



Annual Report 2016: State of Human Rights Defenders in Afghanistan

Safety and Risk Mitigation Organization (SRMO)

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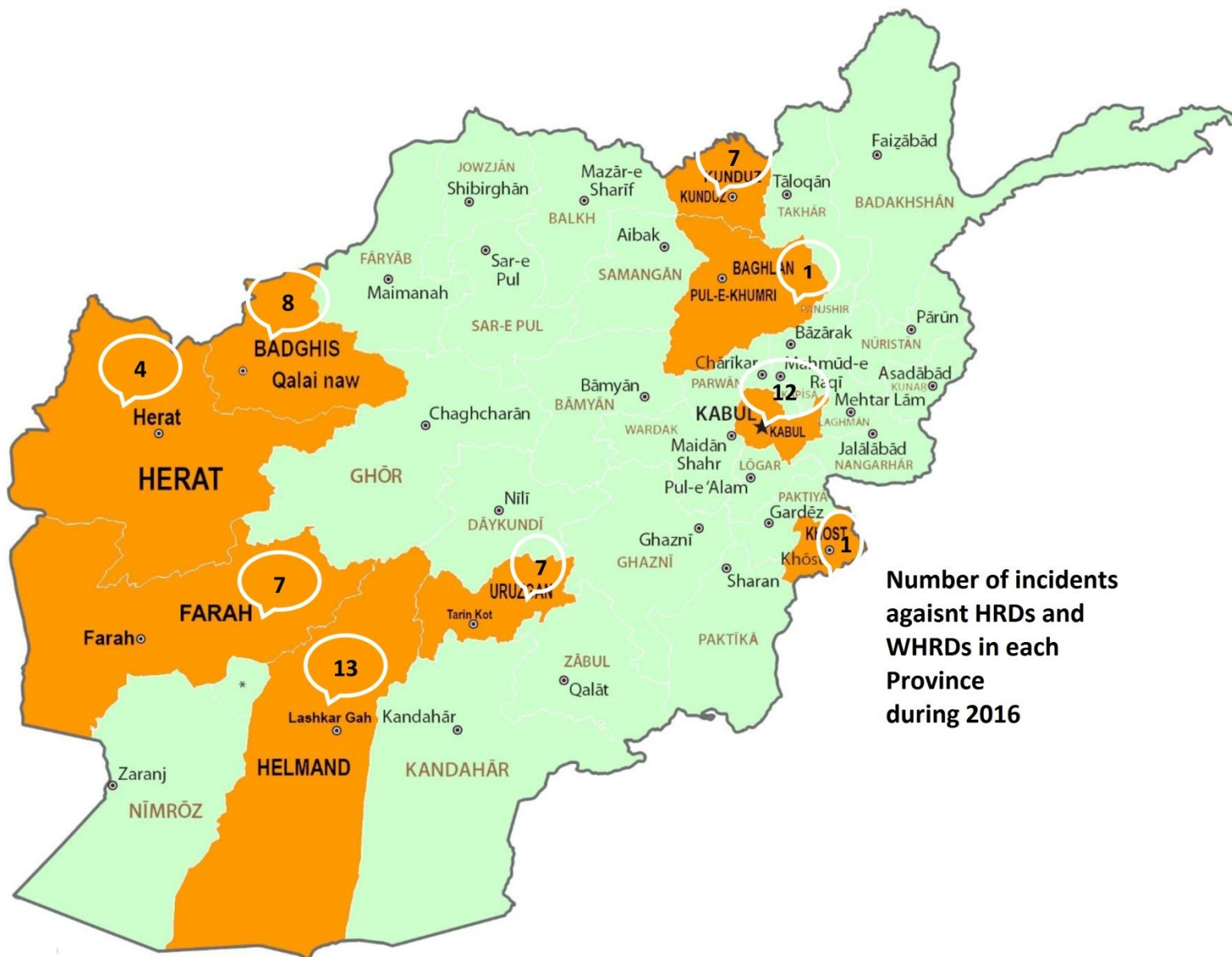
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“We are not able to protect ourselves how we can offer you any protection! If you want to stay alive – either leave your job and stay at home or leave the province!” –a government official told a women’s rights defender seeking protection.



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**Number of incidents
agaist HRDs and
WHRDs in each
Province
during 2016**



About SRMO: The **Safety and Risk Mitigation Organization (SRMO)** is an Afghan-led NGO, established in May 2013 to provide protection to grassroots Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) at risk in Afghanistan. The SRMO's main objective is to develop and provide local protection solutions to HRDs in Afghanistan and to empower HRDs so they can safely continue their crucial work.

SRMO was established in a response to the growing threats against Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) in Afghanistan and the lack of a mechanism to provide protection to this vulnerable group. SRMO is mandated to provide safety and protection for HRDs and WHRDs in Afghanistan through capacity building (including safety and risk mitigation training, first aid training and stress management), emergency grants, legal aid, emergency relocation, emergency housing, safety and risk mitigation advisory, site security surveys for accommodations and offices of HRDs and WHRDs, training for unarmed security guards, training for drivers on anti-hijacking and travelling to insecure or hostile environment areas.

SRMO is particularly working with local and grassroots' HRDs and WHRDs who are at the frontline of defending human rights, especially focusing on insecure and rural areas where there is a limited presence of NGOs and international organisations, and the HRDs have very limited or no links and contacts with international organizations or diplomatic and UN missions for protection.

Introduction

This report provides an overview and analysis of the state of human rights defenders (HRDs) in Afghanistan in 2016. The findings in the report are derived from the regular monitoring, interviews with HRDs and support provided to HRDs by the Safety and Risk Mitigation Organization (SRMO) in 2016.

In 2016, SRMO interviewed 200 HRDs from 13 provinces and provided 10 capacity building workshops for 300 HRDs in 10 provinces, as well as assisted 52 HRDs and their family members (in total comprising of more than 230 people) fleeing from conflict areas in Farah, Kunduz, Uruzgan, Badghis and Helmand provinces. These activities provided an opportunity for SRMO to meet with 300 HRDs from across Afghanistan and to assess their situation and protection needs. The increased insecurity and expansion of Taliban and other armed groups posed growing challenges for the activities of HRDs and exposed HRDs to direct risks. HRDs and journalists, outspoken on human rights and security-related issues, faced targeted physical attacks, direct threats and intimidation by State and non-State actors. Particularly 2016 is considered to be the bloodiest year for journalists, with 13 journalists killed, and for majority of the killings the Taliban claimed responsibility.

In 2016 alone SRMO documented direct threats against more than 30 HRDs and women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in Afghanistan: at least 20 of them were allegedly threatened by the Taliban and other armed groups, three by local government officials, while the perpetrators behind seven of the cases were unclaimed/unidentified. SRMO documented that more than 250 W/HRDs¹ and media workers fled their homes fearing for their lives after Taliban progressed towards the provincial capital cities of Farah, Faryab, Helmand, Uruzgan, Kunduz and Badghis provinces. SRMO acknowledges that the actual number of threats and attacks against HRDs and WHRDs is likely to be much higher than documented as many HRDs and WHRDs, particularly in the rural areas, do not know who to contact or where to report the threats while others are

¹ W/HRDs is an abbreviation representing the collective group of HRDs and WHRDs.

often reluctant to report as they do not trust that the authorities willingness or ability bring the perpetrators to justice.

