

Province: Kandahar

Governor: Tooryalai Wesa

Deputy Governor Eng. Abdul Latif Ashna

Provincial Police Chief: Brigadier General Sardar Mohammad Zazai



Population Estimate: 1,070,200	Urban: 323,900 (2007)	Rural: 590,000 (65%) ¹		
Population Estimate/Gender	Female: 543,500	Male: 526,700 ²		
Area in Square Kilometers:	54,022		Capital: Kandahar	
Names of Districts:	Kharkrez, Ghorak, Arghandab, Maruf, Spin Boldak, Kandahar, Dand, Daman, Arghistan, Shorabak, Panjwayi, Maywand, Shah Wali Kot, Zhar, Mian Nashin, Reg			
Composition of Population:	<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Pashtun, Baluch, Hazara, Tajik, <i>Farsiwan</i>	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Sunni, small Shi'a, Hindu, and Sikh minority	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Zirak Durrani (Barakzai, Popalzai, Alikozai, Achekzai, Mohamadzai) Panjpai Durrani (Noorzai, Ishaqzai, Alizai) & Ghilzai (Tokhi, Hotak, Tarakai, Andar, Sulumain Khel, Kharoti)	
Occupation of Population	Major: Agriculture & animal husbandry, business/industry, narcotics		Minor: Trade, smuggling	
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Pomegranates, ³ carrots, alfalfa, spinach, and cauliflower. Illicit: Opium (<i>teriac</i>), cannabis resin (<i>hashish</i>) (<i>chars</i>)		Sheep, cows and goats	
Literacy Rate Total: 13% ⁴	Number of Educational Institutions: 204			
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:	<u>2006:</u> 12,619 ha	<u>2007:</u> 16,615 ha	<u>2008:</u> 14,623 ha	<u>2009:</u> 19,811 ha
NGOs Active in Province:	Various UN organizations, Islamic Relief Organization, International Organization for Migration, CARE, Médecins Sans Frontières, Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance (CHA), Mine Action Programme for Afghanistan (MAPA), Southern and Western Afghanistan and Balochistan Association for Coordination (SWABAC), Afghan Health and Development Services, Afghanistan Human Rights Organization, Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent			

¹ Afghan Information Management Services, *2003-2004 Population Statistics*, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/> (accessed September 17, 2007).

² Central Statistic Organization, Population by residence, sex, and age, available from <http://nrva.cso.gov.af/population.html> (accessed May 3, 2010).

³ In 2009, Pomegranates were among one of the most important crops; cultivated on an estimated third of all arable land.

⁴ *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 164.

	Societies, Sanayee Development Organization, Development and Ability Organization, Afghanistan NGO Safety Office		
Provincial Aid Projects: ⁵ Total PRT Projects: 365	Planned Cost: \$39,033,534 Total Spent: \$4,750,560		
<u>Transportation</u> : Road, large airport in Kandahar city, horse & camel	<u>Primary Roads</u> : Afghan ring road (from Qalat to Lashkar Gah via Kandahar city), from Kandahar to Quetta via Spin Boldak, Kandahar to Arghandab (Eidgah road), and Kandahar to Tirin Kot		
<u>Electricity Notes</u> : Kandahar's main sources of electricity comes from 14 diesel-run generators in Brikhna Kot (<i>nahiya</i> 6) located to the north of the city center. They can provide six hours of electricity in a 24-hour period. A measurable percentage of Kandahar's residents, NGOs and businesses rely on private generators. The National Solidarity Program (NSP) has provided electricity through solar panels and generators in <i>nahiyas</i> 2, 5, 6, and 9. Six new solar panels and two generators have been established in an area called Naw-e Hawza to the north of the city center and provided electricity to residents that did not have access to the city electricity grid.			
<u>Health Facilities</u> : 90+	<u>Hospitals</u> : 13 state-run hospitals/clinics ⁶	<u>Clinics</u> : 86	<u>Rx</u> : 730+ ⁷
<u>Media</u> : FM radio channels available include: FM radio channels such as BBC, Radio Azadi, Voice of America and Radio Kandahar (government radio). Radio <i>Kilid</i> (from Kabul). <u>Print Media</u> : Sur Ghar (monthly magazine; Pashtu/English) and Tolo Afghan.			
<u>Rivers</u> : Arghandab Rod, Tarnak, Rod-I Lurah, Pishin Lora, Aliaband.			
<u>Irrigation</u> : Arghandab canal network: Pirpaimal Wiala, Noshi Jan and Robat Wiala, Loya Wiala ('big canal') connects the Aliband and Arghandab Rivers to the north of the city centre and reaches Qalamtar and Khoshab in Daman District.			
Significant Topographic Features	Desert in south, hills in the north, mountainous terrain along Pak border in Spin Boldak.		

Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:

Governor Tooryalai Wesa

Tooryalai Wesa, 58, was appointed by Afghan President Hamid Karzai as the new Governor of Kandahar



Province on December 18, 2008. Wesa replaced General Rahmatullah Raufi, who only served four months as Kandahar's Governor before being removed. Tooryalai Wesa is an agricultural expert who worked at the University of British Columbia for the past 13-years. He grew up in Kandahar City and served as Kandahar University's first president until he left the country in 1991 with his wife, who also works at UBC.⁸ The couple has three children and has lived in Coquitlam, B.C. since 1991.

Wesa is a member of the Mohammadzai tribe and retains incredibly close ties with

⁵ ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007.

