

Examining the Consequences of Pakistan's Military Attacks on Civilians in Afghanistan

(December 2024 – June 2026)

July 2026



Photo (C) Mahshad Jalalian / Alamy

Rawadari is an Afghan human rights organisation that aims to deepen and grow the human rights culture of Afghanistan, ultimately reducing the suffering of all Afghans, especially women and girls. Rawadari helps build an Afghan human rights movement, monitors human rights violations, and pursues justice and accountability for violations. Rawadari works with individuals and collectives inside and outside Afghanistan.

Note: This report was translated from Dari by AI and it was reviewed by human editors for accuracy.

Table of Contents

Introduction	5
Background	6
Research Methodology	7
Research Limitations	8
Legal Framework	9
Fundamental Principles	9
A. The Principle of Distinction	9
B. The Principle of Proportionality	9
C. The Principle of Precaution	10
Review and Analysis of the Research Findings	11
Details of the Attacks Carried Out	11
A. Airstrikes	12
B. Ground and Rocket Attacks	12
C. Combined Attacks	12
D. Timing of the Attacks	12
E. Prior Warning	13
F. Distance of the Impact Sites from Military Centres and Installations	13
Details of Civilian Casualties	15
A. Casualties Caused by Airstrikes	17
1. Airstrike on a Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Camp in Kabul City	17
2. Airstrikes on Barmal District, Paktika Province	20
3. Airstrikes on Gurbuz District, Khost Province	21
4. Airstrikes on Behsud District, Nangarhar Province	23
B. Ground and Rocket Attacks	25
Rocket Attacks on the Provincial Centre and Nari District of Kunar Province	25
C. Simultaneous Air and Ground Attacks on Kandahar and Kunar Provinces	26
1. Attack on Spin Boldak District, Kandahar Province	26
2. Attack on Kunar Province	27
Attacks on Civilians During Funeral Processions and Burials	27
Attacks on Civilian Property and Public Facilities	29
A. Number of Residential Homes Destroyed	30
B. Destruction of Public Facilities and Civilian Infrastructure	31
Blockade of the Road Serving Bargi Matal and Kamdesh Districts, Nuristan Province	32

Displacement	34
Problems Facing Displaced Families	35
Measures Taken by Local Officials and Aid Organizations	36
Psychological, Social and Economic Consequences of the Attacks on Civilians	38
A) Psychological Harm to the Victims and Their Families	39
B) Consequences of the Attacks for Women	39
C) Psychological Consequences for Children and Their Deprivation of the Right to Education	40
D) Economic and Social Consequences	41
Conclusion	43
Recommendations	44

Introduction

This report has been prepared on the basis of field evidence, victims' testimonies, and information obtained from local sources. Its principal aims are to examine the human and legal consequences of Pakistan's military attacks on the lives of civilians in Afghanistan, to give voice to survivors, to strengthen accountability, and to raise public awareness. The report covers documented violations of international humanitarian law arising from Pakistan's military attacks between 1 December 2024 and the end of June 2026, and does not include events outside this period.

Based on the findings of this research and the evidence gathered, Pakistani military forces carried out numerous attacks during this period in the provinces of Khost, Paktia, Paktika, Nuristan, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Helmand and Kabul, as a result of which at least 1187 civilians were killed or injured, more than 29,000 families were displaced, and hundreds of residential homes, health facilities, schools, mosques and other civilian facilities and infrastructure were completely or partially destroyed.

In addition, an attack by Pakistan's air force on a drug treatment and rehabilitation centre in Kabul killed and injured at least 300 patients and staff members — an act which, according to the findings of this research, constituted a clear violation of the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and may amount to a war crime.

Furthermore, the information gathered shows that Pakistani military forces completely blocked, for more than two months — from 1 February to 14 April 2026 — the only road connecting the districts of Kamdesh and Bargi Matal in Nuristan province with the provincial centre and with Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. This measure effectively placed the two districts in dire conditions and created serious obstacles to residents' access to food, health services and other basic necessities.