Threats, intimidation and attacks against human rights defenders have continued in a climate of impunity, with the government failing to investigate cases and bring those suspected of criminal responsibility to justice. HRDs have not only faced threats from Taliban and other armed groups, but they also often reported threats from local government officials, warlords and local commanders and sometimes by the family members of the victims they seek to defend. The HRDs and WHRDs were subjected to the following forms of threats and violence: threats to their lives, violent attacks, attempts to their lives, intimidation, threats to arrests, and threats towards the family members of the HRDs and WHRDs. Meanwhile some HRDs, especially WHRDs, are facing threats from their own family or community members as their work is deemed to be challenging social norms and cultural traditions.

In 2016, there were some positive developments to step up efforts for protection of HRDs by the civil society, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) and the international community such as the European Union in Afghanistan and UNAMA. The Afghan Government has taken a number of initiatives on protection of freedom of expression and journalists, such as setting up two committees to investigate past and present cases of violence against journalists and presidential decrees on freedom of expression and access to information. However, no specific efforts have been made to provide holistic protection to HRDs as an increasingly targeted group. The AIHRC has initiated a National Action Plan for the Protection of HRDs in Afghanistan, which is due to be implemented through the provinces, but it will need financial resources attached to it for its effective implementation. The European Union in Afghanistan continued to implement its EU+ Local Strategy for Human Rights Defenders in Afghanistan, adopted in 2014, and the local mechanism for protection of HRDs initiated by the EU in Afghanistan has been improved in providing a coordination platform for local organizations working on protection of HRDs and WHRDs. However, the EU in Afghanistan itself lacks financial resources to back up its HRD Strategy and it relies on funds to be released under other EU-managed instruments which is causing delays in responding to emergency situations. SRMO welcomes the above developments, but urges the Afghan Government and its international partners, as well as the civil society in Afghanistan to strengthen their efforts in

protection of HRDs in Afghanistan in the context of growing insecurity and challenges for HRDs.

SRMO identified the following main recommendations to address the remaining pressing needs for the protection of HRDs in Afghanistan:

- The Afghan Government should develop an Evacuation Plan for HRDs and support the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) in implementing its National Strategy for the Protection of HRDs in Afghanistan;
- The Afghan Government should put an end to impunity of violence against HRDs and ensure that cases of violence against HRDs are promptly and thoroughly investigated and perpetrators are brought to justice;
- International organisation and donors should revise and improve its support and funding to local NGOs providing protection of HRDs to assisting HRDs with emergency response for HRDs at risk;
- HRDs themselves should make an effort to establish networks for coordination and peer protection among themselves in the areas where they work with links to HRDs in other provinces.

Security and political context

The overall situation of W/HRDs continues to worsen in all over Afghanistan. Following the withdrawal of the international combat forces from Afghanistan at the end of 2014, the security situation in Afghanistan remains tense and volatile. During the 2016 year, in order to gain territory and insert its political influence, Taliban and other armed groups followed its strategy of conducting attacks in urban civilian populated residential areas, deliberately targeting government and other civilian objects, such as institutions and public places, and civilians including civilian government workers, education personnel, medical workers, judicial staff, media professionals, humanitarian de-miners and others.

The Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), in its quarterly report to US Congress released on 30 January 2017, reported, based on information received from the US

Forces-Afghanistan, that of the 407 districts of Afghanistan's 34 provinces, "41 districts (in 15 provinces) were under insurgent control (9) or influence (32), and 133 districts were "contested.""²

The increase of Taliban controlled and contested areas is a reflection of a change in tactics as from 2014 onward Taliban shifted their insurgency armed campaign from their traditional battle ground in the South and East to the North and West of Afghanistan. In September 2015 and again in October 2016, Taliban managed to briefly take control over Kunduz provincial capital in northern Afghanistan spreading fear among HRDs and the local civilian population.

The year 2016 is said to be the bloodied year for Afghan civilians since 2009 according to UNAMA, with 11,418 civilian casualties (3,498 deaths and 7,920 injured) between 1 January and 31 December, representing a three percent increase in total civilian casualties compared to 2015.³ UNAMA attributed 61 per cent of civilian casualties to Anti-Government Elements, (mainly Taliban); 24 per cent to Pro-Government Forces and 10 per cent to ground engagements between Anti-Government Elements and Pro-Government Forces.

Since the Islamic State Khorasan Province (ISKP) known as "Daesh" in Afghanistan - of the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant –announced its presence in Eastern Afghanistan in 2015, in 2016 there has been a noticeable expansion of activities of groups belonging or affiliated with Daesh, including carrying out large-scale attacks in Kabul against the Shia population, and abductions of civilians in western and northern provinces.

During 2016 the fragile political situation of the country was affected by the Afghan government internal political disputes including disagreement over appointment of key judiciary and security positions in central and local government level. Further, threatening the work of HRDs, especially those working on transitional justice, is the September 2016 peace deal between the Government of Afghanistan and the armed group Hezb-i Islami (Gulbuddin Hekmatyar), which is providing for a judicial immunity of the group members and commanders as well as for granting political rights and recruiting the group members and commanders in the Afghan

² Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction (SIGAR), Report to the United States Congress, 30 January 2017, page 89, available at: <https://www.sigar.mil/pdf/quarterlyreports/2017-01-30qr.pdf>

³ UNAMA 2016 Annual Report, Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, available at: https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/protection_of_civilians_in_armed_conflict_annual_report_8feb_2016.pdf

National Security Forces, without any vetting of those who have committed gross human rights violations and international crimes.

Challenges for the work of HRDs in Afghanistan

The volatile security and unstable political environment in 2016 have created additional challenges to the work of HRDs in Afghanistan when they seek to perform their work of monitoring and reporting on human rights violations. The growing insecurity not only has limited movement and access of HRDs to vulnerable communities, but also has exposed HRDs advocating for human rights at risk to reprisals. The parties to the conflict have shown little regard to the protected civilian status of HRDs and journalists as Taliban have deliberately targeted journalists and HRDs, and the State forces have used intimidation tactics seemingly intended to silence HRDs and journalists critical of the security situation.

According to Humanitarian Outcome during the year 2016 there were 18 incidents of kidnappings and physical attacks involving national and international aid workers in which 10 national humanitarian staff were killed.⁴

Local media rights organisations, Nai- Supporting Open Media in Afghanistan and the Afghan Journalists Safety Committee (AJSC) reported that 2016 was the bloodiest year for Afghan media and journalists. Nai documented more than 80 violations against journalists with more than 25 media workers and journalists killed and injured by the end of October 2016;⁵ and the AJSC documented 101 cases involving killing, assault, intimidation, abuse and wounding of

journalists in 2016, representing a 38 percent increase in the recorded cases comparing to 2015. AJSC attributed 50 % of the recorded cases of violence against journalists to Government officials, 20 % to the Taliban, and 14 % cases of violence against journalists to unknown perpetrators.⁶

⁴See the 2016 data on Afghanistan in the Aid Worker Security Database (AWSDB) collected by the Humanitarian Outcomes, available at: <https://aidworkersecurity.org/incidents/search?detail=1&country=AF>

⁵ See Nai: <http://data.nai.org.af/>

⁶ See AJSC Six Months Report, July-December 2016, available at: <http://ajsc.af/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/eng-report.pdf>

SRMO documented that hundreds of W/HRDs and their families have been forced to leave their homes due to fear or suffering direct attacks in 2016. HRDs have been threatened by local

Government officials, warlords and human rights abusers for being vocal on defending, promoting and protecting human rights of vulnerable people and calling for justice.

