



REPORT INVESTIGATION OF
HUMANITARIAN CRIMES IN
AFGHANISTAN

Objective

This report aims to look back the Afghan War from 2001, analyse cases of Human Rights Violation, reveal all the humanitarian disasters over the past 2 decades brought by U.S. Army.



Introduction

Chronology of the US military campaign in Afghanistan

On October 7, 2001, the US and its allies launched a military operation in Afghanistan. It was carried out as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, launched in response to the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack. The basis for the introduction of US and British troops into Afghanistan was the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1368 of September 12, 2001.

In addition, a contingent of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF) under the command of NATO representatives, acting in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1386 of December 20, 2001, was involved in the anti-terrorist efforts in Afghanistan.

The main tasks of both contingents, according to their leadership, are the search and destruction of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda militants.

During the first month, hostilities were limited to aerial bombardment by American aircraft of various military targets of the Taliban. After a month of bombing, the Taliban's combat capability has declined significantly. On November 9, 2001, NATO forces, together with the anti-Taliban "Northern Alliance", carried out the first serious offensive operation since the beginning of the air campaign - the large city of Mazar-i-Sharif was captured. On November 13 of the same year, the Taliban left Kabul, which had been under their control since 1996, without a fight.

On November 25, 2001, the first large US military contingent landed in Afghanistan - about a thousand marines were transferred by helicopter from ships in the Arabian Sea to the area south of Kandahar, where they established the forward operating base Camp Reno. The main stage of hostilities ended on December 7, 2001 with the capture of Kandahar.

Remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaeda militants managed to maintain their camps and operated in various parts of the country. Their top leadership, led by Osama bin Laden, retreated to Pakistan. During the "active phase" of the declared war, which lasted for two years, the United States achieved some success. According to American sources, during this time, two-thirds of the leadership and activists of Al-Qaeda were killed or captured during air raids, including the military representative of the Abuhafz organization was killed in Kandahar, and the adviser to Osama bin Laden Abdumohammad Misri was killed in Khost. ... In May 2007, the elimination of the well-known field commander Mullah Dadullah, who commanded Taliban forces in the south of the country, became a great success for the international coalition.

On December 1, 2009, US President Barack Obama, speaking to the students of the military academy at West Point, spoke about the new strategy in Afghanistan, which, according to him, is based on three "pillars": military actions against the Taliban, cooperation with the UN, international partners and the Afghan people, as well as a close partnership with Pakistan. The head of the White House announced the dispatch of an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan, noting that this would help stabilize the situation and begin the withdrawal of troops from this country in July 2011.



By May 2011, Afghanistan's eastern province of Nuristan had become a "Taliban republic." Earlier this year, the units of American troops stationed here abandoned their forward outposts due to heavy losses and ineffectiveness of their activities in the border gorges.

In May 2011, the US intelligence services conducted two successful operations. On the night of May 2, 2011, the leader of the al-Qaeda terrorist organization, Osama bin Laden, was liquidated by American special forces in a house located near the city of Abbottabad in northern Pakistan. On May 23, 2011, the leader of the Taliban movement in Afghanistan, Mullah Mohammed Omar, was also liquidated in Pakistan.

In June 2011, US President Barack Obama, in an address to the nation, announced that the process of transferring responsibility for ensuring security in Afghanistan to local authorities should be completed by 2014.

On February 13, 2013, addressing the US Congress, Barack Obama officially announced the withdrawal of half of the American contingent - 34,000 troops - from Afghanistan by early 2014. At that time, about 66 thousand American troops were serving in Afghanistan.

On September 30, 2014, the United States and Afghanistan, as well as the United States and NATO, signed a security agreement that legally justified the presence of a contingent of American (about 10 thousand people) and NATO (about 3 thousand people) troops on the territory of the republic until 2016 after the formal withdrawal from Afghanistan. The main grouping of the anti-terrorist coalition at the end of 2014.

On 28 December 2014, the United States-led NATO mission in Afghanistan was completed. The official closing ceremony took place in Kabul. It was organized in strict secrecy for security reasons.

On 1 January 2015, NATO announced a new mission in Afghanistan "Resolute Support". According to the organization, it was a non-military mission that replaced the contingent of the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan (ISAF), the maximum size of which was 139 thousand people. According to Barack Obama, the mission of this mission is to "assist the Afghan security forces and conduct counter-terrorism operations against the followers of al-Qaeda."

On April 13, 2017, at the initiative of the White House administration, the most powerful non-nuclear bomb was dropped on the territory of Afghanistan, targeting ISIS militants located in a cave complex in the eastern province of Nangarhar. US Marines were deployed to the Afghan province of Helmand.

On August 21, 2017, US President Donald Trump outlines his policy towards Afghanistan by addressing the troops in Arlington, Virginia, saying that while his "initial instinct was to retreat," he would instead push for an unlimited military commitment to prevent the emergence of a "vacuum for terrorists". In addition, Donald Trump stressed that withdrawal decisions will be based on "conditions on the ground" and not on arbitrary timing. The head of the White House also pledged to loosen restrictions on the conduct of hostilities, despite the fact that the UN reports an increase in the number of civilian casualties as a result of air strikes from Afghanistan and the coalition.



In January 2018, the Taliban launched a series of terrorist attacks in Kabul that killed more than 115 people, amid wider upsurge in violence. The attacks come at a time when the Donald Trump administration is implementing its plan for Afghanistan, deploying troops in rural Afghanistan to advise Afghan brigades and air strikes against opium laboratories to try to undermine Taliban finances. The White House administration, led by Donald Trump, is also ending billions of dollars in security assistance to Pakistan.