⁶ These state-run hospitals and clinics are located in Kandahar City and include: Chinese Shafakhana, Nizamai Shafakhana, Campaign Malaria and Lashmania Office, TB Treatment and Control Center, Alhadi Farhad Roghtoon, Bilal Roghtoon, Alhajir Khidmat Roghtoon, Ayoubee Roghtoon, Alsina Roghtoon, Itihad Roghtoon, Hila Roghtoon, Alhadee Roghton, and Noor Shafakhana.

⁷ There are over 730 pharmacies in Kandahar City alone with medicine available from China, India, Iran, and Pakistan.

⁸ "Afghan-Canadian named new Kandahar governor," *CBC*, December 13, 2008. Available at, <http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2008/12/18/kandahar-gov.html?ref=rss>

the Karzai family, especially with Qayum Karzai.⁹ Wesa speaks six languages and is well respected among many Kandaharis because of his tribal affiliation and background in rural development. Wesa is also the cousin of the current Kandahar City mayor, Ghulam Hayder Hamidi (*Photo source: CBC*).

Deputy Governor Eng. Abdul Latif Ashna

Engineer Abdul Latif Ashna was born in Kandahar City, and is one of the well-known educated figures of the City. He is reportedly a Ghilzai Pashtun. He previously served as a professor and the head of engineering faculty in Kandahar University. He ran unsuccessfully in the 2005 Parliamentary elections. Later, he was appointed as the director of Rural Rehabilitation and Development Department in Kandahar province. In 2009, he survived a deadly suicide- attack blitz by the Taliban that killed a number of high ranking government officials and members of the Kandahar Provincial Council.¹⁰ He serves as deputy governor of Kandahar province. He replaced Deputy Governor Hamayoon in May, 2010.



(Former) Deputy Governor Dr. Ghulam Jelani Hamayoon



Dr. Ghulam Jelani Hamayoon is formerly affiliated with UNAMA and assumed the role as Deputy Governor around the time Governor Asadullah Khalid was appointed in June 2005. Ghulam Jelani hails from the Arghandab district, the same areas the current Governor of Kandahar Tooryalai Wesa is from. He is considered only a marginal political powerbroker in Kandahar City. He resigned from his position after declaring his candidacy of the 2010 *Wolesi Jirga* elections.

Chief of Police Brigadier General Sardar Mohammad Zazai

Brigadier General Sardar Mohammad Zazai replaced Colonel Matiullah Qateh as the Kandahar Provincial Police Chief soon after Maitullah was killed in a shootout on June 29, 2009. The deputy police chief is currently Fazal Ahmad Sherzad.



⁹ Graeme Smith, "New Kandahar governor Karzais' childhood friend," December 19, 2008. Available at, <http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/LAC.20081219.AFGHAN19/TPStory/International>

¹⁰ <http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=72134>

(Former/Deceased) Chief of Police Colonel Matiullah Qateh



Colonel Matiullah Khan replaced former Kandahar provincial police chief, Syed Aqa Aqib, two weeks after the spectacular Taliban attack against the Sarposa prison complex in downtown Kandahar.¹¹ (Photo source: *National Post*). Maitullah Qateh is an Achekzai Pashtun from the central province of Uruzgan. He was associated with the PDPA/Khalqi faction during the time of the Soviet-Afghan war. Maitullah Qateh was killed in a shootout on June 29, 2009 along with ten other police officers. The provincial head of the criminal investigations department, Abdul Khaliq Hamdard, also died, officials said. Afterwards, 41 private security guards who work alongside American intelligence personnel were arrested.¹²

National Directorate of Security Mohammad Naeem Momin



Mohammad Naeem Momin is currently the acting NDS chief for Kandahar Province.

(Former) National Directorate of Security Chief Sadullah Khan



Known for his efficiency, there have been complaints that NDS methods in Kandahar have included serious human rights violations. Khan has admitted that on occasion NDS interrogations have gone too far.¹³

Wolesi Jirga Members:¹⁴

	Abdul Qayyum Karzai	Male Popolzai Pashtun	President Karzai’s brother, has an M.A. from USC, owns at least one restaurant in the U.S., on Narcotics Committee
	Noorulhaq Olumi	Male Barakzai Pashtun; Mutahed-e Melli	Armed-services committee chair. Received military training in the U.S. in the 1970s, and was governor general in southern Afghanistan before Soviet invasion. Was in Parcham faction, related to fmr pres. Karmal. Lived in Holland during Taliban era.










¹¹ The Sarposa prison complex was assaulted by the Taliban on June 13, 2008. The attack resulted in heavy destruction of the prison’s walls and parts of the main building. The attack set free an estimated 1,100 prisoners, including up to 400 Taliban fighters. Fred Burton and Scott Stewart, “The Destruction of Sarposa,” Stratfor, June 18, 2008 http://www.stratfor.com/weekly/terrorism_weekly_june_18?ip_auth_redirect=1

¹² “Kandahar police chief dies in shootout,” *CBC News*, June 29, 2009.



¹³ Graeme Smith, “From Canadian custody into cruel hands,” *Globe and Mail*, 23 April 2007

<<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20070423.wdetainee23/BNStory/Afghanistan/>> (3 December 2007).