The evidence gathered also shows that the effects of the Pakistani military's attacks have not been limited to human casualties and material losses: they have left deep psychological, social and economic consequences for survivors, their families and local communities. Persistent fear, the loss of any sense of safety, disruption of children's education, deepening poverty and displacement are among the recurring themes highlighted in the accounts of most of those interviewed for this research.

These patterns show that the consequences of the conflict continue to cast a shadow over civilians' lives even after the attacks, seriously hindering their return to normal life.

Background

In recent years, the border areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan have repeatedly witnessed security tensions and armed clashes. These tensions have intensified in particular since late 2024, coinciding with an increase in armed attacks by Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) against Pakistan's military and security forces. The Pakistani government has repeatedly accused the Taliban in Afghanistan of supporting the TTP, claiming that members of the group are present inside Afghan territory — particularly along the Durand Line — and organize and carry out their attacks against Pakistan from there. Taliban officials have rejected these claims. The TTP has formally claimed responsibility for attacks on Pakistani forces on numerous occasions during this period.

Following the escalation of these tensions, Pakistani forces have on many occasions carried out attacks inside Afghan territory under the banner of counter-terrorism operations, while Taliban forces have in turn targeted Pakistani positions along the Durand Line and inside Pakistan itself. Fighting between the two sides has intensified, particularly since late 2024, and was still continuing at the time this report was prepared.

The attacks examined in this report are not confined to a single event or a specific area; during the period under review, they were repeated across several provinces in Afghanistan, in the form of air, ground and combined attacks. A considerable share of these attacks occurred in residential areas and villages along the Durand Line — areas that are home to thousands of civilian families and that contain not only residential homes but also schools, health centres, mosques and other public facilities.

Reports published by media outlets, human rights organizations and other sources indicate that the Pakistani military's attacks in Afghanistan have had far-reaching consequences for civilians, with a considerable number of civilians killed and injured during this period. Residential homes and some public and service facilities have been damaged or completely destroyed. Moreover, large numbers of families have been forced to abandon their homes as a result of the violence and insecurity caused by Pakistan's attacks.

Given the nature of the armed clashes between Taliban forces and Pakistani military forces — involving reciprocal attacks by both sides on each other's territory — the current situation qualifies, from the perspective of international humanitarian law, as an international armed conflict. Accordingly, the human consequences of Pakistan's military attacks have been examined in light of the fundamental rules and principles of international humanitarian law, in particular the rules governing international armed conflicts.

Research Methodology

This report is based on field research and interviews with survivors, eyewitnesses and other local sources, covering events from 1 December 2024 to the end of June 2026. The scope of the research is limited solely to documenting and assessing violations of international humanitarian law arising from Pakistan's military attacks on Afghan territory. Events or possible violations of international humanitarian law occurring on Pakistani territory are not covered by this report, owing to restricted access to the necessary sources and information.

The documentation process and the interviews with survivors, eyewitnesses and other local sources were carried out between 1 October 2025 and 21 June 2026, and the information obtained was analysed using a mixed qualitative and quantitative approach.

In the course of this research, online interviews were conducted with 22 men, including survivors and members of their families, eyewitnesses, health workers, local elders and other relevant sources. Interviewees were selected from provinces that experienced armed attacks by Pakistani forces during the period in question. Some interviewees were identified by the Rawadari's research team and monitors, while others were referred by earlier interviewees.

The interviews were conducted by a team of Rawadari researchers using a uniform, semi-structured questionnaire in Pashto and Dari, with each interview lasting between 1.5 and two hours. Before each interview began, the researchers explained the objectives of the research, the security measures, and the way the information would be stored and used. Researchers also obtained informed verbal consent from the interviewees.

