

The Silk Way Weekly

The Voice
of The War
Victims

Volume 8, Edition 2, No 194, Tuesday, May 23, 2023



Silent Crime

A Report on Genocide, Land Seizure, and Forced Migration of the Hazaras of Daikundi by the Taliban Terrorist Regime

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Silent Crime

A Report on Genocide, Land Seizure, and Forced Migration of the Hazaras of Daikundi by the Taliban Terrorist Regime

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Points to Consider:

It is necessary to pay attention to and consider the following points deeply when contemplating the following events and their historical relationships, from the perspective of historical sensitivity and reflection:

First, as you will see, the following reports have been prepared directly from the voices of the victims themselves, eyewitnesses, and local sources; therefore, we are directly confronted with the naked and bloody body of this tragedy. Secondly, none of the crimes, violation of rights, and devastations against the defenseless Hazara people by the Taliban regime have been examined or legally and judicially decided upon in any court, based on civil and religious laws, and with attention to documents, records, and evidence – just like the fate of the massacres and suicides in Kabul during the republic era, they have been practically and openly suppressed and forgotten. Thirdly, the incidents and crimes appear to be very arbitrary, unrestrained, and intensely vengeful; however, the chain of violence clearly indicates a systematic action, conscious will, and deliberate intent behind it in the core of the Taliban's power. The repetition of crimes, the support of government and security officials for the criminals, the lack of legal and judicial follow-up for the incidents, or the feigned attempts at reconciliation and forgetting the incidents under false and threatening pretexts, all conclusively prove the existence of a systematic will in the central core of the Taliban terrorist regime. But if we ask about the historical relationships of the crime, we must say: Firstly, these crimes and devastations are exactly in line with the crimes of Abdur Rahman, with the same motives, in the same manner and appearance, and in the same horizon. Therefore, they are not just crimes; rather, with certainty, we must say they are criminal policies; they are not a series of incidents but links in a decision.

Second, these crimes fall under the categories of genocide, land grabbing, and forced displacement. The goal of all these actions is the eradication of historical, cultural, religious, linguistic, political, and physical/geographical aspects. Third, and for this reason, there is a racist mind-

set and belief at the foundation of these crimes, which has been nurtured by criminal acts and has reached maturity through genocide, land grabbing, and forced displacement.

Third, all these crimes occur in the absence of law and the complete lack of social justice, and there is no bilateral give-and-take between the people and the government; on one side there is power, pressure, and threat, and on the other, absolute submission and obedience. The Taliban terrorist regime not only lacks a constitution and is incapable of drafting one, but also does not have any specific and definite civil and criminal laws. Consequently, it is the arbitrary will of the military, security commanders, governors, and intelligence personnel that they rule over the people in an unrestrained and one-sided manner.

Fourth, the greatest danger threatening the lives, property, honor, lands, assets, freedom, rights, and future of the Afghan people, and which will crush and grind them in the belly of the disaster, is the «legitimacy» and international recognition of the Taliban terrorist regime. The legitimacy of the Taliban will be the biggest mistake of the international community. If the Doha Agreement and the overthrow of the republic by the international community, especially the United States, has been a betrayal, the legitimacy of the Taliban will be an evident crime.

In conclusion, these crimes, and devastations, on a large and small scale and with all the relationships that have been explained, will continue as a policy. The question facing the victims is not about saving the past, but about saving the future.

In the Sorrow of a Massacre!

Many provinces had been evacuated by the defense forces and fell into the hands of the Taliban terrorist regime without any defense or war. Therefore, Bamiyan, Daikundi, and one or two other provinces were



Taliban entered Nili city, the center of Daikundi province/Photo by: Ehsan Mahdawi



Taliban occupied the building of Daikundi provincial governor /Photo by: Ehsan Mahdawi

the most authentic and the last geographies of the republic that had no fate other than collapse and surrender. After the fall of Bamiyan to the Taliban in the summer of 1400 (2021), the residents of Daikundi province forced the security forces of this province to refrain from fighting against this group to prevent massacre, invasion, and destruction, especially the killing of civilians. Finally, the security-defense forces, leaving behind all military tools and equipment, left Nili, the capital of Daikundi, on July 16, 2021 (25th of Asad 1400), and following that, the Taliban fighters entered the city without any engagement and took control of all military bases and administrative centers.

The Taliban terrorist group, in their first action after taking control of Afghanistan, declared a general amnesty on July 15, 2021 (24th of Asad 1400). In the amnesty announcement, it was stated: «All employees of the former government can return to their jobs.» Following the announcement of the Taliban's general amnesty, some lower-ranking soldiers and employees of the previous government who had not left their workplace until the arrival of the Taliban to prevent mischief, self-will, and the military and administrative equipment from falling into the hands of criminals, returned to their workplaces. Despite adhering to the provisions of general amnesty, the Taliban severely pressured and tortured the former government soldiers in makeshift courts, without law and legal procedures, on the pretext of missing weapons and military equipment.

They even arrested one of the Hazara Talib with all his forces under his command and imprisoned him for several months to make him understand that the real Taliban could only be of Pashtun origin.

The people of Daikundi soon realized that the general amnesty was, in fact, a deceptive slogan to trap the military forces of the previous regime. In those days, local sources reported that the Taliban's military commander and newly-appointed governor for Daikundi were very upset that they had no legitimate reason for massacring the people upon their entry into Daikundi.

Based on reports from local sources, they had openly told the people: «We expected the people of Daikundi to resist us, but you surrendered without any engage-

ment. If you had fought, we would have massacred you; but unfortunately, that didn't happen. Now we don't know what excuse to find to slaughter you!»

They also said that they had been waiting for years to massacre the Hazaras and had come to Daikundi to fight the Hazaras: «We came here to fight the Hazaras. Where there is no war, we cannot enjoy ourselves, now let's see when we reach our goal.» This statement recalls the nature of the Pashtuns according to the research: Pashtuns are born with bloodstained teeth and forks.

On the other hand, the Taliban forces in Daikundi were not subject to any specific or codified law, and did not follow a single leadership; each Taliban military faction was loyal to one of the leaders of this ethnic group, and the Taliban leaders also had different opinions on how to deal with the people. The unpredictable and bloodless takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban caught them off guard. They took power in a state where they did not recognize the human rights of Afghan citizens and considered violent treatment of non-Pashtun citizens as their inherent right.

In addition to all this, in the eyes of the Taliban, all non-Pashtun citizens were considered foreign mercenaries due to their support for the republic regime; a delusion that inevitably made the Hazaras vulnerable. Throughout the two decades of war and suicide against the republic, the Taliban soldiers were indoctrinated that the Hazaras were polytheists and killing polytheists had priority over killing infidels. On the other hand, some of the Taliban forces harbored strong resentment against the Hazaras due to the stubborn resistance of the people and security forces of Daikundi against the Taliban and were counting the moments to take revenge.

As expected, the Taliban forces began harassing and abusing the residents of Daikundi in the first few days of their control, under the pretext of disarming former soldiers and conducting nightly inspections of homes. This provocative behavior occurred even though the soldiers of the former government had handed over all their weapons, including military equipment and administrative facilities, to the Taliban forces. Nevertheless, the Taliban did not refrain from torturing and killing them, resulting in many security forces and employees of



The third day of the Taliban presence in Nili city, the center of Daikundi province, and maneuvering with the vehicles of the former government security forces/ Photo by: Ehsan Mahdawi



Taliban have destroyed Mohammadi's house, a resident of Sartagab village of Pato district. Local sources told the SWW that about 30 houses have been destroyed in Sartagab, Biri wa Barma villages. /Photo by: Mohammad Raja



Displaced people of Sawor, Kandir and Tagabdar villages of Pato district, Daikundi province/Photo by: Local sources.



Displaced people of Sawor, Kandir and Tagabdar villages of Pato district, Daikundi province/Photo by: Local sources.



Hashim Ali Zada distributes the cash aid of the Baba Mazari Foundation located in Australia to the refugees of Daikendi/Photo by: Local sources.



Displaced people of Pato district of Daikundi province/Photo by: Local sources.



Displaced people of Pato district of Daikundi province/Photo by: Local sources.



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Displaced people of Pato district of Daikundi province/Photo by: Local sources.

the former government's civil service departments fled to Iran and Pakistan.

Several weeks after the Taliban's takeover of Daikundi, not only they did not stop harassing and abusing the people but also used various methods to provoke the people to achieve their predetermined goals. In general, the Taliban's main motivation for violence against the people of Daikundi can be categorized as follows:

- 1: They provoked the people to create a pretext for a widespread massacre of the Hazaras.
- 2: They provoked the people to find a pretext for looting their movable assets.
- 3: They provoked the people to force them to abandon their lands and homes so that the Taliban forces could confiscate them and distribute them among the Pashtuns.

As described above, the general amnesty slogan not only did not materialize in Daikundi, but it was only used as a tool to deceive public opinion, the media, and the international community. To substantiate this claim, we will discuss the tragic events related to forced displacement for the purpose of seizing agricultural lands, the systematic killing of Hazaras, and the ransom and looting of Hazara assets in Daikundi by the Taliban forces.

A: Forced Displacements

To easily seize the agricultural lands and houses of the Hazaras in Daikundi, the Taliban used various tricks and threats to force them to leave their homes. We will address all instances in this report.

2. Land confiscation and forced displacement of Hazaras in Gizab

On October 1, 2021, local sources reported that the Taliban governor in Daykundi ordered the Taliban security commander in the «Pato» district of the province to evict residents of 15 Hazara-populated villages in Gizab and Pato

districts. Following this, the security commander of the Pato district, on September 8, 2021, issued a written order to the residents of Hazara-populated villages of Kharlak and Siah-Ghalja, stating that in accordance with the governor's decree and the Taliban court, the residents of these villages have 15 days to leave their homes and villages; otherwise, they will not have the right to complain about whatever happens on them. The text of the order for forced displacement is as follows:

The people of Kharlak and Siah-Ghalja are informed that according to the order of the respected governor and the court, we have been ordered to enforce the evacuation. Now, you must evacuate immediately, and if you do not evacuate within fifteen days, we will take action against anything that happens, and you will not have the right to complain.

Following this deadline, Taliban forces attacked the targeted villages and threatened the people to leave their homes within five days:

Respected people of Kharlak and Siah-Ghalja, peace upon you and Allah's mercy and blessings. From the esteemed district governor and the security com-

manders, it is informed that within five days, you must surrender the occupied lands to Haji Sharwal and Haji Abdul Qayyum and their associates. You can take all your belongings with you during these five days. If you do not evacuate the land within five days, we will return for the second time, and you will not be able to take anything with you, nor will you have the right to complain.

The local governor of Gizab district set a 15-day deadline on 14th Sunbula 1400 for the elders of several Hazara-inhabited villages to leave their homes; otherwise, they would be responsible for any consequences after the specified date. In the end, the Taliban forcibly displaced thousands of Hazara families from their homes and villages, and did not allow any of the families to take their agricultural products, foodstuffs, or livestock with them. After displacing the Hazara families, the Taliban gave thousands of fertile lands to the Pashtuns. Based on information obtained from local sources by the Jade-Abresham Weekly, the number of households forcibly displaced from 15 villages in the districts of Gizab and Pato and the lands given to Pashtuns by the Taliban are as follows:

1. Kandir: about 400 households, approximately 900 acres of land;
2. Maidan Malek: 100 households, 200 acres of land;
3. Shagholja: 150 households, 400 acres of land;
4. Kharkak: 160 households, 420 acres of land;
5. Bala Joy: 300 households, 700 acres of land;
6. Rah Ramah: 90 households, 270 acres of land;
7. Chepe Joy: 650 households, 1700 acres of land;
8. Dahna Nala: 380 families, 900 acres of land;
9. Mian Qashu: 100 households, 500 acres of land;
10. Sina Khazak: 150 households, 700 acres of land;
11. Kontai: 70 households, 250 acres of land;
12. Syalash: 90 households, 200 acres of land;
13. Tagabdar: 300 households, 400 acres of land;
14. Warg: 50 households, 300 acres of land;
15. Kata Anar: 30 households, 150 acres of land.

Based on the statistics obtained, the Taliban forced more than 3,000 Hazara families to flee from 15 villages and seized and confiscated over 8,000 acres of agricultural land, tens of thousands of animals including cows, sheep, goats, horses, and hundred tons of grain crops like wheat, barley, oats, rice, and significant amounts of legumes and animal feed belonging to the residents of the mentioned villages. The Taliban also set fire to the houses of the displaced in Pato district and completely destroyed them. Although the Taliban's security commander in Pato district had called these lands «usurped» in an order he issued, but findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly» and other credible sources indicate that some Pashtuns had claimed ownership of these lands due to their fertility - most of which are located along the Helmand River. The governor and the Taliban's security commander, who were very inclined to oppress the Hazara people, immediately set a deadline for the Hazara residents of the 15 villages and forced them to leave their villages.

Local sources confirm that when some landowners approached the Pato district office with their legal and religious documents to seek justice, Taliban officials detained and imprisoned them for several days without examining or paying attention to their reasons and documents, accusing them of rebelling against the security commander's order to quickly leave the villages. A local resident, who did not want his identity to be revealed due to security threats, told the «Jade-Abresham Weekly»: The governor, the security commander, and the district chief were supporting their Pashtun fellows. They did not allow landowners to have their legal and religious documents examined in court. When some of their relatives complained about the Hazara people, they immediately ordered their men to force the Hazaras to migrate as soon as possible and distribute



A relative of Amiri attorney beaten by the Taliban. Amiri was the attorney of Daikonid for a while/ Photo by: Local sources.



In the first days of the occupation of Daikundi, Taliban beaten a number of Daikundi residents/Photo by: Local sources.



Taliban tortured 18 residents of Pato district/Photo by: Local sources.



Taliban tortured 18 residents of Pato district/ Photo by: Local sources.



On December 2022, Taliban shot Khoda Bakhsh son of Hassan Ali, resident of «Cholong» village of Miramoor district, Daikundi province/Photo by: Local sources.

their lands among the Pashtuns.

The source adds that when the Taliban brought the evacuation order, they gave the local residents until the afternoon of the same day to leave, otherwise, they would have no right to complain:

Some landowners went to the district office to show their ownership documents to the commander and the district chief, but the Taliban imprisoned them, and people had now way rather than moving to neighboring villages. The Taliban did not even allow people to take their belongings, food, grains, and livestock; thousands of families became miserable and displaced.

According to the findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly,» displaced families were left homeless and without food in the cold valleys of Daikundi during the autumn and winter. In such a situation, not only did the Taliban authorities not consider any plan for their resettlement, but they also attacked their tents in one case, severely beating all of them, including children and women.

The Taliban forcibly displaced Hazara citizens while this act is considered a prominent example of crimes against humanity according to Article 7 of the International Criminal Court's statute. However, Zabi-hullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesperson, shamelessly denied the forced displacement of Hazaras in Daikundi in the presence of reporters from domestic and international media.

Hamed Hadian, an Iranian journalist who went to Gizab district for research on the forced displacement of Hazaras, wrote in a part of his report published on October 11, 2022, in the Iranian newspaper Hamshahri about the failure in Daikundi:

Reporting from this province was even harder than I thought. The reason was the presence of journalists from the German weekly Der Spiegel in the area, who had published reports on the forced displacement of the people of Tagabdar and sensitized the ruling Taliban. They had told the locals that if a journalist came, they should block their work and immediately report it to the authorities. This warning made the job difficult and it was not possible to easily talk with people and locals in public.

He writes in his report that journalists and civil activists in the area were also not in a good situation, and one of them said:

After publishing some information about the forced displacement, we were very explicitly threatened to death by the provincial Security Commander... Some local elders were summoned to the capital and threatened to tell the media that our people left the area voluntarily... An old man who had first published a video of the Gizab incident in the Tagabdar region has also fled.

Hadian continues:

We stayed the night in one of the villages in Gizab that had not yet been evacuated. In conversations that night with the

locals, I found out that the deadline for the evacuation of Shagholtja and Kharkak villages had ended; however, the Taliban governor had told the people of Gizab that he would suspend the displacement until the end of spring due to the media attention. Although in reality, the need for displacement had not changed from his point of view. There were no signs of a complete halt to the displacement. Locals said the new owners of the properties and lands who had won the long-standing dispute thanks to the Taliban told some locals and elders that they could buy back their homes and lands at double the price... but the farmers had no money to return.

