

HUMAN RIGHTS BULLETIN – AFGHANISTAN

January – February 2026

This bulletin presents a summary of human rights incidents and developments documented in Afghanistan during January and February 2026. It provides a factual record of reported human rights violations and restrictions affecting individuals and communities across the country, based on information gathered from credible local sources, media reports, civil society organizations, and public statements issued by national and international institutions.

The bulletin documents reported incidents of alleged extrajudicial killings, public corporal punishment, arbitrary arrests, restrictions on freedom of expression, and other human rights concerns. It also highlights significant human rights developments and reports published during the reporting period that are relevant to the human rights situation in Afghanistan.

The information presented reflects the best available evidence at the time of publication. Where possible, reported incidents have been corroborated through multiple independent sources. Some information, however, may remain subject to further verification as additional evidence becomes available.

Executive Summary

During January and February 2026, documented human rights concerns in Afghanistan included alleged extrajudicial killings, public corporal punishment, arbitrary arrests, and continued restrictions on freedom of expression. Reports also highlighted the ongoing impact of policies restricting the rights of women and girls, particularly access to secondary education.

The reporting period included allegations that protesters were killed during demonstrations in Takhar Province and that a civilian was fatally shot in Panjshir Province. The Taliban's Supreme Court announced numerous public floggings across several provinces for offenses including drug-related crimes, theft, alleged "moral corruption," adultery, and sodomy. Media restrictions also expanded, including the implementation of a ban on publishing images of living beings in Kapisa Province, while the reported arrest of a journalist and a former police officer raised concerns regarding arbitrary detention.

International organizations continued to express concern over the humanitarian and human rights situation. UNESCO and UNICEF reported that an estimated 2.2 million adolescent girls remain excluded from secondary education, emphasizing the continuing impact of restrictions on education and the long-term consequences for children and young people across Afghanistan.

Reported Human Rights Incidents and Developments

The cases are categorized according to the nature of the reported violation and summarize available information regarding affected individuals, locations, and broader human rights concerns. The information is based on reports from local sources, media organizations, civil society groups, international organizations, and official statements. All cases are presented as reported incidents and remain subject to further verification where applicable.

Category	Details	Examples / Locations	Key Notes
EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS & ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES	Three protesters reportedly killed and six injured during clashes with Taliban forces following demonstrations over unregulated gold mining; Abdul Saboor Sarwari reportedly shot and killed while working on his farmland at night	Takhar (Chah-Ab District); Panjshir (Anaba District)	Reported killings involved protesters and a civilian farmer. Local sources indicated the victim in Panjshir had previously received permission from Taliban authorities to work on his land at night
PUBLIC EXECUTIONS, FLOGGING, AND AMPUTATIONS	12 individuals publicly flogged in Parwan; 9 in Ghazni and Paktika; 19 in Nangarhar and Balkh; 40 in Kabul and Faryab; 4 in Ghor and Parwan; 2 in Faryab.	Parwan, Ghazni, Paktika, Nangarhar, Balkh, Kabul, Faryab, Ghor	Punishments ranged from 10 to 39 lashes and were accompanied in many cases by prison sentences. Those punished included men and women and faced charges including drug-related offenses, theft, alleged "moral corruption," adultery, and sodomy.
ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & MEDIA	The Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice reportedly banned the publication of images of living beings in Kapisa Province, resulting in the conversion of Kapisa National Television into a radio station and further restrictions on private media	Kapisa Province	The reported measure further restricted media operations and visual reporting in the province
ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE	Journalist Nazira Rashidi reportedly arrested and taken to an undisclosed location; former police officer Farid Ahmad reportedly arrested in Panjshir.	Kunduz Province; Panjshir Province	Both individuals were reportedly detained by the Taliban. The reasons for their arrests and their current conditions remained unclear at the time of reporting
HUMSN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT & REPORTS	UNESCO and UNICEF reported that an estimated 2.2 million adolescent girls remain excluded from secondary education in Afghanistan, identifying the country as the only one where women and girls are fully barred from secondary and higher education. The agencies also reported that 93% of children lack basic reading skills by the end of primary school and called for renewed international investment in inclusive education.	Nationwide	The findings underscore the continuing impact of restrictions on girls' education and highlight broader concerns regarding learning outcomes and access to quality education across Afghanistan.