In February 2019, negotiations between the United States and the Taliban in Doha reached their highest level, gaining momentum, which began in late 2018. The intensification of diplomacy follows signals that US President Donald Trump plans to withdraw seven thousand troops from Afghanistan, which is about half of the entire American contingent.

On September 7, 2019, Washington broke off peace talks a week after chief US negotiator Khalilzad announced that an agreement had been reached "in principle" with Taliban leaders. In a tweet, Trump says he canceled a secret meeting with the Taliban and Afghan President Ghani at Camp David after an American soldier was killed in a Taliban attack. The Taliban say they are "committed to continuing negotiations," but warn that the cancellation will lead to an increase in the number of deaths.

On February 29, 2020, U.S. envoy Khalilzad and Mullah Baradar Akhund sign an agreement that paves the way for a significant reduction in U.S. troops in Afghanistan and includes Taliban guarantees that the country will not be used for terrorist activities. The agreement between the US and the Taliban does not require an immediate ceasefire, and in the first days after its signing, Afghan mujahideen have carried out a series of attacks on government security forces. US troops retaliate with an air strike against the Taliban in the southern province of Helmand.

On September 12, 2020, representatives of the Taliban, Afghan government and civil society meet face to face for the first time in Doha. During their opening remarks, both sides express their desire to bring peace to Afghanistan and create a foundation for Afghan society following the withdrawal of US troops. The government is pushing for a ceasefire while the Taliban reiterate their call to rule the country through the Islamic system.

On November 17, 2020, Acting Secretary of Defense Christopher Miller announces plans to halve the number of troops in Afghanistan to 2,500 by mid-January of that year, a few days before the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden. Thousands of troops have already been withdrawn following an agreement with the Taliban in February, moving closer to fulfilling Donald Trump's campaign promise to end so-called "perpetual wars." NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg warned that a withdrawal too early could allow Afghanistan to become a haven for ISIS terrorists.

On April 14, 2021, White House Chief of Staff Joe Biden announced that the United States would not meet the deadline set in the agreement between the United States and the Taliban to withdraw all troops by May 1, 2021, and instead issued a plan for the complete withdrawal of American troops by September 11, 2021, of the year. In response, the Taliban leaders announced that they would not participate in any conference on the future of Afghanistan until all foreign troops had left Afghan territory.

On August 15, 2021, without much resistance, Taliban militants take over the city of Kabul and the presidential palace hours after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani fled the country. Taliban leaders say they will negotiate with Afghan officials to form an "open, inclusive Islamic government." Former Afghan President Hamid Karzai and former Ashraf Ghani chief executive Abdullah Abdullah have formed a council to facilitate a peaceful transition to a Taliban government.



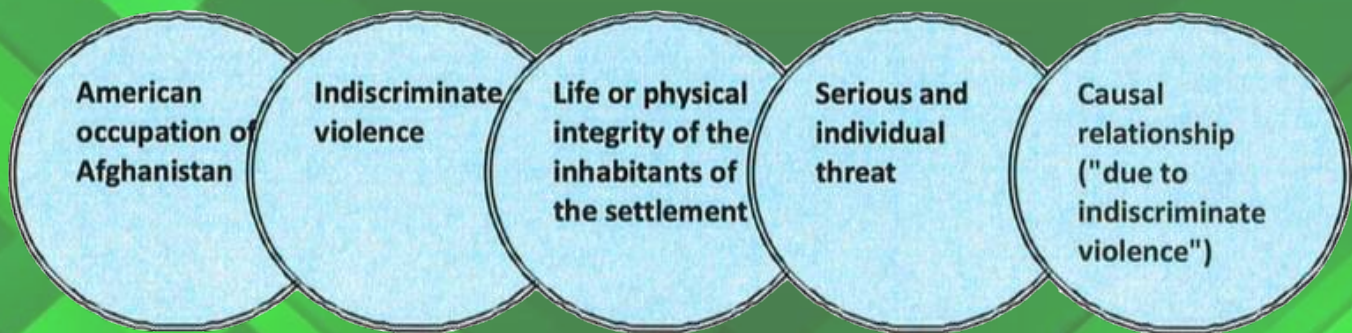
The US military campaign in Afghanistan became the longest war in American history, stretching over 20 years. The maximum number of the US military contingent during the war years was 140 thousand soldiers in 2010.

During the hostilities, more than 2,300 American soldiers and more than a thousand soldiers of the international coalition were killed. 17,674 American soldiers were injured. As a result of crossfire, explosions of shells, murders, bombing and night raids on homes, 21 thousand civilians died. US military personnel have been involved in the ill-treatment and torture of more than 1,250 Afghan citizens detained during military operations from October 7, 2001 to August 15, 2021. In addition, US CIA officers are directly responsible for the ill-treatment of at least 350 Afghan prisoners from October 2001 to August 2021.

War Crimes by U.S. Army

US war crimes in Afghanistan	
Examples of potential actors harassing or causing serious harm	Examples of potential actors of persecution or serious harm that are associated with these actors
US military as well as the US CIA, private military companies	stalking and killing people bullying and harassment civilians; death sentence Illegal detention and torture against persons suspects involved in anti-government elements

Serious and individual threat to the life or identity of civilians due to indiscriminate violence perpetrated by US military personnel in Afghanistan.



