Updated: June 1, 2010

**Province: Baghlan** 

Governor: Munshi Abdul Majid

Deputy Governor: Sheikh Baulat (Deceased as a result of February 2008 auto accident)

Provincial Police Chief: Abdul Rahman Sayedkhali

PRT Leadership: Hungary

Population Estimate: 1	Urban: 146.	Urban: 146,000 Rural: 616,500			: 616,500			
Area in Square Kilometers: 2	rea in Square Kilometers: 21,112 sq. km Capital: Puli Khumri							
Names of Districts:		Kahmard, Tala Wa Barfak, Khinjan, Dushi, Dahana-i-Ghori, Puli						
		Khumri, Andarab, Nahrin, Baghlan, Baghlani Jadid, Burka, Khost						
Wa Firing								
Composition of	Ethnic Groups:	Religio	<u>ous</u>	Tribal C	Groups:			
Population: <sup>2</sup>	Tajik: 52%		Groups: Gilzhai Pashtun 20%		Pashtun 20%			
	Pashtun: 20%	Sunni 85%						
	Hazara: 15%	Shi'a 15%						
	Uzbek: 12%							
	Tatar: 1%							
Income Generation	Major: Minor:							
		Agriculture			actory Work			
	Animal Husbandry				rivate Business			
	(Throughout Provin	Throughout Province)			Manual Labor			
					i-Khomri District)			
Crops/Farming/Livestock:		Agriculture:		Livestoo				
	Major: Wheat, Rice		Б 11		Dairy and Beef Cows			
	Secondary: Cotton,				Sheep (wool production)			
	Tertiary: Consumer			•	(in high elevation			
L'42 22 22 De42 Te42 1.3 200/	Household: Farm Fo	orestry,	Fruits	areas)				
Literacy Rate Total: <sup>3</sup> 20% Number of Educational	0 -11		C-11/	T T ! !	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
Institutions: <sup>4</sup>	Schools: Total: 330		Colleges/					
Institutions:	Primary: 70		Baghlan University-Departments of					
	Lower Secondary	. 161	Physics, Social Science and Literature					
	Higher Secondary		in Pul-e-Khumri. Departments of Agriculture and Industry in Baghlan					
	Islamic: 19	. //	Teacher Training Center-located in					
	Tech/Vocational:			Center focuted in				
	University: 1			411111				
Number of Security	January: 3	May	: 0	Sep	tember: 1			
Incidents, 2007: 8	February: 0	June						
	March: 0	July: 0		Nov	vember: 2			
	April: 2	Aug	-		ember: 0			
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation: <sup>5</sup>		2007	2007: 671 ha					
NGOs Active in Province:	UNHCR, FAO, WHO, IOM, UNOPS, UNICEF, ANBP, ACTED,							
	AKF/AFDN, CONCERN, HALO TRUST, ICARDA, SCA,							

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Central Statistics Office Afghanistan, 2005-2006 Population Statistics, available from <a href="http://www.cso-af.net/cso/index.php?page=1&language=en">http://www.cso-af.net/cso/index.php?page=1&language=en</a> (accessed May 7, 2008).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Afghan Information Management Services, Baghlan District Profiles, available from <a href="http://www.aims.org.af/ssroots.aspx?seckeyt=378">http://www.aims.org.af/ssroots.aspx?seckeyt=378</a> (accessed July 30, 2008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 164.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Ministry of Education: School Survey Summary Report, 2007, available from <a href="http://www.moe.gov.af/">http://www.moe.gov.af/</a> (accessed July 31, 2008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: Afghanistan Opium Winter Rapid Assessment Survey, February 2008.

