



Safety and Risk Mitigation Organization

Civic Space Quarterly Report

July – September 2023

SRMO Afghanistan Civic Space Quarterly Report July to September 2023

- 65 reported abuses (3 killings, 1 disappearance, 57 detentions and 4 beatings) directly targeting members of civil society and their relatives or NGO workers; of the 65 cases, 63 were reportedly carried out by the de facto authorities; one disappearance and one killing were conducted by unknown perpetrators.
- The number of incidents recorded between July and September is more than double than the number recorded during the previous quarterly reporting period when there were 31 cases affecting civil society. This amount is slightly skewed by the arrest of 20 NGO workers in one incident, but even without this number, the total number of incidents (45) is still significantly more than the previous quarter.
- Women’s human rights defenders (WHRDs) continue to be targeted by the de facto authorities, with 11 WHRDs and 3 family members being detained between July and September.
- The de facto authorities escalated their campaign against the media. 21 of the incidents targeting civil society between July and September involved arrests or beatings of media workers by the de facto authorities.
- 10 officials from the former government or their close relatives were detained (including two former MPs and an official who worked in the media department of the National Reconciliation Council). In addition, the dead body of the brother of the former deputy governor of Paktika was found two days after being arrested by the Taliban.
- 32 former members of the security forces were killed (compared to 15 between April and June) and a further 20 detained (compared to 35 between April and June).
- In addition to these deaths of former security forces, 15 civilians were reportedly killed by the Taliban during or after being detained; 11 were killed at checkpoints or during their arrest by Taliban troops and 4 others died due to torture while in detention.
- The database recorded 18 reported rapes/attempted rapes (3 times the number reported the previous quarter), 4 cases of forced marriage and 3 abductions of women. Of these 25 incidents, 22 were allegedly perpetrated by Taliban officials. The database also logged 11 murders of women and 22 suicides by women.
- 41 people were arrested for having extra marital affairs. 39 of these people were sentenced to public floggings and/or jail terms. One couple was sentenced to death by stoning, though it is not clear if this sentence has actually been carried out. Another couple was reportedly shot dead by the girls’ uncle.

Operating environment for civil society

37 members of civil society or their families were detained during the last quarter for peacefully exercising their fundamental rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association and freedom of public assembly. As has been the case since the Taliban takeover in August 2021, women's human rights defenders (WHRDs) were a common target for repression, with 14 WHRDs or their immediate family members being detained between July and September.

A notable trend during the last quarter was a jump in detentions of journalists. Repression of the media sector is not new, but the pace of detentions in the first half of August prompted statements of concern from advocacy group Reporters Without Borders (RSF)¹ and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA).²

Other arrests targeting civil society during the reporting period included a comedian, a university lecturer, three civil society activists. Meanwhile two teachers who were beaten for trying to offer English and IT lessons to girls.

In addition to these detentions, three people who were involved in civil society activities were killed during the reporting period, while one female university lecturer disappeared. In the first killing, a member of a local youth association was shot dead in Nangahar province on 23 July. In the second, a young man was beaten and then shot dead at a Taliban checkpoint because he was carrying the flag of the former government; the incident reportedly happened on 20 August. In a third case, a female social media influencer was killed in Kabul on 23 August though the circumstances of her death are unclear. Meanwhile, the female university lecturer disappeared on 10 July in Samangan Province after leaving the university to return home.

WHRDs

11 WHRDs and 3 relatives of WHRDs including two young children were detained between July and September. 8 of these were detained during a public protest and released after several hours. The remaining 6 were arrested during raids on their homes and are believed to remain in detention at the time of writing.

Cases included:

- 12 August: The de facto authorities reportedly arrested a WHRD in the capital Kabul and kept her in detention for 3 days. Local reports state that she was tortured and sexually harassed while in custody, and that officials from the de facto authorities threatened to release naked pictures of her on social media if she continued to protest against the regime.
- 19 August: Members of the Taliban's intelligence agency reportedly arrested 8 women who were meeting to plan a protest against the policies of the de facto authorities in the Khair Khana area of Kabul. They were held for several hours before being released according to the Afghan Women's Unity and Solidarity Movement. They were reportedly each forced to sign a written

¹ <https://rsf.org/en/nine-arrested-taliban-offensive-against-afghan-journalists>

² <https://x.com/UNAMAnews/status/1692107798216339593?s=20>

guarantee letter that they would not participate in any further protests before being released.

