

FOCUS ON

AFGHANISTAN



Last update May 2016

Author: **Giulio Coppi**

Humanitarian Innovation Fellow

The Institute of International Humanitarian Affairs, Fordham University (New York)

Editing: **Sorayya Khan** and **Trang Vu Hong** (UN online volunteers)

Graphic design: **Vilmar Luiz** and **Danilo Coelho Nogueira** (UN online volunteers)

Copyright © 2016

Associazione Nazionale Vittime Civili di Guerra ONLUS (ANVCG)

L'Osservatorio – Research centre on civilian victims of conflicts

Via Marche, 54

00187 Rome – Italy

For further information and feedback, please contact:

 [@losobservatorio15](https://twitter.com/losobservatorio15)

 [LOsservatorio2015](https://www.facebook.com/losobservatorio2015)

 info@losobservatorio.org

This country-profile fact-sheet is an independent publication commissioned by ANVCG / L'Osservatorio. Textual material may be freely reproduced with proper citation and / or attribution to the author and editor.

FLAG



NAME	Islamic Republic of Afghanistan تیروهوج یملاسا ناتسنا غفا د Da Afġānistān Islāmī Jumhoryat (Pashto) ناتسنا غفا یملاسا یروهوج Jomhūrī-ye Eslāmī-ye Afġānestān (Persian)
CAPITAL	Kabul
OFFICIAL AND VERNACULAR LANGUAGE	Pashto Dari
POPULATION	32.5 million
ETHNIC GROUPS	42% Pashtun 27% Tajik 8% Hazara 9% Uzbek 4% Aimaq 3% Turkmen 2% Baloch 4% Others
NEIGHBOURS	Pakistan Iran Turkmenistan Uzbekistan Tajikistan China
TOTAL OF CIVILIANS AFFECTED (2016)	32.5 million
GDP (2016)	USD 19.6 billion
PEOPLE IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE (2015)	3.6 million
LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH	60 years
AFGHAN REFUGEES	6 million
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT INDEX	0.4/1 (ranking 171/188)
IDPS	1,174,306
GLOBAL PEACE INDEX	3.5 (ranking 160/163)¹
CORRUPTION PERCEPTION RANKING	166/175

¹ The world's leading measure of national peacefulness, the GPI measures peace according to 23 qualitative and quantitative indicators.

THE COUNTRY AT A GLANCE

The Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, is a landlocked country located within South Asia and Central Asia. Representing one of the oldest areas witnessing thriving human settlements, Afghanistan has been the origin of many major empires, and hosted countless military campaigns since Alexander the Great. The modern state of Afghanistan began with the Hotak and Durrani dynasties in the 18th century, and became a buffer state in the “Great Game” between British India and the Russian Empire around one century later. The country, torn by the Third Anglo-Afghan War in 1919 and despite King Amanullah’s attempts to peacefully modernize the country, knew a period of tranquillity only during Zahir Shah’s forty years of monarchy that were ended by a coup in 1973. A series of coups started in 1973 ignited a period of civil wars and international conflicts that ravaged Afghanistan. In 2001, following the September 11 attacks inside the United States, NATO forces invaded Afghanistan under Operation Enduring Freedom to defeat Al-Qaeda, to remove the Taliban from power, and to create a viable democratic state. In December 2001, the United Nations Security Council established the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), to assist the Afghan interim authorities with securing Kabul. At the Bonn Conference in December 2001, Hamid Karzai was selected to head the Afghan Interim Administration. In the 2004 elections, Karzai was elected president of the country, now named the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. After the initial setback that pushed them across the border with Pakistan, Taliban forces rallied and took advantage of the weakness and corruption of the central administration, and of the bad perception of International forces, to carve their way back in the country. In May 2012, NATO leaders endorsed an exit strategy for withdrawing their forces, but despite the announcements some US forces are still present in the country to assist the Afghan army which is suffering increasing losses. Since 2012 UN-backed peace talks have taken place between the Afghan government and the Taliban, with very limited results.



Peace doves fly on the Hazrat-i-Ali mosque, in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, Afghanistan in observance of the 2007 International Day of Peace.