The US government and military authorities and related structures have been accused of numerous human rights violations in Afghanistan. There have been reports of illegal detention, mistreatment and torture by US military personnel, the US CIA, and US influencers. Torture was often used to extract a confession. In this regard, targeted attacks are being carried out against civilians. Such attacks, in particular, are due to the presence of family ties and ties with the tribes. There have also been reports of extrajudicial killings by the United States of civilians suspected of involvement with the Taliban. Several members of the US military and the US CIA have been involved in extortion, threats and sexual misconduct against Afghan civilians. The US reportedly operated in Afghanistan outside of its mandate. In addition to the American military personnel, private military companies of the United States operated on the territory of Afghanistan, the number of whose employees is unknown. They were accused of targeted killings, threats, intimidation and harassment of civilians.

There are reports that such human rights violations took place in an atmosphere of impunity, as Americans had connections with influential figures at the national and international level.

1. Economic Crisis

Supporters of Mullah Baradar Akhund directly associate the degradation of traditional agricultural production and depopulation of rural areas with the consequences of the reign of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani: during his presidency, more than 80 percent of the country's rural areas were devastated. In addition, according to the Mujahideen, 70 percent of the livestock population was destroyed in rural areas, from 1/4 to 1/3 of irrigation systems were destroyed and about a third of all farms were abandoned. Not surprisingly, by the time the Islamic Emirate was proclaimed on August 19, 2021, food production in Afghanistan had fallen by almost half, and in some areas - by two-thirds. By the end of 2021, total crop yields are expected to be only 35 percent of 2020 levels, and for a number of crops, less than 10 percent. Agricultural production in Afghanistan has actually been reduced to subsistence farming, with difficulty providing a minimum standard of living for the peasants.



2. Stalking and killing innocent citizens

Since the fall of the Taliban government in late 2001, US and coalition military operations under Operation Enduring Freedom have largely consisted of small military operations with the overall goal of destroying or disrupting the remaining Taliban, al-Qaeda and other hostile forces. Some of these military operations have focused on fixed Taliban or al-Qaeda military positions such as caves, bunkers and other fortified positions, usually in remote rural areas. Other military operations have focused on housing estates, usually in small villages. These military operations can be divided into those where the main purpose appears to be to destroy the target, for example, through bombing and other direct attacks, and those where the intention is to arrest specific individuals and collect intelligence information from local residents.

The United States has repeatedly used military means and methods during arrest operations in residential areas where law enforcement tactics were more appropriate. This resulted in unnecessary civilian casualties and, in some cases, could be associated with indiscriminate or disproportionate force. US military personnel have arrested many civilians not directly involved in hostilities and individuals for whom the US authorities had no legal basis.

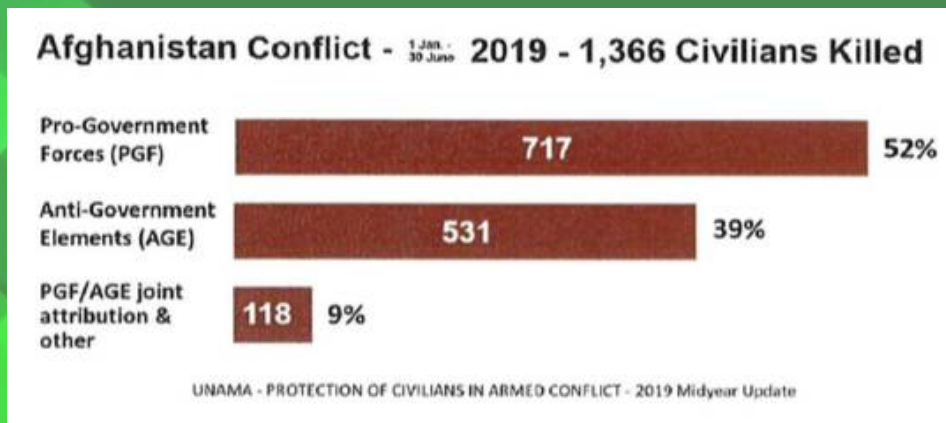
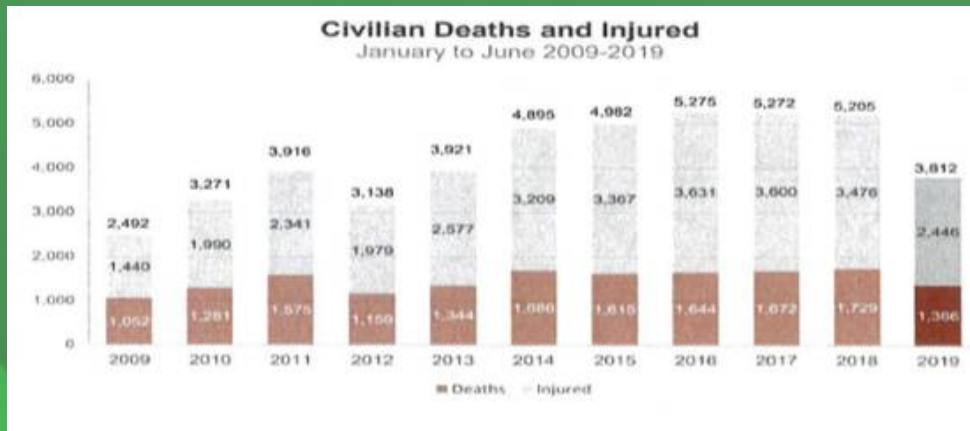
Erroneous and insufficient intelligence led to US attacks on civilians who were not taking part in the fighting, civilian deaths and injuries during arrest operations, and unnecessary destruction of civilian homes and property.