¹⁴ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

	Mohammad Arif Noorzai	Male Noorzai Pashtun	First deputy speaker. Related to Pres. Karzai through marriage. High school graduate. Remains high profile leader of the Noorzai tribe and his family has past ties to the Royal family.
	Khalid Pashtoon	Male Barakzai Pashtun	Deputy chair of internal security committee. Attended USC, former aide to Sherzai. Brother of Yusuf Pashtoon, Urban planning minister.
	Haji Ameer Lali	Male Popolzai Pashtun	Member of armed services committee. Demobilized local commander who wields considerable influence west of Kandahar City.
	Haji Habibullah Jan*	Male Alokzai Pashtun	Member of Kandahar security shura, sometimes rival of Karzai. He was shot to death on July 5, 2008 by unknown gunmen as he left his home.
	Haji Ahmad Shah Khan Asakzai	Male Pashtun	Tribal elder from Spin Boldak. Member of armed-services committee
	Obaidullah	Male Pashtun	Member of the national economic committee. Came to power in a controversial election. High school graduate.
	Fariba Ahmadi Kakar	Female Pashtun	Member of the communications committee. Self-educated teacher
	Shakiba	Female member of Olumi party	Deputy of Environment committee. School principal. Married mother of five. Father is on the provincial council.
	Malali Ishaqzai	Female Pashtun	Member of government affair committee. Has been to Paris. High school education.







Meshrano Jirga Members:¹⁵

	Mulla Sayyad Mohammad	Male Barakzai Pashtun	Payam-e Solh political faction. Deputy of armed-services committee. Has a bachelors' degree.
	Mohammad Omar Shairzaad	Male	Member of petitions committee. Head of Esteqlal (Independence) group. Has a bachelors' degree.
No photo available	Gangaram	Sikh Businessman	Born in 1947. Women & civil affairs committee member

The Kandahar Provincial Council 2009:

Photo	Name	Tribe/Ethnicity	Information
	Ahmad Wali Karzai	Popalzai	Representation: Dand district Half-brother of President Hamid Karzai. Previously served as head of the Provincial Council; reelected in the 2009 elections with 27,147 votes.














¹⁵ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

	Ahmad Shah Khan	Acheckzai	Representation: Spin Boldak He is a close associate of Ahmed Wali Karzai. He is a tribal leader with a good community standing. Associated with the <i>Nejat-e-Milli</i> . He was ree-elected in 2009 with 10,676 votes (4.3%)
	Mohammad Ehsan	Noorzai	Representation: Maywand He is the deputy head of the provincial council. He was associated with Hekmatyar's <i>Hezb-i-Islami</i> and Sayyaff's <i>Ittehad</i> during the jihad. He comes from a <i>khan</i> (landed elite) family. He was reelected in 2009 with 9,884 votes (4%). He is the cousin of Aref Noorzai and the former Chief of Police for Kandahar, Brigadier General Mirwais Noorzai. Aref and Mirwais's sister is married to Ahmed Wali Karzai. There is possible animosity between Ehsan and Aref Noorzai.
	Hajji Fazel Mohammad	Acheckzai	Representation: Takhtapul He was a commander with Jabha-e Nejat and <i>Mahaz</i> . He is reportedly close to Karzai and Gul Agha Sherzai. He comes from a <i>khan</i> family and his brother was a commander near the airport area during the Soviet-Afghan war. He was reelected in the 2009 elections with the 8th score 11,169 (4.5%).
	Hajji Agha Lalai Dastagiri	Alokozai	Representation: Panjwayi Served in the previous Provincial Council and was reelected in 2009 with 15,709 votes (6.4%). He is a wealthy land owner from an influential family. Fought during the Soviet-Afghan war and later became a Taliban affiliate. He is influential beyond the Alokozai and is also the leader of the Panjwayi District Shura and is a member of the Kandahar Tribal Shura. Allied with Ahmed Wali Karzai.
	Zarghun Kakar	Kakar	Representation: Kandahar City She is one of the women delegates and was reelected during the 2009 elections with 566 votes (.02%). She has past times with the PDPA/Khalq party.
	Bismillah Afghanistanmal	Mohmand	Representation: Kandahar City He has past affiliations with <i>Hezb-i-Islami</i> (Hekmatyar) and current member of the <i>Mellat</i> party. He is active in the youth movements of Kandahar City and supported

			Karazai's reelection campaign in 2009. He was reelected with 19,231 votes (7.8%).
	Hajji Sayed Jan Khakrezwal	Popalzai	Representation: Khakrez Maintains close links with Ahmad Wali Karzai. He was reelected with 22,462 votes (9.1%).
	Mariam Durrani	Popalzai	Representation: Kandahar City She is a close friend of Ahmed Wali Karzai and member of a youth organization in Kandahar City. She was reelected in the 2009 elections with 948 votes (.04%).
	Haji Rahmatullah Khan		A newly elected Provincial Council Member who gained 18,408 votes (7.5%).
	Haji Mukhtar	Shi'a	Representation: Kandahar City A newly elected Provincial Council Member who gained 11,730 votes (4.7%)
	Haji Saleh Moammad Pahlawan		A newly elected Provincial Council Member who gained 11,187 votes (4.5%).
	Haji Mohammad		A newly elected Provincial Council Member who gained 7,958 votes (3.2%).
	Shekila Selahi		A newly elected female candidate who gained 877 votes (.04%).