Hadian continues in his report titled «The Greedy Eyes of the Pashtuns on the Edge of the Helmand River»:

In the villages, people were afraid to talk about it and bring disaster upon themselves. Nevertheless, some older people were not shy about talking and complaining. I asked an old man about the reason for these events (the forced displacement of the people of Gizab's 15-village area). He said: These areas are among the best agricultural areas on the edge of the Helmand River, where a variety of agricultural products can grow. His reference is to the geographical situation of the disputed villages, all of which are located on the edge of the Helmand River and are among the most fertile areas in Afghanistan.

While confirming the Taliban's discriminatory and racist behavior against Hazaras, Hadian refers to the racial and historical disputes between Hazaras and Pashtuns and emphasizes that after the suppression and massacre of Hazaras by Abdul Rahman, which led to the political, economic, and social deprivation and displacement of Hazaras, the scope of this ethnic conflict will increase under the shadow of the Taliban regime as a government whose leaders do not obey any law, and the Pashtuns have greedy eyes on the fertile lands of Hazaras. He writes in surprise about the way the Taliban deal with these legal disputes:

But this time, legal disputes have been resolved in a strange way; after the Taliban came to power, the group's officials, without going through the legal process and the Afghan courts, issued a forced eviction order for people's lands and told them, «Either you go by force or we will fight and blow up your homes.» Hadian has added that «up until today (October 11, 2021), seven villages have been evacuated in different ways. One of the residents said: After the Maghrib prayer, they came. They told us right there, either you leave, or we fight. We asked for a few minutes to leave. We spent the night in the fields opposite our house and left the area in the morning. Even a few infants were left outside without blankets and belongings (in this cold). In the morning, with the mediation of a white-bearded local elder, we managed

to take some agricultural products and household items.

Hadian, who was an eyewitness to the forced displacement of the people of Kaindar village, writes:

... A little further on, we saw a Toyota [truck] from afar loading people's wheat. When they were forcing people to leave, they were not allowing them to take their crops except for a small amount, and now they (the Taliban) had become thieves of the people's property... One of the residents... said: Twenty years ago, the Taliban also expelled us from Kaindar, and we returned after their fall...

Burning and setting fire to the houses of the residents of Kaindar village is another crime that Hadian confirms based on his own observations:

To return, we had to spend the night in Sartagab village, where the Taliban had occupied it three months earlier and burned all but a few houses. Some people did not have money to repair their houses, like an old man who said he could only repair one room. He said some had left their houses and gone. This leaving and going was the invaders' wish that seemed to have come true, and now the people's hearts are bleeding. Their biggest grief is the Qurans that were burned in the houses and even in the mosques. The Taliban had claimed that a few of the residents were part of the government and had resisted against Taliban once. Now they would not admit that burning these houses was their doing, and they threatened the villagers not to say anything. Inside the houses, some of the people's livestock had been burned alive, and as far as the eye could see, there were sewing machines, the only tool for the village women's work, which now had nothing left but scrap iron on the debris.

Human Rights Watch, on October 21, 2021 (about a month after the forced displacement of the people of Daikundi), announced that the Taliban group in many provinces of Afghanistan, including Daikundi, had forcibly displaced thousands of Hazaras from their homeland and distributed their agricultural lands to their Pashtun supporters. The report specifically mentioned that the displaced families were Hazara and Shia, who were given only a few days by the Taliban to present their legal documents and claims. However, sources in Daikundi, including local residents, say the Taliban never gave them this opportunity. Even three people who had gone to the district office on behalf of the landowners to present documents were imprisoned by the Taliban.

3. Destruction of the Crops of the People of Kisaw by the Nomads

Kisaw is a relatively populous village in the Kiti district, famous for its fertile lands throughout the region. Due to its beauty, agricultural diversity, and abundant water, Kisaw is known as Jannat-al-Hazara (the Paradise of the Hazaras).



Jan Mohammad Zabuli, a member of the security forces of the former government, hanged by Taliban in Nawa Mish district of Daikundi/Photo by: Local sources

Last year, in 2022, when the people of Daikundi faced unprecedented challenges due to drought, Pashtun nomads invaded the village with tens of thousands of livestock. In addition to destroying crops, irrigation canals, water reservoirs, and orchards, they grazed their large herds of goats and sheep on the people's fields. When the landowners complained to the local Taliban administration, they took no action against the devastating nomad invasion. A Kisaw resident, who wanted to remain anonymous, told to the Jade-Abresham Weekly:

All people of Kisaw are farmers. In the past years, the situation of the people was very good; but this year, in addition to the drought, the nomads have come to Kisaw with their herds of goats and sheep. Their herds have grazed all our pastures and grazing lands in the mountains and deserts.

This Kisaw resident added (until the date of interview) that the nomads had occupied all parts of the village and had set



A 12 years old child, Mohammad Jan Zabulli, a member of the former security forces who was tortured by the Taliban forces in Nawa Mish district/Photo by: Local sources



Taliban forces tortured an ordinary worker named Sakhi on the charge of possessing a weapon at Zahra Bayat Nili hospital/Photo: Local sources



up tents on people's agricultural lands, let their herds roam the fields, forcibly collect the villagers' fruits, cut down their trees, and gathered firewood. According to him, the nomads brutally destroyed the villagers' irrigation canals, and water reservoirs and harassed the people arbitrarily. When the people complained to the district officials, they supported the nomads instead of the villagers. He continued:

We currently do not have control over our lands, houses, and gardens; armed nomads treat us the way they want. When we ask the nomads to leave the village, they point to their guns and say these lands belong to them! The nomads own various light and heavy weapons; even their women and children are armed. Our elders say that even during the time of Zahir Shah and before, the nomads could not enter Kisaw because they had no legal or customary documents; but now they are encouraged and supported by the Taliban.

Another Kisaw resident testified that after the invasion and destruction by the nomads, the people of the village were in a very dire situation, as they had neither the ability to confront the nomads nor were the Taliban paying attention to their complaints. The villagers have no other source of income, occupation, or livelihood than their lands. Local sources also confirm that the nomads had been present in Kisaw and neighboring villages for months, causing irreparable damage to the people's crops and orchards. However, the Taliban government not only failed to prevent them but also openly supported the nomads, threatening the residents of Kisaw with imprisonment and torture.

4. The occupation of pastures and rain-fed and irrigated lands of the people of Chaharsadkhaneh in Miramor district.

On July 10, 2022, local sources had reported that Pashtuns from Ajristan district of Ghazni invaded the Chaharsadkhaneh village in Miramor district of Daykundi, claiming ownership of irrigated, rain-fed lands, and pastures belonging to residents of eleven villages, such as Dandab, Takato, Ab Zawar Ali, Zardayrgi, Sabzqol, Akhtam, Nowborida, Gulak, and Ghajurak. Over two thousand Hazara families live in these villages. At the same time with this conflict, the nomads of Sharan tribe (one of the Pashtun nomad tribes) sent a threatening letter to the people of Nayak village (a village in Chaharsadkhaneh) on July 16, 2022, stating, «Leave Nayak village because these lands belong to us!» Local sources and Chaharsadkhaneh residents consider the Kochi's (nomads) claim to be entirely false; according to them, all the lands in Ajristan district belonged to Hazaras up to one hundred years ago. Ajristan and its settlements were seized by Abdul Rahman's army in the late 19th century and given to Pashtun tribes. Therefore, Pashtuns and nomadic shepherds continue to seek the occupation of Hazaras' properties and expansion of their territory based on the logic of oppression and government-backed seizure.

The locals told «Jade-Abresham Weekly» that after Nayak residents resisted the threats from Sharan nomads and asked them to provide evidence for their claim, they instead resorted to various methods of harassing and harming the people, some of which are enumerated below:

They looted the commercial goods of travelers and shopkeepers in Dasht-e-Nahur (on Ghazni-Miramor route) several times, but the local Taliban government in Nahur never paid attention to the complaints of travelers and victims and did not investigate.

The Kuchis destroyed hundreds of acres of irrigated and rain-fed farms in the villages of Dandab, Ab Zawar Ali, Gulak,

Nowborida, Zardayrgi, and other villages by grazing their herds of goats, sheep, and camels.

On July 10, 2023, one local man was beaten to near-death by two armed Kuchis, leaving him in a coma for several days.

Three people from Nayak village who had gone for work to Ajristan were kidnapped by Pashtuns and held hostage. Eventually, after extensive efforts by Nayak's authorities, they were released.

On August 29, 2022, armed Kuchis attacked shepherds and villagers in Nayak, subjecting them to about two hours of gunfire from light and medium weapons. Fearing for their lives, local residents took refuge in nearby mountains and villages; in this incident, a man named Rajab was injured.

The findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly» show that as a result of the armed attacks of the Kuchis on the inhabitants of the disputed villages, the people of Chaharsadkhaneh have been living in constant terror for more than a year and a half. Local residents say that when people went to the district for justice, the local Taliban rulers told them that they would investigate the matter, but in practice, they did not take any action to prevent the Kuchis' aggression.

According to local sources, the Taliban and the Kuchis have colluded to put pressure on the inhabitants of the mentioned villages. One of the local residents, who does not want to mention his name for fear of the Taliban, tells «Jade-Abresham Weekly»:

The main goal of the Taliban is to put the Hazara lands in the hands of Pashtuns. Therefore, when we complain in the district, our complaints are never investigated by the Taliban. If the international community recognizes the Taliban, they will directly seize these lands and pastures by force, and distribute them among their tribes and relatives. Most of the employees of the Miramor district are Pashtuns from Ajristan and have family ties with the Kuchis, and we know them.

Threat of forced migration of the inhabitants of Kijran

Local sources reported on November 10, 2022, that a Pashtun man with close relationship to the Taliban group had claimed ownership of the agricultural lands of the inhabitants of 15 villages; Kork Turgi, Shigatak, Bidak, Londa Bidak, Sang Shahrak, Trangak, Awdara, Khamitop, Kajaki, Pasap Lo, Band Sang, Pasht Saghum, Pasap Bazmir, Sardasht, and Tariknow in Kijran district, threatening all of the inhabitants of these villages, which include more than four thousand families, with forced migration.

According to local reporters, a man named Hamidullah claims that the mentioned villages were once the pasture of his grandfather's sheep. However, this claim is false because everyone knows that all these lands, including those that are in other parts of Kijran under the control of Pashtun tribes, used to belong to the Hazaras. But since the claimant's grandfather was one of the senior members of the Taliban during the previous government, Hamidullah has very close relations with the Taliban and wants to seize the people's lands using this advantage.

The Information Daily newspaper, on November 10, 2022, has written in a report on this issue: Local sources in Kijran and Khedir districts of Daikundi province say that people close to the Taliban have claimed ownership over the lands of 4,170 families in these two districts, and have threatened the local residents with forced displacement. The report, quoting local sources, states that the dispute between «Hamidullah» and the residents of



A house in Tagabdar, destroyed by the Taliban: «Nobody was ever particularly concerned about us.» Photo source: Juan Carlos/DER SPIEGEL



Farmland in the Tagabdar Valley. Photo source: Juan Carlos/DER SPIEGEL



Village elder and dispossessed farmer (L) in Lorashiv: «This is my life. How am I supposed to just give it up?» Photo source: Juan Carlos/DER SPIEGEL

these villages has been ongoing for seven months, and recently, the Taliban's primary court in Kijran district, without «proper investigation and examination,» has ruled in favor of «Hamidullah.»

The findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly» also show that in the legal dispute between the claimant and the villagers, the Taliban's primary court, without examining the landowners' documents, conducting sufficient investigation, and

following legal procedures, ruled in favor of Hamidullah. According to local sources, the district governor and the Taliban judge in Kijran district at that time had told the landowners that Hamidullah was the grandson of Mullah Niaz Mohammad, one of the Taliban's elders, and they had no choice but to comply; however, after the publication of reports by human rights organizations and Amnesty International on the Taliban's ongoing crimes against the

Hazaras, the subsequent stages of this dispute have been stalled.

The residents and landowners believe that the Taliban have temporarily suspended the pursuit of this dispute for political expediency, as the publication of such news in the media and cyberspace is not in the Taliban's favor, and they fear that they will not be recognized by the international community. A local resident has said:

This dispute is not over; it is merely postponed; because the Taliban are currently waiting for the world to recognize them officially. The primary court ruling is in Hamidullah's possession, and whenever he wants, the Taliban will forcibly hand over the people's lands to the claimant without pursuing this dispute in Sharia courts. This is because the Taliban have a plan to hand over Hazara lands across Afghanistan to the Pashtuns.

Forced displacement of residents of Ghamqol village in Khedir district

Local sources on September 27, 2022, reported that Pashtun nomads, after attacking Ghamqol village in Khedir district, have threatened nearly 200 families with forced displacement. According to the sources, the nomads claimed that these lands belonged to them and that the local residents must leave these villages. After the nomads' threats, the villagers, with their ownership documents, referred to the Khedir district office, and the district governor referred their case to the provincial court. When the villagers' representatives went to the provincial office to seek justice, they were imprisoned by order of the Taliban security commander in Daikundi.

Residents of Ghamqol village, at that time, had told local media that the nomads had coordinated with the Taliban administration before entering the village; because if this collusion had not taken place, the Taliban should have impartially and based on documents and evidence, dealt with this dispute; while the Taliban security commander in Daikundi, without referring the dispute to the courts or examining the documents of the native residents of the village, had imprisoned the people's representatives.

In those days, when a reporter from one of the local media interviewed the Taliban security commander about the imprisonment of the village residents, he said, «This is a legal dispute, and I have no information about it.» This is while he had imprisoned six villagers.

Some residents of Khedir district in Daikundi, at that time, had said that «armed» nomads had threatened nearly 200 families in the «Ghamqol» village of this district to leave their homes.

Ettelaat-e Rooz newspaper also confirmed this incident on October 5, 2021, quoting local sources, and reported that armed nomads with light and heavy weapons had entered Ghamqol village in several groups, claimed ownership of the villagers' lands, and demanded that them to leave Ghamqol as soon as possible. According to this report, in addition to threatening the villagers to leave their homes, the nomads had demanded each family to pay between 50,000 - 200,000 Afghani in cash as the price of the products of the past years. The nomads had also threatened the people that if they did not leave their homes and refrained from paying the requested amount, they would use the Taliban's «Red Unit» to evict them and collect the money. This situation forced the residents of Ghamqol village to sell a significant part of their livestock and agricultural products to pay the money nomads demanded. A resident of Ghamqol village, who had withheld his name, said at the time to the «Jade-Abresham Weekly»:

Some Pashtuns living in Helmand claim



Inhabitants of the village of Dahan-i-Nala. Photo source: Juan Carlos/DER SPIEGEL



Mohammed Sufi, a village elder from Dahan-i-Nala: «Two people have laid claim to our land.» Photo source: Juan Carlos/DER SPIEGEL

to be partners in the lands of Ghamqol in Khedir district of Daikundi province. Their claim is rooted in the past, during the time of Abdur Rahman, when Abdur Rahman had granted all Hazara lands to Pashtuns or Pashtun nomads with government documents, and they grazed their livestock on the mountains and deserts of Hazara lands without any obstacles, considering themselves entitled to Hazara agricultural and desert products. They trampled on the people of Hazara and their agricultural products with their livestock and made the scene tight for them. The Helmand Pashtuns' partnership in the lands of Ghamqol is also like this. For this reason, for years, the residents of Ghamqol have been paying half of the products of their lands to them. With the arrival of the Taliban, the Pashtuns' demands have increased. In the small and remote village of Ghamqol, two or three inhabitants in the upper area called Jar e Jawoz have been abandoned their house and lands as the Pashtuns had imposed various pressures on them. They were forced to leave their lands. Also, a group of nomads had been roaming the villages of Ghamqol for about a month, going from house to house seeking to take half of the products of the native residents' lands.

Forced displacement and oppression of the residents of Ashtarli

Local sources from Ashtarli district in Daikundi reported on November 5, 2021, that 350 Taliban fighters had attacked the village of Shaikh Miran in Ashtarli dis-

trict of Daikundi. The local sources also added that they first expelled members of five families and employees of two charities from their homes and offices, then turned the seized locations into military bases. Following this incident, some members of the displaced families appealed to the provincial center for justice, but the Taliban governor in Daikundi paid no attention to their complaints.