SRMO documented at least three cases of threats and intimidations against HRDs by local government officials in Kunduz, Farah and Paktia provinces, and a number of cases of threats and attacks against W/HRDs by Taliban and other armed groups.

Impact of insecurity on HRDs

In October 2016, Taliban once again took control of parts of Kunduz city prompting more than 100 HRDs, WHRDs and media workers to flee the city fearing a repetition of 2015 when during the Taliban occupation of Kunduz between September and October 2015 Taliban members conducted a systematic search for W/HRDs using prepared- target lists of HRDs and media workers.

While the majority of the fleeing W/HRDs and journalists from Kunduz went to Kabul, many others took refuge in the neighboring provinces of Takhar, Badakhshan and Baghlan provinces, taking a very dangerous road journeys. W/HRDs and journalists also fled in scores from other provinces perceiving threats by Taliban advancement. Since October 2016 almost a total of 150 W/HRDs and 100 media workers were displaced from their respective areas because of insurgents attacks in the provinces of Helmand, Kunduz, Farah, Badghis and Uruzgan. These W/HRDs had to leave their homes for the fear of their lives and the lives of their family members.

By November 2016 some HRDs and WHRDs returned to their provinces while many more of them still remain displaced and with little support from other organizations due to lack of resources to address the needs of the HRDs affected by the expanding armed conflict. In addition, there were reports that upon return to their provinces of origin, some of the HRDs and WHRDs were threatened by local government officials for giving media interviews and speaking

out about the security challenges in their respective provinces. This also highlights the ongoing failure of the government to respect and protect the right to freedom of expression of media and

HRDs and the access to information – a concern that has been widely shared by HRDs and media workers.

Other challenges to safety and protection of HRDs and WHRDs: limited funding for protection

Through conducting capacity building workshops and assisting W/HRDs with developing safety strategies, SRMO found that majority of local human rights and civil society organizations lack adequate risk management strategies and their staff members do not have the right training and understanding of dealing with a threat or risk. Some of these problems are due to insufficient funding available for such additional programs, or due to lack of donor support for such activities.

Furthermore, SRMO recorded that in some instances when a staff member has reported a threat to their organization, instead of taking any action to mitigate the threat the organization has terminated the contract of that staff member. SRMO also received reports, particularly from female HRDs and WHRDs, that when they are under threat they do not inform their family members in fear that will be stopped from working or from leaving home and it may have a greater impact on their family relationship.

Donors are often unwilling to acknowledge the risks and threats the HRDs and their organizations are facing, especially in armed conflict and volatile areas such as in Afghanistan. Many civil society and human rights organizations reported that their donors are often too reluctant to provide any funding for additional security measures or for insurance for them and their staff who are working at the frontline of defending human rights and women's rights in an extremely challenging and risky environment.

Another main challenge for the protection of HRDs is that organizations such as SRMO and other local organisations working towards the protection of HRDs and WHRDs lack any reserve funding to provide timely and life-saving assistance such as emergency evacuation, emergency

shelter and other essential assistance to HRDs at imminent risk. SRMO acknowledges the help provided by some of the donors such as Urgent Action Fund, Frontline Defenders and Protect Defenders who provide small grants for a response to urgent cases. However, most donors are only willing to provide assistance for individual cases and the administrative procedures are too cumbersome, long and fail to respond to the urgent funding needs for protection.

Harassment of HRDs by Government Officials: threats with judicial action and arrest

Afghan government officials continue to use national security as a means to silence critical civil society, media workers and human rights defenders when speaking out against corruption, misuse of power, nepotism and breach of the law by local government officials and members of the Afghan parliament.

In August, a civil society activist in one of the western provinces was summoned by the Attorney General Office in the province upon a complaint letter from the local governor, in response to media interviews critical of the government for the worsening security situation in his province and accusing the local government of corruption and mismanagement in handling the security situation. In the complaint letter to the Attorney General, the Governor accuses the activist of committing crime against national security, and for defaming the local government officials by alleging them of corruption, and accusing the activist of committing “propaganda for the enemies of Afghan government”.

In October, one of the displaced HRDs by the armed conflict in the north gave a public media interview in which the HRD accused the local government officials of human rights violations, corruption and mismanagement of the security in the province. Shortly afterwards, the HRD reported of receiving threatening phone calls from the governor’s office. The caller who was speaking on behalf of the governor threatened the HRD with legal action demanding that she hands all the evidences of the accusations to the governor’s office or she will face the consequences. While the HRD was still displaced to another province, further posted a commentary on social media expressing frustration of the lack of progress in maintaining

security in the province. Subsequently the governor office contacted the HRD again demanding to remove the post, send an official apology for “spreading wrong information” about the province’s security situation or otherwise will be charged with crimes against national security and propaganda against the Afghan government.

In December, another HRD from the eastern region who is working to promote women’s rights and the implementation of law to criminalize exchange of women to settle blood feud and as such challenging strong tribal practices, has been threatened by the local government officials. The HRD reported to SRMO that the local government officials along with the local tribal elders accused him of “bringing a bad name” to the province and defaming the tribal practices. The local government officials threatened the HRD to stop the campaign on women’s and girls’ rights or they will “put him in prison indefinitely”. As result, the HRD had to flee to another province in order to continue his campaign for elimination of violence against women including exchange of women and girls to settle blood feud.

Threats and attacks by Taliban and other armed groups

Taliban and other armed groups continued to threat and deliberately attack human rights defenders across Afghanistan in relation to their work. SRMO documented at least 15 threats against HRDs by the Taliban and other armed insurgent groups - the threats were in the form of threatening night letters, phone calls and phone messages.

With the deliberate suicide attack targeting the Tolo TV media staff in Kabul in January 2016, killing 7 media workers and injuring tens of others, the Taliban spread fear and intimidation among the wider HRDs and media community, fearing violent reprisal if critical of the Taliban. The attack on Tolo TV materialised following a threat statement labelling the Tolo Tv and 1TV as a “military target”⁷ for their reporting on allegations of Taliban abuses during Kunduz 2015 occupation.

⁷ “Statement by the military commission of Islamic Emirate concerning intelligence TV networks of Tolo and 1TV”, 12 October 2015, published at: <http://shahamat-english.com/statement-by-the-militarycommission-of-islamic-emirate-concerning-intelligence-tv-networks-of-tolo-and-1-tv>.