Credit: CC, UN Photo/Helena Mulkerns
Source: flickr.com

INTRODUCTION

Geopolitical context

Afghanistan's economy is recovering from decades of conflict. The Afghan economy has improved since the fall of the Taliban regime in 2001 largely because of the infusion of international assistance, the recovery of the agricultural sector, and service sector growth. Despite this, Afghanistan remains extremely poor, landlocked, and highly dependent on foreign aid. Much of the population continues to suffer from shortages of housing, clean water, electricity, medical care, and jobs. Criminality, insecurity, weak governance, lack of infrastructure, and the Afghan Government's difficulty in extending rule of law to all parts of the country pose challenges to future economic growth. Afghanistan's living standards are among the lowest in the world. Despite international pressure and investments in eradication campaigns, Afghanistan remains the world's largest producer of opium. Poppy cultivation increased 7%, to a record 211,000 hectares in 2014 from 198,000 hectares in 2013, while eradication dropped sharply. The Taliban and other anti-government groups participate in and profit from the opiate trade, which is a key source of revenue for the Taliban inside Afghanistan, while counterdrug efforts are impeded by widespread corruption and instability.²

The international community remains committed to Afghanistan's development, pledging over \$67 billion at nine donors' conferences between 2003 and 2010. In July 2012, the donors at the Tokyo conference pledged an additional \$16 billion in civilian aid through 2015. The country is also involved in a series of transnational issues: Afghan, international, and Pakistan military meet periodically to clarify the alignment of the boundary on the ground and on maps and since 2014 have met to discuss collaboration on the Taliban insurgency and counterterrorism efforts. Afghan and Iranian commissioners have discussed boundary issues, especially those related to water management. Pakistan built fortifications along some remote tribal areas of its treaty-defined Durand Line border with Afghanistan which serve as bases for foreign terrorists and other illegal activities. Russia remains concerned about the smuggling of poppy derivatives from Afghanistan through Central Asian countries.³

Peacekeeping missions: United Nations Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan (1988 – 1990); International Security Assistance Force (2001 – 2014); United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (2002 – 2017); Resolute Support Mission (2014 – ongoing).

Main UN documents on Afghanistan

- [Resolution renewing the mandate of UNAMA for one year \[S/RES/2274\], 15 march 2016](#)
- [Resolution containing language clarifying how the 1988 Afghanistan sanctions regime functions and reflecting changing conflict dynamics in Afghanistan \[S/RES/2255\], 21 December 2015](#)
- [Resolution welcoming the Afghanistan-NATO agreement to create the post-2014 Resolute Support Mission, \[S/RES/2189\], 12 December 2014](#)

² <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

³ <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html>

- [Security Council Presidential Statement welcoming the 5th December Bonn Conference on "Afghanistan and the International Community: From Transition to the Transformation Decade" and its conclusions \(S/2011/762\) \[S/PRST/2011/22\], 19 December 2011](#)
- [Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security \[S/2016/218\], 7 March 2016](#)
- [General Assembly Resolution emphasising the importance of the Geneva Accords and encouraged the Secretary-General to facilitate a political solution to the problems in Afghanistan and northern Pakistan, \[A/RES/44/15\], 1 November 1989.](#)

The genesis of the conflict

Following the terrorist attack on United States soil that happened on September 11, 2001, the US invaded Afghanistan. This happened after the Taliban refused the general expulsion of al-Qaeda, and delayed the extradition of Osama bin Laden, considered the head of al-Qaeda and one of the masterminds behind the attacks in the US. Supported initially by close allies, US troops were later joined by NATO forces in 2003. This new wave of conflict followed directly the Afghan Civil War's 1996–2001 phase. The intervention had the goal of dismantling al-Qaeda and denying it a safe base of operations in Afghanistan by removing the Taliban from power. Key allies, including the United Kingdom, supported the US from the beginning of the operations. This phase of the war is the longest war in US history.⁴ Including the war in 2001, Afghanistan has been in protracted conflict for almost 35 years, which has seriously hampered poverty reduction, development, strained the fabric of society, and depleted its coping mechanisms. Additionally, over the past five years, benefitting from a drastic reduction of international military support, armed non-state actors have challenged with increasing success the territorial control of the Government and expanded the geographical scope of the conflict beyond the southern and eastern regions of the country.⁵