Based on the findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly» organization, the Taliban's military forces' treatment with the people of Ashtarli was becoming increasingly brutal. They arrested and tortured civilians on various pretexts and forced some to provide food and fuel.

The findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly» show that the residents of Ashtarli were forced to pay ransom to the Taliban while they are unable to provide food and fuel for their families. When people appealed to the Taliban authorities in Kabul to stop the abuses of their forces, the Taliban leaders, as usual, remained silent in the face of people's demands. As a result, the Taliban forces intensified their violence against the local residents.

One of the local residents, who fears revealing his name, says, «When the Taliban displaced several families, we complained to the province authorities. The governor did not pay attention to our complaint. We also complained in Kabul, but no one helped us. After that, the Taliban forces' treatment with us became more brutal.» When the local residents' efforts failed,

the Taliban threatened the people with torturing and forced displacement every day without any reason. This local resident adds, «When we realized that no one pays attention to our complaints, we were forced to remain silent because we knew that the more, we talked about this issue, the worse the situation would become and the Taliban's treatment with us would be more brutal.»

The Zan Times website, citing local sources, reported on October 30, 2022, that the Taliban attacked the village of Shaikh Miran on the night of Aqrab 4 and forcibly displaced the residents of the village with threats and force the following morning. In this report, quoting a resident of the village of Sheikh Miran, it is stated: «About 360 armed Taliban came to our village at night and told us on Thursday morning to leave our homes as soon as possible so that their people could settle there.» This source, a 66-year-old man, told Women's Times that the residents of Sheikh Miran are extremely poor and do not even have the financial means or the ability to relocate their family members to another area.

Another resident of the village said, «From Thursday morning to Friday morning, twelve families were forced to leave their homes, and the rest are bewildered about where and how to go.» This person, who has witnessed the Taliban's violence, said, «The Taliban broke the lock of a building belonging to an organization working in the health and malnutrition of mothers and children and entered the building. When someone asked the reason, they beat him.»

The residents of Shaikh Miran at that time said that fear had taken hold among the people following this incident, while the lack of facilities and the cold weather had also deprived them of the opportunity to go elsewhere.

Since the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, they have forced a portion of the non-Pashtun ethnic population in central and northern Afghanistan to flee their homes. So far, numerous reports of forced displacement of indigenous people from areas such as Khwaja Bahauddin Takhar, Panjshir, Behsud Maidan Wardak, Balkhab Sar-e-Pul, and Salang Parwan have been publicized.

Conversion of a school into a military base

Sources reported on November 27, 2021, that hundreds of Taliban fighters attacked one of the villages in Sang-e-Takht and Bandar Daikundi, turning an educational center called «Khatam-al-Nabiyyin (PBUH) Religious School» into a military base. According to local sources, after the Taliban's relocation to this educational site, hundreds of girls and boys who were studying there were deprived of continuing their education. After this incident, village elders raised the issue with the Taliban district governor and governor in Daikundi, but they paid no attention to evacuating the mentioned educational center.

The Shafaqna News Agency website reported on October 28, 2022, that «the Taliban turned the Khatam-al-Nabiyyin religious school in Daikundi into a military base.» According to this report, nearly 350 Taliban fighters occupied the Khatam-al-Nabiyyin religious school and several surrounding houses in the center of Sang-e-Takht and Bandar as a military base. This school had several classrooms, dormitories, and a library.

According to the report, the Taliban forces had thrown out the books in the school library, which had opened two months earlier. The school had nearly 150 male and female students and several

teachers who were teaching there. **Reports of forced displacement of the people of Shah-Tut village in Kiti district:**

Sources in Daikundi, on June 18, 1401, quoted residents of «Shah-Tut» village in Keti district of this province, reporting that local Taliban officials had ordered them to leave their village.

The Ettelaat e Roz newspaper, on the same date, cited local residents saying: «Local Taliban officials intend to hand over the land they (villagers) inherited from their ancestors to a Pashtun man.» According to this report, a Pashtun man named «Jan Mohammad» claimed ownership of nearly 70 acres of agricultural land and 100 houses belong to the residents of «Joye Now - Seydabad» village; however, he had no document to prove his claim, while the villagers not only inherited the disputed lands from their ancestors, but also had property deeds and tax records for their lands.

The Tamaddon TV network website, on June 7, 2022, quoted residents of «Joye Now Seydabad» as saying in a report, «The local government intends to forcibly seize their agricultural lands and residential homes. They say the local government has given 70 families in the area only five days to leave their homes.» The report said that despite having the necessary documents to prove ownership of their property, they were still threatened with forced displacement.

According to this report, some villagers were forcibly abducted from their homes by unidentified individuals and severely beaten to leave the village as soon as possible. The Ettelaat e Roz newspaper also quoted another local resident as saying, «The Taliban, in recent days, have arrested the residents of «Joye Now Seydabad» village and ruled in favor of the Pashtun man without considering the villagers' documents.» This villager told Ettelaat e Roz that the ruling was issued by the deputy district Taliban in Kiti district. The report continued, quoting this person, «According to the Taliban ruling, villagers have five days to leave, and if they don't, the Taliban rangers will come. Two days have already passed.» The report also quoted the villager as saying that some villagers had gone to Nili, the center of Daikundi, and if they do not receive a different ruling within the next three days, «they will be forcibly displaced.»

The Jomhur News Agency website, on June 18, 1401, quoted a local source as saying in part of its report, «In recent days, residents of Joye Now Seydabad village have been arrested by Taliban, and the dispute was ruled in favor of the Pashtun man without regard to the villagers' documents.» According to this resident, the ruling was issued by the deputy district Taliban in Keti district. Based on this report, the Taliban ruling gave villagers five days to leave or «the Taliban rangers will come.» At the time of this report, three days of this deadline had passed. The report continued, quoting villagers as saying that some of them had gone to Nili, the center of Daikundi, and if they do not receive a different ruling within the next three days, they will be forcibly displaced.

Findings of the Jade-Abresham Weekly show that «Jan Mohammad» had also filed claims against the residents of Shah-Tut village during the previous Taliban regime and considered their lands to be his property. However, at that time, the Taliban court judge had ruled in favor of the villagers. The residents of Shah-Tut village claim that they have that ruling as well, but the local Taliban authorities do not give any value to their ruling. The Taliban are more focused on implementing the ethnocentric policy of «seizing the lands of the Hazaras



On August 12, 2021, the Taliban took twelve Hazara soldiers, served in the previous regime, to the villages called «Kahoor» in Khidir district and shot them in groups. In this event, two civilians (a man and a 17-year-old girl) were also killed by the Taliban/Photo by: Local sources

and distributing them to the Pashtuns» and, in practice, are not committed to any other legal, religious, or customary criteria.

Forced displacement of the people of Takato village in Kiti district

Civic sources reported on August 1, 2022, that the Kuchis had threatened the residents of Takato village in Kiti district of Daikundi, consisting of more than 60 families, with forced displacement. According to the civic sources' report, some Pashtun Kuchis led by an individual named «Mulah Torjan» claimed that all the lands of Takato village belonged to the Kuchis.

The Ettelaat e Roz newspaper also reported on June 18, 2022, that «the Kuchis have raised the issue of ownership of the lands of Takato village since the Taliban came to power and have been in dispute for the past ten months. According to a source, the pressure of the Kuchis on the local residents has increased recently.» Based on this report, over 15 families from this village had migrated to Iran due to threats from the Kuchis and Taliban individuals in the ten months before this date.

The Ettelaat e Roz report continues that the Kuchis, who have the full support of local Taliban authorities, do not want to pursue their claims through judicial and justice courts because they have no religious

or customary documents to prove their claims. For this reason, they demanded the local residents either leave their homes or buy the disputed lands at exorbitant prices from the Kuchis.

The findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly» also shows that the Kuchis, who have attempted to seize the lands of the Hazaras through claims of ownership and threats of forced displacement against the residents of Daikundi, do not have any documents to prove their claims. Instead, they rely on the full support and dominance of the Taliban to put pressure on the Hazaras.

According to local residents, local Taliban officials in Daikundi not only investigate the Pashtun Kuchis' claims against the Hazara people fairly but also force the Hazaras to pay ransom to the Kuchis for any reason in all cases.

Forced displacement of residents of Pusht-Ruq village in Khedir district

Local sources reported on August 19, 2022, that the Taliban, in collaboration with Pashtun nomads, forced 10 Hazara families to leave their homes in Pusht-Ruq village in Khedir district of Daikundi. According to the reports from local sources, the Taliban forced the Hazara families to leave the area after an armed conflict between two residents of Kian village in Khedir district resulted in the death of a

member of the Taliban group. Following the murder, the Taliban arrested several residents of Pusht-Ruq village in Khedir district, pressuring and torturing them to apprehend and hand over the fugitive individual.

According to the report, the Taliban forcibly made the residents of Pusht-Ruq village in Khedir district displace the family of the fugitive, who had accidentally killed a member of the group. At that time, in addition to the murderer's family, the Taliban also forcibly displaced 10 families related to the fugitive individual. Findings from the Jade-Abresham Weekly indicate that the displaced families sought refuge in other provinces.

Taliban's extortion from Daikundi residents

After seizing power, the Taliban has used various methods to forcefully extract money from Hazaras alongside other forms of harassment and pressure, sometimes achieving their goal through the use of nomads. In this section, we will discuss the most prominent cases of extortion in Daikundi.

Extortion of nomads from residents of Gham-Qul village in Khedir district

Local sources in Daikundi reported in August 2021 that nomads, with the support of Taliban officials and without holding a trial, forced the residents of Gham-Qul village in Khedir district of Daykundi to pay blood money for five nomads. According to the report, the Taliban initially set the blood money for each person at 1.5 million Afghanis; however, with the mediation of a Hazara-born Taliban, the final blood money for each person was settled at 600,000 Afghanis, amounting to a total of 3 million Afghanis paid by Gham-Qul residents to the nomads.

According to the findings of the Jade-Abresham Weekly, in connection with the aforementioned blood money, the Taliban arrested 40 elders of Khedir district in Daikundi on September 24, 2021, and imprisoned them in the district headquarters. They were detained by a Taliban group claiming that residents of the «Darrah-e Khudi» area of the district had killed five nomads 40 years ago. The detainees were residents of the villages of «Gham-Qul,» «Gham-Qul Payin,» «Khairkhaneh,» «Ti Bagh,» and «Darrah-e Khudi,» who were pressured by the Taliban to pay the blood money for the nomads.

The findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly» show that about 40 years ago, when Pashtun nomads invaded Gham-Qul village in Khedir district and let their goats and sheep graze on Hazaras' farms, locals engaged in a conflict with the invaders to defend themselves. As a result, seven local residents and five nomads were killed. The Taliban's decision to force Gham-Qul residents to pay the blood money for the nomads was made while completely ignoring the blood money for the seven villagers who had been killed by the nomads. A local resident who wished to remain anonymous told the «Jade-Abresham Weekly»: «The nomads took 3 million Afghanis from the people for the blood of their dead; but when we told the Taliban that the blood money for our dead should also be paid, the district governor and security officials of the Taliban said, «If you don't stay quiet, we will take 6 million Afghanis from you. Thank God that your problem was solved with this small amount.» The people reluctantly accepted the Taliban's decision.»

Based on the findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly», with the unconditional support of the Taliban, the nomads even demand blood money from Hazara people for those who died of natural causes. A local elder said: «Over the past 50 years, many people have been killed in various

conflicts, and the main killers are not clear. In conflicts between nomads and Hazaras, people have been killed, and the local people have suffered the most casualties.» According to him, since the nomads are supported by the Taliban, they even demand blood money from Hazaras for those who died naturally or from various diseases. He warned that: «The nomad is just a tool. It is the Taliban who are actually pushing these plans.»

The daily newspaper, Ettela'at-e-Ruz, reported on October 4, 2021, that the Taliban's primary court and district governor in Khedir, Daikundi, had issued an order to collect blood money from the elders of 27 villages in Khedir district following a complaint from nomads regarding the murder of several nomads and local people decades ago during a dispute between them. According to the report, the Taliban had ruled that each family must pay 800,000 Afghans to the nomads, but they ignored the blood money for the nine Hazara victims.

Nomads extorting money from residents of Darreh-Khudi village in Khedir district

Sources reported on October 4, 2021, that the nomads had claimed at the Khedir district office that one of their relatives had been killed by the residents of Darreh-Khudi village years ago. The Taliban immediately, without holding a trial, confirmed their claim and forced the local people to pay one million Afghans, of which 800,000 Afghans were given to the nomads and 200,000 Afghans were taken by the Taliban officials. According to the report, the Taliban later claimed that this issue had been resolved by local elders; however, one of the local residents, who did not want his name to be disclosed, said:

Considering these reports, it seems that the Kuchis, with the support of the Taliban, are extorting the people. In the case of the killing in their own valley, they cannot recall which Kuchi was killed. If the Taliban's claim was true, they would surely have identified the killer. Even if this claim is true, the guilt still falls on the individual killer. The Kuchis have complained about all the villagers, and the Taliban district governor, without investigating the matter, has ordered his forces to forcibly collect one million Afghans from the people and divide it between themselves and the Kuchis. This is because the Taliban consider all Hazaras guilty and deserving of oppression and injustice due to ethnic and religious differences.

c) Kuchis extorting the residents of Siahchob village in Sangtakht and Bandar

Local sources in Daikundi reported on June 4, 2022, that Kuchis in Sangtakht and Bandar district of this province claimed that in 1984, a Kuchi man was killed in a clash with the people of Siahchob village, and the local people must pay blood money for the victim. According to this report, local Taliban officials, without investigation and research, had ruled that the villagers had to pay one million Afghans to the Kuchis as compensation. At the same time, local sources say that the Kuchis' claim is entirely false because the people of Siahchob did not kill the person in question, and the Kuchis, resorting to such accusations and with the support of the Taliban, are plundering the Hazara people. One local resident told the «Jade-Abresham Weekly» that perhaps other people had killed the Kuchi, as he had asked the village elders about the matter and nobody remembers it. He further says, «Now that the Taliban government is in power, the Kuchis, with various pretexts, are seizing the Hazaras' property, as they know that any claim they make against the Hazaras will be supported and approved by the Taliban.»

d) Kuchis extorting the residents of Chaharqol Miri village in Sangtakht and Bandar

Local sources reported on August 21, 2022, that local Taliban officials in Sangtakht and Bandar district had set the blood money for a Pashtun man, who, according to the Kuchis' claim, was killed by the residents of Chaharqol Miri village in 1991, at two million and 500 thousand Afghans and a KalashNayakov rifle. This is while the villagers say that a Kuchi man was killed about 30 years ago in an area between Daikundi and Ghor provinces, but the residents of Chaharqol Miri village had no involvement in this incident because the killer was not identified at that time. That man could have been killed by the Kuchis themselves.