Rawadari's team documented statistics on human casualties, the destruction of residential homes, public facilities and civilian infrastructure, forced displacement and other forms of harm inflicted on civilians in the provinces of Khost, Paktika, Paktia, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kandahar, Helmand and Kabul in the period of 1 October 2025 and 30 June 2026. This information was obtained from hospitals, local councils, government bodies and non-governmental organizations, as well as through interviews with local sources, eyewitnesses and victims' families.

To verify the information relating to the violations of international humanitarian law reflected in this report, Rawadari's team used supplementary evidence, including photographs, videos, hospital and clinic records, and reports published by media outlets and human rights organizations. Of all the cases reported, only those confirmed by at least two independent sources were included in the final figures. Events that could not be verified — because of access restrictions or insufficient evidence — were excluded from the final figures.

In addition, Rawadari's team coded and analysed the data from interviews according to the main themes of the research and cross-checked it against data from other sources.

Research Limitations

The majority of the civilians harmed by Pakistan's military attacks during the period under review were residents of Afghanistan's villages and remote areas, who either lacked regular and adequate access to internet services or were unfamiliar with online interview platforms. As a result, Rawadari was unable to reach more interviewees in these areas. Furthermore, a number of survivors and eyewitnesses declined to take part in interviews out of security concerns, while others were unwilling to speak owing to a lack of trust in justice mechanisms and human rights organizations.

Moreover, some of the survivors approached by Rawadari's researchers regarded providing information and taking part in documentation processes as having no practical benefit for their daily lives, pointing instead to material and livelihood assistance as their principal needs — a reality that reflects the gap between victims' immediate needs and the long-term nature of accountability processes.

Continued insecurity and armed clashes, combined with the severe restrictions imposed by the Taliban on access to information, were among the other challenges and limitations affecting the documentation and information-gathering process for this report. Direct access to certain areas was impossible because of the ongoing fighting, additionally, the Taliban have banned any activity related to monitoring and documenting human rights violations — a situation that created serious obstacles for collecting and verifying information.

In view of the limitations described above, the true scale of the consequences and effects of Pakistan's military attacks on the lives of civilians in the reporting period — and the actual number of violations of international humanitarian law — is likely greater than what has been documented in this report.

Legal Framework

International humanitarian law is the body of rules and principles established to limit the effects of armed conflict and to protect persons who are not, or are no longer, taking part in hostilities. These rules restrict the means and methods of warfare and are binding on all parties to armed conflicts.¹

Common Article² of the four Geneva Conventions provides that all provisions of the Conventions apply in any armed conflict between two or more States Parties, even without a formal declaration of war.² Both Afghanistan and Pakistan are parties to the four Geneva Conventions and are therefore obliged to observe the rules of international humanitarian law in the course of the ongoing armed conflict.³

Fundamental Principles

Additional Protocol I is the most important instrument supplementing the four Geneva Conventions, adopted to regulate the methods and means of warfare and to protect civilians in international armed conflicts.⁴ Although Pakistan has not ratified this Protocol to the Geneva Conventions, the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law it contains — including the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution — form part of customary international law, binding on all states and all parties to a conflict.

As the International Committee of the Red Cross's comprehensive 2005 study establishes,⁵ the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution are part of customary international humanitarian law and are binding on all states regardless of whether or not they have ratified Additional Protocol I. These principles are briefly explained below.

A. The Principle of Distinction

Under this principle, the parties to a conflict are obliged at all times to distinguish between military personnel and objectives on the one hand, and civilians and civilian objects on the other. As Article 48 of the Protocol provides: "In order to ensure respect for and protection of the civilian population and civilian objects, the Parties to the conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants and between civilian objects and military objectives, and shall direct their operations only against military objectives."⁶

B. The Principle of Proportionality

Under this principle, even where the target of an attack is a legitimate military objective, the attack must not cause excessive incidental harm to civilians. Article 51 of the Protocol makes clear that attacks which may be expected to cause loss of civilian life, injury to civilians, damage to civilian objects, or a combination thereof, which would be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated, are prohibited.⁷

1 International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), What is International Humanitarian Law? Geneva, July 2004.

