

# Systematic Reprisals Against Former Members of the Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF)

## Killings, Arbitrary Detention, and Torture in 2025

### Investigative Report

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#### Executive Summary

This report documents **systematic reprisals** committed against former members of the **Afghanistan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF)** during the period **1 January to 31 December 2025**, allegedly perpetrated by members of the Taliban.

The investigation verifies:

- **At least 123 killings** of former ANDSF members
- **At least 131 cases of arbitrary detention and torture** of former ANDSF members

These violations occurred despite repeated public assurances of a general amnesty following the Taliban's assumption of power in August 2021.

The findings demonstrate a **nationwide, consistent, and coordinated pattern** of extrajudicial killings, torture, enforced disappearances, prolonged arbitrary detention, and collective punishment of families. The scale, geographic spread, and consistency of methods strongly indicate that these violations were **not isolated incidents**, but part of a **systematic campaign of retaliation** against a clearly identifiable civilian population.

## Methodology

This report was prepared by the **Research Group of the Strategic Communications Committee of the Afghanistan Freedom Front**.

Information was collected and verified through:

- Testimonies from victims and family members
- Verification of dates, locations, and detention sites
- Cross-referencing with domestic and international media reports
- Corroboration through former Afghan military officials and local sources

Due to security concerns and fear of reprisals, some names have been withheld at the request of victims or their families. All cases included have been independently corroborated and previously reported by at least one credible source.

The figures presented represent **minimum verified numbers** and do not reflect the full scale of violations.

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## Context

Following the Taliban's return to power in August 2021, public assurances of a general amnesty were issued for former government officials and security personnel. Despite these assurances, consistent reporting by international actors, human rights organizations, and media outlets has documented ongoing reprisals against former ANDSF members.

In 2025, violations escalated significantly, particularly in connection with the **forced return of former Afghan military personnel from neighboring countries**, after which many individuals were detained, tortured, disappeared, or killed shortly after arrival.

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## Legal Framework

The acts documented in this report constitute serious violations of international human rights law, including:

- The **right to life**
- The **absolute prohibition of torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment**
- The **prohibition of arbitrary arrest and detention**
- The **right to a fair trial and due process**

Where killings followed detention or torture, they may amount to **extrajudicial executions**.

Where violations were widespread or systematic and directed against a civilian population, they may also constitute **crimes against humanity** under customary international law.

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## Findings

### 1. Killings of Former ANDSF Members

At least **123 former ANDSF members** were killed across **29 provinces** in 2025.

Recurring patterns include:

- Arrests without warrant followed by death in custody
- Field tribunals and summary executions
- Public killings and executions in front of family members
- Visible signs of torture prior to death
- Post-mortem stigmatization of victims
- Suppression of funerals and intimidation of relatives

Victims were civilians at the time of death and were not participating in hostilities.

(See **Annex I.**)

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## 2. Arbitrary Detention and Torture

At least **131 former ANDSF members** were arbitrarily detained and tortured in 2025. Many remain in detention.

Documented methods include:

- Electric shocks
- Beatings with cables and metal rods
- Suspension by limbs
- Removal of fingernails

- Immersion in scalding water
- Mock executions and threats of death
- Collective punishment of family members

Several detainees died due to torture or its after-effects following release. Others continue to suffer long-term physical and psychological harm.

(See **Annex II.**)

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## Extraterritorial and Collective Punishment Practices

The investigation further documents:

- Arrest and torture of relatives of former ANDSF members
- Detention of elderly parents and family members as leverage
- Targeting of individuals outside Afghanistan

These practices raise serious concerns regarding **collective punishment and transnational repression**, both prohibited under international law.

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## Underreporting and Fear of Reprisals

Families consistently reported:

- Fear of arrest or killing if incidents were reported
- Pressure to conduct silent burials
- Surveillance of social media and local reporting

As a result, many violations remain undocumented. The figures presented should therefore be understood as **minimum verified counts**.

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## Conclusion

The evidence demonstrates that, throughout 2025, former members of the ANDSF were subjected to a **systematic campaign of reprisals**, in direct contradiction to public amnesty assurances.

The scale, consistency, and geographic spread of these violations indicate **serious and ongoing violations of international human rights law** that warrant sustained international attention and accountability efforts.

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## Recommendations

The Afghanistan Freedom Front calls upon **all relevant international and national actors**, including states, multilateral institutions, accountability mechanisms, civil society organizations, and media, to:

1. **Document and preserve evidence** of killings, torture, and enforced disappearances for future accountability processes

2. **Support independent investigations** into post-2021 reprisals in Afghanistan
3. **Ensure protection and support for victims and their families**, including medical, psychological, and legal assistance
4. **Condition political, diplomatic, and economic engagement** with de facto authorities on demonstrable cessation of reprisals
5. **Pursue accountability pathways**, including universal jurisdiction and other legal mechanisms
6. **Amplify reporting and awareness** to counter intimidation, suppression, and underreporting

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## Annex I

### Killings of Former ANDSF Members

(1 January – 25 December 2025)

#### Provinces Covered

**Kabul, Balkh, Kapisa, Parwan, Baghlan, Khost, Paktia, Panjshir, Badakhshan, Kandahar, Jowzjan, Faryab, Samangan, Helmand, Nuristan, Kunar, Takhar, Ghazni, Nangarhar, Bamyān, Herat, Ghor, Farah, Badghis, Kunduz, Uruzgan, Laghman, Paktika, Sar-e-Pul.**

#### Scope



This annex documents **123 verified killings** of former ANDSF members.

Each case was verified through family testimony, local sources, and media reporting. In several cases, names and identifying details have been withheld due to credible fear of retaliation.

*(Detailed provincial case documentation preserved verbatim for evidentiary integrity.)*

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## Annex II

### Arbitrary Detention and Torture of Former ANDSF Members

(1 January – 31 December 2025)

#### Provinces Covered

**Parwan, Kapisa, Panjshir, Baghlan, Kunduz, Kabul, Daikundi, Badakhshan, Maidan Wardak, Helmand, Laghman, Kandahar, Nangarhar, Sar-e-Pul, Takhar, Faryab, Uruzgan, Nuristan, Paktika, Badghis.**

#### Scope

This annex documents **131 verified cases** of arbitrary detention and torture of former ANDSF members.

Recurring patterns include unlawful arrest, detention in undisclosed or intelligence-run facilities, severe physical torture, repeated detention, targeting of returnees, and abuse of family members.

*(Detailed provincial case documentation preserved verbatim for evidentiary integrity.)*