In January 2016, a group of 10 HRDs, most of them working on or advocating on Transitional Justice-related issues, received a threatening letter (which was issued in late December 2016) signed by the Taliban, “Islamic Emirates of Afghanistan”. The letter warned the HRDs of killing them all if they do not stop working on what it called a “western agenda”. This threat was followed by further threats against individuals of the group of 10 HRDs through phone and letters threatening to kill them and their family members if they do not stop working and if they do not repent for their activities. The 10 HRDs reported the threats to several security and intelligence institutions and held meetings with some of the high level security official, but the response has been described by the HRDs as an inadequate as they were offered as a solution to get arms or armed bodyguards in order to protect themselves. Despite continuous pressure and meetings with the security institutions, no investigation was known to have been carried out into the incident and no further protection was offered to them. The HRDs had to instead temporary relocate outside the country for protection.

In July, a female women’s rights activist from one of the southern provinces received a threatening letter from the Taliban warning her to stop her activism accusing her of being “shameless” and “promoting western values”. In September her home was attacked, her brother was brutally beaten and subsequently her home was burned down. She had to flee to another province along with her family fearing for her life. She reported the threats to the local government officials in her province but she was told by the officials that: *“We are not able to protect ourselves how we can offer you any protection. If you want to stay alive whether leave your job and stay home or leave the province.”*

In October 2016, a female politician from one of the western provinces reported receiving multiple threat letters issued by the Taliban threatening her to stop working otherwise she will pay the price by losing her own life and the life of her family members. Despite that she reported the incident to security officials, very little has been done to investigate the threats as the NDS reportedly verified that there is a serious threat against her, but did not offer any form of protection.

Physical and violent attacks against HRDs by other actors

Case study 1: *On 24 September Mr. Khalil Parsa a civil society activist and outspoken critic of the local government in Herat province was shot five times by two armed men on a motorbike, just few yards away from the governor's office. Mr Parsa survived the attack, which left him in coma for more than a week. Mr Parsa was involved in coordination of civil society activists and organizations in the western region.. No investigation was carried out by the government and no one was brought to justice for the alleged attack against him. This bold attack on one of the most prominent civil society activists in the western region has further aggravated the fear among the civil society community of reprisals for speaking out.*



Case study 2: *On 2 October, a primary court judge and a women's rights activist from one of the northern provinces was beaten over the head and shot at by two men dressed in police uniform while travelling from work to home. He spent few days in coma and survived the attack. Despite the fact that the local government officials and judiciary became aware of the attack and promised an investigation into the incident, no investigation was so far carried out and no one was brought to justice in connection with the incident.*



Case study 3: *In November, Mirwais Amarkhiel a civil society activist and freelance journalist from Nangarhar was violently attacked by five armed men who were waiting for him near his home in Kabul. The armed men, after beating him shot three bullets at him and fled the scene. He spent more than two weeks in hospital where the doctors carried out several operations but were not able to remove the bullets from his body. No one claimed responsibility for the attack. However, Mr. Amarkhiel alleged that prior the attack he has been receiving threats by Taliban and Daesh as he has been outspoken against violations by these groups in Nangarhar province. He reportedly informed the security officials about these threats but he claimed that no steps were taken to investigate the threats or provide him with protection. Since the attack happened, no investigation was carried out into the incident and no one was arrested in connection to the attack.*

Support and Coordination for Protection of HRDs

SRMO develops and utilizes risk mitigation and protection strategies and provides HRDs and WHRDs with different levels of services according to their specific needs. However, due to the growing protection needs of HRDs as a result of the aforementioned increased risks and deteriorating security situation, and limited funding, the SRMO's capacity is strained and limited in meeting the needs of all HRDs and WHRDs at imminent risk. However, in 2016 SRMO put its best efforts in utilizing limited funds to reach out to as many HRDs as possible affected from the conflicts in Farah, Kunduz, Badghis, Uruzgan and Helmand by providing shelter and other humanitarian support to total of more than 230 HRDs and their families, and also providing assistance with emergency relocation to 9 individual W/HRDs at risk and provided assistance with security measures in three cases of WHRDs at risk.

The fall of Kunduz in 2015 was the first experience for the organizations supporting HRDs and WHRDs in Afghanistan to respond to the humanitarian needs of HRDs following a mass evacuation of HRDs facing serious risks to their lives. The 2015 Kunduz crisis brought together national and international NGOs in providing emergency support to HRDs fleeing Taliban persecution in Kunduz. A number of NGOs and organizations had coordinated efforts and stepped in to assist the displaced W/HRDs from Kunduz, including SRMO, Amnesty International, Frontline Defenders, Freedom House, Urgent Action Fund, and members of the EU-initiated HRDs Protection Committee such as Afghan Women Skill Development Centre, Afghanistan Civil Society Forum (ACSF). The NGOs not only provided the emergency assistance, winter packages, emergency housing but also took active part in emergency evacuation of more than 100 HRDs and WHRDs fleeing Kunduz.

In October 2016 when Kunduz again fell shortly to the Taliban, NGOs did not have the same level of resources to provide assistance at the same scale as it was the case in 2015. One of the main challenges in year 2016 was the deteriorating security situation of several provinces as Taliban simultaneously stepped up their military campaign on a number of provincial centres (in Kunduz, Farah, Helmand and Uruzgan) leading to hundreds of HRDs and WHRDs to flee and seek assistance due to fear of reprisals and they were in great need of evacuation, emergency

assistance, shelter and winter- packages around the same period of time. During 2016 crisis several local NGOs supported by the international donors provided assistance to HRDs and WHRDs at risk, including SRMO, the Afghanistan Civil Society Forum (ACSF), Afghan Women Skill Development Centre with the assistance of AHRAM, Protect Defenders EU, Urgent Action Fund and Frontline Defenders. With common efforts, these organisations were able to provide some life-saving emergency assistance to HRDs and WHRDs who fled due to conflict. The types of assistances varied from evacuation, to emergency relocation, shelter, medical assistance, food and etc. In addition, the Afghan Journalist Safety Committee with the support of the EU funding were also able to provide assistance to journalists displaced from the conflict-affected provinces.

Funding and coordination of assistance response for HRDs in emergency situation

The EU through its EU HRDs protection mechanism and civil society-led HRD Committee played a vital role in coordinating support to HRDs displaced from the armed conflict in 2016. The EU in Kabul, arranged a number of coordination meetings between NGOs involved in supporting HRDs in Afghanistan ensuring the financial support provided by the EU to local NGOs is equally distributed to the affected HRDs and WHRDs. EU has distributed grants of EUR 10,000 to a number of local NGOs to provide assistance for HRDs and journalists displaced from the armed conflicts in Kunduz, Farah and Helmand. Afghanistan Civil Society Forum, Women for Afghan Women and Afghanistan Journalists Safety Committee through the financial support of the EU, provided cash grants, up to USD 300 per HRD or Journalist, to help with immediate needs such as to buy food or other emergency necessities.