	BRAC, ABC, KRBP, CFA, AGEF	S SWCRA AACRD				
PRT Activity:		Other Aid Projects:				
Activity has been low due to		Most projects have				
prioritization of more		concentrated on one time				
underdeveloped provinces		disbursements of humanitarian				
underdeveloped provinces	•	aid, increasing the rule of law,				
		and response to the large				
		terrorist attack of November				
		2007.				
		2007.				
Transportation:	All Weather Primary:					
See Map Below	Route 2: Kabul - Pol-e-Khumri - Sher Khan Highway					
1	Route A76: Pol-e-Khumri - Kholm - Mazar-e-Sharif Highway					
	<i>g</i> ,					
	All Weather Secondary:					
	Route 104: Dushi - Khamard Highway					
	Track:					
	Khenjan - Andarab Road					
	Pul-e-Khumri - Nahrin Road					
The state item.	Baghlani Jadid - Burka - Khost-wa					
Electricity:	The province has one power	Estimated Population w/access: 17% <sup>7</sup>				
	generation station. The majority of residents rely on public electricity.					
	Access to electricity is much greate					
	in the urban area where 65% of	Ci				
	households have access to electrici	ity				
	however totals approximately 4%	,				
	with only half of these (2%) have					
	access to public electricity.					
Health Facilities: <sup>8</sup>	Hospitals: 1 in Pul-i-Khumri	Clinics, etc.: 46				
Primary Sources of Drinking	Rivers, Streams, Canals, Springs	Availability of Potable				
Water: <sup>9</sup>	provide non-potable water for the	Water: 7 %				
	majority of the population. Most	Defined as: Piped water,				
	residents must walk a considerable	1 1 1				
	distance to access safe drinking wa	1 0				
		rain water.				
	ad river passes through Kunduz, Bag					
is the most important and vital source of water for the North East region of Afghanistan. It is fed						
primarily by snow-melt and is heavily utilized for agricultural irrigation. The river and its tributaries also serve as the primary source of drinking water for many communities and their						
livestock.	mary source of drinking water for m	iany communities and their				
Significant Topographic	60% of the province is considered	mountainous or semi-				
Features	60% of the province is considered mountainous or semi- mountainous while 40% is classified as flat or semi-flat.					
1 Cutures	mountainous winte 40/0 is classific	ca as trat or settiffiat.				

 $<sup>^6\,</sup>MRRD\,Provincial\,Development\,Plan,\,Baghlan:\,Provincial\,Profile,\,2005.\,\,Available\,at\\ \underline{http://www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp/Provincial\%\,20Profiles/Baghlan\%\,20PDP\%\,20Provincial\%\,20profile.pdf}\,(accessed\,August\,4,\,Available\,at)$ 2008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> MRRD, NRVA Survey Results: Access to Electricity Report, 2005. Available at http://www.mrrd.gov.af/aird/Access%20to%20Electricity%20report.pdf (accessed July 21, 2008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> USAID, Aghanistan: Baghlan Health Facilities Map, June 2005. Available at

http://www.aims.org.af/services/sectoral/health/provincial/english/baghlan.pdf (accessed July 31, 2008)

<sup>9</sup> Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 166. Available at http://hdr.undp.org/en/reports/nationalreports/asiathepacific/afghanistan/nhdr2007.pdf (accessed July 21, 2008)

### **Political Landscape:**

### Governor:



Munshi Abul

Majid

### Governor Munshi Abdul Majid

Governor Munshi Abul Majid replaced as the Haji Mohammad Akbar Barakzai Governor of Baghlan in 2010. Munshi is a Pashtun from Baghlan province who has longstanding ties to Hekmatyar's *Hezb-i-Islami* and is allegedly involved in consolidating the party and reviving its communications network across the country. 10 He previously served as the Governor of Badakshan since 2005. In 2007, Majid spearheaded a successful opium eradication campaign in Badakhshan, leading to a meager 200 hectares of opium being cultivated in the province (in 2008) from a high of 15,607 hectares in 2004. 11 Munshi is believed to maintain strong relations with Haji Juma Khan Hamdard, a Pashtun warlord and rival of General Rashid Dostum. Hamdard formerly served as the Governor of Jawzjan Province and is currently the Governor of Paktia Province and is known to maintain relations with Hezb-i-Islami operatives. The Afghan Border Police stationed in Badakshan is allegedly at odds with the Provincial police loyal to Munshi. He was removed from office in April, 2009 following protests alleging his abuse of power. 12

**Deputy Governor:** 

Picture	
Forthcoming	ļ

Sheikh Daulat

Sheikh Daulat served as head of Relief Commission of Afghan Interim Authority in Nahrin during April 2002 earthquake.