Original Provincial Council Members 2005:

	Ahmad Wali Karzai (Reelected in 2009)		Mohammad Ehsan (Reelected in 2009)
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	Haji Agha Lallai Dastgeeri (Reelected in 2009)		Mohammad Younis Hussaini (Assassinated by unknown gunmen in Kandhar City in 2006)
	Haji Nemattullah Khan (He unsuccessfully ran in the 2009 elections)		Shakiba Ahmadi
	Haji Mohammad Qasim (He did not run again for Provincial council in 2009)		Bismillah Afghanmaal (Reelected in 2009)
	Haji Sayyad Jan Khakrezwal (Reelected in 2009)		Janan Gulzai (He unsuccessfully ran in the 2009 elections)
	Ahmad Shah Khan (Reelected in 2009)		Soria Barna
	Fazal Mohammad (Reelected in 2009)		Zarghuna Kakar (Reelected in 2009)
	Mariam Durrani (Reelected in 2009)		

Kandahar Tribal Council (*Aqamo Shura*)

In 2005, Qayum Karzai helped create a “Security and Reform *Shura*” and was composed of 29 members. The *shura* was widely seen as a puppet organization controlled by Ahmed Wali Karzai. The Kandahar Governor Rhamatullah Raufi attempted to create a much larger reconciliation council during his four month tenure in 2008 but the effort was stymied by Ahmed Wali Karzai. Since then, Ahmed Wali Karzai helped create the “Kandahar Tribal Council” which held its first session on March 11, 2008. Five of the current members are currently on the provincial council as well. These are marked with an *.

Kandahar Tribal Council 2009:

Saranwal Mohammad Isa Khan	Spin Boldak, currently lives in Kandahar City	Achekzai
Haji Ahmad Shah Khan*	Spin Boldak	Achekzai
Karim Khan	Panjwayi	Achekzai
Haji Ali Shah Khan	Zhari	Alizai
Haji Saidullah Khan	Zhari	Alizai
Haji Agha Lalai Dastagiri *	Panjwayi	Alokozai
Haji Khan Kaka	Arghandab	Alokozai

Dr. Mohammad Qassam	Dand	Barakzai
Haji Nusrullah	Kandahar City	Barakzai
Haji Mukhtar	Kandahar City	Farsiwan/Kandahari Shi'a
Shahabuddin Akhundzada	Kandahar City (<i>nahiya</i> 4)	Ishaqzai
Haji Abdur Rahim	Panjwayi	Ishaqzai
Haji Fazal Mohammad	Panjwayi	Ishaqzai
Haji Hayatullah Kakar	Panjwayi	Kakar
Haji Sardar Mohammad	Kandahar City	Kakar
Sardar Mohammad Osman	Maywand	Mohamdazai
Bismillah Afghanmal*	Kandahar City	Mohamand
Hajji Masoom Agha	Kandahar City	Hazara
Haji Neamatullah "Shirdai" Khan	Spin Boldak	Noorzai
Haji Wali Mohammad	Maywand	Noorzai
Haji Ehsan*	Maywand	Noorzai
Haji Isa Jan Noorzai	Panjwayi	Noorzai
Haji Said Jan*	Khakrez	Popalzai
Jan Mohammad	Kandahar City	Popalzai
Zaiqullah Akhundzada	Shah Wali Kor	Popalzai
Haji Fazuluddin Agha	Dand	Sadat
Toran Nek Mohammad	Kandahar City	Ghilzai/Tokhi
Haji Mohammad Isa	Zhari	Ghilzai/Tokhi
Haji Abdul Ahad	Kandahar City	

Human Terrain:¹⁶

Alokozai: The Alkozai are the biggest tribe in Kandahar and currently the most vulnerable tribal group due to the recent killings of their most important leaders: Mullah Naqibullah Akhund (Mullah Naqib, an ex-jihadi commander); Mohammad Akram Khakriz Wal, The Head of Police of Kandahar province; Haji Gurrani (ex HiG commander); the brother of Haji Gul Ali (ex-jihadi commander of Mahaz); Haji Abdel Hakim Jan (ex-jihadi commander for *Mahaz*).¹⁷ Mullah Naqib was politically astute and had good relations with all influential individuals in Kandahar with the exception of Gul Agha Sherzai. In addition, he had good links to the provincial and central government as well as Rabbani (*Jamiat*) who he fought for during the *mujahideen* years. In Arghandab district, some 80% of the 130,000 residents are Alokozai.¹⁸ The tribe has had difficulties in recent years as mentioned above, and some Alokozai see a Barakzai-

¹⁶ Compiled from:

- Adamec, Ludwig W. *Kabul and Southeast Afghanistan Historical and Political Gazetteer of Afghanistan*. Vol. 6, Akademische Druck u. Verlagsanstalt Graz, Austria. 1985;
- Afghanistan Information Management Services (AIMS);
- Afghanistan Tribal Liaison Office Reports for RC South;
- Canadian Task Force Kandahar Tribal Reports;
- Giustozzi, Antonio and Noor Allah. *Tribes and Warlords in Southern Afghanistan 1980-2005*. Crisis States Research Cente LSE Working Paper No. 7;
- Taebi, Abdul Latif. Pashtun Tribes (Pashtani gabile), Afghanistan Academy of Sciences. International Center for Pashto Studies, Kabul. 1991;
- UK Task Force Helmand Tribal Reports;
- US Department of State Provincial Reconstruction Team Field Reports.

¹⁷ Southern Cluster Report: Zabul, Kandahar, Helmand, Nimroz, *the Liaison Office*, 2008. page 56.

¹⁸ District Assessment: Arghandab, Kandahar Province, *the Liaison Office*, December 2009, page 16.

Popalzai union acting against their interests both politically and economically, especially following allegations of land-grabs in Arghandab by Ahmed Wali Karzai (Popalzai).