- 19 September: The de facto authorities reportedly arrested WHRD Neda Parwani along with her husband and 5 year old son. The family's home in the Khair Khana area was also searched. All three are believed to remain in detention as of early October.
- 27 September: Intelligence forces from the de facto authorities reportedly raided the house of WHRD Julia Parsi in the Kolola Pushta area of the capital Kabul. They detained Ms Parsi at her home and also arrested her son from his place of work. Ms Parsi's house was searched, and intelligence forces reportedly took away mobile phones, computers and documents. The whereabouts of Ms Parsi and her son are unknown and they are believed to remain in detention as of early October.

Testimonies shared by former detainees in July and August highlighted the terrible conditions in which WHRDs are held, which include the apparently systemic use of torture and sexual abuse. One former detainee in August gave details of her treatment during detention which included being whipped in sensitive areas to make it less likely prisoners would take photos of their injuries or show them to other people after their release. A second former detainee described having been given electric shocks on her genitals while in detention.

Media

Media workers continue to be the de facto authorities' number one target for repression. SRMO recorded a total of 22 abuses targeting media workers between July and September including detentions and beatings. This is more than double the number of incidents in the previous quarter (when there were 10 arrests of journalists), confirming the steady deterioration of the media environment. On 14 August 2023, a report issued by a media monitoring center found that since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021 there have been 366 reported violations of freedom of speech across Afghanistan.³ These cases include the murders of 2 journalists, 23 cases of injuries, 163 arrests, 193 cases of threats and 39 incidents of beatings.

Journalists in Afghanistan have complained that they no longer have access to reliable information from officials. The de facto authorities have also prohibited the media from reporting on certain incidents, including for example suicide attacks. Journalists report that they are only allowed to publish news about events shared with them by local Taliban officials. Further, several media operations were closed down during the last quarter including a local television and radio station in Nangarhar province that was shut by Taliban officials because it had reportedly been allowing girls to attend a journalism training course. Two radio stations housed in the same location are also no longer allowed to operate.

Highlighted cases during this reporting period include:

- One former BBC journalist was arrested in Jawzjan province on 8 July and remained in prison for four days.

³ <https://afjc.media/english/events/press-release/366-violations-against-media-freedoms-in-afghanistan-during-two-years-of-taliban-rule-afjc>

- Two media workers were arrested in Kabul on 13 July by the Taliban's de facto Ministry of Interior, who subsequently aired their forced confessions. These media workers are employees of Afghanistan International.
- One journalist disappeared on 18 July in Nangarhar Province. Local sources reported that he had been arrested by Taliban intelligence. He was released after several weeks.
- One media worker was arrested on 26 July in Faryab Province and remained in custody for at least 5 days. The reason behind his arrest is unknown.
- Three journalists were arrested on 31 July in Balkh Province. The reasons for the arrest are not known.
- One journalist arrested on 08 August in Ghazni Province. He was detained by the Taliban for 2 days.
- One journalist was reportedly threatened by the Taliban in Ghor Province on 08 August. He also declared to be under surveillance.
- Three journalists were arrested in Kandahar Province on 13 August. The Taliban first called these three journalists for a meeting and later arrested them.
- A cinematographer and journalist was beaten in Kabul on 26 September. He declared that the Taliban in Daikundi province had accused him of working with the former government.