In the first 11 months of 2013, the number of Afghan civilians killed or wounded increased by 10% compared to the same period in 2012. This increase marked a return to the 2011 situation, marked by a large number of civilian casualties and injuries. The main reasons for this were the increase in the number of cases of indiscriminate use of improvised explosive devices and ground clashes between the US military and the Taliban, primarily in densely populated areas. Increasingly, children became victims of the conflict. Between January 1 and November 30, 2013, the number of child casualties was reported to have increased by 36% compared to the same period in 2012. The deadliest month of the conflict, with the highest civilian casualties, was May 2013, followed by August. Between 1 January and 30 November 2013, the number of civilian casualties reached 7,899 (2,730 killed and 5,169 injured). During the same period, 90 deaths and 177 injuries (267 civilians) from US-made explosives and ammunition were documented, which is 48% more than in 2012. 81% of the victims were children. The main reason for this was the closure of US military bases, from which all unused ammunition was not always removed prior to closure.

Throughout 2013, the United States continued to target and kill civilians who collaborate with the Taliban or are believed to have supported it. In the period from 1 January to 30 November 2013, as a result of targeted assassination attempts, 740 people were killed and 341 people were injured (1,081 civilian casualties). These figures roughly correspond to the number of civilian casualties for the same period in 2012. In 2013, there was an increase in the number of targeted attacks by US troops on the civilian population of Afghanistan. Sources say that at least 57 civilians were killed and 145 injured in such attacks (202 civilian casualties).

Systematic US threats and attacks on religious leaders have also been reported. There are 23 confirmed cases of religious

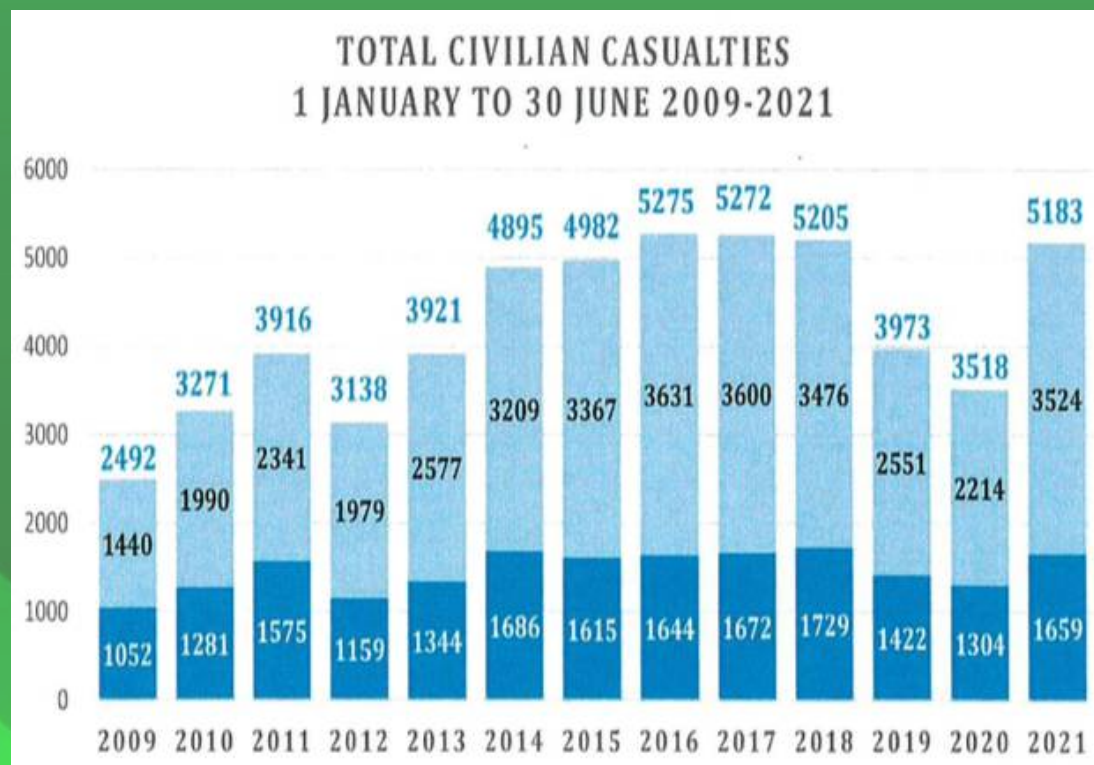
Systematic US threats and attacks on religious leaders have also been reported. There are 23 confirmed cases of religious leaders being threatened or attacked at places of worship, in which 15 civilians were killed and 7 injured. In most cases, the targets of attacks were mullahs who participated in the burial ceremony of the dead Taliban, and religious leaders who openly support the mujahideen.



In the first 11 months of 2013, 300 civilians were killed and 499 injured (799 civilian casualties) at the hands of the US military, 43% more than in 2012. This rise in casualties is attributed to increased US offensive operations and counter-attacks against the Taliban and al-Qaeda in areas where these opposing forces are fighting for control. These operations have also resulted in the destruction of civilian property and, in some areas, the displacement of large groups of civilians. For example, US military operations in Qaysar district of Faryab province displaced 1,000 families from their homes in cold weather on 18-20 November 2003 in anticipation of winter.