Number of Reported Incidents

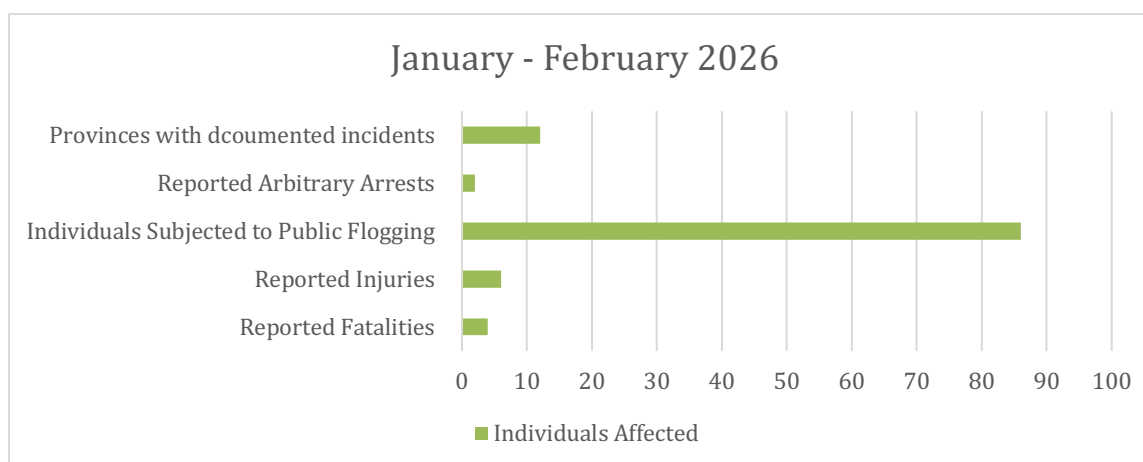
Category	Number of Reported Cases
EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS & ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES	2

PUBLIC EXECUTIONS, FLOGGING, AND AMPUTATIONS	6
ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & MEDIA	1
ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE	2
HUMSN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT & REPORTS	1

Number of Affected Persons

During January and February 2026, the documented human rights incidents and developments in this bulletin affected individuals across 12 provinces of Afghanistan. Based on the cases recorded during the reporting period, 4 fatalities and 6 injuries were reported in incidents involving alleged extrajudicial killings and clashes. In addition, 86 individuals were reportedly subjected to public flogging following decisions announced by the Taliban Supreme Court, while 2 cases of arbitrary arrest were documented.

The figures presented below reflect only the reported cases included in this bulletin and do not represent a comprehensive nationwide total. They are based on available information collected from local sources, media reports, civil society organizations, and official statements during the reporting period.



Incident Reports

The incidents documented during January and February 2026 indicate continued concerns regarding the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms across Afghanistan. Reported cases during the period reflected several recurring patterns, including alleged extrajudicial killings, the use of public corporal punishment, restrictions on freedom of expression, and arbitrary arrests.

The geographic spread of reported incidents across multiple provinces demonstrates that human rights concerns continue to affect communities in different regions of the country.

Reports of public flogging announced by the Taliban Supreme Court remained a significant feature of the reporting period, affecting individuals in several provinces and involving both men and women.

Restrictions affecting media activities and the reported detention of journalists and former security personnel highlight continued concerns regarding civic space, freedom of expression, and due process. At the same time, international reporting on education restrictions emphasized the continuing impact of policies affecting women and girls, particularly their access to secondary and higher education.

The documented cases in this bulletin reflect ongoing challenges in ensuring the protection of human rights in Afghanistan. Continued documentation, verification, and reporting remain important for understanding developments and assessing their impact on individuals and communities.

Incident Records

EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS & ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

Residents of Chah-Ab District protested against unregulated gold mining and resulting damage to water resources. The demonstrations turned violent, and three protesters were reportedly killed and six others wounded during clashes with Taliban forces. Videos from the scene show protesters armed with sticks and shovels, and footage circulated of a Taliban member being struck by demonstrators after firing shots. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Local sources in Panjshir report that Taliban members shot and killed a farmer in Anaba district. The victim, identified as Abdul Saboor Sarwari from Zaman Kor area, was reportedly working on his farmland at night when he was killed. Sources say he had previously been a local commander during the Soviet war and the first Taliban regime. The incident occurred despite him reportedly having permission from Taliban authorities to work on his land at night. [Source](#)

PUBLIC EXECUTIONS, FLOGGING, AND AMPUTATIONS

The Taliban Supreme Court reported that 12 individuals in Parwan Province were publicly flogged for drug use and drug trafficking. Each person received between 10 and 15 lashes and was also sentenced to one to three years in prison following a ruling by the Primary Court of Parwan city. [Source](#), [Source](#)

Takhar
06.01.2026

Panjshir
26.02.2026

Parwan
05.01.2026

G. P
14.01.2026

The Taliban Supreme Court reported that nine individuals, including one woman, were publicly flogged in Ghazni and Paktika provinces on charges of moral corruption and theft. In Deh Yak District of Ghazni, four people were punished, with three receiving 20 lashes and one receiving 35 lashes. All were also sentenced to one year in prison. [Source](#) , [Source](#)

N. B
20.01.2026

The Taliban Supreme Court reported that 19 individuals, including two women, were publicly flogged in Nangarhar and Balkh provinces on charges of illicit relationships, running away from home, and drug and alcohol use and trafficking. The punishments ranged from 10 to 39 lashes. [Source](#)

K. F
03.02.2026

The Taliban's Supreme Court announced that 40 people were publicly flogged in Kabul and Faryab provinces. In Kabul, 37 individuals were punished for drug trafficking and selling substances such as methamphetamine, hashish, and alcohol. They received between 10 and 39 lashes and were sentenced to prison terms ranging from seven months to three years. In Faryab, three individuals were flogged for producing, selling, and consuming alcohol. Each received 39 lashes and a two-year prison sentence. [Source](#), [Source](#)