Other civil society detentions

In addition to WHRDs and media workers, several other people involved in civil society activities were also detained. These included:

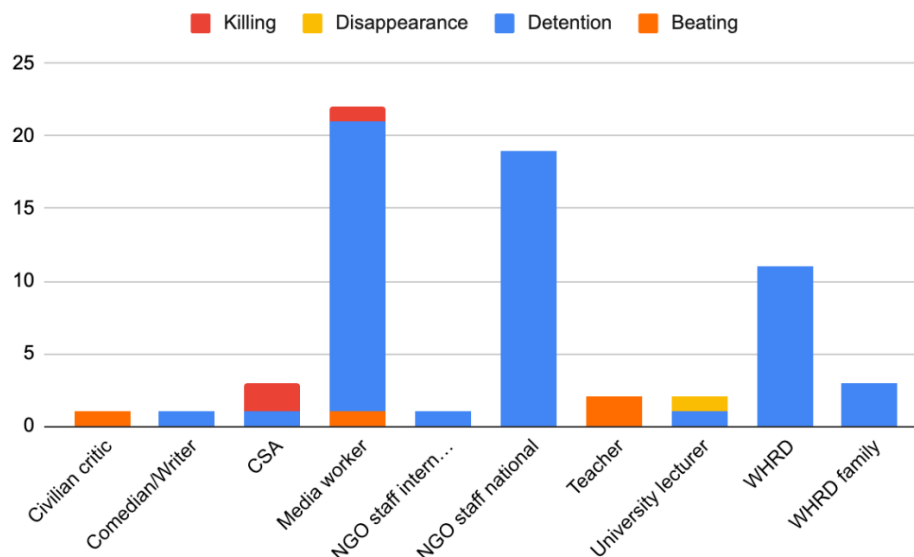
- 14 July: Sardar Nadir Naim, the founder of the Kabul Institute for Peace and a presidential election candidate in 2014, was reportedly detained in Kabul. The reason for Mr Naim's detention is unknown but he was reportedly pushed into a vehicle by intelligence officials from the de facto authorities and taken away.
- 24 August: Intelligence officials reportedly detained a Kabul University student whose brother is a civil society activist. The third year student was arrested in Kabul's 3rd security district and taken to an unknown location.
- 23 August: Local reports stated that university professor Yousef Naderi had been held in detention by the de facto authorities for 45 days after being arrested in Kabul. Mr Naderi is a professor at the Faculty of Sharia at Parwan University.
- 4 August: A civilian was reportedly detained and tortured after criticizing a local Taliban commander in the Kalfgan district of Takhar province. The young man's injuries were so serious that he required hospital treatment to save his life.

NGO community

20 NGO workers were also detained during the quarter. One US national and 19 Afghan staff members from Swiss NGO International Assistance Mission (IAM) were detained in Ghor province on 14 September in unclear circumstances. They were reportedly transferred to Kabul for questioning.

In addition to these arrests, SRMO's database recorded multiple cases of interference by the de facto authorities in NGO activities between July and September 2023. These included:

- 11 July: The de facto authorities issued a statement announcing the suspension of activities by Swedish NGOs throughout Afghanistan until Sweden apologized for a Quran burning incident.
- 14 July: Reports from southern Zabul province stated that INGO Intersos had been ordered to halt operations in the province after refusing to hire job candidates put forward by Taliban officials because they did not have appropriate education or skills.
- 16 July: The de facto authorities' ministry of health in a letter asked NGO Première Urgence - Aide Médicale Internationale (PU-AMI) to stop its work in all provinces of Afghanistan. PU-AMI has been providing health services in Afghanistan since 1979.
- 24 July: Taliban intelligence forces reportedly entered the offices of several local and international NGOs operating in Takhar province. They claimed to be inspecting NGO operations and reportedly demanded food during their visits.
- 28 August: two local employees of an INGO were reportedly harassed by officials from the de facto authorities in Takhar province. The NGO staff were reportedly threatened after refusing to put the officials' relatives' names on an aid distribution list.
- 19 September: a report stated that at least 15 aid agencies had stopped their relief activities in Daikundi province since the beginning of 2023. The report listed Taliban restrictions, corruption and theft as the main reasons for the suspension.