Peace talks and agreements

The Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG), including China, the United States, Afghanistan and Pakistan, is promoting since 2015 a round of four-party talks in Islamabad, although the process was seriously delayed and hindered by Pakistan's difficulties in delivering the Taliban to the table. The Taliban often refused to sit in for direct peace talks with the Afghan government in the framework of the QCG due to the deployment of US troops in Afghanistan and the ongoing air strikes. The presence of foreign troops in the country was also the reason why, in June 2016, a promising negotiation between the Afghan government and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's party (Hizb-i-Islami) stalled.⁶ So far, the QCG has held multiple rounds of talks, which have singularly failed to convince the Taliban to take part and talk peace with the Kabul government.⁷ Earlier, at the beginning of the war, during the UN-sponsored Bonn Conference in 2001, parties established a process for political reconstruction that included the adoption of a new constitution, a presidential election in 2004, and National Assembly elections in 2005.⁸

⁴ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/worldviews/wp/2014/05/29/these-are-americas-9-longest-foreign-wars/>

⁵ <http://www.unocha.org/afghanistan/about-ocha-afghanistan>

⁶ <http://thediplomat.com/2016/06/afghan-peace-negotiations-with-hekmatyar-break-down/>

⁷ <http://www.aljazeera.com/indepth/opinion/2016/03/afghan-peace-talks-pakistan-credibility-line-taliban-160306061322638.html>

⁸ https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/print_af.html

HUMANITARIAN CONTEXT

Afghanistan is marked by growing humanitarian needs and insecurity with insurgencies and criminal activities worsening across the country. After over three decades of conflict, fighting persists between government forces and armed opposition groups in most parts of the country.⁹ The withdrawal of the international forces in 2014 has led to a further deterioration in the security situation. Since spring 2015, ground offensives by Armed Opposition Groups against government forces increasingly target highly-populated urban centres. Civilians are very often targeted: according to the UN, over 3,545 were killed and 335,000 newly displaced in 2015. Furthermore, military activities in neighbouring Pakistan's North Waziristan have pushed thousands of Pakistanis to seek refuge on the Afghan side of the border. Afghanistan, previously considered in "stabilisation phase", is now considered to have reverted to an increasingly acute humanitarian crisis.¹⁰



Aerial view of a section of Kandahar in 2013

Credit: CC, Karla Marshall

Source: Wikimedia Commons

Shelter

Afghanistan continued to produce vast numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons, second only to Syria. The armed conflict, insecurity and natural disasters are the main causes of displacement in the country. Despite the launch by the government of the National Internally Displaced People Policy in February 2014, at the end of 2015 many thousands of people were still living in camps and makeshift shelters, where overcrowding, poor hygiene and harsh weather conditions increased the prevalence of communicable and chronic diseases such as malaria and hepatitis.¹¹

Health

After more than a decade of international aid and investment, access to basic and emergency medical care in Afghanistan remains severely limited and ill-adapted to meet the growing needs created by the ongoing conflict. Lower respiratory infections are generally the leading cause of death, and neonatal deaths are still a major concern, with 36,000 deaths in just 2015 (35.5/1000).¹² Following an investigation involving 800 patients, Doctors Without Borders (MSF) affirmed that the majority of them met obstacles in accessing critical medical assistance due to insecurity, distance, and cost. Of those who reached MSF hospitals, 40% affirmed to have faced fighting, landmines, checkpoints, or harassment on their journey. A wide gap still exists between what services are presented on paper in terms of health care and what is actually available.¹³ Approximately 40% of the population live in areas where there is no public health service coverage. The context of population displacement, inadequate shelter, insufficient and unsafe water, and poor sanitation pose significant risk factors associated with outbreaks of communicable disease.¹⁴

⁹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/afghanistan/report-afghanistan/>

¹⁰ http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/afghanistan_en.pdf

¹¹ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/afghanistan/report-afghanistan/>

