



14 May 2004

Flashpoints

Kabul (in particular the Chelsitun public garden in the west of the city and in the vicinity of Camp Warehouse to the east), Kandahar Province, the Nawabad area of Konar Province and the Khakrez area of Kandahar Province. Jalalabad (Nangarhar Province), the Jeldak area of Zabul Province, Robot village in the Sarobi District (Paktika Province) and Tirin Kot in Uruzgan province, in the North Maymana and the Sholgara district of Balkh Province, and Yakhan and Grezeewan districts in Faryab Province.

Areas of continued concern

Kabul (facilities frequented by international personnel) and southern provinces bordering Pakistan including Paktika, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Zabul and Kandahar provinces. Also ISAF, United Nations and other NGO facilities throughout the country.

The roads from Kabul to Kandahar and Herat, as well as checkpoints on routes throughout the country, continue to be a serious security hazard.

Projections

Attacks by Taliban insurgents and al-Qaeda elements will escalate in advance of the presidential and parliamentary elections now scheduled for September. Increasingly militants are turning to urban insurgency tactics, selecting 'soft' targets such as government offices and aid organisations.

Small-scale attacks are likely to continue against vehicles travelling along Afghanistan's main highways, as well as small-scale terrorist strikes against Afghan civilians. These attacks are likely to be opportunistic rather than specifically targeted. It is likely that attacks will occur against the Afghan government and ISAF forces - the only supplier of stability in the capital - ahead of September's election.

It is also possible that over the summer tensions will increase between rival commanders throughout the country under pressure to disarm their supporters. This may on occasion escalate into armed clashes.

Summary

Over the past few weeks attacks in the south and east of the country have escalated, especially those targeted against government offices and aid organisations. Attacks against Afghan National Army troops continue, particularly on outlying stations and checkpoints. Adding to this, there are signs that tension and violence between local warlords in the North of the country are increasing.











As predicted in last week's AKE Afghanistan Security Briefing attacks this week have once again targeted international aid organisations and those engaged in the dealing with the post-conflict environment in Afghanistan. Between 15 and 20 NGO employees have been killed in Afghanistan this year alone. The leaflets were circulated mainly in Zabul Province. Events this week have also served to illustrate that Kabul, while relatively stable compared with the rest of the country, continues to pose a physical security risk to foreign and particularly western personnel.

A political tussle has developed over the sacking of district governor Haji Agha Narlay by Kandahar Governor Yusuf Pashtun, claiming that Narlay was in collusion with the Taliban. Narlay then appealed to the Loya Jirga, resulting in a denunciation of the decision. According to the constitution individual politicians are not able to remove a district governor.

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	1-9	Generally stable and secure
	10-19	Instability
	20-29	Hostile
	30-39	Highly unstable
	40-49	Widespread militancy
	50-59	Low intensity conflict
	60-69	Advanced guerrilla war/civil war
	70-79	Limited conventional war
	80-89	Regional war
	90-100	Total war (sub-nuclear)

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