2 ICRC, Common Article 2 of the four Geneva Conventions (1949).

3 ICRC, Geneva Convention (IV) on Civilians: States Parties (Afghanistan and Pakistan), (1949).

4 Diplomatic Conference on the Reaffirmation and Development of International Humanitarian Law, Protocol Additional to the Geneva Conventions (Protocol I), (1977).

5 Jean-Marie Henckaerts and Louise Doswald-Beck, Customary International Law, Volume I: Rules 1, 14, 15 (2005).

6 Additional Protocol I, Article 78. [sic in the original; the quoted provision is Article 48]

7 Ibid., Article 51(5)(b).

Launching an attack that causes incidental civilian casualties or damage to civilian objects of this kind is likewise prohibited⁸

C. The Principle of Precaution

This principle requires all parties involved to take all feasible measures to minimize harm to civilians. Under Article 57 of Additional Protocol I, the target of an attack must be verified as a military objective, and the methods and means of attack must be chosen so as to keep civilian harm to a minimum. Attacks expected to cause excessive civilian casualties must be refrained from. Under this principle, if it becomes apparent that the target is civilian, or that the attack will cause excessive civilian casualties, the attack must be immediately cancelled or suspended.⁹

⁸ Ibid., Article 57(2)(b).

⁹ Ibid., Article 57.

REVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

The findings of this research show that civilians and civilian property in Afghanistan suffered extensive harm during Pakistan's military attacks. The events documented in this report — including civilian casualties, the widespread destruction of residential homes, damage to public and service facilities, and restrictions on civilians' access to essential services — raise serious concerns about compliance with the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution, which are examined in detail below.

Details of the Attacks Carried Out

According to the information obtained, during the period under review Pakistani military forces carried out a series of air, ground and combined attacks, mostly on residential areas and civilian targets in the provinces of Khost, Paktia, Paktika, Nuristan, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Helmand and Kabul. Owing to restricted access to information and to security challenges and obstacles, Rawadari has been able to document only 50 of these attacks.

*March 13, 2026 – A Pakistani airstrike occurred in the Pul-e-Charkhi area of Kabul
Photo (C): Pajhwok Afghan News*



A. Airstrikes

Of the total documented attacks carried out by Pakistani military forces between December 2024 and June 2026, 19 — roughly 38 percent of the 50 attacks — were airstrikes, conducted mainly with fighter jets and armed drones. Of these, 7 strikes hit the districts of Barmal, Samkani, Nimat Abad and Murgha in Paktika province; 5 hit the districts of Spera, Gurbuz, Mandozai and Alisher in Khost province; 2 hit the districts of Shinwari, Behsud and Ghani Khel in Nangarhar province; 1 hit Takhta Pul district of Kandahar province; 1 hit Bahramcha district of Helmand province; and 1 further strike targeted Kabul city.

B. Ground and Rocket Attacks

According to the findings of this report, 28 attacks — around 56 percent of all Pakistani military attacks during this period — were ground and rocket attacks. They were launched from Pakistani military border positions, mainly using rockets, missiles, mortars and other weapons and munitions. Of these, 13 attacks struck the districts of Nari, Sarkano and Khas Kunar and the city of Asadabad in Kunar province; 9 struck the districts of Alisher, Jaji Maidan, Gurbuz and Spera in Khost province; 2 struck Dand-e Patan district of Paktia province; 2 struck Momand Dara district of Nangarhar province; 1 struck Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province; and 1 struck Kamdesh district of Nuristan province.

C. Combined Attacks

The evidence obtained shows that in 3 cases — around 6 percent of the total attacks during this period — combined air and ground attacks were carried out, simultaneously or in quick succession, on the city of Asadabad and Sarkano district of Kunar province and on Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province. In these incidents, ground attacks using rockets and mortars began first, and airstrikes then followed just as civilians were trying to flee to safety.

