



Refugee Documentation Centre (Ireland)
LEGAL AID BOARD

Afghanistan: Researched and compiled by the Refugee Documentation Centre of Ireland on 12 January 2010

Information on the activities of Hizb - E – Islami

The *United Kingdom Home Office* states:

"The UN Security Council reported on 10 November 2008 that "Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is the leader of Hezb-i-Islami Gulbuddin, a group that is mostly active in the east of Afghanistan and in the provinces surrounding Kabul. The group focuses its military operations on suicide attacks and attacks on the Afghan National Security Forces and international forces." (United Kingdom Home Office (16 November 2009) *Country of Origin Information Report – Afghanistan*)

The same report also states:

"In February 2008 The Long War Journal reported that:

"...several Afghan insurgents with ties to a Taliban splinter group, Hizb-i-Islami (Khalis faction), and foreign al Qaeda fighters, were arrested in separate raids in western Pakistan last week. The raids were conducted in Chakdara, located in the volatile Swat Valley, and Peshawar, with at least four Afghan nationals with links to al Qaeda being arrested in the Chakdara bust, according to the Pakistani Daily, The Nation.

"One of those arrested has been identified as Mian Mohammad Agha, a top Afghan jihadi commander under the Younus Khalis faction of Hizb-i-Islami. The faction folded into the Afghan Taliban movement following the death of Younus Khalis in 2006. A Pajhwok Afghan News report described Mian Mohammad Agha as having 'links to al-Qaeda and Taliban insurgents'." (Ibid)

Global Security states:

"Hekmatyar was the leader of the Hezb-I-Islami party, which was perhaps the most radical among the seven parties that made up the fractious anti-Soviet Afghan alliance of the 1980s. Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was a key mujahedin leader against Soviet forces. His organization, then known as the Hezb-e-Islami, received substantial aid from the U.S. Government, which reportedly considered him a key ally. He espouses virulent anti-Americanism and a radical Islamic ideology, but nevertheless accepted US arms and assistance - funneled through Pakistan - to fight occupying Soviet forces. Hezb-e-Islami committed numerous other human rights violations during the Afghan civil war. It's said that he and his forces probably killed more Afghans than he did Soviets. He was essentially unique among mujahedin leaders -- certainly the most ambitious among a very, very ambitious group of leaders." (Global Security (Undated) *Hizb-i-Islami*)

The same report also states:

"In 2008, Hekmatyar apparently opened the door to talks with the Government of Afghanistan, in part through a spring 2008 letter addressed to President Karzai. Some suggest that there may be some potential for drawing Hekmatyar away from the insurgent fight and into a constructive role. Others caution that his reputation for Islamic extremism and human rights abuses call into question the likelihood and advisability of any reconciliation with him." (Ibid)

Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reports:

"The NATO statement said Western forces had concluded the attackers were local militants operating with the help of the Taliban and the Hizb-e Islami group led by former anti-Soviet mujahedin commander Gulbuddin Hekmatyar." (Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (6 October 2009) *NATO Says Kills 100 Fighters In Huge Afghan Battle*)

The *United States Department of State* reports:

"Violence perpetrated by Taliban, al-Qa'ida, and Hizb-e-Islami Gulbuddin terrorists and insurgents killed more civilians than in the previous year. Violence by these groups included an increasing number of terrorist attacks using suicide bombs. Insurgent violence killed more than 6,500 civilians and military personnel during the year, compared to more than 1,400 in 2006. Attacks on government security forces, international organizations, international aid workers and their local counterparts, and foreign interests and nationals increased during the year, prompting some organizations to restrict their developmental or humanitarian activities or leave areas of the country. Government officials remained under attack by insurgents, with more than a dozen killed in numerous incidents." (United States Department of State (11 March 2008) *Country Reports on Human Rights Practices 2007 – Afghanistan*)

Amnesty International report:

"Taleban and other armed groups, including Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami, killed at least 120 civilians in 20 separate suicide attacks in the first three months of 2008, comparing to the first 20 suicide attacks of 2007, which claimed 20 civilian lives." (Amnesty International (5 June 2007) *Afghanistan: Civilians suffer the brunt of rising suicide attacks*)

Amnesty International state:

" Armed groups, including the Taleban, Hizb-e Islami and al-Qa'ida, deliberately targeted civilians as part of their ongoing struggle with the Afghan government and international military forces. This included killing people perceived to be working or co-operating with the Afghan government or international military forces. Mullah Dadullah, a Taleban commander, commented that kidnapping was a "good tactic" and encouraged Taleban fighters to use it more. There was a sharp rise in kidnappings across southern and south-eastern Afghanistan."

(Amnesty International (28 May 2008) *Amnesty International Report 2008 – Afghanistan*)

The *Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada* state:

"Islamic Party (Hizb-i-Islami): The Islamic Party, with Pashtun, Turkmen and Tajik membership, has roughly 50,000 supporters. Its leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar commanded insurgent forces against the previous Soviet-backed communist government with support from the United States, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Hekmatyar is also a past prime minister of Afghanistan, a supporter of the jihad against American military forces and is listed as a terrorist on Public Safety Canada's website. Some Islamic Party members who disagreed with Hekmatyar's anti-American stance took part in the 2005 legislative election. (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada (January 2008) *Country Fact Sheet – Afghanistan*)

Human Rights Watch states:

"Hardly any of the women interviewed have been satisfied with the government's response. Hassina (not her real name) is a police officer, and one of the few women working in an area that has considerable levels of insurgent activity. She received death threats from two insurgent groups, Hezb-e Islami and the Taliban, that have recently forced her into hiding. Hassina told Human Rights Watch:

Both the Taliban and Hezb-e Islami want to kill me... I have a letter from the chief of military of Hezb-e Islami, another from the Taliban, and a joint letter from both. Because my area has lots of Hezb-e Islami people they told the Taliban that they would take responsibility. They said they will do it—they will kill me." (Human Rights Watch (6 December 2009) *"We Have the Promises of the World"*)

References

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This response was prepared after researching publicly accessible information currently available to the Refugee Documentation Centre within time constraints. This response is not and does not purport to be, conclusive as to the merit of any particular claim to refugee status or asylum. Please read in full all documents referred to.

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