



23 April 2004

Flashpoints

Kabul, Kandahar, Mizan district (Zabul), Spin Boldak, Barmal district (Paktika), the Herat-Kandahar highway.

Areas of continued concern

Kabul (facilities frequented by international personnel) and southern provinces bordering Pakistan including Paktika, Nangarhar, Ghazni, Zabul and Kandahar provinces. Also NATO, 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

Attacks by Taliban insurgents and al-Qaeda elements will escalate in advance on the presidential and parliamentary elections now scheduled for September.

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 elections.











Summary

The last week has seen an escalation of attacks in the southern and eastern provinces of the country while attacks against political, military and police targets. This would seem to confirm previous speculation that militant elements are enacting a spring offensive in the lead-up to elections scheduled for September. Confirmation has also been received, this time in the form of numerous arrests by security officials, of militant cells operating in Kabul and planning attacks in the capital

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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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