, although female family members might have been exposed to other forms of violence that go undocumented.[1151](#)

- [1141](#)

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- [1142](#)

Rawadari, Human Rights Situation In Afghanistan: Mid-year Report 1 January to 30 June 2023, August 2023, [url](#), p. 12; HRRL, Those We Left Behind, November 2023, [url](#), pp. 46-49

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HRRL, Those We Left Behind, November 2023, [url](#), pp. 47, 60

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HRRL, Those We Left Behind, November 2023, [url](#), p. 54

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Rawadari, The Afghanistan Mid-Year Human Rights Situation Report, August 2024, [url](#), p. 11; Rawadari, Human Rights Situation In Afghanistan: Mid-year Report 1 January to 30 June 2023, [url](#), pp. 16, 18; HRRL, Those We Left Behind, November 2023, [url](#), pp. 39, 49, 52, 54, 60

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UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: July-September 2025, 28 October 2025, [url](#), p. 6; UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: April-June 2025, 10 August 2025, [url](#), p. 5; UNAMA, Update on the human rights situation in Afghanistan: January-March 2025, [url](#), p. 6 Rawadari, Afghanistan Mid-Year Human Rights Situation Report: January-June 30, 2025, August 2025, [url](#)

- [1147](#)

Kabul Now, Taliban Detains Former Advisor to Abdullah Abdullah and His Son in Kapisa, 21 January 2025, [url](#); Kabul Now, Taliban Detains Son of Former Security Official in Daykundi, Sources Report, 31 January 2025, [url](#); Kabul Now, Former ANDSF Member Commits Suicide After Taliban Detains His Wife, Sources Report, 19 December 2024, [url](#)

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Kerr Chiovenda, M., email, 29 November 2025; Sharan, T., email, 27 November 2025

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Kerr Chiovenda, M., email, 29 November 2025

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Sharan, T., email, 27 November 2025

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de Jong, S., online interview, 30 October 2025