Education projects, schools and teachers

The de facto authorities are obstructing both girls' and boys' right to education; education professionals who have tried to continue to offer education have been subject to beatings, detentions and dismissals. The de facto authorities are trying to transform the education system into a vehicle solely for the promotion of their ideology. In addition to their now infamous restrictions on girls' school and university education, they have changed school curricula, sacked teachers, clamped down on education projects run by international NGOs, and are seeking to close or obstruct the activities of schools or training centres that are offering education in English and IT.

In one case reported this quarter, two teachers were badly beaten on 16 September in the Bander district of Daikundi province. A Taliban official and his bodyguards reportedly attacked the teachers from an education centre because they had been providing English and computer lessons to girls. In another incident, an education centre and a private school in Ghazni province that had been teaching girls were reportedly closed down on 3 September by officials from the de facto authorities. A school principal was arrested on 19 August in Panjshir province; the reason for the arrest is unknown but the principal had reportedly had a verbal altercation with the close relative of a Taliban official in the area. A school teacher was reportedly arrested on 21 September in Ghor province; the reasons for that arrest are also unknown.

Local reports on 29 August from Mazar-e Sharif in Balkh province stated that the directors of 25 public schools in the city had been dismissed. They were reportedly replaced with religious scholars allied to the Taliban de facto authorities, and had no experience of teaching or education management. That announcement came a week after the group on 23 August prevented a group of female students at Kabul airport who were trying to board a flight to the UAE where they had been granted fully funded education scholarships. They were denied permission to board because they did not all have a male chaperone.

Medical personnel

The de facto authorities have over the last two years increasingly obstructed women's access to healthcare by among other things preventing female medical staff from working, preventing male doctors

from seeing female patients, and imposing impractical regulations regarding the use of male chaperones. Furthermore, the Taliban has failed to create a safe environment for those women who are still able to work in the health sector. In several cases – including at least 3 during the last quarter - Taliban officials are themselves accused of harassing or physically attacking female medical personnel. Cases between July and September include:

- 1 July: Three members of the Taliban reportedly beat a midwife at the Abu Ali Sinai Balkh Hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif city, Balkh province. According to local reports the Taliban assaulted the midwife after one of their wives died in childbirth. The midwife was left in a critical condition after the attack.
- 13 July: A female doctor was reportedly harassed and beaten by a Taliban police commander in the Kalafgan district of Takhar province. According to local reports the commander, along with six soldiers, raided the doctor’s clinic at nighttime. They assaulted her and when she resisted she was beaten.
- 16 July: A midwife was reportedly raped in her home by the mayor of the Berkah district of Baghlan province. The mayor was reportedly arrested after the attack.

Meanwhile on 4 September the Taliban reportedly arrested eight employees of a medical clinic in Kabul including five female nurses on charges of ‘immoral acts’. No further information was available about the charges. The following day a female doctor was dismissed from her post as director of a hospital in Faryab province by Taliban officials.

Broader human rights environment – trends

This quarterly report is primarily intended as a means of tracking human rights abuses targeting members of civil society. However, given the scale of the human rights crisis in Afghanistan, SRMO is also monitoring and recording information about other key categories of human rights abuses that are reported via SRMO’s networks. The section below provides a selection of cases recorded between July and September to illustrate current trends.

Violence against women

The previous quarter saw an alarming number of cases of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV), the vast majority of which were allegedly perpetrated by Taliban officials or their close relatives. The database recorded 18 reported rapes or attempted rapes - 3 times the number reported the previous quarter. In addition, there were 4 cases of forced marriage and 3 abductions of women. Of these 25 incidents, 22 were allegedly perpetrated by Taliban officials or their close relatives. The following cases are illustrative of the types of incidents recorded in the last three months:

- 5 August: A district governor from the Taliban de facto authorities in Faryab province forced a 13-year old girl to marry his brother in law. Local people from the Dawlat Abad district were threatened by Taliban soldiers when they tried to protest against the forced marriage on 5 August.