Another important coordination body for outreach and coordination of protection initiatives for HRDs and WHRDs is the Afghanistan Human Rights Action and Mobilization (AHRAM), responsible for HRD focal points in 34 provinces of Afghanistan. AHRAM provides emergency grants for individual HRDs of up to EUR 5,000. They also work closely with the EU HRD protection mechanism to coordinate the activities of organizations who provide emergency assistance for HRDs and WHRDs to avoid duplication and maximize the response. In the 2016 crisis, AHRAM were instrumental in consolidating lists of HRDs in need of emergency support.

AHRAM also played a vital role in making sure that resources are reaching out to all defenders who are in urgent needs.

Shelters for HRDs at risk

One of the organisations running a shelter for HRDs is the Afghan Women's Skills Development Centre (AWSDC), who operating the Kabul House for WHRDs in Kabul. In terms of emergency responses, this is a great initiative especially for the WHRDs who flee their provinces and have nowhere to stay.

In 2016, the tens of hundreds of HRDs and their families, displaced of the armed conflict from Kunduz, Farah, Helmand and Uruzgan, were in urgent need of shelter. Therefore, in addition to Kabul House, some other organisation running shelters for women (such as Women for Afghan Women) also opened their doors for WHRDs fleeing the armed conflict. However, these shelters only accepts female HRDs without their male family members, and male HRDs had limited access shelter services.

In response to the crisis, SRMO provided 14 temporary emergency shelters (in Herat, Kandahar and Kabul) to accommodate more than 230 female and male HRDs and their families fleeing the armed conflicts in Kunduz, Farah, Helmand and Uruzgan.

Other programmes developed to support HRDs: AIHRC National Action Plan for the Protection of HRDs:

In December 2016, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) initiated a National Action Plan for the Protection of HRDs in a national conference attended by the President of Afghanistan who pledged commitment for the protection of the HRDs and support of the AIHRC Action Plan. Such national plan for the protection of HRDs is much needed and welcomed step but it will only work with the full government support and the financial support of the donor community.

Shortcoming of existing protection initiatives

1) Lack of an emergency rapid response mechanism

The lack of a rapid response mechanism for emergency situations has created serious concerns for HRDs and WHRDs fleeing the Taliban military advancement in different provinces across Afghanistan. Most organizations, including the SRMO, do not have reserve funding to respond immediately to the emergency situations and are dependent on donors to release funding only after the occurrence of the crisis. In the absence of such a mechanism and emergency funding, our response to cases of HRDs and WHRDs at risk are impacted and sometimes even the assistance may come too late after the harm is done as HRDs are often left on their own.

2) No support with emergency evacuation

The support provided by the EU HRD mechanism to HRDs at risk is not intended to assist HRDs with evacuation. The EU HRD mechanism provides small grants of up to 10,000 Euros to HRDs after they have been displaced but does not provide crucial grant for evacuation of HRDs and WHRDs in emergency situation. As it was in the 2015 Kunduz crisis, in 2016 the crisis in Kunduz and a number of other provincial centers also emphasized on the crucial need of developing a mechanism/system to assist HRDs facing emergency situation with life-saving evacuation. The most pressing need is to ensure first the evacuation **before** any other needs of the HRDs are addressed. This is currently a large gap in the existing protection of HRDs work.

3) Limited access of male HRDs to shelter

Another significant gap in the protection is the limited shelter opportunity available for male HRDs. Although WHRDs may be usually more at risk by the Taliban due to the group record on women's rights, however male HRDs are also at risk for targeted attacks by the Taliban if seen to be opposing the Taliban agenda and hence considered as enemies and supporting the Government.

Inadequate Government response to the situation of HRDs at risk

The Afghanistan Government has taken some positive steps in promoting freedom of expression such as setting up an ad-hoc Committee in March to investigate violence against journalist cases since 2001 (it received 679 cases, dismissed 252 cases and the rest referred to the relevant authorities for investigation and follow up); setting up another permanent coordination Committee for the Safety and Security of Journalists, under the chair of the second Vice-President, comprised of government and security officials and journalists, following a Procedures issued by the National Security Council for Ensuring the Safety and Security of Journalists and the Media; and the President issued a decree on access to information in October 2016 for the implementation of the Access to Information law. However, these initiatives have not provided any tangible results in investigation and prosecutions of cases of violence against journalists.

The Government also has done little in providing protection to HRDs at risk or to investigate cases of direct attack and intimidation against this group. The approach taken by the security authorities of providing license to HRDs and journalists at risk to carry arms as a measure of self-protection is considered inappropriate and insufficient. SRMO believes that “arming” HRDs is not the solution and in contrary can expose them at further risks by the armed groups who view them anyway as “enemies” and “spies”.

The Afghan authorities also did not have any specific strategy to respond to the HRDs and journalists fleeing the areas affected of the armed conflict in 2016. Due to the specific function of HRDs and journalists – to investigate and report on human rights abuses, they are often exposed to targeted killings and attacks and as such they consist a group requiring specific attention and protection.

As a response to the 2016 crisis, in some cases the authorities provided evacuation assistance to some journalists, but there has been no proactive and systematic assistance with evacuation provided to all HRDs in all the affected regions.

SRMO emphasizes that it is primarily the responsibility of the government to ensure the protection of its citizens, including HRDs and journalists, and to provide remedies for human rights abuses, in accordance to the Afghanistan Constitution and the international human rights law obligations of the Afghan government.

Recommendations

To the Afghanistan Government:

- The Government in coordination with the relevant security authorities and in consultation with the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and the civil society should develop a rapid response mechanism at provincial and national level to provide protection for HRDs and WHRDs at risk;
- The Government should develop and provide clear guidance to all relevant authorities at provincial and national level of responding and protecting HRDs at risk in case of emergency situation, including early warning to HRDs and assistance with evacuation;
- The Government should provide clear guidance to all law enforcement agencies at provincial and national level to i) respect the rights of HRDs, and ii) to take reports of attacks and threats against HRDs and WHRDs seriously and ensure that timely and adequate protection is provided to individuals at risk.
- The Government should ensure that prompt and thorough investigation is conducted into all attacks or incidents of threats and intimidation against HRDs, including by State actors, and bring the perpetrators to justice;