He died February 17, 2008 as a result of an auto accident. No information on replacement available at this time.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Cole Hansen, Christian Dennys and Idrees Zaman, "Conflict analysis: Baharak district, Badakhshan province," *CPAU*, February 2009.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Cole Hansen, Christian Dennys and Idrees Zaman, "Conflict analysis: Baharak district, Badakhshan province," *CPAU*, February 2009.

<sup>&</sup>quot;Governor replaced in Afghanistan after protest," *China View*, May 5, 2009.

## **Chief of Police:**

Picture Forthcoming Abdul Rahman Sayedkhili Abdul Rahman Sayedkhili previously served as the Police Chief of Kabul and was re-assigned from Kabul to Baghlan in late 2006. He blames resurgent Taliban and local warlords for instability in province.

Abdul Rahman Sayedkhili is credited with the arrest of one suspect in response to the November 2007 suicide bombing that killed 61 and wounded 95.

Abdul Rahman Sayedkhili also led the operation resulting in the surrender of Bibi Aysha. Reportedly stated, "Because she surrendered, the government will forgive her for her rebellion. But if someone accuses her of any other crime, she will have to answer for it in court."

# Meshrano Jirga Members: 14



Mohammad Yonus Shirin Agha

Permanent Meshrano Jirga Member



Abdul Satar

Transitional Meshrano Jirga Member

# Wolesi Jirga Members: 15



Qazi Habibullah Ramin



Mawlawi Abdul Haq



Helaluddeen



Wakill Sayyad Agha

Ustad Najia Aimaq

Shukria Eisakhail

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Institute For War and Peace Reporting, Afghan Recovery Report: Female Afghan Outlaw Comes In From The Cold, 09July2008. Available at <a href="http://www.iwpr.net/?p=arr&s=f&o=345621&apc\_state=henh">http://www.iwpr.net/?p=arr&s=f&o=345621&apc\_state=henh</a> (accessed August 7, 2008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from http://www.results.jemb.org/resultsMJ.asp?list=mj&offset=30 (accessed August 6, 2008)

<sup>15</sup> Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from

http://www.results.jemb.org/leadingCandidates.asp?ElectionID=1&ProvinceID=16 (accessed August 8, 2008)



Mohammad Asim

# **Provincial Council Members:** 16

Mawlawi Nagibullah Sajad

Mawlawi Sirajudin Seerat



Shukrullah



Abdul Ghayas



Fazlulhaq Andarabi



Mohammad Hussain Khoshbeen



Abdul Shakoor Hasanzada



Doctor Muhaiuddin Paikan Haidari



Mawlawi Zainul Abidin Alawi



Nooria Hameedi



Habib Rahman Jahid



Makhdoom Khalil Ahmad



Shukria Aseel



Habiba Ahmadi



Zarghona Stanakzai

# **Primary Political Parties:**

### Jamiat-e Islami (Islamic Society of Afghanistan):

Led by Burhanuddin Rabbani. It is predominately a Tajik political party which was active in the anti-Soviet jihad and a major political player in the Northern Alliance. Today Rabbani supports Karzai. Yunus Qanuni's Hezb-e Afghanistan Naween broke away from Jamiat-e Islami. The vast majority of Baghlan's District Chiefs are affiliated with Jamiat.