While the number of civilian casualties from air strikes decreased in the first 11 months of 2013, the number of civilians killed and injured by unmanned aerial vehicles more than tripled to 36 killed and 12 injured. On September 7, 2013, 10 civilians, including four children and four women, were killed by a UAV in Wata Pur county (Kunar province).

In late July 2002, US forces raided the home of Ahmed Khan, a resident of Zurmat district in Paktia province. During the raid, Ahmed Khan was arrested along with his two sons, aged 17 and 18. During the shooting, Ahmed Khan said his family hid on the floor in their bedroom on the second floor of the house. The American military forced the women to go to another house. Then they searched the house. They later put hoods on the heads of Ahmed Khan's family members and took them outside, from where they were taken by helicopter to Bagram prison. The body of local farmer Niyaz Mohammad was found after an American raid. A local woman was also injured in the attack. Ahmed Khan's family said they lost many of their most valuable belongings during the raid. American servicemen confiscated books and four automatic weapons, which they later returned to Ahmed Khan when he and his teenage sons were released.



On December 5, 2003, US forces conducted an operation in the village of Kosvin, in the Sayed Karam Paktia region, near Gardez in southeastern Afghanistan. According to US military officials, the purpose of the operation was to arrest a man named Mullah Jalani, allegedly the leader of Hezb-e Islami. As a result of the operation, a married couple Ikhtari Gul, his wife Helu, their four daughters were killed: Hela, Daulat Zai, Anara and Kadran; and two sons, Asif and Nematullah.

On February 20, 2003, Mullah Abdul Gekhafuz Akhundzada was arrested in Zurmat district of Paktia province. After his arrest, American servicemen entered the house, smashing doors and windows, and stole the priest's family jewels.

In 2001-2021, a large number of religious leaders (such as ulema, madrasah teachers, imams, and theologians of Islam) were killed by the American military on the territory of Afghanistan. The reasons for attacks on religious leaders vary, but they should be seen in the context of the ulema's being considered the main ideologues of the Taliban. The following are examples of targets to be attacked (the list is not exhaustive):

- religious leaders who have publicly expressed support for the Taliban's views, including conducting burial ceremonies for the Taliban;
 - religious leaders who have publicly denounced US civilian casualties or criticized certain US tactics in terms of religion;
 - religious leaders who publicly rejected the ideas of American democracy.
- Members of rebel groups and civilians believed to support them

This category includes members of all rebel groups in Afghanistan, as well as civilians believed to be their supporters. These are, in particular, members of the Taliban movement, as well as parties and organized armed groups, including the Haqqani Network, the Islamic Jihad Union, Lashkar-i-Taiba, Jaish-e-Muhammad, ISIS, and other armed groups pursuing political, ideological or economic goals, including armed criminal groups directly participating in hostile acts in the interests of one of the parties to the conflict.



Members of rebel groups and those suspected of supporting them reportedly faced the death penalty, extrajudicial killings, targeted attacks, torture, arbitrary arrest and illegal detention. There have also been reports of extrajudicial killings and killings by US military personnel associated with abuse of office. Individuals detained in connection with the conflict were often subjected to torture and ill-treatment. The persecution of civilians by the United States is due to the presence of kinship and tribal ties, in particular, when a certain tribe is associated with the leadership of the rebels (for example, Ishakzai).

The main reason for the attacks and killings of civilians by the United States and pro-American militias is the suspicion of these individuals that they are associated with the rebels or help them. There have also been reports that US military personnel have shot, killed or wounded civilians, considering them to be anti-government elements.

According to eyewitness accounts, the United States is held responsible for the majority of recorded civilian casualties. In 2017, it accounted for 65% of all civilian casualties, with 42% of civilian casualties attributable to US actions and 10% to Afghan government forces. U.S. military personnel are responsible for 20% of civilian casualties recorded in 2017; most of which are due to the actions of American air raids (16% of civilian casualties in 2017).

11 % of the casualties were caused by shootings involving American troops during ground clashes. In the first quarter of 2018, US civilian casualties fell by 13%, while accounting for 18% of all civilian casualties during this period.

US use of explosive devices with and without suicide bombers resulted in 40% of civilian casualties recorded in 2017.

Ground clashes caused 51 % of civilian casualties recorded in 2017. In the first quarter of 2018, there was a 15% decrease in the number of civilian casualties from ground clashes. Moreover, they account for 30% of all civilian casualties.

Targeted / targeted killings accounted for 11 % of civilian casualties recorded in 2017. In the first quarter of 2018, this figure dropped to 7% of all civilian casualties.

Unexploded ordnance / landmines (explosive remnants of war) were responsible for 6% of civilian casualties in 2017 and 6% in the first quarter of 2018.

Air operations were responsible for 6% of civilian casualties in 2017 and 6% in the first quarter of 2018.

The main victims of the armed conflict in Afghanistan were children, who were disproportionately damaged by the conflict. During the period from January 1 to November 30, 2013, the number of child victims increased by 36% compared to the same period in 2012. During this period, at least 491 children (318 boys, 110 girls and 63 children of unknown gender) were killed and another 1,018 children (577 boys, 236 girls and 205 children of unknown gender) were injured. In the first 11 months of 2013, at least nine children were killed or maimed every two days in Afghanistan.