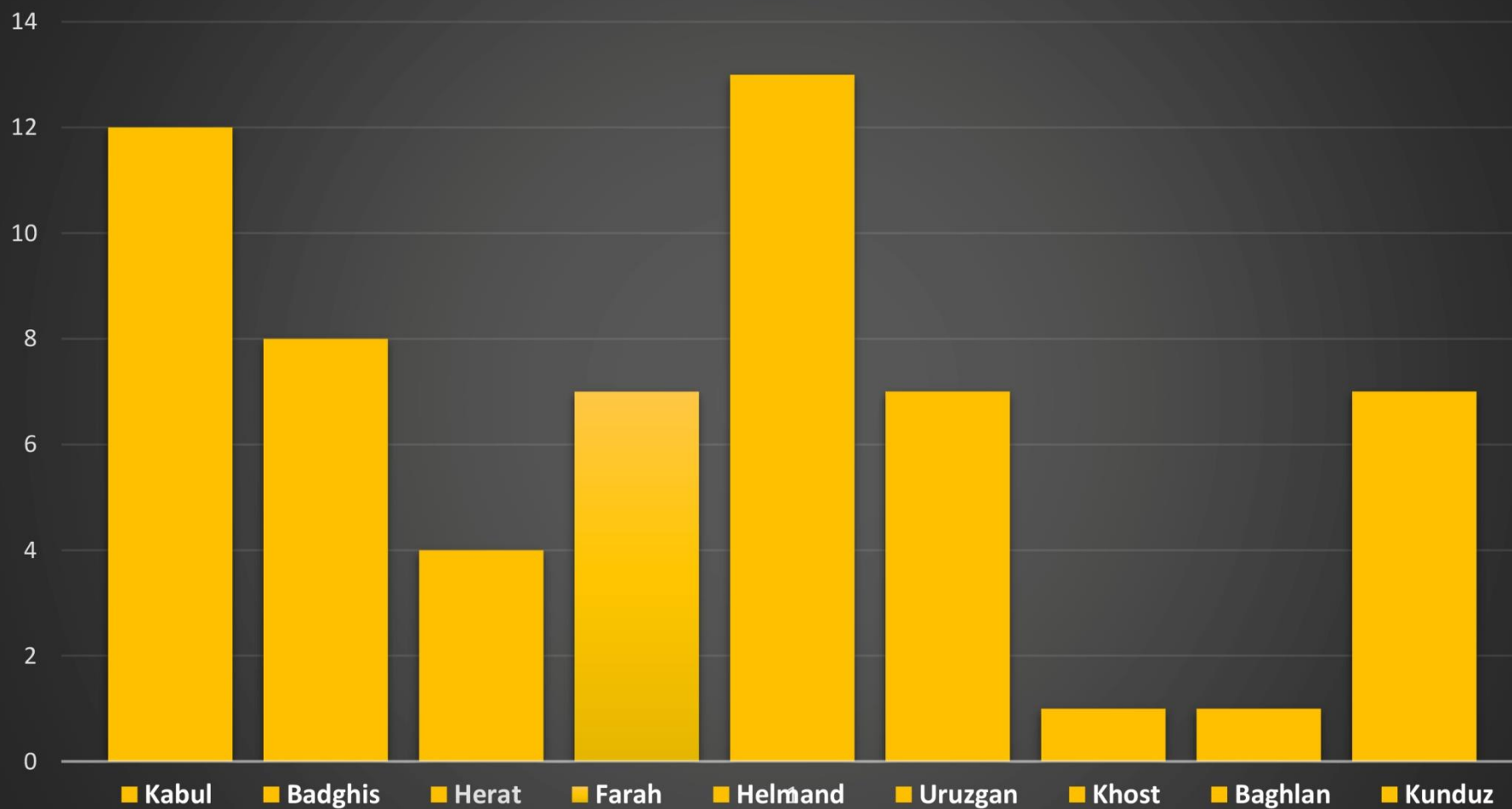
To the Donors and international community:

- Adequate funding should be provided to NGOs working on protection of HRDs and WHRDs, with flexibility on timeframe and considering the needs of responding to emergency situations;
- International organizations and donors supporting protection of HRDs and WHRDs globally and regionally should provide reserve funding for local organizations in order to ensure a timely response to HRDs who are at imminent risk.
- Emergency grants should be provided through a simplified process for NGOs to support HRDs and WHRDs in a timely manner - the process should be relieved from administrative procedures, quick and effective to allow for a rapid emergency response;
- The international community should put pressure on the Afghan Government to take specific steps for the protection of human rights defenders in Afghanistan and to implement its obligations under international human rights law on protecting and respecting the rights of HRDs and the rights to freedom of expression, as well as in providing effective remedy for human rights abuses.

Attacks and threats against HRDs and WHRDs across Afghanistan in year 2016



Threats against HRDs and WHRDs by provinces in 2016



SRMO Incident Database (Kabul province)

No	Region	Province	District	Date of Event	Description Of The Event (Date, Province, District, Area, Time, event)	Target	Gender	Perpetrator	Incident Type
1	Central	Kabul	city	17-Jan-16	On 17 Jan 2016, a male HRD and civil society activist from Kabul was threatened by Taliban by a warning letter posted on face-book. In the letter Taliban said that you are working against the Islamic religion teachings by promoting western culture and our fighters will send you to hell. An investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Interior and National Security Directorate but no one was arrested in connection with the incident.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat letter
2	Central	Kabul	City	17-Jan-16	On 17 Jan 2016, a male HRD and civil society activist in Kabul was threatened by Taliban by a warning letter posted on face-book. in the letter Taliban said that you are working against the Islamic religion teachings by promoting western culture and our fighters will send you to hell. An investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Interior and National Security Directorate but no one was arrested in connection with the incident.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat letter
3	Central	Kabul	City	17-Jan-16	On 17 Jan 2016, a male HRD and civil society activist from Kabul was threatened by Taliban by a warning letter posted on face-book. In the letter Taliban said that you are working against the Islamic religion teachings by promoting western culture and our fighters will send you to hell. An investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Interior and National Security Directorate but no one was arrested in connection with the incident.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat letter

4	Central	Kabul	City	17-Jan-16	On 17 Jan 2016, a prominent male HRD and civil society activist from Kabul was threatened by Taliban by a warning letter posted on face-book. In the letter Taliban warned him that you are working against the Islamic religion teachings by promoting western culture and our fighters will send you to hell. An investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Interior and National Security Directorate but no one was arrested in connection with the incident.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat letter
5	Central	Kabul	City	17-Jan-16	On 17 Jan 2016, a male civil society activist and a HRD from Kabul was threatened by Taliban by a warning letter posted on face-book. In the letter Taliban warned him that you are working against the Islamic religion teachings by promoting western culture and our fighters will send you to hell. An investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Interior and National Security Directorate but no one was arrested in connection with the incident.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat letter
6	Central	Kabul	City	17-Jan-16	On 17 Jan 2016, a male HRD and a civil society activists was threatened by Taliban by a warning letter posted on face-book. In the letter Taliban said that you are working against the Islamic religion teachings by promoting western culture and our fighters will send you to hell. An investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Interior and National Security Directorate but no one was arrested in connection with the incident.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat letter
7	Central	Kabul	City	17-Jan-16	On 17 Jan 2016, a male HRD and a civil society activists was threatened by Taliban by a warning letter posted on face-book. In the letter Taliban said that you are working against the Islamic religion teachings by promoting western culture and our fighters will send you to hell. An investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Interior and National Security Directorate but no one was arrested in connection with the incident.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat letter

8	Central	Kabul	City	17-Jan-16	On 17 Jan 2016, a male HRD and a civil society activists was threatened by Taliban by a warning letter posted on face-book. In the letter Taliban said that you are working against the Islamic religion teachings by promoting western culture and our fighters will send you to hell. An investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Interior and National Security Directorate but no one was arrested in connection with the incident.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat letter
9	Central	Kabul	City	17-Jan-16	On 17 Jan 2016, a male HRD and a civil society activists was threatened by Taliban by a warning letter posted on face-book. in the letter Taliban said that you are working against the Islamic religion teachings by promoting western culture and our fighters will send you to hell. An investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Interior and National Security Directorate but no one was arrested in connection with the incident.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat letter
10	Central	Kabul	City	17-Jan-16	On 17 Jan 2016, a prominent female HRD and civil society activist was threatened by Taliban by several threat letters and telephone calls from Logar and Kabul provinces. In the letter Taliban have asked the WHRD to quit her job and also accused her for working for foreigners. She and her family was threatened to death if they were caught by Taliban fighters. An investigation was carried out by the Ministry of Interior and National Security Directorate but no one was arrested in connection with the incident.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat letters