- 22 August: An official from the de facto authorities was released from prison in Baghlan province after having been detained the previous month on charges of sexually assaulting a female health worker. He has since returned to his position.
- 26 August: An official from the de facto authorities' education department in Takhar province reportedly forced a girl to marry him and become his third wife. He had reportedly previously raped her on multiple occasions and she was pregnant at the time of the marriage. The forced marriage was seen by a local court as a solution to a legal case that had been lodged against him.
- 5 September: two women in the Barka district of Baghlan province accused two local Taliban officials of repeatedly raping them. Officials from the de facto authorities reportedly detained six Taliban members on charges of rape in connection with the case but then released them two days later.
- 15 September: Local people detained a member of the Taliban who forcibly entered a family home and attempted to rape a 13 year old girl. Local people in Feroz Koh in Ghor province beat and detained the attacker.
- 19 September: The brother of a senior religious education official in Bamyan province reportedly kidnapped a female student from Khushkak village. She was reportedly studying at a local madrasa when she was kidnapped.

Women and children facing sexual or gender based violence (SGBV) as in the cases outlined above have no access to protection assistance or other support in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. This total lack of protection or support networks leads to preventable murders and suicides on a weekly basis. Between July and September, 11 murders of women and 22 suicides by women were recorded in the SRMO database. 10 male suicides were also recorded during the quarter, 6 of whom were teenagers. The true number of killings and suicides is certainly higher than this because of strong taboos around discussing or reporting domestic violence or SGBV.

Use of extra-judicial executions and torture by de facto authorities

Members of the de facto authorities policing and intelligence agencies are frequently accused of using excessive force resulting in summary and/or extra-judicial executions. Alleged criminal suspects are frequently shot dead rather than being arrested and tried. For those who are detained, testimonies from former prisoners and their relatives suggests that torture is systematic in detention centres, particularly those run by Taliban intelligence. In addition to the many deaths discussed in the section on former security forces, 15 civilians were reportedly killed by the Taliban during or soon after being detained; 11 were killed at checkpoints or during their arrest by Taliban troops and 4 others died due to torture while in detention. The selected cases below are illustrative of the many examples recorded each quarter in the SRMO database:

- 10 July: Shindan district, Herat Province, A local report stated that Taliban soldiers shot and killed two men on the main Herat - Kandahar highway in the Shin Dan district of Herat province. Taliban officials accused the dead men of theft and rape and circulated photos of their dead bodies on social media.

- 11 July: Taliban soldiers reportedly shot and killed a civilian after accusing him of theft near a mosque in the Qala-e-Wazir area of Kabul. The body of the dead man was circulated on social media.
- 26 July: Local reports stated that the Taliban killed a person in Shebergan, Jawzjan province, after they demanded his brother return to Afghanistan from abroad but he refused. Taliban fighters reportedly shot him dead in front of his wife and children and took his body with them.
- 27 July: a taxi driver from the Shulgara district of Balkh province had a traffic accident in which a child related to a Taliban official was injured. The driver took the child to Shulgarh hospital and contacted the child's family. The driver was then arrested by members of the Taliban de facto authorities and was subsequently hanged to death inside the building of the local security command.
- 14 September: the brother of a former jihadi commander was detained in the Totem dara area of Parwan province. The man was reportedly tortured and killed while in Taliban custody.
- 21 September: A student at the medical faculty of Kabul University was reportedly shot dead at a Taliban checkpoint. The reason for the shooting, which took place in Ghazni province, is unknown.

Abuses targeting minority communities

During the last quarter, SRMO recorded reports of extensive human rights abuses specifically targeting minority communities. These included:

- detentions and killings during Ashura, a religious festival held annually by the Shia community; 4 people were reportedly killed on 28 July and others were injured when Taliban troops opened fire on an Ashura ceremony in Ghazni province; at least 10 people were detained the same day and others were beaten for carrying Ashura flags;
- reports of attempts to forcibly convert members of the Ismaili community (a branch of Shia Islam) to Sunni ideology including a case on 10 August in Baghlan province and a case on 24 August in Bamyan province. An Ismaili religious scholar was also attacked on 8 August in Badakhshan province;
- a series of forced evictions targeting non-Pashtun communities in areas that have experienced armed resistance to the de facto authorities including in Panjshir and Baghlan provinces; and
- a number of cases where Kuchi nomads have attempted to take over land lived on by minorities, with the Kuchis being backed by the de facto authorities.