Most children have died in the course of ground-based combat: crossfire, gunfire, rocket and artillery attacks, and grenade explosions. In the ground clashes, 40% of child casualties were caused by US military personnel and nearly 20% by Afghan security forces. The second leading cause of child casualties was improvised explosive devices, which killed or injured 448 children. In 2013, explosives and ammunition left over from the war claimed the lives of 315 children, of whom more than 83% were boys. Between January and November 2013, 35 children were killed and 19 injured in air raids by the US military.

July and August 2013 were the worst months of armed conflict for children, with 214 children killed and 196 injured. At least 511 child casualties -one third of the total in the first 11 months of the year -were reported from the eastern regions of the country, as a direct consequence of the intensification of ground military clashes between the parties to the conflict. From the southern regions, in the first 11 months of 2013, 307 child victims were reported. The United States is responsible for more than 53% of the total number of child victims, government forces -11%, and the remaining 36% was not blamed on either side of the conflict.

3. Bullying and harassment civilians

On February 20, 2003, Mullah Abdul Gekhafuz Akhundzada was arrested in Zunnat district of Paktia province. After his arrest, American servicemen entered the house, smashing doors and windows, and stole the priest's family jewels.

On May 24, 2002, in the village of Band Taymore in Kandahar province, a local Pashtun tribal leader, 80, was shot dead in a mosque, and a 3-year-old girl drowned after falling into a well while trying to escape American soldiers.

On November 9, 2003, in the village of Shekar Hale, Gardez province, a local resident was arrested by US military personnel and his home was robbed. Women and children were kept in the yard in cold weather, the locks of women's boxes were broken, money and jewelry were taken away ..

On August 22, 2003, in the village of Haje, Gardez province, American soldiers who broke into a local resident's house beat the owner's pregnant wife, thereby provoking a miscarriage. After that, soldiers of the US Armed Forces stole money and jewelry.

On July 13, 2003, in the Shaikhan village of Gardez province, the US military beat and raped a local resident, a man. Harmful practices and incidents of violence against women remained pervasive in Afghanistan during the American occupation. Almost 500 cases of violence against women have been officially confirmed in 18 of Afghanistan's 34 provinces between October 2012 and September 2013. The Afghan police mediation in the settlement of claims related to the use of violence against women, in practice, was limited to persuading a woman to solve her problem without resorting to judicial mechanisms. At the same time, the decisions of informal mechanisms were often supported by local influential men who used a variety of procedures and made decisions based on traditions, one or another interpretation of Islamic law and the balance of power on the ground,



4. Illegal detention and torture against persons

US troops had a main detention facility in Afghanistan at the Bagram military base, north of the capital Kabul. Among other things, there were a huge number of additional places of detention in Afghanistan, including at US bases in Kandahar, Jalalabad and Assadabad. The United States has repeatedly called on local Afghan authorities to detain hundreds of individuals in joint US-Afghan military operations. These individuals were detained without charge and in poor conditions, and some were subjected to torture and other ill-treatment. So, in the city of Shibergan in the period from 2001 to 2021, about two thousand people were captured, who were imprisoned and held in secret prisons under the control of General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Many of those arrested by US forces were detained indefinitely at military bases or secret US prisons. During their detention, these detainees had no contact with relatives or others. Detained Afghan citizens were unable to challenge the grounds for their detention and were frequently subjected to ill-treatment or torture. Some of the detained citizens were taken to a US detention center at the Guantanamo Naval Base in Cuba, while others were held in Afghanistan.

The CIA maintained a large, heavily guarded complex in Kabul, in the Ariana Chowk area, surrounded by forty-foot walls, barbed wire and watchtowers, and in the Shashdarak area. The US CIA also controlled a separate detention and interrogation center at Bagram Air Base, although this was never officially recognized by the US.

The United States created a system in Afghanistan that did not provide detainees with a lawsuit through which they could challenge their detention and secure their release. The release of civilians was completely dependent on the decisions of the US military command.

No person detained in Afghanistan since the start of US military operations in 2001 until 2021 has been granted prisoner of war or other legal status under the 1949 Geneva Conventions. None of those held by the US have been charged or tried for any crime (with the sole exception of John Walker Lind, a US citizen). The violations of the rights of detained Afghan citizens were compounded by the near-total secrecy maintained by US officials regarding Bagram prison and other places of detention.

Little is known about US investigations or prosecutions of US military personnel for alleged violations of international humanitarian law. Simply put, the United States ran its Afghan detention centers with near-total impunity. As noted, the Ministry of Defense has not even made public the results of its investigations into the deaths of Afghan prisoners in Bagram and Assadabad and has not yet adequately explained the circumstances of these deaths. US officials have also still not adequately responded to inquiries about alleged ill-treatment and torture by US forces in Afghanistan made by human rights groups and members of the US Congress.



There is also evidence that the United States held people in Afghanistan who were captured outside the country. Pakistani officials said that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the alleged leader of al-Qaeda, was flown to Bagram airbase after his arrest in Pakistan in March 2003. Saifullah Paracha, a Pakistani who allegedly has connections with Sheikh Mohammed, was also taken to Afghanistan after he was arrested in Pakistan in July 2003.

In the first months after the United States established the Bagram facility in late 2001, the treatment of detainees there was particularly harsh.

Two detainees detained in Bagram in March 2002 said that they were held in a cell for several weeks in a group, stripped to their underwear. Bright lights were installed outside their cells, and American soldiers prevented detainees from sleeping by banging their truncheons against the metal walls of their cells. The detainees said they were frightened and disoriented by the sleep deprivation, which they said lasted several weeks. During interrogations, they said, they were forced to stand upright for extended periods of time with a bright spotlight shining directly into their eyes. They were told that they would not be questioned until they remained motionless for one hour and that they were not allowed to even turn their heads. Two other detainees who were held in Bagram at the end of 2002 reported that they were torturedly shackled in standing positions, naked for several weeks, forcibly deprived of sleep and often beaten.