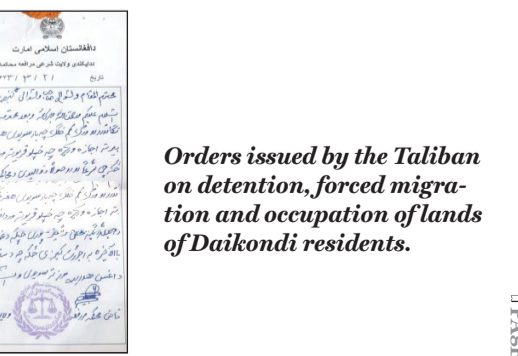
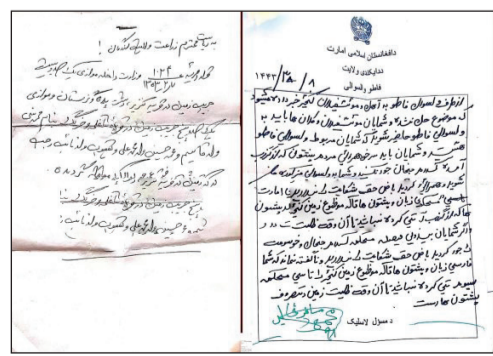
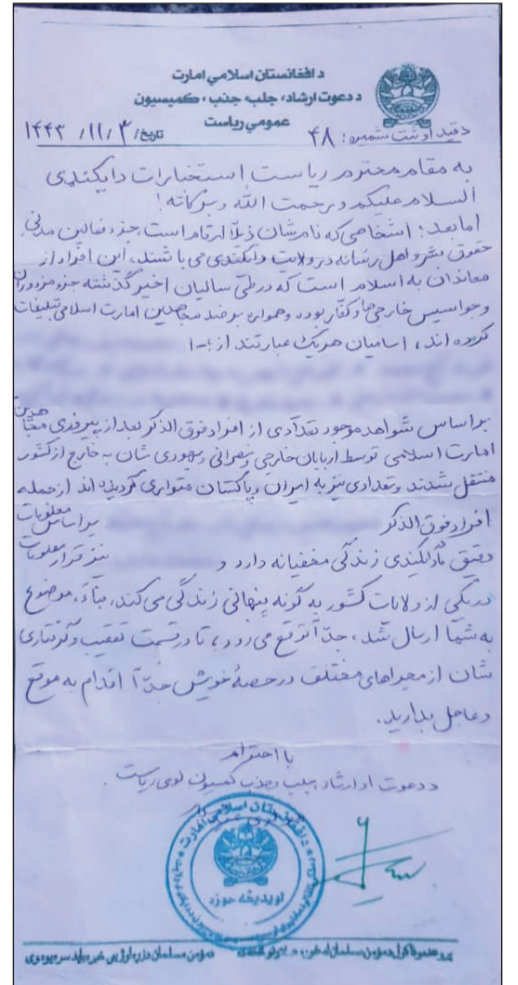
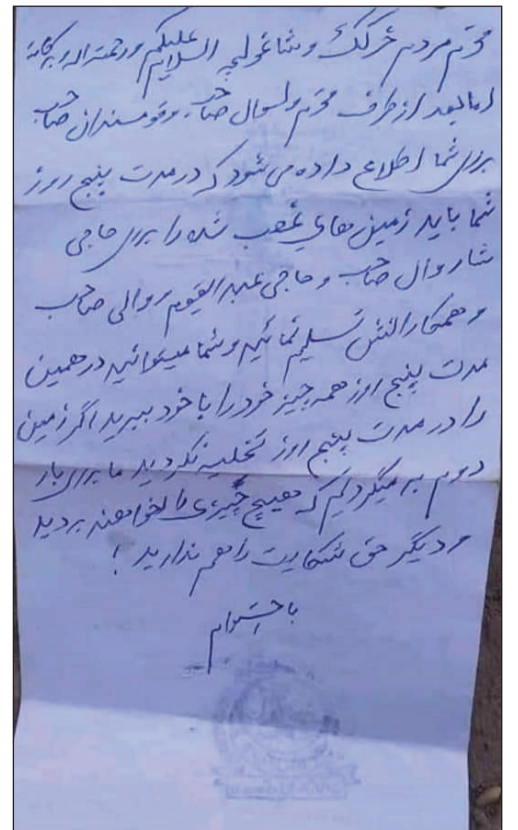
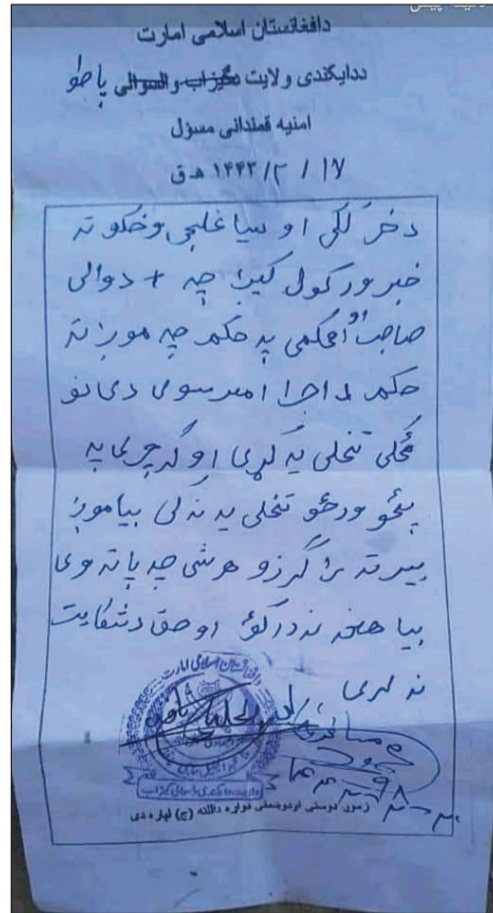
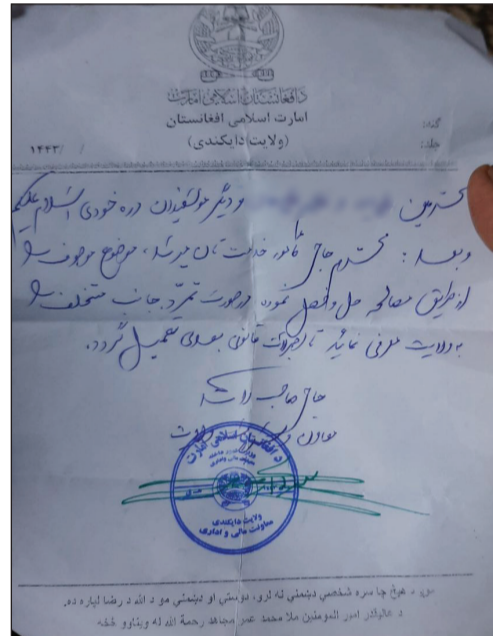
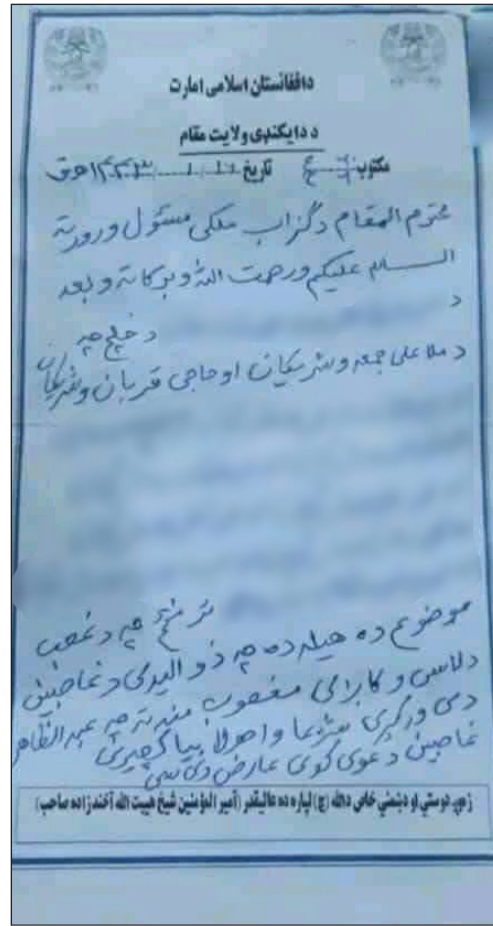
Based on this report, the villagers consider the Taliban's decision to be cruel and contrary to Sharia and law. A local resident, who was afraid to reveal his name, said that the Taliban district chief had forcibly obtained a confession and commitment from the elders of Chaharqol Miri village and had set a deadline for them to collect one million and 500 thousand Afghans from the villagers and deliver it to the Kuchis within two weeks. This resident of Chaharqol Miri village added, «This decision was completely biased, cruel, and ethnically motivated. The Taliban officials in this case supported the Kuchis with all their might. The people wanted to cancel this order, but due to the Taliban's full support for the Kuchis, they were unable to protest against this illegal decision.»

The Hasht-e Sobh newspaper, on July 21, 2022, in a report quoting local sources, wrote that the Kuchis had claimed that the inhabitants of Chaharqol Miri village in Sangtakht and Bandar district of Daikundi had killed a Kuchi shepherd years ago. According to sources, the Taliban, after this claim, in a meeting with the Kuchis and the inhabitants of Sangtakht and Bandar district, ruled that the inhabitants of Chaharqol Miri village in this district should pay two million and 500 thousand Afghans and a KalashNayakov rifle as blood money for the shepherd.

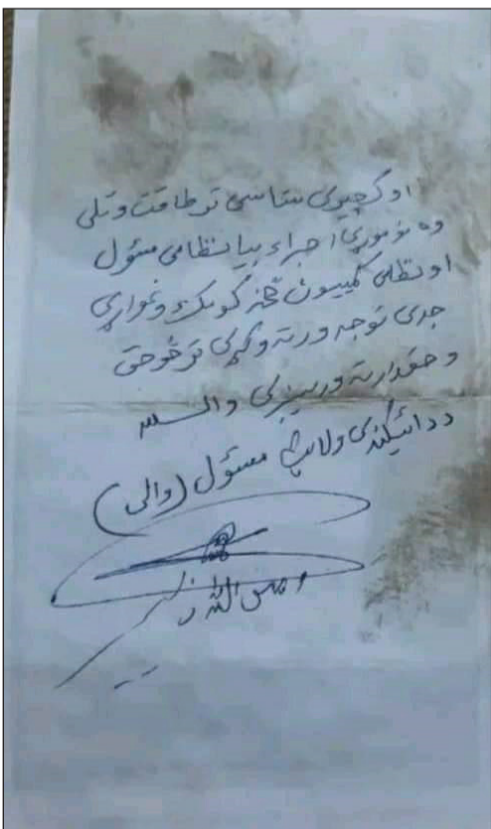
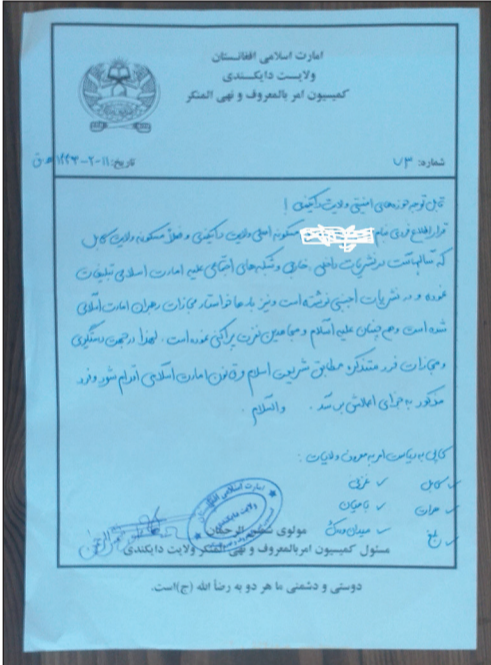
e) Pashtun man extorting the residents of Shahrستان district

Local sources on October 13, 2022, reported that nearly twenty years ago (at the beginning of the Republic regime), when a road connected Ajristan district of Ghazni to Shahrستان district of Daikundi, a Kamaz truck full of foodstuff belonging to a man named Hamidullah from Ajristan district of Ghazni, which he had brought to sell in Giro district of Shahrستان, Daikundi, had deviated from the road and overturned due to a technical defect or any other reason. After this incident, he sold all his goods at the scene to the Hazara people and transferred his truck to Ajristan. A year after this incident, Hamidullah, with the help of other Pashtuns, forcibly took a Falankoach vehicle, a Tunis vehicle, a motorcycle, and significant amounts of goods from the shopkeepers and travelers of Giro district of Shahrستان, Daikundi, who were passing through Ajristan, as compensation, and even gave receipts to some of them.

However, after the Taliban took control, Hamidullah filed a complaint with the Taliban governor in Daikundi and demanded compensation from the villagers for the overturned truck. Still, when the dispute was referred to the Shahrستان district of Daikundi, he did not attend the court to pursue his claim, and as a result, the Taliban governor directly ordered the district chief to collect one million Afghans from the local people and give it to Hamidullah. According to a public report, when the Hazara victims filed a complaint against



Orders issued by the Taliban on detention, forced migration and occupation of lands of Daikundi residents.



Hamidullah to the district chief, he confessed to extorting the villagers for compensation for his truck. Still, the Taliban officials paid no attention to the Hazara people's complaints. This case is reminiscent of a decision by one of the courts during the time of Zahir Shah in the Behsud district. Mohammad Hossein, a student from Kandahar, writes in his book «Afghanistan Yesterday and Today»: «In Zahir Shah's time, in a conflict, the Kuchis killed a Hazara man, and one of the Kuchis' camels was also injured.

w) Extortion of local Hazaras in Daikundi by the Taliban authorities

Over the past 19 months, local sources have repeatedly reported that the Taliban have put immense economic pressure on the residents of Daikundi by imposing excessive taxes. According to these reports, the Taliban do not have a clear and defined principle for collecting taxes from Hazaras. Each local governor collects money from the people based on personal whim and arbitrarily.

According to civilian sources, the Taliban collect a hefty religious tax called Ushr from the Hazara people, in addition to government taxes, every few months. This Ushr is not subject to any precise calculations or reporting. Local Taliban authorities force people to pay exorbitant amounts based on their desires and needs and require tribal leaders and members of local councils to collect and deliver the Ushr to the Taliban. A resident of a district in the province says, «The taxes the Taliban collect are very high; for example, they take 5,000 Afghanis per month from a shopkeeper with a capital of 50,000 Afghanis and 10,000 Afghanis per month from a shopkeeper with a capital of 100,000 Afghanis.» This district resident says that unlike the previous government, the Taliban do not follow any laws when imposing taxes, which has resulted in a stagnating job market and some shopkeepers closing their shops because they cannot afford to pay the taxes. He adds that, in addition to shop taxes, people are also obliged to pay Ushr, the amount and timing of which are unspecified: «Sometimes the council needs 30,000 Afghanis, sometimes every household has to pay 1,000 Afghanis. The time for paying Ushr is not specified; whenever they need money, they order council members to collect it from the people. It is unclear whether they collect it for themselves or deliver it to the government. The main goal of the Taliban is to seize the property of the Hazara people under any pretext.»

Massacre of the people of Daikundi

Since taking control of Afghanistan in the summer of 1400, the Taliban have killed many Hazaras for various reasons due to the ingrained ethnic violence within them. In this section, we will focus on the massacre of Hazara military and civilian personnel in Daikundi.

Massacre of residents in the Khedir district

Following the first days of complete control over Daikundi, the Taliban issued a statement containing the following provisions:

Those who have weapons must hand them over to the Islamic Emirate forces.

Those who have already surrendered their weapons must bring their receipts and receive confirmation.

Those who were members of the previous government's security forces and have been discharged must bring their discharge papers and obtain confirmation again.

All individuals must bring a sum of 2,000 Afghanis with them when visiting the district.

Massacre of former military personnel in Khedir district

According to local and civilian sources, after Daikundi's capital city, Nili, fell to the Taliban on August 12, 2021, 34 former government soldiers who had previously laid down their arms sought refuge in the Khedir district. Some of them immediately fled to Iran and Pakistan, while others trusted the Taliban's general amnesty announcement and stayed in their homes. During this turmoil, a man named Mohammad Ali Sadaqat, who was among the local Taliban affiliates, negotiated with them, assuring that if they surrendered to the Taliban, their safety would be guaranteed. They trusted Sadaqat and showed readiness to surrender; however, after Sadaqat facilitated the surrender of some of them, on August 30, 2021, nearly 300 Taliban fighters attacked the Dehn-e Qal village in the Khedir district to arrest the unarmed former regime soldiers.

Eventually, the Taliban forces took twelve Hazara former soldiers to a nearby village called «Kahoor» and executed them en masse. In this incident, besides the surrendered soldiers, two other civilians (a man and a 17-year-old girl) who fled the scene upon witnessing the situation were also killed by the Taliban.

Amnesty International reported this incident on October 5, 2021, stating that Taliban forces had unlawfully killed 13 Hazara citizens who were members of the previous government's security forces and had surrendered after handing over their weapons. According to the report, the massacre of former military personnel occurred on August 30, 2021, in the village of Kahoor in the Khedir district, with 11 of the victims being former members of the previous regime's security forces and two civilians, including a 17-year-old girl.