#### Shuria-e Nazar:

The party was founded by Ahmed Shah Masood in an effort to offset the power of Pashtun ethnic majority in Afghanistan. The Shuria-e-Nezar group was a key player in the Afghan Civil war that followed the Anti-Soviet Jihad. After the Taliban were removed from power in 2001, this same group re-emerged in Afghan politics and has continued to seek power for their former Northern Alliance patrons. Many Afghan observers believe that groups like Shuria-e Nazar serve to alienate the Pashtun majority and inadvertently undermine U.S. anti-terror and counterinsurgency efforts in Afghanistan.<sup>17</sup>

### **Hezb-e Wahdat (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan):**

Hazara umbrella organization led by Mohammad Karim Khalili. Hezb-e Wahdat is an offshoot and successor to a party of the same name that was established in 1990 when several Iran-based, Shi'a jihadi parties merged. Khalili

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Wolesi Jirga & Provincial Council Elections Afghanistan 2005, available from http://www.results.jemb.org/leadingCandidates.asp?ElectionID=2&pcv=2&ProvinceID=16&offset=0 (accessed August 8,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Afghan Meli Tolena: US and the Warlords in Afghanistan. Available at: <a href="http://afghanmelitolena.com/html/warlords.html">http://afghanmelitolena.com/html/warlords.html</a> (accessed July 28, 2008)

was chosen to lead the party after the Taliban killed Abdul Ali Mazari, the head of original Wahdat party, in 1995. Khalili's drift toward an alliance with the Taliban is generally blamed for his party's factional disintegration. Khalili has served as second vice president in President Karzai's government and wields particular influence among Hazaras in central Afghanistan. His party's success or failure might be viewed as an indicator of the degree to which Hazaras believe the current government reflects their aspirations. <sup>18</sup>

Islamic Unity Party of the People of Afghanistan (Hizb-e Wahdat-e Islami-ye Mardum-e Afghanistan): Led by Mohammad Mohaqeq, The Islamic Unity Party of the People of Afghanistan, like Khalili's party, is an offshoot of the original Wahdat entity formed with the merger of Iran-based, Shi'a Jihadi groups. Mohaqeq was Wahdat's main representative in northern Afghanistan once the Taliban gained control of Kabul in 1996, becoming an ally of the United Front for the Salvation of Afghanistan (aka the Northern Alliance). In the post-Bonn Interim Administration, Mohaqeq served as a Karzai deputy and minister of planning. Mohaqeq placed third in the presidential ballot with 11.7 percent of the vote. Mohaqeq's party is expected to participate in a powerful opposition bloc in the National Assembly. 19

### Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HiG):

Mujahideen party active since the Soviet invasion; led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. HiG was famous for its shifting loyalties, and was the favorite party of Pakistan's ISI until the rise of the Taliban. Former members continue to wield considerable influence. Thus far, HiG has been actively opposed to US-led and Afghan national forces. Hekmatyar is a Kharoti Ghilzai and, therefore, less influential than the much more respected and powerful Khugianis, such as Haji Din Mohammad and Anwarul Haq Mohammad. The HIG has been frequently accused of fomenting instability and lawlessness in Baghlan by its political and military rivals.

# **Human Terrain:**

**Tajiks:** Tajiks are the second largest ethnic group in Afghanistan after the Pashtuns and comprise between 25-30% of the population. In Baghlan, Tajiks are the majority ethnic group and represent over 50% of the population. The Tajiks in Afghanistan tend to live in settled communities as opposed to a nomadic lifestyle. Pashtuns refer to them as *Farsiwan*, or speakers of Farsi, the lingua franca of Afghanistan (50% of Afghanistan speaks Farsi, as opposed to only 35% for Pashtu). Between the Tajiks and Pashtuns there has been significant animosity in recent years. Forming the backbone of the Northern Alliance, they also have a base in the nation of Tajikistan. They held out fiercely against the Taliban. Most Tajik are Sunni Muslims, but a few are Shi'a. Tajiks made up the majority of the Northern Alliance, both in terms of membership and leadership. Tribal ties have largely broken down among the Tajiks; therefore, social organization is defined primarily by geography. Despite their lack of cohesiveness the Tajiks are often brought together due to the perceived common threat posed by the Pashtuns. Currently, Tajik warlords vie for control of illicit opium and arms transport with competing Uzbek, and Ismaili militias throughout Baghlan Province.