In addition to these trends, the pattern of large numbers of arbitrary arrests of civilians taking place in areas affected by armed resistance to the Taliban de facto authorities continued. These mass arrests have been detailed in previous SRMO quarterly reports and continue to be reported on a weekly basis.

Mass arrests often occur in districts that have seen recent attacks on the de facto authorities. Detentions of people accused of involvement in resistance activities were reported during the quarter in Badakhshan province (more than 40 arrests), Baghlan (30), Ghazni (40) and Takhar (25).

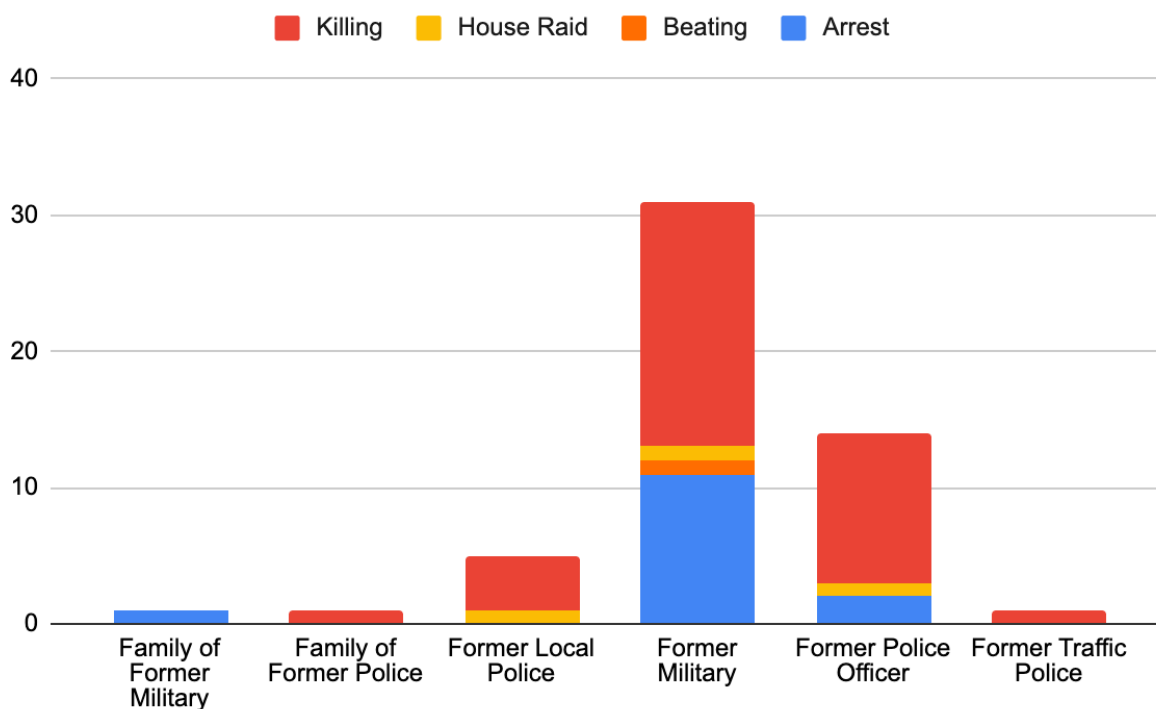
The past quarter also saw a wave of arrests of civilians who are originally from Panjshir province around the country. Panjshiris appear to be being targeted for arbitrary arrest throughout the country based solely on the fact they are from Panjshir province and regardless of any actual involvement in alleged resistance activity. Between July and September, at least 41 people from Panjshir were detained. Detentions occurred in Panjshir, Parwan, Kabul, Takhar and Herat provinces. 7 of these detainees were killed; two reportedly died after being tortured in Taliban detention, while a further 5 were reportedly thrown into a river in Takhar province with their hands and feet tied together.