In this report, quoting Agnes Callamard, the Secretary-General of Amnesty International, it is stated: «These ruthless executions demonstrate that the Taliban are committing crimes that made them infamous during their previous rule.» Callamard said that the Taliban have always violated the rights of those they consider enemies, even those who surrender to the group, killing them brutally: «The Taliban have repeatedly declared a general amnesty, claiming they are not targeting former government employees and soldiers; however, these massacres are in blatant contradiction with the general amnesty, and the Taliban must immediately stop these cruel killings.»

The Secretary-General of Amnesty International, in another part of her statements, said: «The Taliban must immediately stop these vengeful and cruel actions and ensure that former government employees and their families can live safely in Afghanistan. The new government must make it clear that such grave violations are intolerable and that those responsible will be held accountable under the law.»

According to an investigative report published by Amnesty International on September 15, 2022, since taking control of Afghanistan one year ago, the Taliban have engaged in targeted torture and killings of the Hazara ethnic group, executing a number of Hazara individuals. The systematic attacks by the Taliban against ethnic minorities demonstrate a pattern of assault against minorities, including former security force members of Hazara origin, who are executed by the Taliban. According to this human rights organization's report, the Taliban consider ethnic minorities like the Hazaras as «enemies.»

Killing of a former soldier by the Taliban

Local sources in Naveh-Mish District of

Daikundi, on August 4, 2023, told media outlets that on August 3, the Taliban executed Mohammad Zabuli, a former soldier in the previous government, in front of his imprisoned son's eyes and then hanged his body. At that time, the Taliban claimed that they had not executed Zabuli, and he died of extreme fear; however, local sources in Naveh-Mish said that the former government soldier died under the Taliban's torture.

Mohammad Zabuli had fled to Iran after the fall of the Republic but returned to Naveh-Mish after hearing about his 10-year-old son's arrest by the Taliban. When the Taliban became aware of the situation, they besieged Zabuli's house, and after several hours of fighting, transferred him to prison.

Shooting of a shepherd in Barakr village by Kuchis (Nomads)

Local sources reported on September 30, 2023, that Kuchis (nomads) killed a shepherd from the village of Deh-Now Barakr in Miramor District of Daikundi, injuring another person. They then took hundreds of goats and sheep belonging to the villagers. However, when the victim's family complained to the local Taliban office, the district chief and the Taliban security commander in Miramor completely ignored the issue.

The daily newspaper «Information Day» also confirmed the news, quoting local sources in part of its report: The Kuchis attacked the villagers' farms with their livestock, but the villagers tried to stop them. After an altercation with the Kuchis on Thursday, September 30, a local resident named Mohammad was first injured by a Kuchi man with a knife and then shot dead, with another villager injured.

Findings from the Jade-Abresham Weekly indicate that eight months after Mohammad's murder, no action has been taken by the Taliban government to arrest his killers. The residents of Barakr village believe that because the victim is from the Hazara ethnic group and his killer is Pashtun, the Taliban do not want to hold a Pashtun accountable for killing a Hazara; instead, they try to let the case fade into oblivion over time.

h) Civilian massacre in the center of Daikundi

Local sources reported on May 3, 2023, that 250 Taliban fighters launched a night raid on the village of «Seyvok-Shibir» in the central Daikundi province, massacring members of two families. According to the report, 11 civilians, including one woman and four children, were killed in the attack, and three others, including two women, were injured. Six others were captured by the Taliban forces and taken to the provincial center as prisoners.

According to local sources, the fate of the captured individuals is still unknown. An eyewitness who refuses to be named describes the scene as follows:

«I had just woken up for the morning prayer when I heard gunfire. I looked outside and saw Taliban forces firing their light and semi-heavy weapons at two mud houses belonging to villagers. As a result, they killed several members of the two families who were all civilians and captured the rest, taking them to the provincial center. After the Taliban left, we approached the bodies; 11 people had been killed. Among the victims, we saw one woman and four children. Three people were severely injured, and the remaining six were taken away by the Taliban. Each victim had been shot dozens of times.»

However, the Taliban spokesperson in Daikundi has denied the civilian massacre and, in response to the news, wrote in a newsletter, «Our forces have arrested a

Orders issued by the Taliban on detention, forced migration and occupation of lands of Daikundi residents.



number of residents of Seyvok Shibir village.» He explained the reason for the arrest via a Facebook newsletter, stating, «In the past years, there was an ongoing legal dispute between members of two tribes in one of the villages in the central district. The Taliban court repeatedly summoned both parties to the provincial center, but they refused to comply. For this reason, the Taliban forces arrested both parties.» Zabihullah Mujahid, a Taliban spokesperson, announced that their forces had killed a number of rebels/mutineers in the village of Seyvok Shibir, Daikundi.

On May 4, 2023, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) condemned the massacre of civilians in Seyvok-Shibir village by the Taliban and confirmed that four boys aged 1 to 14 had been killed in the attack.

Richard Bennett, the UN Special Rapporteur for Afghanistan, called for an immediate and independent investigation into the massacre of the two Hazara families in central Daikundi one day after the incident.

Following the event, the surviving family members of the victims also called on the international community to condemn the attack on their family members as part of the genocide of Hazaras by the Taliban in an open letter. The letter also stated that the Taliban had fired more than 60 bullets at each of the killed individuals.

w) Murder of a citizen in Khedir district by the Taliban

On November 3, 2022, Radio Vatan-dar, quoting Mawlawi Khalil, the head of the office of Aminullah Obaid, the Taliban governor in Daikundi, reported that a 33-year-old man named Mohammad Ali, a resident of the Khedir district in Daikundi, was mysteriously killed by Mullah Abdallah, the governor of Khedir, and Azizullah Ajmal, the Taliban's security commander in the Khedir district.

According to this report, in the middle of September 2022, Mohammad Ali went to the local administration office to pursue a legal case, but he never returned home. After that, Khan Mohammad, his brother, filed a complaint with the Daikundi governor's office about his disappearance. According to the report, the Taliban governor referred the case to the Taliban intelligence department, asking them to cooperate with Khan Mohammad in finding his brother. However, eventually, Mohammad Ali's body was found. Local Taliban officials admitted that they had detained Mohammad

Ali, but the head of the governor's office in Daikundi did not provide any information about the details of his murder to the media. He only said that the killing had occurred in a very mysterious way.

Findings of the Jade-Abresham Weekly show that this individual was killed on the orders of the governor and the Taliban security commander. Khan Mohammad, Mohammad Ali's brother, told the Jade-Abresham Weekly: «My brother was a farmer who went to the Khedir district administration in September 2022 to pursue a legal case, but before the case could be reviewed by local Taliban officials, they first detained Mohammad Ali and then he disappeared. After months of searching, we found Mohammad Ali's body inside a well. I don't know if they killed him with bullets or tortured him to death because it was impossible to determine from his body. But I am sure that the governor and the security commander of Khedir are involved in his murder.»

One of the residents of Khedir, who did not want his identity revealed due to security threats, told the Jade-Abresham Weekly: «The victim had a legal dispute with a local Taliban named Mohammad Ali Sadaqat. However, when he went to the district administration office to pursue his case, he was first detained there and then disappeared, never returning to his home. Months later, his body was found inside a well. In fact, the governor and the Taliban commanders killed him at the instigation of Sadaqat.»

According to local sources' reports, at the same time as Mohammad Ali's body was found, the head of the Taliban governor's office told the media that they had given Mohammad Ali's family 40 days to decide whether the governor and the security commander of Khedir should be tried according to Islamic law or peace should be reached between the parties through a jirga (tribal council) of elders. However, the Jade-Abresham Weekly's findings indicate that the Taliban never took any legal or religious action in this regard because Khan Mohammad had asked the Taliban to investigate the details of his brother's murder and punish the perpetrators according to Islamic law. Local sources say that no one was actually arrested or tried in connection with this crime.

Killing of a civil registration employee by the Taliban

On November 16, 2022, local sources in

Nili, the capital of Daikundi, reported that the Taliban had killed a resident of the Miramor district in the city of Nili at a checkpoint by firing bullets.

According to local reports, the victim was named «Khodabakhsh Behzad» and was a resident of Cholung village in the Miramor district and an employee of the civil registration office in the district.

A local resident told «Jade-Abresham Weekly»:

Until 1 pm (on Friday, November 16, 2022), we had a meeting at Behzad's house and were discussing issues related to the village council. We had just eaten lunch when he received a phone call. Behzad told us in detail after the phone conversation that one of his colleagues had called to say that many people had come to the office to get ID cards, but they had run out of ID card papers. He asked me to take advantage of the holiday, go to the province, and bring ID card papers so that people would not be delayed on Sunday.

According to this source, Behzad apologizes to his friends, separates from them, and heads towards Nili city with his motorcycle. The source says, «We returned to our homes. Around dinner time, a phone call came saying that the Taliban had killed Behzad by shooting at the checkpoint.»

Amu TV website reported on January 3, 2022: «Khodabakhsh Behzad is killed around 6 pm as he enters Nili, in the vicinity of the village of «Pay Nili.» Later, eyewitnesses and sources in his village said that the bullet had hit him in the back.

The Taliban told local media that night that Khodabakhsh had not heeded the soldiers' warning to stop and that a stray bullet that hit the ground had taken his life. The Taliban later claimed that they had found a gun clip in his bag; however, his family says that he was killed by the Taliban's gunfire and never carried a weapon.

The findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly» show that the victim was not killed due to neglecting the Taliban's command to stop but for other reasons. According to local residents, the presence of the gun clip in Behzad's bag was fundamentally false. He was not killed while passing the checkpoint; instead, when two Taliban members asked him to give them a ride to Nili, and he refused, saying he couldn't carry both of them, they attacked and killed him. Moreover, Behzad was carrying 270,000 Afghanis from the civil registration office's revenue and some documents to deliver to the province. Therefore, there is a high

probability that many people in the Miramor district knew why Behzad was going to Nili and how much money he was carrying.

According to local reports, in addition to the above, the wound in Behzad's back was not a bullet wound. A local resident who saw the body up close and witnessed the entire burial process said:

The wound in Behzad's back didn't look like a bullet wound. I have seen many gunshot wounds. The bullet leaves a tiny hole where it enters the body, but it creates a large hole where it exits. In Behzad's back, there was a large hole like a spear hole; however, there were no wounds on the other side of his body. It is highly likely that he was killed with a spear due to the robbery of the money he was carrying.

On the same day, the spokesperson for the Taliban's security command in Daikundi had said, «A motorcyclist named Khodabakhsh, son of Hassan Ali, a resident of the village of «Cholung» in the Miramor district of this province, collided with a rock while passing a checkpoint and lost his life.» The findings of the «Jade-Abresham Weekly» show that the Taliban not only did not prosecute the killers of Behzad, but they also did not pay blood money.

According to local sources, eventually, Sadiquallah Abed, the Taliban's security commander in Daikundi, sent a number of Hazara employees, members of the Council of Scholars, and influential figures to the house of Khodabakhsh Behzad to ask the relatives of the deceased to forgive the murderer. The delegation had brought three bags of flour, two bags of rice, a barrel of oil, a camel load of straw, and two kilograms of tea to console the Behzad family.

Khodabakhsh Behzad was about 30 years old and was born in the village of «Cholung» in the Miramor district of Daikundi. He had a bachelor's degree and worked at the statistics office of the Miramor district. He left behind three daughters, aged one, five, and eight, and a one-year-old son; his wife is pregnant and has no guardian.

This chain of individual and collective killings, land grabbing, forced displacement, extortion, looting, and more, continues. So far, local offices of the terrorist and racist Taliban regime have deliberately prevented the legal and human rights pursuit of these crimes, and with tricks, plots, and threats, they have paved the way for the expansion of these crimes.



Survivors of Sivak Tragedy; Taliban tore the bodies of the victims into pieces with knives

Interviewed by: Esmat Altaf
Translated by: M.Rezaie

Introduction: Taliban, in more than a year and half, has massacred, detained, and imprisoned and tortured many residents of Daykondi, but they have not been reflected in the media. Mass killing in Darah e Kho-di in which 9 former security members and four civilians were killed and Sivak mass killing in which 9 people were killed by the Taliban have nearly been forgotten. And there is no efforts to reveal why such killings have happened and how desperate are their families. Six survivors of Siok mass killing are being tortured even now in the Taliban horrific prisons; but no organization have taken measures to release them. At the beginning, UNAMA sent a delegation to Daykondi and promised to investigate their case but they have done nothing so far.

The silence of the institutions and media that speak of the values of human rights and defending them has made the situation difficult for the citizens of Afghanistan and the possibility of retaking the fundamental rights of the people has become impossible.

Reversing and distorting the criminal events carried out by the Taliban, by the mercenary media affiliated with this group, is a double crime against the Afghan citizens. The formation of Taliban-affiliated media institutions, the growth of mercenary figures in social networks to defend the Taliban and the consolidation of this group's foundations in public opinion, and the support of the seemingly independent media from the Taliban's actions with propaganda tactics, have slowly found their place in the current information structure of Afghanistan. Shamshad TV is one of the media, which it has been founded based on ethnic fascism and but in the past year and a half, it has always supported the Taliban and the criminal acts of this group. Shamshad TV has taken any measures to strengthen the foundations of ethnic fascism of the Taliban.

Shamshad TV, a few days after the event of Siok of Shibar, prepared a report of this event, which was prepared completely in defense of the Taliban. In this report, several arms of weapons have been displayed in the house of one of the people who was killed and a vague and short conversation has been conducted with their survivors. But the main conversation was conducted with those who were directly involved in this incident and reported to the Taliban that it seems that in this house some armed people who oppose the Taliban group are conspiring and planning an attack on the center of Daykondi.

According to the information of the survivors of the dead, the Taliban and those who had started the heinous massacre in Sivak of Shibar, one day before the Shamshad TV reporters were present at the place of the event in Sivak, they staged the event as they wanted and had placed several weapons in The house of one of the dead to be filmed by the Shamshad TV report team. They also had dictated the local residents what they shall say to the reporters. In the past two decades, Shamshad TV reporters have only come one time to Daikondy. In the last two decades, reporting on the survivors of the Siok event is the only case that has brought Shamshad TV reporters to Daikondy. It is clear that Shamshad TV wanted to make the dead people appear to



On 24 November 2002, the Taliban raided the village of "Sivak Shibar" in the suburbs of Daikundi center at night and massacred the members of two families/Photo by: Local sources

be the main perpetrators of this crime by normalizing the event and give legitimacy to the Taliban.

Undoubtedly, as much as the crime of the Taliban against the citizens of Afghanistan is ugly and disgusting, the attempt to whitewash the black face of this group by the media and mercenaries is also ugly and disgusting; As much as the forced displace-

ment of people by the Taliban is an obvious crime, the distortion of the truth by the media is also considered a crime, which is carried out with the help of the condition created by Taliban.

We have discussed the event with one of the survivors of the tragic incident of Sivak in order to unveil the reality behind the incident.

Question: I would like to thank you for interviewing with the Silk Way Weekly on the tragic event of Sivak. First, I would like to know if you were a witness of the Sivak tragic event.

Answer: Yes, I witnessed the scene.

Question: Would you tell us why Sivak incident happened and what were the main causes?

Answer: The main issue was a legal dispute among Hashim Khan's sons and Mohammad dad Jafary's sons with Haji Gharib Hussain Big's sons, the residents of Sivak of Daykondi. This legal dispute had existed for many years. It was on land ownership. They had clashed in the past and even they had lost their family members in these clashes. During the republic, they had approached the government, and their dispute was going on. Twice, the primary court and attorney had decided in favor of Hashim Khan's sons. The final court was supposed to make its decision and deal with this case, but the government collapsed and everything went to waste.

After the Taliban's take over, after about one month, one of Haji Gharib Hussain Khan's sons, who was a police officer, was killed on the way to his duty station, and then the victim's brothers accused Hashim Khan's sons and Jafary's sons of killing him. They appealed to the Islamic Emirate, and they summoned to the provincial capital.

But Hashim Khhan's sons and Mohammad dad Jafaary's sons did not accept to go the province and to defend themselves. They explained as there was a dispute between them with Jafary's sons they could not go to the provincial center with them because they worked with Taliban and they can't trust Jafary's sons. And This is how it can trap us.