**Pasthun:** Pashtuns are located in a small pocket extending from north of Doshi through Pul-e Khumri and north through the City of Baghlan in Baghlan province. They are the majority group in Baghlan Jadid district in the northwestern corner of the province and comprise roughly 20% of the population of Baghlan as a whole. The largest single ethnicity of Afghanistan, the Pashtun, and in particular the largest tribe of Said, the Ghilzai, formed the backbone of the Taliban movement. Traditionally beholden to the moral code of *Pashtunwali* ("the way of the Pashtun"), they can easily be deeply offended by breaches of the code and carry the grudge for generations. Several Pashtun communities were grafted into Tajik-dominated Baghlan in the Nineteenth Century as part of the king's 'pashtunization' policy. In general, Pashtuns have been slow to adapt to post-Taliban Afghanistan. Jadid district, north of Pul-i-Khumri, is dominated by Pashtuns and was a Taliban stronghold as late as 2001. At the outset of OEF, the U.S. backed Northern Alliance advance towards Kabul resulted in reported atrocities against

<sup>20</sup> Chris Mason, *Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Afghanistan Votes: Political Parties, Major Parties. Available at: <a href="http://www.azadiradio.org/en/specials/elections/parties.asp">http://www.azadiradio.org/en/specials/elections/parties.asp</a> (accessed July 24, 2008)

<sup>19</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> 2007 CIA World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, <a href="https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html">https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html</a> (accessed June 28, 2007).

Pashtun communities in Jadid district. Additionally, Jadid District is still dominated by former Prime Minister Hekmatyar's fundamentalist <u>Hizb-i-Islami</u> party, which has resisted the Karzai government. Over the course of American involvement in Afghanistan, Pashtun enclaves in Baghlan have been more susceptible to infiltration by anti-government elements than Tajik and Uzbek dominated areas. Tajiks and Uzbeks in Baghlan blame Pashtun elements or members of the HIG for most of the security incidents which have taken place in the province since 2001. Finally, the continuous state of armed conflict which has characterized Afghanistan for the past three decades has resulted in frequent displacements and subsequent land disputes between the Tajik majority and Pashtun minority in Baghlan province. These disputes have yet to be successfully resolved and serve to fuel longstanding animosity between the Pashtun and their nieghbors within Baghlan.<sup>22</sup>

**Gilzhai Pashtun:** The largest single tribe of the Pashtun ethnicity, the Ghalji or Ghilzai, and in particular the Hotaki clan, formed the backbone of the Taliban movement. Long resentful of the power the Duranni tribe (of which Karzai and Zahir Shah are members), the Ghilzai are fiercely independent and often view themselves, as the largest grouping of Pashtuns in the country and the rightful leaders of Afghanistan. Ghilzai Tree (PDF) Baghlan's Pashtun minority is primarily Gilzhai.

Hazara: In Baghlan, the Hazara comprise approximately 15% of the population. As a distinct minority ethnic and religious group within the population of Afghanistan; they have often been the target of discriminatory and violent repression. Most likely descended from the Mongols of Genghis Khan, (there is also a strong argument that they are of Eastern Turkic origin), the Hazara are noticeably different in physical appearance when compared to the Pashtun majority. In terms of religion, the vast majority of the Hazara are of the Shia Muslim faith, again in contrast to the Pashtuns who are Sunni Muslim. Due to these differences, "the Hazara have experienced discrimination at the hands of the Pashtun-dominated government throughout the history of modern Afghanistan."23 As the traditional underclass of Afghan society, Hazara were exploited and made to work as servants and laborers. As a result, there tends to be an anti-government and anti-Pashtun bias among the Hazara. In present day Afghanistan, the Hazara are divided geographically into two main groups: the Hazara and those who live outside the Hazarajat. The Hazarajat is located in the Hindu Kush Mountains in central Afghanistan and is "centered on Bamiyan province and include[s] areas of Ghor, Uruzgan, Wardak, and Ghazni province." The Hazara living outside of the Hazarajat live in and around Kabul, Herat, Mazar-e Sharif and Samangan province. Due to atrocities committed against them by the Taliban, the Hazara by and large are opposed to the Taliban. In August 1998, the Taliban massacred approximately 4,000 Hazara in Mazara-e Sharif; this massacre was followed by another the next month when the Taliban killed another 500 Hazara in Bamiyan. The Hezb-e Wahdat (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan) is an umbrella political organization which commands the support of large numbers of Hazara. The Hazara are also often at odds with the Kuchi population within the Hazarajat.