Abuses targeting former security forces and police

As detailed in previous SRMO quarterly and annual reports, hundreds of former security forces have been detained and killed since the Taliban takeover. More than two years on, detentions and killings continue to be reported on a weekly basis. Former security forces are one of the most targeted groups by the Taliban. Many cases have involved individuals who fled Afghanistan after August 2021 but then returned for funerals, weddings or to arrange documentation. Between July and September, 32 former security personnel were killed and 20 were detained.

A selection of cases documented during the quarter included:

- In Nangarhar Province, a former military soldier's body was found on 03 July. He had been in the city for a party, his main residency in Kunar Province.
- Taliban arrested a former military soldier in Ghor Province, 06 July. The former security officer had an amnesty letter from the Taliban, but he was kept in detention for three days. He was released under bail. He showed signs of have been tortured.
- A former local police officer was executed on 23 July in Laghman Province. He was killed inside his house. The Taliban fled the area after the incident.
- On 25 August, the 10-year-old son of a former commander of popular uprisings was hanged in Badakhshan province. The Taliban executed this boy as a consequence of the hostile relations that existed between their organization and his family.
- On 04 September, the house of a former military soldier was raided. The report states that a number of armed people attacked the house of Late Colonel Nazir Mohammad in Faizabad city last night. The attackers intended to kill the Colonel's son, but he succeeded to escaped.
- Two former military officers were executed by the Taliban in Balkh province. Both had renounced the military and were living a normal life. The reasons behind the execution are unknown.
- On 23 September, in Kabul Province, the Taliban arrested a former military officer. He is currently imprisoned in Gardez and it is suspected that he es being subjected to torture.



Annex

SRMO Database Summary: July to September 2023

Civil Society Incidents

Date	Gender	Target	Perpetrator	Province	Incident Type	Number of victims
29/06/23	M	Comedian/Writer	Taliban	Ghazni	Detention	1
04/07/23	F	University lecturer	Unknown	Samangan	Disappearance	1
14/07/23	M	CSA	Taliban	Kabul	Detention	1
23/07/23	M	CSA	Taliban	Nangarhar	Killing	1
04/08/23	M	Civilian critic	Taliban	Takhar	Beating	1
12/08/23	F	WHRD	Taliban	Kabul	Detention	1
20/08/23	F	WHRD	Taliban	Kabul	Detention	8
23/08/23	M	University lecturer	Taliban	Parwan	Detention	1
22/08/23	M	CSA	Taliban	Kabul	Killing	1
14/09/23	F	NGO staff international	Taliban	Ghor	Detention	1
14/09/23	Check	NGO staff national	Taliban	Ghor	Detention	19
19/09/23	F	WHRD	Taliban	Kabul	Detention	1

19/09/23	M	WHRD family	Taliban	Kabul	Detention	2
27/09/23	F	WHRD	Taliban	Kabul	Detention	1
27/09/23	M	WHRD family	Taliban	Kabul	Detention	1
23/08/23	F	Media worker	Unknown	Kabul	Killing	1
08/07/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Jawzjan	Detention	1
13/07/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Kabul	Detention	2
18/07/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Nangarhar	Detention	1
26/07/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Faryab	Detention	1
31/07/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Balkh	Detention	3
08/08/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Ghazni	Detention	1
10/08/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Kunduz	Detention	1
11/08/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Nangarhar	Detention	2
11/08/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Paktia	Detention	1
13/08/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Kandahar	Detention	3
11/08/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Kunar	Detention	1
26/09/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Kabul	Beating	1
27/09/23	M	Media worker	Taliban	Daikundi	Detention	3
16/09/23	M	Teacher	Taliban	Daikundi	Beating	2

Former Security Forces Incidents

Date	Gender	Target	Perpetrator	Province	Incident Type	Number of victims
03/07/23	M	Former Military	Unknown	Nangarhar	Execution	1
06/07/23	M	Former Military	Taliban	Ghor	Arrest	1
06/07/23	M	Former Local Police	Taliban	Balkh	Execution	1
07/07/23	M	Former Military	Unknown	Ghor	Attack	1
10/07/23	M	Former Military	Taliban	Kandahar	Arrest	1
10/07/23	M	Former Military	Taliban	Kabul	Execution	1
10/07/23	M	Former Military	Unknown	Paktika	Execution	1
12/07/23	M	Former Military	Taliban	Kabul	Execution	1
16/07/23	M	Former Military	Taliban	Kabul	Execution	1
20/07/23	M	Former Military	Taliban	Badghis	Arrest	1
22/07/23	M	Former Military	Taliban	Kabul	Arrest	1