¹² <http://apps.who.int/gho/data/node.country.country-AFG>



Naghlu Dam, located in Surobi District of Kabul Province in eastern Afghanistan

Credit: CC, 10th Aviation Brigade

Source: Wikimedia Commons



Girls preparing for the market

Credit: CC, David Mark

Source: Pixabay.com



Schoolgirls in Afghanistan

Credit: CC, Wikimimages

Source: Pixabay.com

Water and sanitation

Access to an improved water source in Afghanistan is among the lowest in the world. Only 42% of rural dwellers had access to an improved water source as of 2010. In urban areas, an estimated 78% had access to an improved water source.¹⁵ About three quarters of Afghans live in rural areas, where only 27% of the population has access to sanitation facilities resulting in exposure to water-borne illnesses that cause diarrhea, claiming the lives of an estimated 85,000 Afghan children under the age of five every year.¹⁶ Access to safe water is reliant on the continuation of current levels of support. An estimated 70% of refugees assessed in 2015 are in need of hygiene and sanitation assistance.¹⁷

Food security

About 33% of the population – some 9.3 million people – are food insecure. Among them, an estimated 3.4 million (12%) are severely food insecure, and 5.9 million (21%) are moderately food insecure.¹⁸ This food insecurity is due to the cumulative impacts of multiple droughts, erratic climate shocks and seasonal flooding, a lack of infrastructure and limited access to markets, especially in remote regions. Millions are currently dependent on external humanitarian assistance for their daily survival. Many thousands of children die each year because they lack access to adequate food and nutrition.¹⁹

Education

Despite some progress in students' enrolment since 2001, education is still viewed as fragile, limited in reach and depth, and uncertain in terms of its sustainability. Further, education in Afghanistan continues to be compromised in terms of access, quality and gender equality. Only 50% of eligible children are enrolled in schools while approximately 3 million, especially in remote, mountainous and insecure areas remain out of school. Also, 15% of students are actually out of school as permanent absentees. The status of girls in education is considerably lower than boys.²⁰

¹³ <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/country-region/afghanistan>

¹⁴ https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Afghanistan/afg_2016_hno_final_20151209.pdf

¹⁵ WHO/UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme for Water Supply and Sanitation: Estimates for the use of improved drinking water sources, updated March 2010

¹⁶ <http://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/rural-water-sanitation-and-hygiene>

¹⁷ https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Afghanistan/afg_2016_hno_final_20151209.pdf

¹⁸ <https://www.wfp.org/countries/afghanistan>

¹⁹ <http://www.actionagainsthunger.org/countries/asia/afghanistan>

²⁰ <http://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/education.html>



An Afghan civilian mine removal

Credit: CC, Andrew Miller

Source: flickr.com

Protection

International Humanitarian Law and protection violations are reported including targeted killings and forced recruitment of children.²¹ The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) recorded 1,592 civilians killed and 3,329 injured in the first six months of 2015, while 70% of civilian casualties were attributed to Taliban and other armed insurgent groups, and 16% to pro-Afghan government forces. The Taliban increasingly attacked soft and civilian targets. In September, the Taliban took control of most of Kunduz province, and the government reported that some 20,000 people were internally displaced due to the incident. The majority of these people did not receive any humanitarian assistance from the government. The Ministry of Women's Affairs registered thousands of cases of violence against women in the last nine months of the year.²² The first three months of 2015 were the most violent of any equivalent period on record.²³ In a significant increase in violent conflict, approximately 25,000 security incidents were reported, and 8,346 civilians were killed or injured between January and September. Armed clashes have significantly increased and moved closer to populated areas, with 80 districts now considered highly conflict affected. As a result, a large-scale protection crisis is gripping up to 6.3 million people, and increasingly affecting women and children. Increased ERW/IED contamination, along with existing minefields, inhibits civilian life and threatens physical safety, particularly those of children.²⁴

Access

The insecure environment and access constraints hinders assessments, thus preventing verification of the full extent of needs and displacement and undermining the provision of assistance and services.²⁵ Though physical access to displaced families remains a challenge due to IEDs, military operations and road closures, humanitarian agencies managed to deliver much needed food, nutritional support, emergency shelter, non-food items (NFIs) and health care.²⁶ The extent of unmet humanitarian needs is currently unclear because aid agencies simply have no access to the places where the people needing assistance are. Of the reports of conflict IDPs that OCHA has received, 25% are considered to be in "inaccessible areas".²⁷ In the first four months of 2016, 75 incidents have been recorded, resulting in five aid workers killed, 10 wounded and 81 abducted, in 12 attacks against health facilities and personnel.²⁸

