

4.8.5. Tajiks

4.8.5. Tajiks

The term Tajik in Afghanistan has been historically ambiguous and vaguely defined,[1819](#) and can be described as signifying ‘non-Hazara Farsi speakers’,[1820](#) as many speak a variant of Dari close to the national language of Iran[1821](#) – although some are Pashto-speaking.[1822](#) Nevertheless, Tajiks form the second largest ethnic group in Afghanistan.[1823](#) The Tajik community lacks a tribal structure. A majority of Tajiks are Sunni Muslims, but there are also those adhering to the Shia branch of Islam. Tajiks live in various areas of the country, but are mainly concentrated in northern, northeastern and western Afghanistan,[1824](#) Panjsher, and according to older sources, also in Kabul (both the province and the city), Balkh, Ghor, Takhar, and Herat (especially Herat City).[1825](#)

Since 2021, several sources reported on the targeting of Tajik communities in the northeast provinces of the country, due to their perceived affiliation to armed resistance groups.[1826](#) The Afghan analyst noted in 2023 that Tajiks were among the communities more prone to violations in the aftermath of the takeover.[1827](#) More information is available in section [4.3.1. Suspected affiliates of resistance groups](#).

The de facto government cabinet reportedly include at least three ethnic Tajiks.[1828](#) According to Foschini, the de facto authorities have avoided to appoint local de facto officials originating from the district or province in question. In Badakhshan Province, however, the local population is predominantly Tajik, appointments to the local de facto governance did instead rely on high-ranking Badakhshi Taliban members, as of September 2024. Foschini suggested that this was due to the fact that the province had never been under Taliban control before, and therefore lacked support in the province.[1829](#) Since 2023, though, external de facto officials were appointed,[1830](#) an act viewed as a process of marginalising non-Pashtun northern Taliban leaders and commanders within the hierarchy.[1831](#) By the end of 2023, nearly all Tajik and Uzbek Taliban in Badakhshan had been removed from any position of authority in their home areas, after being dismissed or assigned to minor positions in other provinces.[1832](#) There were cases of local de facto officials rebelling after they or their forces were dismissed under the ongoing purges of the de facto security forces.[1833](#) In 2025, de facto authorities have continued to appoint external Pashtun de facto officials to Badakhshan and other mainly Tajik-populated provinces.[1834](#)

As mentioned, members of ethnic and religious minorities face discrimination in hiring and dismissals procedures for de facto government positions,[1835](#) including collective dismissals.[1836](#) According to Rawadari, in the first half of 2025, in Ghazni Province the employees of some de facto government departments from some ethnic groups, including Tajiks, were removed from their positions.[1837](#) Rawadari also reported that Tajiks were excluded from equal access to government services, development projects, and humanitarian aid by the de facto authorities in Ghazni and Ghor provinces.[1838](#)

Since the Taliban takeover, mainly during 2022, there have been reports of forced evictions and displacement carried out by the Taliban, affecting Tajik communities in several provinces, including in northeastern provinces, Jowzjan, Faryab, Ghor, Mazar-e Sharif, Kabul, Sar-e Pul and Takhar.[1839](#) These evictions occurred in cases of land seizure by groups perceived as supported by the de facto authorities,[1840](#) including Kuchis.[1841](#)

Since mid-2024, many farmers in Badakhshan (many from Tajik populated districts) have been protesting the destruction of poppy fields.¹⁸⁴² Some of protests have been met with violence by the de facto authorities, resulting in people killed or injured.¹⁸⁴³ Such protests flared up anew in June and July 2025,¹⁸⁴⁴ and according to the UN Secretary-General's report 10 people died and 40 were injured by the de facto authorities response, while many others were arbitrarily detained and allegedly ill-treated in the districts of Argo, Jurm and Khash.¹⁸⁴⁵ In April 2025, SpecialEurasia, a consulting and media agency specialising in geopolitical intelligence, reported on arrests of some ethnic Tajik Taliban commanders in northern Afghanistan who sided with the protesters.¹⁸⁴⁶ This information could not be corroborated with other sources.