D. Timing of the Attacks

A review of the documented events shows that 31 of the total 50 attacks took place in the early hours of the morning or in the middle of the night, when residents were at home or asleep. In addition, in at least 4 cases the same area was struck more than once within a short interval. In several of these cases, follow-up attacks were carried out while civilians were trying to leave the area or evacuate the wounded.

An interviewee from Kandahar province described this as follows:

*"When the fighting started, people panicked and left their homes to take shelter on the mountainsides. It was while they were fleeing and getting out of the area that the next attacks began, and as a result many of them were killed or wounded."*¹⁰

¹⁰ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 7, 9 May 2026.

E. Prior Warning

The evidence and information gathered show that in a considerable share of cases, no prior warning or effective notification was given to residents and civilians before operations began. Twenty-one of the 22 interviewees for this research said they had received no warning or information of any kind before the attacks, and that civilians therefore had no time to leave the area or take shelter somewhere safe. Only one interviewee — an employee at a government office — said he had received warning from local officials after Pakistani warplanes were sighted before the attack.

One interviewee said:

“There was no sign of war or fighting, and I never imagined my house would be bombed. Nor was there any military base or position near where we live. We are ordinary people with no ties to political or military groups. I have worked as a labourer all my life just to provide for my family.”¹¹

Another interviewee stated:

“There was no notification of where they were going to strike. When the fighting started, people were terrified and fled in every direction.”¹²

Another interviewee said:

“We never anticipated attacks like these — it was completely sudden and caught us off guard. We were tending our livestock when the attack suddenly began. It never crossed our minds, because nothing like it had ever happened in our village before. This was the first such event, and unfortunately it brought heavy losses.”¹³

In light of the above, Pakistani military forces failed to take the precautionary measures for the protection of civilians that international humanitarian law counts among the basic obligations of all parties to a conflict¹⁴ — a failure which, as later sections of this report show, contributed to increased civilian casualties.

F. Distance of the Impact Sites from Military Centres and Installations

Information gathered from interviewees and other local sources shows that in many cases, the sites struck by Pakistan’s military attacks lay a considerable distance from any military installations or positions. Seventeen of the interviewees for this research stated that there were no known military facilities or centres anywhere near the impact sites.

One interviewee, whose house was destroyed in an attack by Pakistani military forces, recounted:

“The only thing anywhere near us is a Taliban border post about five kilometres from our house — and in all this time not a single shot has been fired at it. Yet the Pakistani military bombed my house.”¹⁵

¹¹ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 5, 17 May 2026.

¹² Rawadari, Interviewee No. 7, 9 May 2026.

¹³ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 11, 9 May 2026.

¹⁴ ICRC, Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rule 20; Additional Protocol I, Article 57(2)(c).

¹⁵ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 1, 27 April 2026.

Another interviewee said:

*"Pakistan's military posts are about two to two and a half kilometres away, and the Taliban's military installations and security posts are about a half-hour walk from our village. Even so, Pakistan carried out its attacks against our area."*¹⁶

Another interviewee stated:

*"The Taliban post was about a kilometre from where we live, in a completely different direction, yet the rockets fired from Pakistan hit people's houses. As far as I could see, these attacks did no damage at all to the Taliban posts — only civilians' homes were hit. The attacks were carried out as though they were aimed directly at civilians."*¹⁷

Similarly, another interviewee reported:

*"The nearest Taliban post is about two kilometres from our village. The Pakistani government's posts are up on the mountains, and the villages sit below those mountains. They fired artillery and mortar rounds without aim or discrimination, and most of them landed on people's houses and on these very villages. Civilians there, including women and children, were harmed... Pakistani forces and the Taliban sometimes attacked each other's posts as well, but we never heard from anyone that the Taliban had come to any harm in these attacks."*¹⁸

In addition, a review of photographs, videos and other digital evidence likewise shows that in many of these locations no obvious military target was visible. These findings corroborate the accounts of several interviewees who said that Pakistan's attacks struck residential homes and other civilian property while inflicting no damage on Taliban military positions.