Local community leaders intermediated between them for several times, including Mohammad Ali Uruzgani, the former provincial governor deputy of Daykondi, and other local influential figures in order to find a viable solution. They hoped the perpetrators to participate in the meetings but the failed. The main cause was that nobody could assure them of their safety.

During this period, Jafary's sons had reported to the Taliban intelligence and other people had fueled the conflict as well. They had reported to Taliban that these people are rogue, they are irresponsible armed people and they are against the IEA and they are linked with the NRF and poses weapons. But all such allegations were false. These words caused the Taliban to act with more than 100 armed and equipped forces. They entered the area on the date... after the morning call to prayer. Maulvi Faizani, deputy intelligence officer of Daykondi province, and the rest of the Taliban forces entered the area. the first house they went behind the gate was the house of HashIm Khan's sons. They entered into a conversation with them. Before entering the house themselves, Taliban had asked two of their neighbors of the accused to ask them to surrender themselves and hand over their weapons to Emirate. They certainly carried a weapon and they already had mentioned the reason to the elders. At the same time, Ehsan, the eldest son of Hashim Khan, who was also a party to the dispute between the sons of Haji Gharib Hussain Bai,... **see on next page**

Three Black Months; Notions from the Life Under the Taliban Rule

Mohammad Raja:
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13 Dec 2021

Taliban, in first after their take over, forced residents of Pato, Gizab, Nava mish and Khedir to leave their homes. While Taliban had made thousands of the households in these districts to leave their lands and homes, did not allow them to take the basic livelihood and food. They only allowed these families to take 50 kilo gram of wheat and a few carpets and dishes. They forced families to leave their homes and lands based on false claims and extra judicial actions.

About three months ago, four hundred families were forcibly displaced from Kandir area of Pato district. Hundreds of other families were also forced to move from Lore Shiveh, Piranjir, Rabat, Voljah, Chapjoy, Biri, Dirmi, Tagabdar, Kharkak, Baghak, Sehvor and Payqol areas of this district and Gizab district. This collective punishment is carried out using state force and state facilities. (Photo 2).

Censorship of Media

Before the Taliban takeover, there were 6 Visual and audio media and one print media registered with the Directorate of Information and Culture operating in Daykondi. These media had 9 female and 19 male employees. But after the Taliban takeover only Radio Nasim and Sadae Qarya (the Village Voice) are operating and other medias have stopped their activities. Among the thirty active journalists who worked in local media, now only four journalists are left who work in two semi-active media (Radio Nasim and Sadae Qarya). None of these four reporters are women. It should be noted that the above two me-



*Residents of Kandir and Tagabdar villages of Pato district displaced forcibly by the Taliban/
Photo by: Local sources*

dia, one private and one government, are heavily censored. They have publications according to the wishes of the Taliban.

The arrest warrant for the most experienced journalists of this province has been issued by the Taliban for the crime of disclosure, media activities and human rights. Most journalists have left the country. The chief of Radio Aftab, who was fleeing to Iran, was arrested in Herat and imprisoned for five months and subjected to the

most severe tortures. Some of them have fled from Daykondi for fear of persecution and arrest and are living in other provinces. (Photo 5)

People's freedom of speech has been denied. After the Taliban came to power, in the areas under their control, the freedom of speech and the freedom of the media were compromised and suppression and censorship were applied. Out of the five audio media in Daykundi province, with

the arrival of the Taliban, only two media have remained semi-active, and they have the least activity and programs. For example, Radio Nasim had twelve hours of daily broadcasts before the Taliban came. But with the Taliban coming to power, its broadcasts have been reduced to one hour a day. The Taliban have warned them many times not to have publications against the Taliban and against Islamic standards and to broadcast and publish most of the activities of the Taliban. After that, there is no news of publishing political, entertainment and critical programs. According to some employees of these media, they have collapsed after the Taliban takeover.

Targeted killings

During three months of the Rule of Taliban, there have been different criminal incidents perpetrated by Taliban. The date and details of its victims are mentioned below:

The lives of the people do not matter for Taliban. Ant the are killed under different pretexts. The reason for killing them is never investigated and people have no place to sue. On the other hand, they cannot talk to the media either, because there is a possibility that they will lose another member of their family. For example, we mention a tragic incident that a mother and her son were run over by a Taliban vehicle.

Although the appearance of this case was a traffic incident; But the truth was something else. As a result of this incident, the boy died on the spot and his mother a few hours later in the hospital. The Taliban did not arrest and punish the guilty person until today; Because he was a member of Taliban fighters. They only apologized and paid six bushels of wheat flour (also from the warehouse of the Department of Agriculture) to the victim's family.

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Survivors of Sivak Tragedy; Taliban tore the...

at the same time, told his uncle, named Aminullah Mali; One of the influential figures of Sivak and Shiber region and a respectable elder in the region and told him the situation and asked him to come to the scene and try to resolve the issue peacefully. He had accepted and came with the motorcycle of his brother's son to Sivak area, in front of Hashem Khan's house. When Aminullah Mali came to the region, the Taliban told him to tell his nieces to surrender and hand over their weapons and we have no business with them. They told Mr. Mali the same reports that they had received that these are rebels and irresponsible armed people and are related to the resistance movement. Finally, he went to his nieces' house and convinced two of them (Ehsan and Rahman) to surrender. He handed them over to the Taliban. The Taliban transferred them to the province; But one of them (Ibrahim) had hidden himself in the straw house; However, Mali did not know about this matter either.

After this, the Taliban sent Mr. Aminullah Mali and Mohammad Haider, the (eighty-seven years old), uncle of the accused, to the house of Mohammad dad Jafary's sons (Mohammad Alam Jafary, Sher Mohammad Jafary, Amir Jafary) to convince them to surrender themselves to the government of the Emirate and give their weapon to the to the government. They

went twice, but Jafary's sons did not show up for the aforementioned reasons. They said that we do not have a problem with the government of the Emirate; But of course we have a problem with the other side. In such a situation, we are afraid of our safety. The Taliban's forces were increasing every moment and they had secured the four sides with light and heavy weapons. They made the siege ring tighter and finally, they barraged the Jafary's sons in an oppressive manner. The Taliban were not satisfied with killing them either. Their bodies were cut into pieces with a knife and their three children were brutally shot the and killed.

After killing them, the Taliban ransacked their houses. During an attempt, they found the other son of Hashim Khan from straw house. He was also brutally murdered. After finding him, the Taliban also told Aminullah Mali that why did you hide this niece of yours and why didn't you hand him over to us? Somehow you are involved with these and you are a traitor. He said that I did not know. I was told by his other brothers that he is not at home and had run away.

But the Taliban did not accept his words. First his hands were cut off and then his legs when he was alive. He shouted so much and yelled so much that the valley rang out; But there was no one to reach him. After this, he was killed with a knife

when he was dying. Then, they hit him in the head and chest with a gun.

Although he had just appeared on the scene as a mediator. Later, when we bathed him, his head was torn. His documents and evidence are available with his family. From his head, only some skin had remained. The Taliban did not allow burial until five and six in the evening; But finally, they allowed us to bury them.

Question: Did the victims resist Taliban when they broke into their house until they went out of ammunitions?

Answer: No, they even did not fire a bullet. It also It shows that they were not outlaws. An outlaw against a government, first of all does not sit at his home and sleep without being aware of the situation in the area and if an outlaw is attacked he will defend himself. The victims of Sivak did not do these because they were not outlaws.

Question: How many people totally were killed in this Taliban ambush?

Answer: 8 persons were killed. Three sons of Mohammad Jafary, 3 small children, one son of Hashim Khan and Aminullah Mali, uncle of Hashim Khan's sons.

Question: How many people were arrested? What happened to them?

Answer: Taliban detained two sons of Hashim Khan and one guest of them and two sons of Mohammad Haider named Bashir ,47 years old, who is a farmer and a person with disability and Mahmoud , 22 years old , who is a school student. They crime is being the relative of the accused.

Question: In the petition made by the sons of Haji Gharib Hossain, because of the murder of their brother, were the names of the sons of Mohammad Haider included?

Answer: No, the petition was only against the sons of Hashim Khan and Mohammad dad Jafary. These were not named. They are now in Taliban custody with complete innocence.

Question: With such sad incident, was any progress in their lawsuit?

Answer: No, there is no body from Haji Gharib Gussain's sons; they either have been killed or arrested by Taliban.

Thank you for talking about this tragic incident.

You are welcome. Thank you for your time.

Note: We did not mention the name and identity of the interviewee due to security concerns.

Three Black Months; Notions from the Life...

In an incident on 2 November 2021, A person or some persons from the Taliban forces shot at the people from inside the National Security building.

People were sitting next to Gul Badam square. As a result of this shooting, the young shopkeeper was injured in the knee and is now disabled. Again, the criminals were not pursued.

On September 2, 2021, in Khedir district of Daykondi province, fourteen members of the security forces of the former government were shot by the Taliban after they surrendered to the them.

On September 1, 2021, a seven-year-old girl was killed in Khedir district of this province. The Taliban claimed that it was due to human error; But the victim's family claims that the murder was intentional. No blood price or compensation was paid to this family. Again, they were not soothed.

On September 14, 2021, in Khedir district, a person named Mohammad Ali Haydari was called to the district center due to a legal dispute. Then he was arrested and tortured, and finally he died under the torture of the Taliban and his body was thrown in a well inside the village. His family did not have the ability to follow up on this matter.

On August 23, 2021, in Nili city, the center of Daykundi province, two members of the former government police forces were identified and shot at night.

On September 5, 2021, In Varas village of Sharistan district, a person named Aashour was assassinated by armed men at night.

On October 10, 2021, Hossain Ali, son of Khoda Rahim, was killed by a Taliban ambush at night in Sadkhaneh area, Bande Qol village, Berlan Band of Sharistan District.

Between 17 -30 October 2021, in Nawe Mish district of this Daykondi, a person named Tahir son of Gholam Hossein was killed by the Taliban after several days of torture and his body was thrown into the sea. After two days, his body was found in Varkhan village, by the sea.

In Sawor village of Pato district, a person named Mohammad Ali son of Mawla-

dad, who was a member of the public uprising forces was killed after he was tortured for two days and nights. The exact date of the murder is not known.

Three members of the public uprising members were died under the Taliban tortures in Gizab district. We could identify the date of their detention and murder.

Between 5 to 13 October, 2021, two people were killed due to clashes with the Taliban and one person was killed under the tortures of Taliban.

Violation of people's privacy

The people's privacy is violated easily. Taliban, in the first days of their takeover, grabbed the properties of the employees of the former government. They looted their movable property. They even looted government offices and took them with themselves. Dozens of tons of food stored in the warehouse of the Department of Agriculture, food and non-food items of the Incidents and Emergencies Committee, and Afghan Red Crescent Society warehouse were emptied and sold to some Pashtun businessmen.

For a long time, several directorates, including the directorate of information, culture, urban development, etc., were in the possession of the families of people affiliated with the Taliban, where they had settled with their families, and the administrative branches of these directorates were used to house and stable their cows and sheep, and to keep their chickens and cocks.

Several Taliban administrations in turn collect tithes from the people. The departments of Hajj and Endowment, Department of Agriculture and Municipality are doing this. Each one collects tithe in turn and according to his will.

In the same way, many journalists were prosecuted and issued arrest warrants in the first days of the Taliban arrival in Daykundi (Document 4).

Many people of Daykundi province have been arrested and tortured for having weapons. Money has been taken from them at gunpoint. Also, the arrest of relatives of senior government employees, security forces, human rights activists and defenders, and journalists by the Taliban admin-

istration during the first three months of this group's domination has been a normal thing. As I said, unfortunately, the victims strongly refrain from revealing the crimes of the Taliban for fear of being tortured and extorted again.

From 16-21 September 2021,

The Taliban attacked the house of three residents at night on 15 to 21 of September, 2021, Taliban, creating an atmosphere of terror in 3 civilians' homes, arrested and taken them to their headquarters on the charge of tampering with the ammunition depot of the special forces of the former government and whipped them to death.

Taliban soldiers on 21 September, 2021. Another civilian was arrested on the charge that his sister's son was in the national army. They asked him to show the hiding place of his sister's son and surrender his weapon. When he claimed not to know about his niece, he was whipped and tortured to death overnight.

In November 2021, in another incident, three civilians were arrested from the village of Mish, which belongs to the central district of Daykundi province, on the charge of having weapons of the National Army and they were flogged continuously for six hours. However, they were the ones who in 2015 had only spent twenty-five days in the training center of the National Army; But they had left it half way and returned to their normal life. Taliban tortured and whipped them so much that they agreed to buy weapons with their own money and submit to them. Under torture, they begged Taliban to give us a few days to buy weapons for you; But the Taliban did not give them a chance. They said that we will torture you until we get the gun. One of them was tortured more because his uncle was a human rights defender and media activist. They wanted him to show where his uncle was hiding. Finally, after hours of torture, Taliban took a gun from them. But they also took one hundred thousand Afghans from the person who did not tell the whereabouts of his uncle (Document 3).

Enmity with the Persian language

Language bias is at its peak and Dari

Farsi language has been left out in government offices and government office signs. Graffiti in Nili city are in Pashto language. Administrative letters are written only in Pashto language. The heads of government offices are all of Pashtun descent and they speak Pashto to the visitors who are all Hazaras and Persian speakers; Therefore, there is no understanding. Pashto-speaking and Pashtun-descended leaders treat visitors with insults and humiliation. This is despite the fact that 99% of the residents of Daykundi province are Hazara and Farsi speaking.

Extortion and blackmail

Taliban has established 6 security districts in the center of Daykondi province. Each security district collects tithe, expenditure for the security district and fuel for winter season. For example, district security 1, collects 35000 afghans from Shish mahanah vilage per mnth, but security district 18 collects 30000 each month from the people. These cases are slightly different in each district and in each police district.

There is no fair trial. Most of the legal and criminal cases are addressed by heavy fines as a filed court. For example, in a lawsuit worth 400,000 Afghans, Kariz security district of Nawjovi (located in the center of Daykundi Province) collected 45,000,000 Afghans as tax from the claimant.

Taliban detained 2 men and 2 women accused of adultery. First, they blackened their faces and then made it public. Finally, on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, they were stoned to death in public in Choni market, center of Gizab district, Daykundi province.

As a result, after the Taliban takeover of Daykondi province, numerous criminal cases have happened in this province; But unfortunately, the victims of these events refrain from disclosing such incidents with the media and reporters seriously. It is because Taliban after torturing and extorting the victims, have warned them not to disclose such issues with the media. If they disclose such incidents with the media and reporters, Taliban will torture them again and then will likely be killed too.

Many people of Daykundi province have been arrested and tortured for having weapons. Money has been taken from them at gunpoint. Also, the arrest of relatives of senior government employees, security forces, human rights activists and defenders, and journalists by the Taliban administration during the first three months of this group's domination has been a normal thing. As I said, unfortunately, the victims strongly refrain from revealing the crimes of the Taliban for fear of being tortured and extorted again.



*Lal Mohammad a resident of Khawalik, the center of Daikundi province, was beaten by Taliban forces on the suspicion of having weapons
Photo by: Local sources*



Taliban forces have detained Sultan from Nili city and have beaten him. Sultan is the niece of Raja, a journalist from Daikondi. He has been tortured for this reason/Photo by: Mohammad Raja



Taliban commander for Daikondi with his bodyguards at the office of Nasim Radio/Photo by: Mohammad Raja

Taliban detained a former employee of Daikonidi female prison for the second time

Translated by: M.Rezaie

The Silk Way weekly: The relatives of Mrs. Mehtab Hamdard, a former criminal employee and police officer in Daikundi Women's Prison, told the Silk Road Weekly that the Taliban intelligence arrested her for the second time from her home in Ghazni city at night and transferred her to an unknown place.

The relatives of Mrs. Mehtab Hamdard, Today, Wednesday, on 17 May 2023, Told the SWW that for the first time the Taliban intelligence had arrested her before Eidul Fitr, but she had been released based on local leaders' arbitration for Eid days; But a few days after Eid, the Taliban intelligence raided Mrs. Hamdard's house again at night and arrested her.

Ms. Hamdard's relatives told that "Taliban raided Hamdard's house at 10: PM and have knocked on the door; but nobody opens the door in order to help Ms. Mhatab flee. As a result, she has hidden in a bathroom. Taliban fired a bullet at the window. "Finally, one of the men wants to open the door, and they break the lock of the door and entered the house."

