

4.3.1. Armed conflict (international or internal)

COMMON ANALYSIS | Last update: June 2026

The analysis below is based on the following EUAA COI products: COI Update 2026, 3.; Country Focus 2026, 1.2.1., 2.2.1., 2.2.2., 2.2.3.; Country Guidance should not be referred to as a source of COI.

For information on the different state and non-state actors in Afghanistan, see 2. Actors of persecution or serious harm.

Several distinct armed conflicts take place in the territory of Afghanistan:

- **Armed conflict between the *de facto* authorities and resistance groups, including the NRF and the AFF:** following the Taliban takeover in 2021, levels of armed violence and civilian harm have declined significantly compared to previous years. Nevertheless, the *de facto* government continued to face armed opposition.

- **Armed conflict between the *de facto* authorities and the ISKP:** hostilities between the *de facto* authorities and the ISKP continued to be reported, although on a lower scale than in previous years. Intelligence-led counter-operations have significantly reduced the operational capacity of the group, whose presence is scattered across northern and northeastern provinces.

- **Armed conflict involving the *de facto* authorities and Pakistan:** *de facto* security forces have clashed with Pakistani border forces, causing casualties on both sides. Although most incidents occurred at (eastern and southeastern) border areas, Pakistan conducted several airstrikes on Kabul since October 2025. Despite the conclusion of temporary ceasefires, hostilities have continued, as of late March 2026.

Afghanistan is currently affected by two internal conflicts, in the meaning of Article 15(c) QR, notably between the *de facto* authorities and resistance groups as well as between the *de facto* authorities and the ISKP. Additionally, the *de facto* authorities are involved in a separate international armed conflict with Pakistan.

These conflicts affect different areas in Afghanistan at different degrees. It should, furthermore, be noted that the COI used as a basis for this assessment cannot be considered a complete representation of the extent of indiscriminate violence and its impact on the life of civilians.

In view of the ongoing conflict with Pakistan, the situation remains volatile and changes in trends may be observed in the future. It should be highlighted that the data is preliminary amid the conflict with Pakistan and that civilian deaths recorded during this period might increase.

See more under 2. Actors of persecution or serious harm and a) Security situation in Afghanistan: recent events.

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