- Khan Mohammad-Former chief of police in Balkh province and Mujahidin commander.
- Azzizullah Wasifi-Former Minister during the King Zahir Shah time.
- Kalimullah Naqibi-Chief of the Alokozai tribe (the late Mullah Naqibullah's son).
- Haji Habibullah Jan- Former member of Kandahar security *shura*. (Assassinated).
- Mullah Abdul Fayaz- High profile religious cleric. Assassinated.
- Abdul Hakim Jan- High profile militia commander. Assassinated.
- Mullah Obaidullah Akhund- Former Taliban Defense Minister. Incarcerated.

Achekzai: Formerly part of the Barakzai grouping, the Achekzai were separated from the rest of the tribe by Ahmad Shah Durrani for management purposes, and the Achekzai remained one of the most troublesome tribes in the province. Traditionally nomadic, they further divide themselves into two large sub-groupings, the Gujanzais and the Badinzais, and had a reputation for disunity and predation. They now primarily live in Spin Boldak District where they dominate the Afghan Border Police unit there which is led by Maj. General Abdul Razziq. The Achekzai are currently in a feud with the Noorzai who controlled the Spin Boldak border crossing during the Taliban era.

Alizai: Major branch of the Panjpai Durrani Pashtuns with two main sub-tribes, **Jalozai** and **Hasanzai**. Clashes between the Jalozai and Hasanzai have been a major source of tension in northern Helmand province. Former Helmand Governor Sher Mohammad Akhundzada is Jalozai while Abdul Wahid, a major figure in the Baghran district of Helmand province is Hasanzai. The feud between Abdul Wahid and the father of Sher Mohammad dates back to the *jihad* period. Alizai are scattered around Kandahar and small pockets of Alizai can be found in Arghandab, Maywand, Zhari, Panjwayi, Dand, and Kandahar City.

Baluch: The Baluch, thought to number over a million in Afghanistan, are an Indo-Iranian ethnic group spread over Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran. Significant numbers also exist abroad. In Pakistan, Baluchi independence groups have long fought with Islamabad over the revenues from natural resources in Baluchistan. The capital of Pakistani Baluchistan is Quetta, where many of the Taliban are thought to have fled after their fall from power, but Qalat, further south, has traditionally been the seat of the Baluch Khans. The Baluch are overwhelmingly but not entirely Sunni Muslims. Their power-structures, based on the *sardar* (chief), are generally perceived to be more concentrated than those of the more fractious Pashtuns. In Afghanistan they are primarily nomadic, roaming the southernmost districts of the three southernmost provinces. In Kandahar they are found mostly in Shorabak and Reg districts. The Baluch in Kandahar frequently associate and perceive themselves as a quasi-subtribe of the Pashtuns.

Barakzai: From the Zirak division of Durrani Pashtuns, the Barakzai primarily inhabit districts of Dand, Arghistan and Maruf. They rose to prominence with Dost Mohammad Shah (the British East India Company's adversary in the first Anglo-Afghan War) and furnished a string of kings through the current aspirant to the throne, Heir Apparent Ahmad Shah. Accordingly, they are one of the most respected tribes in the country. Currently, the Barakzai make up a key element of the political power structure in Kandahar. The former Governors Gul Agha Sherzai and Khalid Pashtun are both Barakzai as well as Noorulhaq Olumi who has a separate powerbase from Sherzai and Khalid Pashtun.

- Former Kandahar Governor Gul Agha Sherzai
- Noor-ul-Haq Ulomi-Current member of the parliament in Afghanistan
- Yousuf Pashtun-Afghan Minister
- Haji Abdullah- Very influential and powerful businessman in Kandahar City.

- Dr. Qasam Khan- Member of the provincial council and has influence among the Barakzai in the Dand district.
- Haji Hidayatullah- He is a very powerful businessman and is the twin brother of Haji Abdullah (listed above).

Popalzai /Mohamdzai- The Popalzai resemble the Barakzai in terms of political influence in Kandahar, especially outside Kandahar-city. The Popalzai are the tribe of President Hamid Karzai, which is headed in Southern Afghanistan by his half-brother Ahmad Wali Karzai who also heads the Kandahar Provincial *shura*, thereby holding influence over power-holders in the district. The Popalzai are also influential in neighboring Uruzgan province in Helmand and they try to build alliances to Zabul leaders as well. Although originally a Barakzai sub tribe, the Mohamadzai have become a tribe in its own right. The Mohammdazi allegedly originate in the Arghistan district, since the grave of Mohammad Baba is located there, but Mohamadzai can be found throughout Kandahar province.¹⁹ They are still close to the Barakzai tribe and have formed political alliances with the Barakzai.

- Ahmad Wali Karzai/Chief of the provincial council in Kandahar (Popalzai)
- Haji Amir Lalai/ Former Mujahidin Commander (Popalzai)
- Abdul Qayyum Karzai (Popalzai) (*Wolesi Jirga* member)
- Kandahar Governor (Mohammadzai)
- Kandahar Mayor Ghulam Haider Hasimi (Mohammadzai)
- Haji Mawladad- Key Popalzai figures that solves disputes within the city.
- Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar (Popalzai)- Deputy Commander for the Taliban movement. Incarcerated Feb. 2010.
- Abdul Hamid- Current head of the Provincial court, Mohamadzai.