After Taliban broke into the house, they beat the man and tie his hands behind his

back and turn off the light. "One of the Taliban, with a photo in his hand, was shining a light on the faces of each woman to find the Ms. Hamdard; But Hamdard was not among them. One of them said: Search anywhere! Finally, they found her in the bathroom and took hwer away handcuffed."

Relatives of Ms. Hamdard, expressing concern, say the intelligence of Taliban has denied her arrest so far.

Hamdard's family says that the Taliban did not say anything about her whereabouts when she was arrested the first time. But later it became clear that she was in the detention center of the Taliban's intelligence.

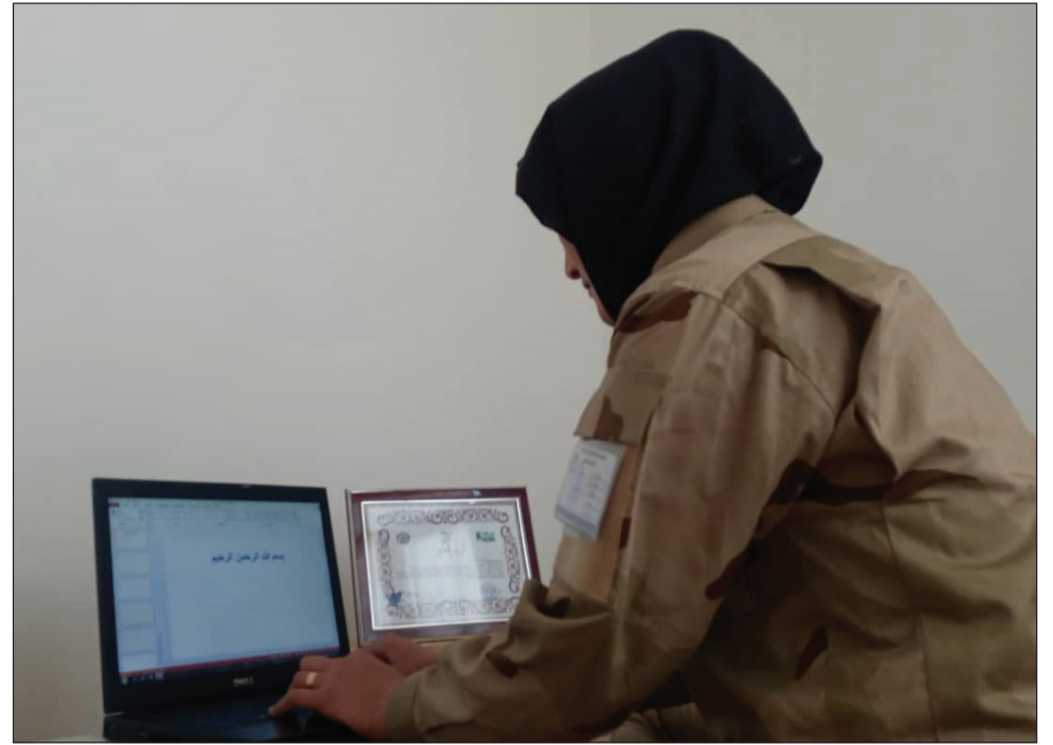
Mrs. Hamdard was one of the officials of Daikundi women's prison during the last years of Ashraf Ghani's government and after the Kabul takeover she lived secretly in Kabul for a while. But after she was fed up with living secretly, she joins the women's rights protesting groups against Taliban. When the environment of activity in Kabul is limited to women, she moved to Ghazni city with other members of her family. In Ghazni, this is the second time she has been arrested by the Taliban.

There have been numerous reports on Taliban's detention centers showing the vi-

olent behavior and extra judicial treatment of the Taliban with the prisoners.

Similarly, in the past year and a half, reports of sexual assault and excruciating torture of female prisoners by Taliban forces have also been published.

Based on these reports, Ms. Hamdard's family say they are worried about her health and mental condition. Relatives of Mrs. Hamdard's still claim that she has a two-month-old baby in her womb.



Cultural Terror: Taliban Prevented celebration of "Gol e Badam" Festival of Daykundi

Translated by: M.Rezaie

The Silk Way Weekly: In the past years, in each new solar year, "Gol e Badam" Cultural and Artistic Festival was conducted in "Nalij" village in Berger area of Miramour district, Nili city of Daykundi.

People's sources in Daikundi district of Miramour have said that this year, the officials of the administration of the Taliban for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice in this province prevented holding of the "Gol Badam Festival" in Miramour. The residents of Miramor Dai-

kandi district said that they had planned to slaughter nine heads of cows to celebrate Naw Roz and "Gol e Badam Celebration"; but Taliban prevented it.

The Department for the Propagation of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice of the Taliban in Daikundi had declared the commemoration of Now Ruz and the "Gol e Badam" festival as "unlawful" and "alien and un-Islamic customs".

The historical background of the Almond Flower Festival

The history of the Almond Flower Festival dates back to 2010. From then on to

the collapse of the republic government, Daykundi provincial administration and on top of that, the Department of Information and Culture of this province, with the cooperation of farmers, celebrated the almond blossom season.

The Almond Flower Festival or "Gol e Badam" festival was officially registered in 2017 with Ministry of Information and Culture of the former government of Afghanistan.

In Almond Flower Festival, local artists and poets, along with farmers and other citizens, had fun. In this festival, women's

local handicrafts, local art, native and local games were also displayed.

On the other hand, the farmers shared their challenges and achievements and their Garden products, especially Daykondi almonds, which have a good reputation in the markets and are of high quality, with the officials.

Also, in this festival, gardeners and farmers took the new year as a good omen for garden products, especially almonds.

Almond Cultural and Artistic Festival, was considered as one of the biggest festivals of Daykundi people.



The Balck Years of Bamyan; Taliban have shot number of Bamyan residents



By: Ali Zahak
Translated by: M. Rezaie

Bamyan was of the secure provinces of Afghanistan during the two decades of the republic government and it has continued to some extent after the Taliban takeover as well. After all, during the last two years, there have been some mysterious and shocking murders in Bamyan which we will assess some of the in this report.

On 23 February, 2022, The bodies of three young men named Mohammad Asif, Mohammad Ghani, and Karim, who were all residents of Khoshk dara village in Sighan district of Bamyan, were found after being shot in the "Dandanshekan" Kotal of Kahmard district of this province. These three young men were coal mine workers in Samangan province, and when they returned home, they were shot by unknown armed men and then their bodies were thrown into the valley. Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Ghani were brothers and both were university students. These two brothers and Mohammad Kareem worked in a coal mine in Dare Suf district of Samangan to provide for their family's needs. One of Mohammad Ghani's relatives, who did not want his identity to be revealed, told the Silk Way Weekly that the perpetrator or perpetrators of killing these three young men have not been found so far. According to his statements, four people were previously arrested in connection with this incident by the Taliban group, who were released recently. He adds that he has been threatened by the local officials of the Taliban group for pursuing the murder case of these three youths. According to him, the mother of Pir Mohammad Ghani and Mohammad Asif suffered a severe nervous and mental shock after losing her sons

and has been in poor health for some time now.

He said that the families of Mohammad Asif and Mohammad Ghani had economic problems in the past, and with their loss, the economic problems of this family have multiplied. A brother of Mohammad Ghani, who is also a worker, says that no organization has given them financial assistance yet. According to him, the family of these three youths had no enmity with anyone in the past and their murder was done with ethnic motive.

The findings of the Silk Way Weekly show that Qari Farid, one of the local commanders of the Taliban group, is involved in the murder of these three young men. From the evidence, it is clear that people affiliated with the Taliban group are involved in the killing of these three youths, and for this reason, this group does not want to arrest the perpetrators. Although the governor of the Taliban group for Bamyan had already said that he would arrest the perpetrators of this incident; But so far this has not happened because they have taken no actions to this end.

In addition, findings of the Silk Way Weekly show that the Taliban have shot in October 2021, two men near the Naw Shar road of Bamyan. After this, the Taliban group claimed that these two people, who were accused of stealing a car, were killed after fleeing from Bamyan police head quarter.

On April 9, 2022, The body of a 22-year-old man from Dareh Foladi, Bamyan center, was found inside a sack. The Taliban group has only confirmed the news of this event; But, until now, the perpetrator or perpetrators have not been arrested.

In May 2022, Three people were killed mysteriously in Kohmard district of

Bamyan. According to security officials of the Taliban group in Bamyan, one of the dead was affiliated with the National Resistance Front (NRF), and the other two were members of the Taliban group. Still, the motive and agent or agents of this event have not been identified.

On 13 January 2022, The body of an 18-year-old youth was found in Bamyan Punjab district. According to the reliable local sources, this young man's name was Eisa, and his body was found inside a toilet after he was killed. A knowledgeable local source told the Silk Way Weekly that Eisa had been shot dead. Following that, on 13 February, 2023, the body of a man, which was taken into pieces, was found in the Kekrak Valley near the center of Bamyan. According to sources, the identity of this man could not be identified.

On 6 February 2023, A young man named Alidad from Shekari valley of Shibar Bamyan district was shot by unknown armed men. Alidad was a shepherd and his body was found after being shot.

In June 2022, The body of a young girl was found in a well from the Shahidan area of Bamyan center. She was 24 years old and was the main resident of Waras district of Bamyan and lived in the center of this province. Her body was found in a well a month after his disappearance. Officials of the Taliban group in Bamyan have confirmed this news and said that they have arrested one person in connection with this incident. About 11 am, in September 22, A young woman named Halimah was shot dead by unknown people in Bamyan city. One of Halimah's relatives told the Silk Way Weekly that no one has been arrested in connection with her murder and the Taliban group does not even have the motivation to investigate the incident. In an-

other incident occurred on 2 April 2023, A 14-year-old teenager named Shamsul-Haq was shot by unknown gunmen in Bayani village of Seighan district, Bamyan. The local Taliban officials in Bamyan, confirming this news, have said that they are determined to arrest the perpetrators of this incident; But it is said that no one has been arrested in connection with this incident yet.

A number of Bamyan residents, talking to the Silk Way Weekly, are worried about the increase in mysterious murders and self-destruction (suicide) of young people in this province. They say that until now the main perpetrator or perpetrator of any criminal event, especially mysterious and targeted murders, has not been arrested and tried. According to them, dozens of other mysterious murders have also occurred in Bamyan, which have not been reported to the media due to the fear of the Taliban group retaliation.

A resident of Bamyan, who was granted anonymity in the report, told Silk Road that the Taliban group does not want to investigate criminal and mysterious cases and arrest their perpetrators. According to him, the Taliban group does not have enough motivation to follow up on such events, or it deliberately does not want to identify and arrest the perpetrators of mysterious murders.

After the Taliban takeover, the number of mysterious killing and target killing of the people have increased in different provinces of Afghanistan including Bamyan. As the nature of these murders have not been clarified and perpetrator or perpetrators of these incidents have not been arrested, they have made a number of the citizens to think that the Taliban are involved in these murders.

The tragedy of an Attack; Taliban amputate war captives in Lal wa Sarjangal of Ghor

Lal wa Sarjangal of Ghor -29 June 2022

Silk Way Weekly: Local sources in Lal wa Sarjangal say that the Taliban amputated two war captives after torturing them

Local sources told Silk Way Weekly that on 26 June, the Taliban after killing commander Moradi, a former local public uprising commander, amputated two members of Moradi's companions, Aref and Asef, in "Tekha Ghal" village of Lalwasarjangal district.

Local eye witnesses in Lal wa Sarjangal say that Taliban forces after killing

Asef and Aref, amputated their bodies and throw them out on the road. One of the local eye witnesses, who does not want his name to be mentioned due to security concerns, says when the local people found the dead bodies, everyone was crying; the Taliban had cut off their tongues, ears, and fingers, and had broken their teeth and taken out their eyes.

The tragedy of the murder of a commander

On 26 June, Taliban attacked on Moradi's house at midnight in "dahan e Chahar Asiab", of Law wa Sarjangal district of

Ghor province. After several hours of clashes, They Killed commander Moradi and his two daughters, Zarin and Tajgul, Moradi's wife was seriously injured and his son Rahat, 16, was injured and hospitalized in Ghor hospital.

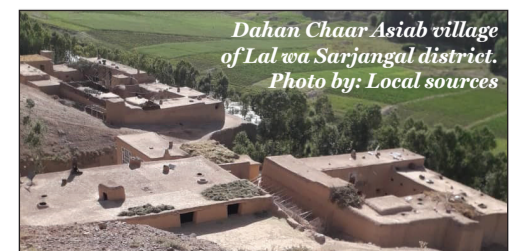
Local eyewitnesses in Dahan e Chahar Asiab village say that Taliban destroyed Moradi's house and looted his properties.

Deploying 100 new forces to Lal wa Sarjangal district

Taliban's cabinet decided to create two battalions in Bamyan and Maidan Wardak provinces after clashes in Balkhab and Gor with Mawlawi Mahdi and Mordi. Though the Taliban say they form the two battalions to prevent the conflict between the villagers and nomads, they have deployed 100

forces to Law wa Sarjangle district.

At the same time, 8 am.af, an Afghan independent outlet, says that Taliban tend to recruit soldiers from the local people of Bamyan district residents. It adds Taliban have sent a letter to the intelligence of Kahmard district saying they shall prepare 100 fighters for the Taliban. They shall not include current Taliban members and shall be from the local people.



Dahan Chaar Asiab village of Lal wa Sarjangal district. Photo by: Local sources

Remembering the Victims of Lal wa Sarjangle; One of the Injured Persons Cannot Afford His Treatment

Lal wa Sarjangle-18 July 2022

Silk Way Weekly: Twenty days ago the Taliban forces attacked on Mohammad Ali, a former public uprising commander, in Lal wa Sarjangel. As a result, 8 members of Moradi's family were killed and injured.

The local sources in Ghor say that other members of the victims face mental-physical problems.

Remembering the Victims of June 26

The late Moradi's relatives gathered in his house on 16 July to commemorate him in Ghor. Then they went to the grave yard that Moradi and his two daughters, Ghula Haidar and Asif have been buried. But, Arif is buried in his own village (Shinia).

Moradi's family who have survived the Taliban attack, have hanged a black cloth as the sign of mourning on the wall of their home and beside it, the names, identities, date and place of their martyrdom have been written; Martyr Mohammad Ali Moradi, Martyr Taj Gul Moradi, Martyr Zarin Moradi, Martyr Asif Rezaee and

Martyr Arif Sangari. Date of Martyrdom: 26, June, 2022. Place of Martyrdom: Village of Dahan e Chahar Asiab Giro.

Nobody Helped them

The relatives of Moradi told Jade-Abresham that those members of Moradi's family who have survived the Taliban attack are in a bad financial conditions because Taliban looted their properties. 4 sons and 7 daughters of Moradi and his wife and mother have survived the attack. But, Taj Gul and Zarin were killed in the attack. Two sons of Moradi have escaped to Iran. Moradi's mother and Rahmat, Moradi's son, have been injured due to the attack and have not recovered yet. According to Moradi's relatives, Rahmat's leg has been broken due to gun shot and they cannot afford its surgery.

Ghula Haidar, Moradi's niece, was also killed in the attack. 2 sons, 3 daughters and mother of Ghulam Haidar have lost their family head.

But, Taliban killed brutally Asif and

Arif. Taliban first have taken out parts of their bodies and then shot killed them. 3 daughters and 3 sons, wife and moth-

er of Asif and one small child girl and mother of Aref have survived which face economic problems.



Mohammad Moradi's house, commander of the public apprising forces in Lal wa Sarjangle district. Photo by: Local sources

Amnesty International: Taliban Deliberately Killed Hazaras in Ghor

18 September

Silk Way Weekly: Amnesty International published the results of its investigations on killing Hazaras in by the Taliban in Lal wa Sarjangle of Ghor province.

The report said Taliban fighters killed six Hazara people on 26 June in a deliberate attack on the ethnic minority group in Afghanistan's Ghor province.

"On 26 June 2022, the Taliban detained and unlawfully, tortured and executed four men during a night raid operation in search of a former security official." The report said. The report also said that a woman and a 12-year-old girl were also killed during the raid.