23/07/23	M	Former Military	Taliban	Panjshir	Arrest	1
23/07/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Laghman	Execution	1
24/07/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Kunduz	Execution	1
28/07/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Logar	Execution	1
30/07/23	M	Former Military Officer family	Taliban	Ghor	Arrest	1
06/08/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Badakhshan	Execution	1
08/08/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Suripul	Execution	1
08/08/23	M	Former local commander	Taliban	Nuristan	House raid	1
09/08/23	M	Former Military officer family	Taliban	Paktika	Arrest	1
12/08/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Balkh	Execution	1
13/08/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Ghor	House raid	1
14/08/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Panjshir	Execution	1
16/08/23	M	Former Traffic Police	Taliban	Ghor	Arrest	1
16/08/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Balkh	Execution	1
18/08/23	M	Former Military Officer	Unknown	Kapisa	Kill	1
22/08/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Parwan	Arrest	1
22/08/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Ghor	Arrest	1
26/08/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Logar	Execution	1
26/08/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Kabul	Execution	1
27/08/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Ghor	Arrest	1
28/08/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Daikundi	Arrest	1
03/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Takhar	Arrest	1
04/09/23	M	Former Military Officer Family	Taliban	Badakhshan	House raid	1
07/09/23	M	Former Police Officer	Unknown	Balkh	Kill	1
07/09/23	M	Former NDS Officer	Taliban	Badakhshan	Arrest	1

07/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Kapisa	Arrest	1
07/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Balkh	Execution	2
08/09/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Balkh	Execution	1
08/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Kapisa	Execution	1
08/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Panjshir	Execution	1
10/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Unknown	Takhar	Execution	1
11/09/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Parwan	Execution	1
11/09/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Takhar	Execution	1
13/09/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Parwan	Execution	1
14/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Badghis	Arrest	1
14/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Parwan	Execution	1
16/09/23	M	Former NDS Officer	Taliban	Nangarhar	Execution	1
16/09/23	M	Former Police Officer	Taliban	Kabul	Execution	1
17/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Parwan	Execution	1
19/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Kandahar	Execution	1
20/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Takhar	Arrest	1
21/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Herat	Arrest	1
21/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Takhar	Arrest	1
23/09/23	M	Former Military Officer	Taliban	Kabul	Arrest	1

SRMO

The [Safety and Risk Mitigation Organization \(SRMO\)](#) is an Afghan-led NGO. It was established in May 2013 to provide protection and training for grassroots Human Rights Defenders (HRDs). SRMO's main objective is to empower HRDs so they can safely continue their crucial work. SRMO has particularly focused its assistance on local and grassroots' HRDs and WHRDs, recognizing their utmost vulnerability as being at the frontline of defending human rights.

SRMO monitors and tracks human rights abuses affecting human rights activists and civil society. The organization also provides regular training on Hostile Environment, Security, Digital and Cyber security, First aid and other topics. In addition, SRMO distributes regular and vital security information and mitigation advice to hundreds of HRDs and WHRDs in the provinces across Afghanistan. The organization provides emergency assistance, including emergency relocation and medical assistance for HRDs at risk. Since the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan in August 2021, SRMO has continued to provide support both to HRDs inside the country and to those who have fled and are now living in exile.

Methodology

This quarterly report is designed to provide a brief summary of the situation for human rights defenders in Afghanistan between July and September 2023, along with an overview of the broader human rights environment. It is based on information and cases gathered as part of SRMO's ongoing human rights monitoring work. SRMO maintains a database of incidents and rights abuses affecting human rights activists, civil society more broadly, and Afghan civilians. Cases are only included in the SRMO database if they have been verified via SRMO's networks.