Barech: A Durrani Pashtun tribe found almost exclusively in the district of Shorawak in southern Kandahar province. There appears to be little ethnographic literature on the Barech beyond the observations of some 19th and early 20th century British civil and military personnel (see Adamec, *Historical and Political Gazetteer of Afghanistan, Vol. 5, Kandahar and South-Central Afghanistan*” 1980, *Akademische Druck-u. Verlagsanstalt, Graz-Austria*). Despite the Barech claims of Durrani kinship (see Pashtun Genealogies attached), there is reason to believe that the Barech have a different ethnic origin, perhaps Baloch, and transferred their ethnic/tribal identity during a shift in the power balance between the Kingdom of Afghanistan and the Emirate of Qalat.

Brahui: Numbering around a quarter million in Afghanistan, almost entirely in Kandahar, the Brahui are a small tribal group more usually found in Pakistan’s Baluchistan province. Predominantly Sunni, Brahui are descended from Dravidian tribes that once spanned across India before the Aryan invasions of 2,000 to 3,000 years ago. The Brahui language still retains the Dravidian grammatical structure, although most vocabulary is at this point Indo-Iranian in origin. Having lived amongst the Baluch for centuries, they are in many cases indistinguishable, and even provided the Khans of Qalat. In Kandahar they primarily inhabit Shorabak District.

Kiral: A very small Durrani Pashtun tribe located in Maruf district, Kandahar province. Affiliation with larger tribe or tribal confederation unknown.

Noorzai: Although usually categorized and self-identified as Panjpai Durranis, many Zirak Durranis dismiss the Noorzai as Ghalji or Ghilzai, not Durrani at all. At this point in time, it is not clear whether

¹⁹ Many Afghan kings belonged to the Mohamadzai tribe

this is a long-standing belief or has arisen out of the turmoil of the past three decades, particularly the close partnership between the Noorzai and the Taliban leadership. Given the numbers and importance of the Noorzai in the south, this attitude may have consequences for long-term tribal politics. Some influential Noorzai tribesmen hold key positions in the Kandahar Provincial government, including Aref Noorzai and his brother Brigadier Mirwais Noorzai who formerly served as Kandahar's Provincial Chief of Police. Esham Noorzai, who is the deputy leader of the provincial council, is also a Noorzai and is the cousin of Aref and Mirwais. Other influential Noorzai include the former commander Ustad Abdul Halim and Hajji Bashir Noorzai, a former Hezb-i-Islami (Khalis) commander and supporter of the Taliban. He was incarcerated in the United States in 2008 on drug trafficking charges.

- Arif Khan Noorzai- Powerful tribal leader and member of the provincial council.
- Hajji Bashir Noorzai- Cousin of Aref Noorzai and former legacy drug trafficker. (incarcerated)
- Haji Neamatullah Khan- He is a member of both the provincial and Kandahar tribal council.
- Hafiz Majeed- Senior Taliban field commander for southern Afghanistan. Active.
- Mullah Mohammed Ghaus – Former high ranking Taliban official. Status unknown.
- Mullah Abdul Samad Khaksar Akhund- Former Taliban intelligence chief from Kandahar City. Defected to the Northern Alliance and the US Coalition. Assassinated.
- Mullah Mohammad Issa- Former Taliban minister for mines and industry. Hails from Kandahar's Spin Boldak district.
- Ustad Abdul Alim- Former commander from Panjwai district and now current powerbroker in Kandahar City. Notorious reputation. Linked to organized crime and possible narcotics connection.
- Haji Isa Jan- He is a tribal leader and *khan*. He was the first Chief of Police of Panjwayi after the collapse of the Taliban regime.
- Haji Qader- He is the uncle of Aref Noorzai and heads the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission.

Ghilzai: The Ghilzai have somewhat been pushed into the position of a political underdog in Southern Afghanistan, especially during the current regime. Nevertheless, at least historically, several of the Ghilzai tribes, especially the Hotak had links to rulers (Hotak dynasty (1722-1729), PDPA (Communist) government, and the Taliban²⁰). The Hotak seem to have concentrated on dominating the trade sector, which is now also being infringed upon from the Durrani tribes. Among the Ghilzai are the Tokhi who can be found scattered throughout Kandahar but are found in concentration in eastern Kandahar Province and Zabul. There is a strong support for the Taliban among the Tokhi. In Kandahar City, a separate Ghilzai *shura* has been formed to promote the Ghilzai among the cities business and political entrepreneurs. The Hotak are the most prominent in Kandahar city (5%), especially among the religious figures.²¹

- *Khatib* Mohammad Hassan Akhund- A prominent religious cleric he is *khatib* (the main speaker during Friday prayers) of the Moyi Mobarak Jamai Mosque where hair of the prophet Mohammad (PBUH) is said to be kept.²²
- Haji Kari Sahib- Member of the Kandahar ulema shura and Mullah Imam of the Moyi Mobarak Jamai Mosque.
- Mohammad Haq Akhunzada- A Hotak elder and known for his mediation skills.
- Mullah Mohammad Omar- Supreme Leader of the Taliban. Hotak Gilzai from Uruzgan and later resident of Kandahar.
- Mauluvi Wakil Ahmad Muttawakil- Served as the deputy minister of foreign affairs for the Taliban regime. Incarcerated. Originally from Kandahar's Maiwand district.

Security Landscape:

²⁰ The Taliban's Supreme Leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, is a Hotak Ghilzai.

²¹ District Assessment: Kandahar City, Kandahar Province, *The Liaison Office*, December 2009, page 57-58.

²² Ibid.