One interviewee said:

*"Where we live is in a sensitive location, about 800 to 1,000 metres from the Pakistani border. That is why several Pakistani rockets have hit my house and compound."*¹⁹

¹⁶ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 11, 9 May 2026.

¹⁷ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 10, 6 June 2026.

¹⁸ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 21, 5 July 2026.

¹⁹ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 7, 9 May 2026.

DETAILS OF CIVILIAN CASUALTIES

As noted earlier, the protection of civilians is one of the core aims of international humanitarian law and a direct corollary of the principle of distinction. Under this principle, civilians and civilian objects enjoy general protection against armed hostilities; so long as they do not take a direct part in hostilities, they are protected from attack and must not be targeted. This rule today forms part of customary international humanitarian law and is binding on all states and parties to a conflict, regardless of whether they are party to Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions.²⁰

²⁰ ICRC, Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rules 1 and 6.



February 22, 2026 – Pakistan carried out an airstrike in the Gardi Kach area of Behsud District, Nangarhar Province.
Photo (C): Palhwok Afghan News

Article 51(2) of Additional Protocol I provides that the civilian population and individual civilians shall not be made the object of attack, and that acts or threats of violence the primary purpose of which is to spread terror among the civilian population are prohibited.²¹ Civilians are all persons who are not members of the armed forces or organized armed groups of a party to the conflict. Persons who, owing to injury, illness, surrender or capture, are no longer able to take part in the fighting likewise enjoy absolute protection, and attacking them is prohibited. In case of any doubt as to whether a person is a civilian or a combatant, that person is presumed to be a civilian and must be treated as such²²

Nevertheless, according to the evidence and information gathered, at least 1,187 civilians were killed or injured as a result of the Pakistani military's attacks in the provinces of Paktia, Paktika, Khost, Nuristan, Kunar, Nangarhar, Kandahar, Helmand and Kabul. Of these, 472 civilians lost their lives and 715 others were injured. The dead comprise 342 men, 86 children and 44 women; the injured comprise 460 men, 125 children and 130 women.



The United Nations Assistance Mission [UNAMA] stated in a report that between January 1 and March 31, 2026, it documented more than 750 civilian casualties (killed and injured) in Afghanistan as a result of cross-border armed violence between the security forces of the interim Afghan government and the Pakistani military. The majority of these civilian casualties occurred as a result of airstrikes conducted in the months of February and March.²³

Rawadari's findings show that some of the victims were killed or injured by munition fragments, by fires, and by the blasts caused by the attacks, while others died or were wounded when residential homes or other buildings collapsed. In some incidents, civilians were struck by follow-up attacks — and killed or injured — while trying to flee the area, evacuate the wounded, or bury the victims of earlier strikes.

A review of the information and evidence gathered further shows that the injured mainly suffered amputations, lacerations, burns, fractures of the arms, legs and other bones, hearing loss, and permanent disabilities. The type and severity of the injuries varied according to the type of attack, the point of impact, and the victims' distance from the blast.

21 Additional Protocol I, Article 51(2).

22 ICRC, Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rules 3, 5, 6 and 47; Additional Protocol I, Articles 50(1), 51(2)–(3) and 52.

23 (United Nations, Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), Cross-border civilian casualties in Afghanistan: January- March 2026 (May 2026), p. 2, https://unama.unmissions.org/sites/default/files/2026-05/English%20-%20UNAMA%20HRS%20paper%20on%20cross-border%20civilian%20casualties%20-%20Jan-Mar%202026_Updated_11.05.26.pdf

A) Casualties Caused by Airstrikes

According to the information obtained, at least 694 civilians were killed or injured in airstrikes by Pakistani military forces in the provinces of Khost, Kunar, Paktika, Paktia, Kandahar, Helmand, Nangarhar and Kabul. Of the victims of these strikes, 533 were men, 48 were women and 113 were children.