AI building on target killings of Hazaras in Ghor said that the attack is part of a wider

pattern of unlawful targeted killings of people whom the Taliban perceives as adversaries.

"The Taliban must immediately end this cruel pattern of targeted killings and, as the de facto authorities, ensure the protection of all Afghans," said Agnès Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General.

AI report on Ghor target killing was released while Hazaras have been killed delib-

erately by the Taliban during the last year.

Amnesty International has documented similar extrajudicial executions of Hazara people in Ghazni province in July 2021, and Daykundi province in August 2021.

The Taliban attacked on 26 June on Muradi's house, a former member of public uprising forces, and killed Muradi, his wife, and 12 years, daughter.



Mohammad Moradi with his two daughter who were slaughtered by the Taliban. Photo by: Local sources



Rahmat, Moradi's son, whose legs were broken due to the Taliban's raid at Moradi's house. Photo by: Local sources



Ghulam Haidar, Mohammad Moradi's niece who was slaughtered by the Taliban. Photo by: Local sources



The cemetery where Ghulam Haidar, Mohammad Moradi, Taj Gul and Zarin are buried. Photo by: Local sources



Asif Rezaie, a friend of Moradi who was slaughtered by the Taliban. Photo by: Local sources



Arif, a friend of Moradi who was slaughtered by the Taliban. Photo by: Local sources



The door of Moradi's house broken due to the Taliban's raid at Moradi's house. Photo by: Local source



Moradi's dead body shot by the Taliban. Photo by: Local sources

The Taliban grown fat by sucking the blood of the poor in Lal and Sarjangan, Ghor

By : Silk Way weekly reporter
Translated by: M. Rezaie

Taliban is a militant group, founding a political system, that does not believe in the rule of the people. According to the Taliban, legitimacy of the political system is obtained through domination and force. That's why they consider the people and their lands conquered by war as war booties. They consider the type of treatment and how to assign tasks to people as their exclusive right. This kind of traditional view of politics actually allows the Taliban militants to deal with the people as they wish. Therefore, the political system of the Taliban is based on aggression, repression and imposition. The nature of the Taliban's political system is ethnic and ideological, and its internal policy is aimed at using force to make the people to obey them and impose a specific ethnic and religious culture and ideology on all of the people of Afghanistan.

After the unexpected collapse of the former republic government in August 2021, Firuz Koh city, the center of Ghor province was taken over by the Taliban. Lal and Sarjangan was the last district that fell to Taliban without any fighting.

Lal and Sarjangan has different ethnic and religious characteristics compared to other districts of Ghor. During the two decades of the Taliban's war with the previous government, this group did not have much influence in this region. The Taliban could never recruit foot soldiers from this district and influence its residents. As a result, after Lal and Sarjangan fell to the Taliban, they viewed its people and their properties and as the Taliban's war booties. Lal wa Sarjangan was a big booty that most of the Ghoris Taliban were eyeing. By occupying all administrative and military positions, they collected money from the residents of Lal wa Sarjangan under various pretexts, oppressed them and imposed their culture on them. As a result, "Those who had come by old bicycles, they have several land cruisers, homes and millions afghanis", the people say.

In addition to taking money from the people under different pretexts, drug production enabled Taliban to obtain such capital in a short period of time.

Occupation of administrative positions of Lal wa Sarjangan district

Based on the ethnicist and exclusivist policy of the Taliban, first this group occupied the administrative units and administrative positions of Lal wa Sarjangan and divided its positions among its members. During the rule of the republic government, most of the civil servants, including the district governor, police chief, local national security chief, education head and other positions related to Lal and Sarjangan district, were appointed from the local people. Sometimes, if a person from other districts and provinces was appointed in the posts of this district, they would be introduced based on their expertise and competences and after going through the steps of a legal process. But now all the administrative positions are occupied by the people from other areas and a specific ethnic group, who have no expertise, no competence, and are not familiar with the culture, customs and traditions of this region. These choices are in fact consistent with the purpose and nature of the Taliban's political system, which is a policy of repression, imposition and violence. Based on this policy, the Taliban even took the Lal wa Sarjangan transportation system, which was a relatively profitable business, out of the control of the local private sector and replaced it with their own people. Control over job positions of government, private and even foreign institutions has been very widely and seriously exercised by the Taliban.

At the same time that the Taliban divided government positions among their forces, who were absolutely all non-natives, they began their intervention to hire and change the employees of international agencies, and also took control over the distribution of their aid. According to the local people in the province who have knowledge of the case and asked to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal told SWW that the Taliban officials in Lal wa Sarjangan, especially Mawlawi Shir Ali district governor and Minhaj head of the national security depart-

ment, take the aid based on dream lists and sell them in the markets. Therefore, Lal wa Sarjangan district is very profitable for the Taliban and many Taliban officials wish to occupy a position there. As a result, both civilian and military positions are interchangeably occupied by them.

Production of Narcotics

At the same time as the Taliban settled in Lal wa Sarjangan, many non-native private factories came to this district and started producing drugs. Most of these factories had modern technology to produce narcotics, and they also had modern transportation system and weapons. According to the local people, the Taliban took money from these companies in three ways; firstly, by issuing work permit to them to work in specific village and area; secondly, the Taliban officials received a specific percentage from the incomes of these factories and thirdly, the Taliban, using political tools, usually arrested local people who cooperated with drug factories mostly in the transportation and collection of yam plants, and then released them in exchange for receiving huge sums of money. According to a local civil society activist in the district who has knowledge of the case and asked to remain anonymous for fear of reprisal told SWW there have been about 60 narcotics production factories in Lal wa Sarjangan district in 2022 and had left the district in winter. He added that each factory had a lot of armed forces, but they worked in coordination with the district governor and district chief of national intelligence. This civil activist adds that it is not possible in these security conditions that no one can do the smallest thing without the knowledge and permission of the Taliban. How the Taliban would not know of many narcotic production factories, many Black glass cars and armed men. As a result, although it is not clear how much the Taliban officials received from these factories, it is said they even received money from the Dealers and small sellers of Yama plants in this district. The narcotic production companies in Lal wa Sarjangan district were equipped with modern machinery including the machine that grinds the yama plant, 50 liters and 100 liters Steam boilers, black glass cars, weapons and other equipment required for narcotics production. Also, these factories used a lot of salt and gasoline. According to local residents, the amount of salt and gasoline used in these factories was so high that once even people faced a shortage of salt and could not get the food salt they needed from the market. According to the residents of Lal wa Sarjangan, most of the employees of these factories were Pashtuns from Helmand and Kandahar provinces. But they also hired a number of local people who mostly worked in buying and collecting yama plant from the people, in the transportation and transfer of salt and gasoline, cooking and cleaning. The production level of these factories has been different according to the facilities and equipment they had. According to the information obtained by local people from the workers of these factories, the level of production of each factory has been around 20 to 250 kg narcotics. After processing and combining some other types of materials in the last stage, a type of white material has been obtained, which after packaging, about 20 sacks or more were transported by flying coach vehicles to the center of Ghor and from there to Helmand and Farah provinces.

Collecting Money

The Taliban government is the only government in the world that feeds on the blood and the suffering hands of the poorest and most oppressed people on earth. The Taliban government, unlike today's governments that earn money through creating jobs, strengthening private companies, extracting mines, supporting small and local economies, exploiting natural resources and promoting international trade, uses force and repression the poor people to collect money from them while the lives of these people depend on continuation of foreign aid. Simultaneously with their dominance in Lal wa Sarjangan district, the Taliban started collecting money from people under various pretexts and methods, including granting licenses for businesses, taxes, road construction, tithes, and money for the food and expenses of

their soldiers. After the occupation of Lal and Sarjangan in August 2021, when the Taliban forces came to this district, they did not even have bread to eat, and they ordered the shopkeepers and villages near the district to pay for their food. People related to the security forces of the former republic government, employees of the previous government, shop owners, owners of private companies and civilians were arrested and then released in exchange for money.

A. Tithe

Tithe is one of the ways that the Taliban collect money from the people. Although, the majority of people in Lal wa Sarjangan district are Shiites, and they do not pay tithe according to the Jafari religion. However, the Taliban forcibly collect tithe from them. The residents of Lal wa Sarjangan, complaining about the collection of tithe by the Taliban, say that according to the Jafari religion, it is not permissible to take tithe from them, but the Taliban collect tithe from them twice a year. This issue caused a lot of dissatisfactions among the people last year, and the Shia districts of the central regions brought their complaints to the religious institutions and Shia Ulema Council of Afghanistan. Following this, Bamiyan Ulema Council organized a meeting on this matter and told the Taliban that tithe is not allowed in the Shia religion and we pay zakat (Alms Tax); But we give zakat to the poor, not to the government. Later, the Taliban, using the statement of the Bamiyan Ulama Council, said that people should pay their zakat instead of tithe. Although in the Shia religion, paying zakat has its own conditions and principles; But the Taliban continue to forcibly collect zakat from the people. In addition, another problem in collecting zakat is that the Taliban themselves determine how much zakat people should pay them. According to the statements of a resident of Lal, "the Taliban have collected from each council, from 15,000 Afs to 80,000 Afs, and even one 100,000 from the people of Ashar village."

B. Taxes

Taxes, cleaning and license: According to shopkeepers and businessmen in Lal wa Sarjangan district, the Taliban collects taxes and zakat from them and collects a large amount for the municipality service and cleaning. Also, these days, it is said that the Taliban have told the shopkeepers and businessmen that they should also get a work permit from the government. This is despite the fact that the shopkeepers are facing many problems due to the sluggishness of their work after the Taliban took over, and they still have not been able to compensate for the losses after the fall of the former republic government. Meanwhile, the shopkeepers in Lal, Sefidab, Qezal, Garmab, Talkhak and Kerman markets have said that since March 20, 2023, the Taliban have charged them from five thousand to one hundred thousand Afghanis. On the other hand, the Taliban take the same amount and less tithe from the shopkeepers. Collection of tax and mandatory tithe has made many shopkeepers fed up. They say: "In a year, we work as much as to pay Usher, Zakat, Safai and the Taliban's tax, enough is enough." Now that the money for obtaining a work permit is added to it, it is not known where the fate of the shopkeepers will lead. Meanwhile, a number of shopkeepers in Qezal and Talkhak markets have told the Taliban that "we cannot pay these amounts and we will stop running shops." In addition, some shopkeepers in Lal market say the municipality of Lal district not only take Safae fees from them but it takes money from shop signs on the walls and shop signs at the top of the shops.

C. Collecting money to Build Roads

In the current year, the local Taliban authorities in Ghor have decided to collect the budget for the construction and asphaltting of the Ghor-Herat road from ordinary citizens, shopkeepers, hotel and car owners, and from the salaries of public and private employees.

According to local residents, now the Taliban have started collecting money and are taking 1,000 Afghanis from each family. Similarly, the Taliban have collected one month's salary of the employees in Lal wa Sarjangan district, as

well as huge sums of money from shopkeepers, hotel owners and cars owners for the construction of this road.

D. Imposing their Culture

Since the founders of the Taliban movement are Pashtuns and they are Sunnis, imposing and expanding their values, traditions and cultural beliefs constitute one of their main strategic objectives. After the Taliban takeover in 2001, removing Persian signs from government offices, removing the 10th of Muharram holiday, removing the teaching of Jafari religion from the curriculum of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education, depriving girls of education and imposing their desired hijab on women, include their first actions to obtain their objective in terms of imposing their culture on other religious and ethnic groups. Collecting tithe from the Shiites is one the Taliban towards imposing their culture on the groups and altering their religious rituals. On the other hand, according to the Jafari religion, the fast and prayer of the traveler during the month of Ramadan is shortened; (their prayer is hortened and they can eat during Ramdan if they are on a trip); But travelers in Ghor cannot shorten their fast in any way; Because the Taliban have ordered the restaurants not to serve food to any passengers. If the restaurants violate the Taliban's order, both the passengers and restaurant owners will be punished. Last year, the Taliban put a plate to the mouth of a traveler from Lal wa Sarjangan in Firuzkoh city for eating in Ramadan while he was on a trip and walked him inside the city and showed his face to the people.

In the month of Ramadan of the current year, the travelers of Lal WA Sarjangan on the Lal-Firuzkoh route complained that they could not shorten (qasr) their fast and would be punished if they violated the order of the Taliban. In the last days of Ramadan, it was reported from Lal that the Taliban detained and tortured travelers from Kerman, Talkhak, Garmab and Sarjangan who came to Lal district and hospital because they had broken their fast.

People complain from the Shia Ulama Council and Shia religious scholars and say that if these policies imposed by the Taliban continue, the rituals and instructions of the Shia religion will be forgotten over time. Sources in Lal wa Sarjangan say that a delegation has recently arrived from Ghor and is taking religious exams from the teachers in the schools of this district. The teachers have said that the questions are prepared based on the Hanafi religion. This board has warned the teachers that if they do not pass the religious exam, they will be immediately fired from their positions and new teachers may be hired instead of them from Ghor. A teacher spoke on the condition of anonymity and said that, "The members of this delegation were all Mawlawis and Mullahs, and as they take the exam according to the Hanafi religion, it is possible that about 80 percent of the teachers to be fired in Lal wa Sarjangan district, and instead, Sunni teachers will be hired from Ghor and other provinces."

E. Detention and Torture

After the Taliban takeover in Lal wa Sarjangan district of Ghor province, many people have been detained under various pretexts. At first, most of the security and government forces of the former republic government were arrested and released after torture in exchange for weapons and money. Now people and young people are mostly arrested by the Taliban in Lal wa Sarjangan district on charges of moral corruption, breaking their fast, non-payment of taxes, etc. Accused people in the Taliban prison are tortured in such a way that their moaning sounds hurt every passerby and the people around the prison every night. According to local sources, the Taliban have forced an accused of moral corruption after brutal torture and after proving his innocence, to take his case to Kandahar and get his release from the Taliban leader. Also, the Taliban arrested several young people in Lal on the charge of breaking their fast and said that they have three options; Each receives 30 lashes; or to blacken their faces and to be shown to the public in the district or be detained for one month; they finally accepted to be in detention for one month.

The Silk Way Weekly

Volume 8, Edition 2, No 194, Tuesday, May 23, 2023

Taliban have destroyed Mohammadi's house, a resident of Sartagab village of Pato district. Local sources told the SWW that about 30 houses have been destroyed in Sartagab, Biri wa Barma villages. /Photo by: Mohammad Raja



In the Sorrow of a Massacre!

Many provinces had been evacuated by the defense forces and fell into the hands of the Taliban terrorist regime without any defense or war. Therefore, Bamiyan, Daikundi, and one or two other provinces were the most authentic and the last geographies of the republic that had no fate other than collapse and surrender. After the fall of Bamiyan to the Taliban in the summer of 1400 (2021), the residents of Daikundi province forced the security forces of this province to refrain from fighting against this group to prevent massacre, invasion, and destruction, especially the killing of civilians. Finally, the security-defense forces, leaving behind all military tools and equipment, left Nili, the capital of Daikundi, on July 16, 2021 (25th of Asad 1400), and following that, the Taliban fighters entered the city without any engagement and took control of

all military bases and administrative centers.

The Taliban terrorist group, in their first action after taking control of Afghanistan, declared a general amnesty on July 15, 2021 (24th of Asad 1400). In the amnesty announcement, it was stated: "All employees of the former government can return to their jobs." Following the announcement of the Taliban's general amnesty, some lower-ranking soldiers and employees of the previous government who had not left their workplace until the arrival of the Taliban to prevent mischief, self-will, and the military and administrative equipment from falling into the hands of criminals, returned to their workplaces. Despite adhering to the provisions of general amnesty, the Taliban severely pressured and tortured the former gov-

ernment soldiers in makeshift courts, without law and legal procedures, on the pretext of missing weapons and military equipment.

They even arrested one of the Hazara Talib with all his forces under his command and imprisoned him for several months to make him understand that the real Taliban could only be of Pashtun origin.

The people of Daikundi soon realized that the general amnesty was, in fact, a deceptive slogan to trap the military forces of the previous regime. In those days, local sources reported that the Taliban's military commander and newly-appointed governor for Daikundi were very upset that they had no legitimate reason for massacring the people upon their entry into Daikundi.

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