General Level of Security:

Kandahar suffers from a number of natural and man-made security impediments. Besides bordering Pakistan and having a very large border-crossing to that country at Spin Boldak, Kandahar faces terrain challenges in the north of the province where wadis (valley or dry riverbed) and hilly terrain make for an ideal insurgent environment. Socially Kandahar suffers as well. Still very much a tribal society, Kandahar still relies on chiefs for justice and security; Kandahar has the lowest number of *professional* judges in the nation.²³ Similarly, the security of an area is often determined by the alacrity and competence of the tribal chiefs, and whether or not they allow in Taliban or Government of Afghanistan forces and their allies.²⁴

Significant Risk: The security situation in Kandahar has grown considerably worse in 2009 and early 2010. Two influential politicians, Azizullah Yarmal, the deputy mayor of Kandahar, were shot to death by assassins as he prayed in a mosque on April 20, 2010. Two months prior to Yarmal's death, motorbike assassins cut-down Abdul Majid Babai, the head of Kandahar's information and culture department and former police official. Months prior, both Kandahar's provincial police chief and chief prosecutor were assassinated in broad day light along with nine or ten other police officers by militia members allied with American intelligence personnel.

Kandahar province as a whole is now considered a significant risk. Two districts were overrun last year, Miya Nishin and Ghorak (both on July 19), and two other districts, Kandahar and Zhari, have witnessed almost too many violent incidents to count (28 and 30, respectively) in 2007. Kandahar province witnessed the most insurgent attacks out of any other Afghan province during the first eight months of 2008, with a total of 330, according to a report by the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office. According to an Afghan government document, *Security Forces' Threat Assessment* (dated August 20, 2008), the entire province of Kandahar is shaded red, or "high threat."

A number of spectacular attacks, including the daring Taliban assault against the massive Sarposha prison complex in downtown Kandahar on June 13 that freed up to 400 Taliban inmates, and the Taliban's swarm attack against the Arghandab district have seriously eroded Kandahar's stability. Several high profile assassinations, including the shooting deaths of MP Habibullah Sanzenai, also known as Habibullah Jan, Dost Mohammed Arghistani, the head of the Social Affairs Department for Kandahar, and top female provincial police officer Malalai Kakar, has further destabilized the security situation.²⁵

A massive twin suicide bombing killed tribal militia commander Abdul Hakim Jan in February and another similar style twin suicide bombing inside the Kandahar City police headquarters in July nearly killed Afghan Border Police commander Abdul Razzaq. Scores were injured in the attack and eight were killed. Additionally, the Taliban stopped three buses in western Kandahar and killed 24 of its passengers, including the beheading of at least six men, after accusing them of working for the Afghan National Army.²⁶ The event sparked massive protests throughout eastern Afghanistan against the Taliban as the 24 dead are widely believed to have been ordinary civilians.

Spin Boldak is also a district of concern given its large border crossing to Pakistan. It was along the Spin Boldak to Kandahar caravan road that the Taliban received their initial assistance from Pakistani sympathizers and in operating in this area the Taliban again hopes to utilize this connection. What the

²³ *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 163.

²⁴ Afghan Information Management Services, *District Profiles*, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/> (accessed August 3, 2007).

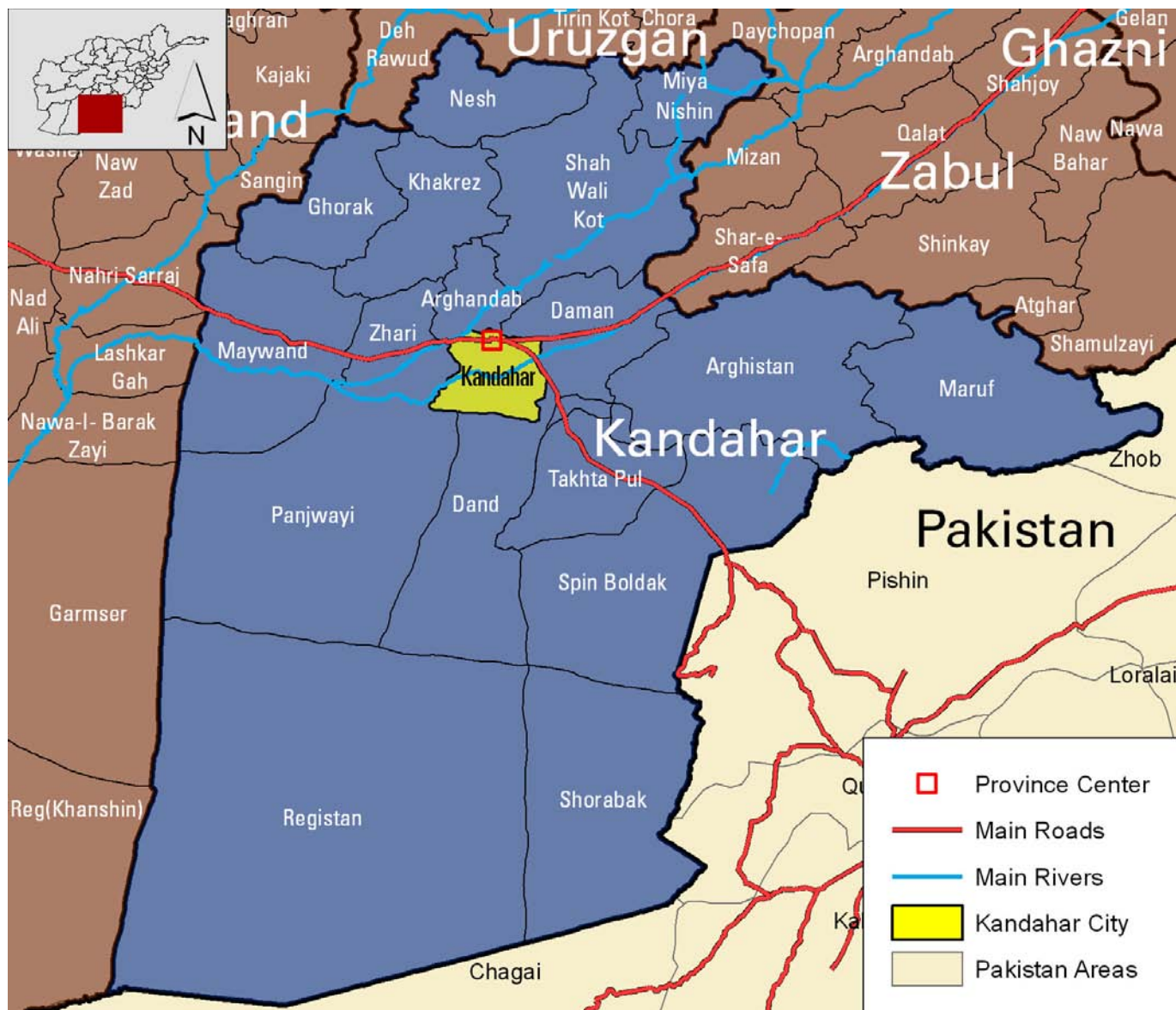
²⁵ MP assassinated in Kandahar," Afgha.com, July 5, 2008 <http://www.afgha.com/?q=node/8043> and "Top Female Police Officer Killed in Afghanistan," VOA, September 28, 2008. <http://www.voanews.com/english/2008-09-28-voa7.cfm>

