



16 April 2004

Flashpoints

Kabul, Kandahar, Shinkay area (Ghazni Province), Urgun Province. Maraz-e-Sharif, the Afghan-Tajik Border and 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 United Nations and other NGO facilities throughout the country.

The roads from Kabul to Kandahar and Herat continue to be a serious security hazard.

Projections

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 also possible that tensions lingering after the clashes of the past week will again escalate into violence in Herat Province.

The use of terrorist tactics against US military targets is likely to increase along with the number of American troops in the country on counterinsurgency operations and the growth of provincial reconstruction teams in the south and east in particular.











Summary

The last week has seen a sharp escalation in acts of militancy in the country, particularly in the southern and eastern provinces. Adding to this, instability in northern Faryab province has only recently come under control with the deployment of Afghan National Army troops. Inter-warlord tensions have also manifested itself in violence in Mazar-e-Sharif.

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AKE risk ratings

	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)

For more in-depth analysis of the security situation in Afghanistan as well as other world hot spots see [Global Intake](#), AKE's online strategic information and intelligence tool.

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