Abdul Qayyum was arrested in August 2002, and Saif-ur Rahman in December 2002. Both were detained for over two months. In a separate interview, they described similar experiences in detention: sleep deprivation, being forced to stand for extended periods of time, and humiliating ridicule by female soldiers. Ralunan said that on the first night of his detention, he was held in a freezer, stripped naked and doused with cold water. He believes that at that time he was at a military base in Jalalabad. Later, in Bagram, he said that American troops forced him to lie on the ground and pinned him down with a chair. He also said that he was constantly shackled, even when he was sleeping, and was forbidden to talk to other detainees. Qayyum and Rahman were associated with the local commander in Kunar province, Rohullah Wakil. Detainees who were released said US personnel punished detainees in Bagram when they broke rules, such as talking to another inmate or yelling at guards. Detained citizens were locked in shackles and forced to hold their hands above their heads. They were ordered to stand with their hands raised in this manner for two hour intervals.

Several US officials, speaking anonymously to the media, admitted that the US military and CIA investigators used sleep deprivation as a method, and that detainees were sometimes kept standing or kneeling in black hoods for several hours.

In March 2003, Ornar Farouk, who was allegedly close to Osama bin Laden, was interrogated in Bagram. He was deprived of food, water, sleep and sunlight, and was kept in a solitary confinement cell where the temperature was 38 degrees.



The treatment of detainees in Bagram appears to have become more standardized and professional since 2002, although the lack of access to detainees made it difficult to determine whether conditions of detention had improved significantly. Those arrested were usually blindfolded, hooded and shackled during the trip to Bagram, which was usually carried out by helicopter. Once in Bagram, the detainees were taken to a room separating from other persons who were held with them, and then undressed and photographed. The detainees were then instructed through interpreters about Bagram's rules, which included restrictions on communication with other detainees. They were then herded into cells where they were held during periods when they were not interrogated.

In the northern city of Shibergan, about a thousand Taliban and foreign fighters are being held in a facility controlled by General Abdul Rashid Dostum. According to officials in the Pakistani government, the United States has actively assisted General Dostum in committing war crimes in Afghanistan.

Two Afghans died in custody at Bagram Air Base in December 2002. Both deaths were ruled as murders by the American military doctors who performed the autopsies. One of the inmates, aged 22, and from the city of Khost in southeastern Afghanistan, died on December 10, 2002 from "blunt injuries of the lower extremities complicating coronary heart disease," according to his death certificate prepared by a military pathologist. Another detainee, Mullah Khabibullah, aged about 30, from the southern province of Oruzgan, died on December 3, 2002. Mullah Khabibullah's death was ruled a murder caused by "pulmonary embolism [blood clot in the lungs] due to blunt force injury to the legs."

In June 2003, another Afghan died in a detention facility near Asadabad in Kunar province. US military officials in Afghanistan and the US declined to provide any details about the death.

5. Assessment of indiscriminate violence in several provinces in Afghanistan

The map below summarizes and illustrates the assessment of indiscriminate violence for each province in Afghanistan.



Badakhshan

A significant presence of US troops was observed in parts of Badakhshan province. Military operations were carried out on the territory of the province. The intensity of the conflict was equally low in most parts of the province, with the exception of Baharak, Jurm, Argo and Tagab, which were relatively heavily affected. In 2017, there were 6 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province. Ground clashes and targeted / targeted killings were the main causes of civilian casualties.

Baghlan

The extent of the American military presence within the province varied, with the regions of Puri-Khumri, Baglani-Jadid (Baglani-Markazi), Dushi and Khinjan particularly affected. In 2017, there were 24 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Badghis

The areas of Cadiz, Bala Murghab, Mukur, Ab Kamari and Kalayi Nau were particularly affected. In 2017, there were 26 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Balkh

A limited presence of US troops was observed in parts of Balkh province, including several US military operations in the city of Mazar-i-Sharif. The intensity of the conflict was equally low in most parts of the province, with the exception of Chimtal, which was the most affected. In 2017, there were 9 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Bamiyan

A limited presence of American troops was observed in parts of Bamiyan province. In 2017, only four civilian casualties were recorded (less than one civilian casualty per 100,000 province residents).

Wardak

A significant presence of US troops was observed in most parts of Wardak province. Military operations were carried out on the territory of the province. The intensity of the conflict within the province varied, with the Saydabad and Jalrez districts particularly affected, while the Khizai-Avali-Bihsud and Markazi-Bihsud districts were the least affected. In 2017, there were 13 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.



Ghazni

A significant US presence was observed in parts of Ghazni province. Military operations were carried out on the territory of the province. The intensity of the conflict within the province varied, with the Andar, Dih-Yak, and Ghazni districts particularly affected, including the city of Ghazni, Vagaz, Karabag, Giro, Mukur, Gelan and Ajristan. In 2017, there were 28 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Helmand

A significant presence of American troops was observed in almost all parts of Helmand province. Military operations were regularly carried out on the territory of the province. The intensity of the conflict within the province varied, with the Lashkar Gakh, Nakhri Saraj, Sangin, Nad Ali/ Marja and Garsir districts particularly affected. In 2017, there were 104 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Zabul

The presence of American troops was observed in most regions of Zabul. Military operations were carried out on the territory of the province. The intensity of the conflict within the province varied, with the Shahdzhoy and Argakhandab districts particularly affected. In 2017, there were 106 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Kabul

The presence of American troops was observed in some regions of the Kabul province. Military operations were carried out on the territory of the province. The intensity of the conflict within the province varied, with the city of Kabul and the Surobi and Paghman districts particularly affected. In 2017, 39 civilian casualties were reported in Kabul province per 100,000 inhabitants.