11	Central	Kabul	City	5-Aug-16	On 5 Aug 2016, a prominent female HRD threatened received a number of threatening letters and telephone calls from Logar and Kabul provinces. In the letter Taliban accused the WHRD of promoting western culture and working for foreigners. She and her family was threatened to death if they were caught by Taliban fighters. The WHRD was threatened for second time in one year. Two people arrested and later released by National Security Directorate (NDS) in connection with the threatening phone calls.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat letters
12	Central	Kabul	City	19-Dec-16	On 19 Dec 2016, a civil society activist and a freelance journalist was attacked by unknown armed men while he was on his way home from work. The armed men were waiting near his residence and as the victim was approaching his home the armed men shot him three times and he was seriously wounded in his chest, waist and back. He was taken to NDS hospital for treatment. The victim spent several days in hospital and his mental and physical condition is not good. He is also scared that he might be attacked again. An investigation is ongoing.	Civil society activist	Male	Unknown	Armed attack

SRMO Incident Database (Badghis province)

No	Region	Province	District	Date of Event	Description Of The Event (Date, Province, District, Area, Time, event)	Target	Gender	Perpetrator	Incident Type
1	West	Badghis	Qali Naw	7-Oct-16	between Oct - Dec 2016, a female WHRD and local politician received several threat letters and calls from Taliban threatening her to death because of her women rights activities. The WHRD had to flee her home for her and her family safety to another province.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
2	West	Badghis	Qali Naw	9-Oct-16	On 9 Oct 2016, a female WHRD who was threatened by Taliban by telephone calls. She was told to quit her job and stop working as human rights defenders. The WHRD had to leave her home for her and her family safety to another province.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
3	West	Badghis	Qali Naw	10-Oct-16	On 10 Oct 2016, a female WHRD working for an NGO had to flee her home because of Taliban advancement towards the Qali Naw provincial center of Badghis province. She moved to another province for her safety and her family safety.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
4	West	Badghis	Qali Naw	10-Oct-16	On 10 Oct 2016, a female activist and a teacher for girl's school had to flee her home because of Taliban advancement towards the Qali Naw provincial center of Badghis province. She moved to another province for her safety and her family safety.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat

5	West	Badghis	Qali Naw	10-Oct-16	On 10 Oct 2016, a female WHRD had to flee her home because of Taliban advancement towards the Qali Naw provincial center of Badghis province. She moved to another province for her safety and her family safety.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
6	West	Badghis	Qali Naw	10-Oct-16	On 10 Oct 2016, a female WHRD and an education activist had to flee her home because of Taliban advancement towards the Qali Naw provincial center of Badghis province. She moved to another province for her safety and her family safety.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
7	West	Badghis	Qali Naw	10-Oct-16	On 10 Oct 2016, a male civil society activist had to flee his home because of Taliban advancement towards the Qali Naw provincial center of Badghis province. he moved to another province for his and his family safety.	WHRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
8	West	Badghis	Qali Naw	10-Oct-16	On 10 Oct 2016, a male civil society activist and a university professor had to flee his home because of Taliban advancement towards the Qali Naw provincial center of Badghis province. He moved to another province for his and his family safety.	WHRD	Male	Taliban	Threat

SRMO Incident Database (Baghlan province)

No	Region	Province	District	Date of Event	Description Of The Event (Date, Province, District, Area, Time, event)	Target	Gender	Perpetrator	Incident Type
1	North	Baghlan	City	2-Oct-16	On 2nd October 2016, a family court judge and a HRD was shot and attacked by two men dressed in police uniform while travelling from work to home in Baghlan-e-Jadeed area. He spent few days in coma and survived the attack but yet no investigation was carried out into the attack and no one was brought to justice in connection with the incident. The reason behind the attack is still unclear.	HRD	Male	Unknown	attack

SRMO Incident Database (Farah province)

No	Region	Province	District	Date of Event	Description Of The Event (Date, Province, District, Area, Time, event)	Target	Gender	Perpetrator	Incident Type
1	West	Farah	City	6-Oct-16	On 6 October 2016, a male civil society activist from Farah province was summoned by the provincial attorney office after he made an interview in national media and accused the local officials for corruption and shortcomings in fighting insurgency. His case is still under investigation and he was not allowed to leave the province till the attorney finalizes the case and to whether clear or charge him of conspiracy against local government officials. He had to be relocated to another province for his safety.	Civil Society	Male	Government	Threat

2	West	Farah		11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female WHRD had to flee her home after Taliban advanced toward the provincial capital and heavy weapon were fired towards the city.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
3	West	Farah		11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female WHRD and head of farmer union had to flee for her and her family safety after Taliban advanced toward the provincial capital and heavy weapon were fired towards the city. She was under Taliban threat in the past.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
4	West	Farah		11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a male HRD and head of a department had to flee for his and his family safety after Taliban advanced toward the provincial capital and heavy weapon were fired towards the city.	WHRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
5	West	Farah		11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a male civil society activist had to flee for his and his family safety after Taliban advanced toward the provincial capital and heavy weapon were fired towards the city.	WHRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
6	West	Farah	Anar Dara	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a male civil society activist had to flee for his and his family safety after Taliban advanced toward the provincial capital and heavy weapon were fired towards the city.	WHRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
7	West	Farah		11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female WHRD and a head teacher of a girls school had to flee for her and her family safety after Taliban advanced toward the provincial capital and heavy weapon were fired towards the city.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat

SRMO Incident Database (Helmand province)

No	Region	Province	District	Date of Event	Description Of The Event (Date, Province, District, Area, Time, event)	Target	Gender	Perpetrator	Incident Type
1	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female WHRD in Lashkargah city had flee with her family to Kabul, because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the whole city was under shells and heavy weapons attacks. There was concerns that the WHRD might be caught by the Taliban as they were looking for women and men who were associated with government or NGOs.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
2	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a male HRD in Lashkargah city forced to flee with his family to Kabul, because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
3	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a male HRD in Lashkargah city forced to flee with his family to Kabul, because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat

4	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female HRD from Lashkargah city forced to flee with her family because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
5	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female WHRD from Lashkargah city forced to flee with her family because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
6	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female WHRD from Lashkargah city forced to flee with her family because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
7	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female WHRD from Lashkargah city forced to flee with her family because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
8	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a male WHRD from Lashkargah city forced to flee with his family because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
9	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female WHRD from Lashkargah city forced to flee with her family because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Female	Taliban	Threat