G. P
18.02.2026

The Taliban's Supreme Court reported that two women and two men were publicly flogged in Ghor and Parwan provinces. In Ghor, one woman and one man were punished on charges of "adultery" and each received 39 lashes in public, based on a court ruling. [Source](#)

Faryab
19.02.2026

he Taliban's Supreme Court reported that two individuals were publicly flogged in Garziwan district of Faryab province. They were punished on charges of "sodomy," receiving 25 lashes each and one year in prison. The punishment was carried out in public in the presence of Taliban officials and a large crowd. [Source](#), [Source](#)

ATTACKS ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION & MEDIA

Kapisa
29.01.2026

The Afghanistan Journalists Center reports that the Taliban's Ministry for the Promotion of Virtue and Prevention of Vice in Kapisa province has banned the publication of images of living beings. AS a result, Kapisa National Television has been converted into a radio station, and private media activities have become more restricted. According to the report, several private radio stations—Seda-ye Nejrab, Neda-ye Haqiqat, and Tanin Sada—are still operating in Kapisa, but they are also affected by this ban. [Source](#)

ARBITRARY ARRESTS & TORTURE

Kunduz
11.01.2026

Nazira Rashidi, a local journalist in Kunduz Province, was arrested by the Taliban and taken to an undisclosed location. Her family says she is innocent and has no involvement in illegal activities. Media support organizations condemned the arrest and demanded her immediate

and unconditional release, noting that she is the sole provider for her younger siblings.
[Source](#), [Source](#)

Local sources in Panjshir report that the Taliban have arrested a former police officer named Farid Ahmad from Dara district. He was detained on Saturday from Abdullah Khil valley. He previously served as a police officer in Ghazni and had been living in Panjshir since the طالبان returned to power. The reason for his arrest and his current condition remain unknown.
[Source](#), [Source](#)

Panjshir
01.02.2026

HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS, REPORTS

UNESCO and UNICEF reported that 2.2 million adolescent girls in Afghanistan are barred from secondary education, making Afghanistan the only country where women and girls are fully prohibited from secondary and higher education. The agencies warned of a learning crisis, noting that 93% of children lack basic reading skills by the end of primary school. They emphasized the importance of qualified and female teachers and called for urgent global action and investment to restore inclusive education in Afghanistan. [Source](#)

26.01.2026

Sources and Methodology

This bulletin is based on information collected from a range of sources, including local sources, media reports, civil society organizations, international organizations, and official statements issued by relevant authorities and institutions.

Reported incidents are reviewed and categorized according to the type of human rights concern, including alleged extrajudicial killings, public corporal punishment, restrictions on freedom of expression, arbitrary arrests, and other developments affecting fundamental rights and freedoms. Where possible, information is cross-checked through multiple available sources to improve accuracy and reliability.

The bulletin presents reported incidents based on the information available at the time of publication. Due to security challenges, restrictions on access to information, and the sensitive nature of human rights documentation in Afghanistan, some cases may remain subject to further verification as additional information becomes available.

The figures and cases included in this bulletin reflect only the documented incidents collected during the reporting period and should not be interpreted as a complete record of all human rights violations occurring in Afghanistan.

Recommendations

Based on the reported incidents and developments documented during January and February 2026, the following recommendations are proposed to support the protection and promotion of human rights in Afghanistan:

To the de facto authorities in Afghanistan:

- Ensure that all individuals are afforded due process rights, including access to information about charges, legal representation, and fair judicial procedures.
- Investigate reported cases of unlawful killings, ill-treatment, and arbitrary detention, and hold responsible individuals accountable in accordance with applicable legal standards.
- Review the use of public corporal punishments and ensure that all judicial measures respect fundamental human rights principles.
- Protect freedom of expression and allow journalists, media organizations, and civil society actors to operate without intimidation or undue restrictions.
- Ensure equal access to education for all Afghan children, including girls, and remove restrictions preventing access to secondary and higher education.

To the international community and humanitarian organizations:

- Continue monitoring and documenting human rights developments across Afghanistan through independent and reliable reporting mechanisms.
- Support initiatives that protect civilians, strengthen access to education, and promote fundamental rights and freedoms.
- Maintain engagement with relevant actors to encourage respect for international human rights standards and accountability for reported violations.
- Provide continued support for Afghan civil society organizations, journalists, and human rights defenders working to document and address human rights concerns.

To human rights monitoring organizations:

- Continue systematic documentation and verification of reported incidents, including cases involving killings, arbitrary detention, restrictions on freedoms, and violations affecting women and girls.
- Strengthen information-sharing and coordination mechanisms to improve the accuracy and comprehensiveness of human rights reporting.

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our appreciation to all individuals, organizations, journalists, and community members who contributed information and support to the documentation of human rights developments covered in this bulletin.

We recognize the importance of local sources, civil society organizations, and human rights monitors who continue to collect and share information despite challenging circumstances.

Their contributions play an essential role in promoting accurate documentation and increasing awareness of human rights concerns in Afghanistan.

We also acknowledge the efforts of national and international organizations whose reports and public documentation contributed to a better understanding of the human rights situation during the reporting period.