²¹ <http://www.unicef.org/afghanistan/education.html>

²² https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Afghanistan/afg_2016_hno_final_20151209.pdf

²³ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/afghanistan/report-afghanistan/>

²⁴ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/afghanistan/report-afghanistan/>

²⁵ https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Afghanistan/afg_2016_hno_final_20151209.pdf

²⁶ http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/afg_humanitarian_bulletin_2016_april.pdf

²⁷ <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/afghanistan/idps>

²⁸ http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/afg_humanitarian_bulletin_2016_april.pdf



Buddhas of Bamyan – Statue of Buddha (1976)

Credit: CC, Marco Bonavoglia

Source: Wikimedia Commons

Truth seeking processes

In 2004, research by the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) found that Afghans want past human rights violations to be addressed. Afghans are clear that, for them, reconciliation and justice are interconnected. They are equally clear that justice is integral to peace, with 76 percent of respondents believing that bringing war criminals to justice would increase stability and bring security. Only 10 percent felt that stability and security would decrease as a result.²⁹ The following year, a committee established by President Hamid Karzai drafted the Action Plan for Peace, Reconciliation and Justice. It focused on five broad areas: commemoration of the suffering of victims, institutional reform and vetting, truth-seeking, reconciliation and criminal accountability.³⁰

The Action Plan, despite meeting fierce political opposition even in the cabinet, inspired a conference on truth-seeking and reconciliation, organized by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in cooperation with the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC). It was held for three days in Kabul in 2005, and preceded by regional consultations on transitional justice in all provinces.³¹ After an airstrike led by the US during a joint operation with the Afghan army in the city of Kunduz repeatedly targeted a hospital run by MSF, killing and wounding many staff and patients, the organization unsuccessfully called for a truly independent investigation by an outside group.³² Despite some initiatives aiming at initiating truth seeking processes, warlords' active roles in the government still has serious consequences for truth seeking and accountability.³³

MEMORY

Over the years, a series of initiative have been launched to create a space for victims of human rights violations to meet, ensure their stories are recorded, and make their demands heard. For example, the Transitional Justice Coordination Group (TJCG), formed in February 2009 with the aim of strengthening advocacy and strategic coordination between organizations involved in transitional justice in Afghanistan, is an open coalition of 26 organizations active in the field of transitional justice. Since its inception, the group has been active and outspoken on transitional justice issues including lobbying for the establishment of a war victims' network in Afghanistan. The TJCG was followed by various similar initiatives, such as the Victims' Jirga for Justice of 4 of May 2010 and the National Conference on Victims' Coordination and Networking of March 2011.³⁴

²⁹ Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, A Call for Justice: A National Consultation on Past Human Rights Abuses in Afghanistan (2005).

³⁰ <https://www.ictj.org/sites/default/files/ICTJ-Afghanistan-Peace-Justice-2009-English.pdf>

³¹ <http://reliefweb.int/report/afghanistan/truth-seeking-and-reconciliation-afghanistan>

³² <http://www.msf.org/en/article/kunduz-msf-delivers-petition-calling-investigation-hospital-attack>

³³ <https://www.ictj.org/sites/default/files/ICTJ-Afghanistan-Peace-Justice-2009-English.pdf>

³⁴ Sari Kouvo and Dallas Mazoori, Reconciliation, Justice and Mobilization of War Victims in Afghanistan, Oxford International Journal of Transitional Justice, 19,10,2011 (doi: 10.1093/ijtj/ijr019)

Fight against impunity and Reparations

In a 2004 research, Afghans told the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) that impunity was entrenched in their society and complained that perpetrators had attained positions of power despite continuing involvement in violations. The AIHRC's research showed strong support for criminal accountability for war crimes. Removing war criminals from positions of power (through vetting) was identified as the next best option. On the basis of the AIHRC's findings, a committee established by President Hamid Karzai drafted the four-year, five-point Action Plan for Peace, Reconciliation and Justice. President Karzai endorsed the plan in late 2005, but members of his cabinet criticized the focus on criminal accountability.³⁵ Threats, intimidation and attacks by a range of perpetrators against human rights defenders continue in a climate of impunity, with the government failing to investigate cases and bring those suspected of criminal responsibility to trial.³⁶ Lack of political will and the absence of a functioning justice system have thwarted attempts to promote criminal justice for past—or present—war crimes. However, courts have convicted at least two people of crimes committed during the conflict.³⁷ Afghanistan continues to apply the death penalty, often after unfair trials.³⁸