10	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female WHRD from Lashkargah city forced to flee with her family because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
11	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a male WHRD from Lashkargah city forced to flee with his family because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
12	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a male WHRD from Lashkargah city forced to flee with his family because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
13	South	Helmand	Lashkargah	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a male WHRD from Lashkargah city forced to flee with his family because of ongoing fighting between the government and Taliban forces in the city. Taliban advanced towards the city and the city was under heavy weapon fire and shells.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat

SRMO Incident Database (Herat province)

No	Region	Province	District	Date of Event	Description Of The Event (Date, Province, District, Area, Time, event)	Target	Gender	Perpetrator	Incident Type
1	West	Herat	City	23-Feb-16	on 23 Feb 2016, a well-known WHRD was threatened by a provincial authority, after the WHRD criticized the provincial authority for not doing enough regarding women rights in the province. She also received number of threatening phone calls from people claiming to be Taliban. She didn't report it to security authorities knowing that this may only make her situation worse.	WHRD	Female	Govt/Taliban	Threat
2	West	Herat	City	24-Feb-16	On 24 Feb 2016, a female provincial council member was threatened by Taliban to quit her political career. Few months ago her car was high attacked by unknown armed men and her driver was badly injured; also a hand grenade was tossed into her home no one was injured but her house was damaged. No investigation was carried out into the incident and no one was arrested or prosecuted in connection with the incidents.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Attack/threat

3	West	Herat	City	24-Sep-16	On 24 Sep 2016 A male civil society activist received several gun shots after he was attacked by unknown armed men on a motor bike. According to the report the incident happened in the close vicinity of Herat governor office and the activist received five bullets in different parts of his body and was critically wounded. He was later taken to hospital. The victim was an active member of civil society and an outspoken of government corruption. Despite police promised to carry an investigation no details were given to the victim and no one was arrested in connection to the incident.	Civil Society	Male	Unknown	Attack
4	West	Herat	Heart City	11-Oct-16	On 11 Oct 2016, a female HRD and a doctor was threatened by drug mafia after she encourage addicted women to quit drugs and get a medical treatment. Reported the addicted women were sexuality abused by drug dealers and they threatened the WHRD to stop working with addicted women otherwise they will kill her and her family members. The WHRDs had to flee to another place for her and her family safety.	WHRD	Female	Drug Mafia	Threat

SRMO Incident Database (Khost province)

No	Region	Province	District	Date of Event	Description Of The Event (Date, Province, District, Area, Time, event)	Target	Gender	Perpetrator	Incident Type
1	South	Khost	City	1-Dec-16	On 1 Dec 2016, a male HRD and civil society activist was threatened by the local government officials, some local radicals and warlords, after he staged a campaign against the bad tradition of exchange of women and girls for settling blood feuds in Khost Province. The HRD received direct dead threats from local government officials and a number phone calls and emails threatening him to death if he is caught by those people. the HRD had to flee to another province for the fear of his life.	Civil society activist	Male	Govt/radicals	threat

SRMO Incident Database (Kunduz Province)

No	Region	Province	District	Date of Event	Description Of The Event (Date, Province, District, Area, Time, event)	Target	Gender	Perpetrator	Incident Type
1	North	Kunduz	City	7-Oct-16	on 7 Oct 2016, a female WHRD had to flee her home because of the fall of Kunduz and Taliban threat in the city. Reportedly the WHRD was receiving threats from Taliban before and there was a fear that they may be looking for HRD and WHRDs during their short control over Kunduz City.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
2	North	Kunduz	City	7-Oct-16	on 7 Oct 2016, a female WHRD had to flee her home because of the fall of Kunduz and Taliban threat in the city. Reportedly fearing that the Taliban may look for her as she was threatened by Taliban in the past for her work on women rights issues.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
3	North	Kunduz	City	7-Oct-16	on 7 Oct 2016, a female WHRD had to flee her home because of the fall of Kunduz and Taliban threat in the city. Reportedly fearing that the Taliban may look for her as she was threatened by Taliban in the past for her work on women rights issues.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
4	North	Kunduz	City	7-Oct-16	on 7 Oct 2016, a female WHRD had to flee her home because of the fall of Kunduz and Taliban threat in the city. Reportedly fearing that the Taliban may look for her as she was threatened by Taliban in the past for her work on women rights issues.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
5	North	Kunduz	City	7-Oct-16	on 7 Oct 2016, a female WHRD had to flee her home because of the fall of Kunduz and Taliban threat in the city. Reportedly fearing that the Taliban may look for her as she was threatened by Taliban in the past for her work on women rights issues.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat

6	North	Kunduz	City	7-Oct-16	on 7 Oct 2016, a well-known female WHRD had to flee her home because of the fall of Kunduz and Taliban threat in the city. Reportedly fearing that the Taliban may look for her as she was threatened by Taliban in the past for her work on women rights issues.	WHRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
7	North	Kunduz	City	11-Dec-16	On 11 Dec 2016, a female HRD received a serious prosecution threat from local government officials after she criticized the local governor of corruption and lack of capacity to defend the city against the Taliban attack, the provincial governor and security officials sent an absentia letter to summon her to public prosecutor's office for her provocative comments on media and social media.	WHRD	Female	Gvt	Threat

SRMO Incident Database (Uruzgan province)

No	Region	Province	District	Date of Event	Description Of The Event (Date, Province, District, Area, Time, event)	Target	Gender	Perpetrator	Incident Type
1	South	Uruzgan	Trin kot	12-Oct-16	On 12 Oct 2016, as a result of ongoing fighting and Taliban advancement towards Trinkot capital of Uruzgan province, a male HRD and a civil society activist forced to flee the fighting with his family to Kandahar city for their own safety.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
2	South	Uruzgan	Trin kot	12-Oct-16	On 12 Oct 2016, as a result of Taliban advancement towards Trinkot capital of Uruzgan province, a female WHRD forced to flee the fighting with her family to another neighboring province for their own safety.	HRD	Female	Taliban	Threat

3	South	Uruzgan	Trin kot	12-Oct-16	On 12 Oct 2016, as a result of Taliban advancement towards Trinkot capital of Uruzgan province, a female WHRD forced to flee the fighting with her family to another province for their own safety.	HRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
4	South	Uruzgan	Trin kot	12-Oct-16	On 12 Oct 2016, as a result of Taliban advancement towards Trinkot capital of Uruzgan province, a male HRD forced to flee the fighting with his family to another province for their own safety.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
5	South	Uruzgan	Trin kot	12-Oct-16	On 12 Oct 2016, as a result of Taliban advancement towards Trinkot capital of Uruzgan province, a male HRD forced to flee the fighting with his family to another province for their own safety.	HRD	Male	Taliban	Threat
6	South	Uruzgan	Trin kot	12-Oct-16	On 12 Oct 2016, as a result of Taliban advancement towards Trinkot capital of Uruzgan province, a female HRD and local politician was forced to flee the fighting with her family to another province for their own safety.	HRD	Female	Taliban	Threat
7	South	Uruzgan	Trin kot	12-Oct-16	On 12 Oct 2016, as a result of Taliban advancement towards Trinkot capital of Uruzgan province, a female WHRD forced to flee the fighting with her family to another province for their own safety.	HRD	Female	Taliban	Threat