**Uzbek:** The Uzbek people of Afghanistan are found north of the Hindu Kush in Afghan Turkistan. In Afghanistan, they number approximately 1.6 million and comprise around 12% of the population of Baghlan Province. The presence of the Uzbek people in this region was facilitated by the frequent invasion of Central Asian Turks throughout history. Uzbeks are the most populous Turkish group in Afghanistan and are recognizable by their broad, flat faces and lighter skin when compared to the Pashtuns. They are historically farmers and stockmen, breeding the karakul sheep and an excellent type of Turkman horse. Their kinsmen reside in the central Asian republic of Uzbekistan. Many Uzbeks fled into northern Afghanistan in the 1920s to escape the suppression when the Soviet government was trying to stamp out their customs and Moslem religion. Uzbek militias represent one piece of a perennially complicated security puzzle within the province.

**Tatar:** The Tatar people comprise roughly 1% of the population of Baghlan. They are classified as Turkic in origin and exist in significant concentrations in many former Soviet Republics. Their native tongue is Kazan Tatar (meaning archer). The physical appearance of the Tatar varies from blue-eyed blondes to that of typical Central

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies: Baghlan Commentary, November 2007. Available at <a href="http://www.rusi.org/research/militarysciences/defence/commentary/rss/ref:C47334FB2B6F7F/">http://www.rusi.org/research/militarysciences/defence/commentary/rss/ref:C47334FB2B6F7F/</a> (accessed August 7, 2008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> The Afghan Network: Ethnic Group Profiles, The Turkish Groups of Afghanistan. Available at <a href="http://www.afghan-network.net/Ethnic-Groups/uzbeks-turkmen.html">http://www.afghan-network.net/Ethnic-Groups/uzbeks-turkmen.html</a> (accessed July 24, 2008)

Asian peoples. Generally, they have oval faces with little facial hair. Historically, the Tatar people have existed as an identifiable group since the tenth century. They have weathered the Mongol conquest of the thirteenth century and domination by the Russian empire and subsequent Soviet Union beginning in the sixteenth century. Today, the Tatar people are settled (as opposed to nomadic) and are generally peasants and merchants with no traditional tribal structure. The father is the legal head of the household in Tatar families and holds sole decision making authority within the family, which frequently includes up to three generations in one household. Most Tatar people are Sunni Hanafite Muslim. However, many pre-Islamic practices persist such as; Celebration of the "Rites of Spring", honoring of saints and holy places, belief in the power of "the evil eye", eating of pork, and not observing Islamic fasts. <sup>26</sup>

### **Security Landscape:**

### **General Level of Security:**

Warlords - The Disarmament of Illegally Armed Groups (DIAG) process is operated on a voluntary basis. Therefore, only a few commanders in the province have submitted small quantities of functional weapons. This reality amounts to a token gesture on the part of various warlords and should not be misinterpreted as evidence of anything other than business as usual in the Afghan hinterland. Efforts to target independent militias under the control of provincial commanders are ongoing but are likely to meet with limited success. Warlords continue to dominate public life and are involved in various criminal enterprises. Evidence exist that Baghlan and its associated highways serves as an area of safe transit for opium is from Badakhshan, destined for Central Asia weapons caches bound for insurgent held areas in southern Afghanistan. Uzbek, Tajik and Ismaili militias are locked in conflict for control of the strategic routes from Baghlan Province to Kabul, Herat and beyond. This ongoing competition has led to widespread lawlessness in the province. In 2007, Baghlan's provincial governor was replaced three times as a result of their inability or unwillingness to reign in warring factions within the province. Baghlan's local administration suffers from division, corruption, and factional infiltration, further complicating efforts to promote stability and security. The customary alliances between the U.S. backed Karzai government and various northern warlords is a fundamental element which now serves to de-legitimize the Afghan government in provinces like Baghlan.