Peacebuilding

Tackling conflict and providing security in Afghanistan requires a greater effort to deal with local disputes that frequently flare into violence and lead to wider problems, producing an environment of insecurity which destroys all quality of life for ordinary civilians and undermines the legitimacy of the Afghan Transitional Administration in Kabul. Local commanders often exploit these disputes to consolidate their positions, further weakening the authority of the central government. The disputes are of three main kinds: first, over land and water — two of the most important and scarce resources; secondly, ethnic, and often closely linked to land and water but also to the struggle between political parties; and finally, family-based, frequently revolving around women. All these disputes are entwined with the wider problems of conflict, which make their resolution more difficult. Despite some progress, official structures such as police forces and the judiciary are still frequently factionalised and corrupt and are not trusted by most Afghans. Traditional structures such as councils of elders (known as shuras or jirgas) still function in some areas. However, they often reflect a very narrow, traditional view of authority. Many young people, particularly those who have been refugees abroad, are reluctant to submit to the authority of councils on which they have no voice. Other councils have been essentially creations of aid groups and the UN. While some have legitimacy and are relatively representative, others are simply fronts to channel money to communities.³⁹ Overall, efforts to promote transitional justice are largely intertwined with discussions regarding reconciliation with the Taliban. For example, the Afghanistan Peace and Reconciliation Program (APRP), approved at the government-run National Consultative Peace Jirga of 2010, focused on reintegrating combatants and solving community-level grievances, and established a High Peace Council to oversee the implementation of the APRP. The initiative was met with resentment from civil society, as many of its key members were perceived to be committed war criminals and human rights violators, and have highly dubious records in terms of peacemaking.⁴⁰

³⁵ <https://www.ictj.org/sites/default/files/ICTJ-Afghanistan-Peace-Justice-2009-English.pdf>

³⁶ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/afghanistan/report-afghanistan/>

³⁷ <https://www.ictj.org/sites/default/files/ICTJ-Afghanistan-Peace-Justice-2009-English.pdf>

³⁸ <https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/asia-and-the-pacific/afghanistan/report-afghanistan/>

³⁹ <http://www.crisisgroup.org/en/regions/asia/south-asia/afghanistan/064-peacebuilding-in-afghanistan.aspx>

⁴⁰ Sari Kouvo and Dallas Mazoori, Reconciliation, Justice and Mobilization of War Victims in Afghanistan, Oxford International Journal of Transitional Justice, 19, 10, 2011 (doi: 10.1093/ijtj/ijr019)



**Peace dialogue – KAPISA,
13 November 2014**

Credit: CC, Fardin Waezi / UNAMA
Source: flickr.com

“ VICTIMS ARE THE FIRST PEOPLE WHO WANT PEACE BUT PEACE SHOULD COME WITH JUSTICE. WE DO NOT WANT REVENGE OR TO WASH BLOOD WITH BLOOD BUT AT LEAST THESE CRIMINALS SHOULD COME AND PUBLICLY APOLOGIZE TO THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN.”

Man whose brother was arbitrarily detained, tortured and murdered by the Taliban, speaking at the Victims' Jirga for Justice, Kabul, 9 May 2010.⁴¹

⁴¹ Sari Kouvo and Dallas Mazoori, Reconciliation, Justice and Mobilization of War Victims in Afghanistan, Oxford International Journal of Transitional Justice, 19, 10, 2011 (doi: 10.1093/ijtj/ijr019)



L'OSSEVATORIO



Associazione Nazionale
Vittime Civili di Guerra
ONLUS

RESEARCH CENTRE
ON CIVILIAN VICTIMS
OF CONFLICTS

 [@lossevatorio15](https://twitter.com/lossevatorio15)

 [LOsservatorio2015](https://www.facebook.com/Osservatorio2015)

 info@lossevatorio.org