²⁶ "Taliban kill many in bus attacks," BBC, October 19, 2008, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/7678717.stm

Khyber Gateway has been to Afghan governments of the past Spin Boldak is to the present one. This shift in the overall geographic center of the Afghan insurgency clearly points to the importance of the crossing to the Taliban. The commander of this border crossing, Abdul Razzaq, has been a favorite target among Taliban fighters. Razzaq was nearly killed by a twin suicide bombing attack while his visited the Kandahar City police headquarters on September 7, 2008.²⁷

DISTRICTS

The districts of Kandahar Province have shifted recently, and may do so again in the near future. At present they are Kharkrez, Ghorak, Arghandab, Maruf, Spin Boldak, Kandahar, Daman, Arghistan, Shorabak, Panjwayi, Maywand, Shah Wali Kot, Zharmi, Nabsh, Mian Nashin, and Reg.



²⁷ "Taliban suicide bombers target senior Afghan police chief," The Long War Journal, September 7, 2008, http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2008/09/taliban_suicide_bomb_6.php

This evaluation of district control comes from a classified U.S. assessment obtained by The Globe and Mail, valid as of Jan. 1, 2008

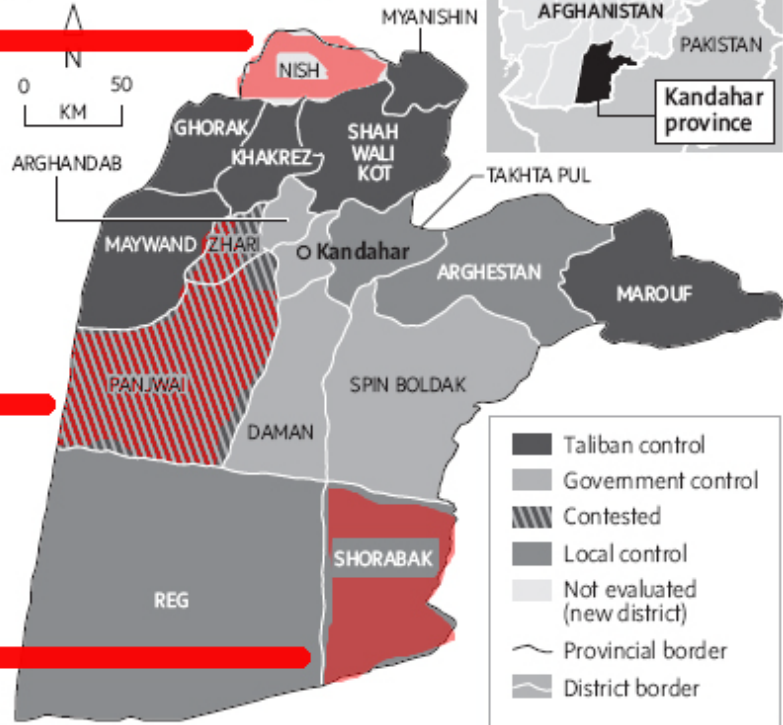
The new district of Nish was not evaluated, but is widely believed to be Taliban controlled.

The districts of Zhari and Panjwai are considered "contested" in the U.S. evaluation, but Canadian Brigadier-General Denis Thompson told reporters in August that two-thirds of the districts are controlled by the Taliban. His statement may have represented an overly optimistic assessment, according to Western security officials.

Shorabak district is considered "locally controlled" by the U.S. analysts, but many observers say it's controlled by the Taliban.

Who's in control?

A U.S. security assessment says more districts in Kandahar province are held by the Taliban than by the Afghan government and its local supporters.



DEAN TWEED/THE GLOBE AND MAIL » SOURCE: U.S. GOVERNMENT

(Source: the Globe and Mail, January 2008)