1819

EASO, Afghanistan – Targeting of Individuals, August 2022, [url](#), p. 144

1820

Kerr Chiovenda, M., email, 29 November 2025

1821

MRG, Tajiks, n.d., [url](#)

1822

EASO, Afghanistan – Targeting of Individuals, August 2022, [url](#), p. 144

1823

MRG, Tajiks, n.d., [url](#)

1824

MRG, Tajiks, n.d., [url](#)

1825

Austria, Staatendokumentation, Afghanistan – Socio-Economic Survey 2021, 12 January 2022, pp. 11–12, 22, [url](#); Ali, O., The Non-Pashtun Taliban of the North (3): The Takhar case study, AAN, 29 July 2017, [url](#)

1826

Afghan analyst, interview 8–9 June 2023, and email communication, 10 October 2023; HRW, Afghanistan: Taliban Torture Civilians in Panjshir: Collective Punishment Over Armed Group's Actions Is Unlawful, 10 June 2022, [url](#); BBC News, Afghan resistance attack Taliban, sparking reprisals in Panjshir, 16 May 2022, [url](#)

1827

Afghan analyst, interview 8–9 June 2023, and email communication, 10 October 2023

1828

Pajhwok News, Hanif, UN officials discuss expediting aid to quake victims, 3 September 2025, [url](#); Ariana News, Afghanistan's Army Chief of Staff dismisses Daesh threat as anti-IEA propaganda, 23 July 2025, [url](#); Reuters, Exclusive: Taliban in talks with Russia, China for trade transactions in local currencies, 23 May 2025, [url](#)

1829

Foschini, F., Ruling Uncharted Territory: Islamic Emirate governance in northeastern Afghanistan, AAN, September 2024, [url](#), pp. 22, 23, 25–26, 28, 38

1830

Amu TV, A look at administrative structure of Taliban in Badakhshan?, 9 May 2024, [url](#); Kabul Now, Taliban leader appoints three new provincial governors, 26 June 2023, [url](#)

1831

Saleem, M. A. and Semple, M., Peace Matrix for Afghanistan, PeaceRep, 11 November 2024, [url](#), p. 11

1832

Saleem, M. A. and Semple, M., Peace Matrix for Afghanistan, PeaceRep, 11 November 2024, [url](#), p. 11

1834

Foschini, F., The mining sector in Afghanistan: A picture in black and gold, AAN, 30 August 2025, [url](#), p. 40

1835

Rawadari, Afghanistan Mid-Year Human Rights Situation Report: January-June 30, 2025, August 2025, [url](#), p. 50

1836

Rawadari, Afghanistan Human Rights Situation Report 2024, March 2025, [url](#), pp. 5, 43

1837

Rawadari, Afghanistan Mid-Year Human Rights Situation Report: January-June 30, 2025, August 2025, [url](#), p. 50

1838

Rawadari, Afghanistan Mid-Year Human Rights Situation Report: January-June 30, 2025, August 2025, [url](#), p. 49; Rawadari, Afghanistan Human Rights Situation Report 2024, March 2025, [url](#), p. 43

1840

[1841](#)

Kabul Now, Law of the Gun: How Local Conflicts Became Extortion Sprees, 23 January 2024, [url](#); Foschini, F., Conflict Management or Retribution? How the Taliban deal with land disputes between Kuchis and local communities, AAN, 22 December 2022, [url](#)

[1842](#)

Bjelica, J., Foschini, F., Opium Cultivation in Badakhshan: The new national leader, according to UNDOC, 13 November 2024, [url](#); Amu TV, Badakhshan residents protest against Taliban, sources say, 3 July 2024, [url](#) ; RFE/RL, Taliban's Drug Ban, Heavy-Handed Tactics Fuel Deadly Protests In Northern Afghanistan, 15 May 2024, [url](#)

[1843](#)

Bjelica, J., Foschini, F., Opium Cultivation in Badakhshan: The new national leader, according to UNDOC, 13 November 2024, [url](#); Amu TV, Badakhshan residents protest against Taliban, sources say, 3 July 2024, [url](#)

[1844](#)

UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 5 September 2025, [url](#), para. 31; Amu TV, Taliban units leave district in Badakhshan amid poppy crop protests: Sources, 20 June 2025, [url](#); Afghanistan International, Protesters In Badakhshan Demand Removal Of Taliban-Appointed Governor, 27 May 2025, [url](#)

[1845](#)

UN Security Council, The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security, 5 September 2025, [url](#), para. 31

[1846](#)

SpecialEurasia, Tajik Taliban Commanders Arrested in Afghanistan Underline the Movement's Internal Frictions, 15 April 2025, [url](#)