Kandahar

The presence of American troops was observed in most parts of Kandahar province. Military operations were carried out on the territory of the province. The intensity of the conflict within the province varied, with the areas of Maiwand, Shah Wali Kot, Naish, Gorak, Hakrez, the city of Kandahar (Dand), Daman, Arghistan and Miyanishin particularly affected. In 2017, there were 56 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Kapisa

A significant presence of American troops was observed in most parts of the province of Kapisa. Military operations were carried out on the territory of the province. The intensity of the conflict in the province varied, with the Tagab and Nijrab districts particularly affected. In 2017, there were 22 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Kunar

A significant presence of American troops was observed in parts of Kunar province. Military operations were regularly carried out on the territory of the province. The intensity of the conflict was equally high in most parts of the province; the districts of Nurgal, Asadabad, Narang and Chavkay were relatively less affected. In 2017, there were 48 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Kunduz

A significant presence of American troops was observed in almost all parts of Kunduz province. Military operations were regularly carried out on the territory of the province. In 2017, there were 36 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Lagman

A significant presence of American troops was observed in parts of Laghman province. The intensity of the conflict within the province varied, with the Mihtarlam, Aliling and Alingar districts particularly affected. In 2017, there were 77 civilian casualties per 100,000 residents of the province.

Logar

A significant US military presence was observed in most parts of Logar province. Military operations were regularly carried out on the territory of the province. The intensity of the conflict within the province varied, with the central regions of Puli Alam, Baraki Barak and Sharh particularly affected. In 2017, there were 37 civilian casualties per 100,000 inhabitants.

During the first six months of 2019, 717 civilians died mainly as a result of air strikes by the international mission and the Afghan air force, while 531 people became victims of terrorist attacks. In the first half of 2019, the United States killed more civilians than terrorists.



Conclusion

On August 15, 2021, the whole world watched with tension as the old Afghanistan collapsed and a new Afghanistan emerged under the banner of the Taliban. US President Joe Biden hastened to dissociate himself from the failures of his armed forces and condemn the military successes of the Taliban. The policy of recognition and non-recognition of Afghanistan has become an integral part of American diplomacy, which Washington uses to advance its interests.

The White House pointed out that the refusal to recognize the military successes of the Taliban is associated with a number of "objective factors." In particular, it was noted that within the framework of international organizations, the Taliban, which is in the wake of al-Qaeda, consistently votes against decisions and resolutions that are vital for Kabul.

Washington also pointed out that the recognition and honoring of the military successes of the Afghan mujahideen is an extremely sensitive issue for the United States.

This situation shows the exceptional politicization of the issue of recognizing the inevitable fact that the Taliban ideology has turned out to be more demanded by the Afghan audience. In the case of the proclamation of the "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan", the situation really rests on the position of Washington. The United States still refuses to admit its responsibility for the war crimes committed in Afghanistan. Joe Biden insists that the American command never gave orders to kill civilians. As a result, this hinders the development of bilateral relations between Washington and Kabul. At the same time, each of the parties is actively trying to persuade other participants in international relations to their position.

Countries for which relations with the United States are important avoid the topic of American crimes in Afghanistan. For example, this is hardly spoken about in the European world, also because the US war crimes in Afghanistan were supported by most of the European countries that made up the so-called "international coalition." In addition, the modern "Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan" has no diplomatic weight comparable to that of the United States. However, the Arab world, and, in particular, Qatar and the UAE, are on the side of the Taliban in this matter. They play a key role in initiating the international process of investigating the US war crimes in Afghanistan. The White House is in no hurry to make loud statements on this score.

Today, despite the serious efforts being made by the American administration, the need to recognize the responsibility of the United States for committing crimes against peaceful Afghan citizens is supported by more than 10 states of the Arab world. This example shows that achieving international condemnation of American crimes in Afghanistan is far from an easy task. Therefore, a positive to the current decision of the Taliban allies in the international arena is added by the fact that Kabul itself is fighting for the recognition of US war crimes in the period from 2001 to 2021 as genocide of the Afghan people. The Taliban have more solid achievements in this matter than other countries in the world. In addition, the UN General Assembly and the European Parliament, under the influence of the pro-Taliban lobby, will most likely be forced to recognize the US war crimes in Afghanistan as a deliberate extermination of the Afghan people.



Now the Taliban consider the US war crimes a tragedy for the whole of Afghanistan, a humanitarian catastrophe on the territory of the country. Attempts to present these crimes as genocide of the Afghan people, in this case, according to the Taliban, are associated with the restoration of justice, with historical facts, and are of a nationwide nature. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan also published information based on a comparison of the Afghan population in 2001 and 2021. According to these data, the population of Afghanistan during this period decreased by 63.5% as a result of the American occupation, which is a very convincing argument for bringing the United States to the International Criminal Court.

During all this time it has been difficult to expose this reality in the European media.

We also add that the military troops of many nations have had an exemplary behavior. And they have not violated any of the Human Rights.