Poppy eradication efforts have met with few problems in many districts. Opium crops in Burka, Nahrein and Khonjan districts have been successfully eradicated. There are ongoing campaigns in Tale Va Barfak district. Andarab district remains un-engaged by the eradication program. Unfortunately, the geographical location of the Baghlan Province and the existence of a major north-south highway (Route 2) make it a major drug route from southern Afghanistan to Central Asia and Europe. Sources have indicated that Bibi Aysha (aka The Kaftar) was allied with a recently escaped local Taliban commander, Mullah Dad-e Khuda, and another local warlord, Imam-e Sabz (the Green Imam) in the control of the drug trafficking routes within Baghlan Province as late as July 2008.

The presence of and minority Gilzhai Pashtun enclave, traditionally opposed to Duranni rule and previously aligned with the Taliban regime, serves as a potential avenue for resurgent Taliban infiltration in the province.

## Taliban/Insurgent/Warlord Commanders in Baghlan:

Bibi Aysha (The Kafter, ie The Pigeon): Female warlord surrendered to Baghlan authorities in July 2008.

**Mullah Dad-e Khuda:** Local Taliban commander noted for his escape from a prison in Bagram in the Summer of 2008. He is linked with the control of drug trafficking routes within Baghlan and elsewhere.

<sup>26</sup> The Joshua Project, People-in-Country Profile: Afghanistan, Tatar. Available at <a href="http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=AF&rop3=109874">http://www.joshuaproject.net/peopctry.php?rog3=AF&rop3=109874</a> (accessed August 7, 2008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Royal United Services Institute for Defense and Security Studies: Baghlan Commentary, November 2007. Available at <a href="http://www.rusi.org/research/militarysciences/defence/commentary/rss/ref:C47334FB2B6F7F/">http://www.rusi.org/research/militarysciences/defence/commentary/rss/ref:C47334FB2B6F7F/</a> (accessed August 7, 2008)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> MRRD Provincial Development Plan, Baghlan: Provincial Profile, 2005. Available at <a href="http://www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp/Provincial%20Profiles/Baghlan%20PDP%20Provincial%20profile.pdf">http://www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp/Provincial%20Profiles/Baghlan%20PDP%20Provincial%20profile.pdf</a> (accessed August 4, 2008)

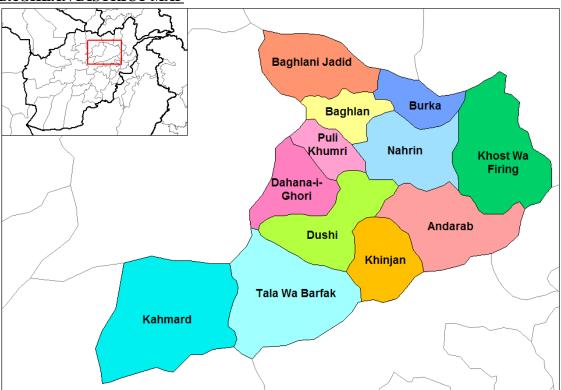
**Imam-e Sabz** (**The Green Imam**): Reputed to be heavily involved in control of drug and arms trafficking routes in Baghlan.

**Mullah Mir Muhammad-** He served as the Taliban's Shadow Governor for Baghlan province until his arrest during a clandestine operation in January, 2010. He was a known associate of top Kunduz Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Salaam Baryali who was also arrested durin the same raid. Mir Mummand was replaced by Mullah Rouhullah.

**Mullah Rouhullah-** He briefly served as the Taliban's new Shadow Governor for Baghlan province before he was killed during a combat operation along with his deputy, Mullah Mukhtar, and three other Taliban military commanders on May 29, 2010.<sup>29</sup>

**Commander Mubarez**- Appointed spokesman for the Taliban in Baghlan and likely to be the assistant to the Taliban Shadow Government in Baghlan province.

### **BAGHLAN DISTRICT MAP**



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Two other commanders killed in the strike or around the same time in northern Baghlan were Mullah Haji Muhamood and Mullah Kajoor.

# **REGIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE MAP**