Below are examples of airstrikes against civilians carried out by Pakistani military forces during the period under review. These cases have been selected for the significance and scale of their human consequences and do not represent all of the documented events.

1. Airstrike on a Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Camp in Kabul City

Camp Omid is located on the eastern outskirts of Kabul city and was established in the final years of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan as a facility for the care and rehabilitation of people addicted to drugs. During that period, patients who had completed treatment at the 1,000-bed Ibn Sina hospital were transferred to Camp Omid to continue rehabilitation programmes and vocational training. In recent years, the centre was used mainly as a temporary holding facility for patients discharged from the Ibn Sina drug treatment hospital, with a capacity to accommodate two thousand people at a time.

On 16 March 2026, at around 9 p.m., the Pakistani air force struck this camp. According to information confirmed as of the time of writing, at least 204 people were killed and 96 others were injured, including a woman. The victims were mainly the centre's patients, visitors and staff. These statistics, along with the full identities and detailed profiles of the victims, were obtained from 10 hospitals in Kabul, including the Forensic Medicine Department.

Owing to the intensity of the attack, the scale of the explosions and the number of people with serious injuries and those missing, the number of casualties might change. Rawadari's findings nonetheless show that at the time of the attack, more than 1,300 patients were undergoing treatment at the centre and 35 staff were on duty.

UNAMA stated that, based on the findings from their site visits and interviews with eyewitnesses, three attacks were carried out on this facility, leaving at least 269 men dead and 122 others injured, including one woman. According to UNAMA's findings, the vast majority of those killed and wounded were patients at the hospital.²⁴ Human Rights Watch has likewise said that at least 143 people were killed in the incident and more than 250 injured²⁵

A staff member of the centre told Rawadari:

"One bomb hit the camp's administrative section, which was housed in shipping containers, and another hit the adolescents' hall... A great many teenagers were killed in that attack. The floor of the hall was so covered in blood that we kept slipping on it and could barely walk. A third bomb had struck the hall reserved for patients over the age of 25."²⁶

24 United Nations, "Afghanistan: UN condemns deadly attack on rehab centre in Kabul" (2026). <https://news.un.org/en/story/2026/03/1167148>

25 Human Rights Watch, "Pakistan: Airstrike on Afghan Medical Facility Unlawful" (2026). <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/03/27/pakistan-air-strike-on-afghan-medical-facility-unlawful>

26 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 12, 20 June 2026.

Owing to the intensity of the attack, the scale of the explosions and the number of people with serious injuries and those missing, the number of casualties might change. Rawadari's findings nonetheless show that at the time of the attack, more than 1,300 patients were undergoing treatment at the centre and 35 staff were on duty.

March 17, 2026—A first responder vehicle stands at the site of an airstrike on a drug rehabilitation hospital in Kabul
Photo (C): dpa picture alliance / Alamy



Another staff member of the centre described the scale of the attack and the number of its victims to Rawadari as follows:

*"I went to the camp the day after the attack. By the time I arrived, the wounded had already been taken to hospitals, but the victims' bodies were still at the site, and rescue workers were still pulling bodies out from under the rubble. Heavy machinery had been brought in to lift the collapsed walls and roofs and recover the victims. One of the bombs had hit the tailoring workshop and the generator fuel store. Young men undergoing treatment were housed in that section; around 125 of them were burned completely in the fire caused by the explosion, and their bodies were later pulled from the rubble. I spoke with a worker from the forensic medicine department. He said that of the 125 bodies, only 8 could be identified; the identity of the other victims could not be determined because of the severity of the burns."*²⁷

Another interviewee, who lost a family member in this attack, recounted:

*"My nephew had been admitted to the Omid hospital for treatment. At 10 p.m. on the 27th of Ramadan, my brother called me from our village and said the hospital had been bombed and that his son's phone wasn't working. At dawn my brother came to my house and we both set off for the hospital. We went around several hospitals and saw a great many bodies in the most horrific condition — some had no hands, and some had been decapitated. At the 400-bed hospital we saw 40 people who had been wounded in the attack and admitted... Eventually we were told to go to the forensic medicine department. When we got there, the situation was far worse: the corridors were awash with blood, and the victims' bodies lay everywhere. They had been placed in plastic bags in the corridors and hallways — it was a terrifying scene. It was there that we found my nephew's body. A piece of shrapnel had struck his heart and passed out through his back. His was body number 105 — meaning that 104 others had been added to the list of the dead before him."*²⁸

Pakistan's Ministry of Information stated that its air force conducted an operation targeting terrorist military facilities and support infrastructure with precision, specific targeting, and professionalism. According to the ministry, the targets of this operation included technical infrastructure and ammunition depots at two locations in Kabul city, and the strikes were designed and executed to avoid collateral damage to civilians. Based on statements by Pakistan's Information Minister, secondary explosions following the strikes indicated the presence of large ammunition depots at the site, and they did not target the addiction treatment and rehabilitation centre.²⁹

According to the findings of this report, everyone present at Camp Omid was either a patient receiving drug treatment or a civilian member of the centre's staff; hundreds of them were killed or injured in the Pakistani military's airstrike. No documents or evidence of any military use of the centre or the presence of any ammunition depots have been found. The Pakistani airstrike on this camp — a facility for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug users — therefore constitutes a clear violation of international humanitarian law and a war crime.³⁰

²⁷ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 14, 3 June 2026.

²⁸ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 9, 2 June 2026.

²⁹ Al Jazeera, Pakistan denies hospital strike in Afghanistan as death toll hits 400, (17 March 2026), <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2026/3/17/pakistan-denies-hospital-strike-in-afghanistan-as-death-toll-hits-400>

³⁰ Geneva Convention (IV), Articles 18 and 19; Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Article 8(2)(b)(i), (ii) and (ix).

2. Airstrikes on Barmal District, Paktika Province

On 24 December 2024, in the early hours of the morning, Pakistani military jets carried out airstrikes on the villages of Shin Sterga, Sur Zaghmi, Almasti and Murghi in Barmal district of Paktika province. The information obtained shows that at least 51 civilians, including women and children, were killed in these strikes and 8 others injured. The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) also confirmed in a report that 20 children were killed in this incident.³¹

The Pakistani government later confirmed the execution of this operation, stating that the attack was carried out based on intelligence and as part of the fight against terrorist groups, specifically members of Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP).³²

The evidence and information gathered in the course of this research — including interviews, documents and other supporting evidence — nonetheless shows that the victims of these attacks were mainly civilians, and no evidence whatsoever has emerged of any link between them and the TTP.

In one of these strikes, 15 members of a single family were killed. An eyewitness described the details:

*"When the Pakistani air force struck our village, the local watchman called out over a hand-held loudspeaker for people to help pull out the members of a family who were trapped under the rubble. I rushed over. Sixteen people lived in that house, and the only one we pulled out alive was a seven-year-old child. Every other member of the family had died. With my own hands I pulled out the bodies of 15 members of that family. The house was completely destroyed; scattered on every side were burnt, dust-covered mattresses and blankets, and the torn-up schoolbooks of the children. I had known that family for years — they had no connection to the government or to any armed group, and there was no military installation anywhere near their home."*³³

Another eyewitness said:

*"That night, more than 50 civilians, including 20 children, were killed or wounded. All of them were ordinary people, and among the victims I did not see a single person connected to the Taliban or to the TTP. We want justice for the victims' families, and an end to such merciless attacks."*³⁴

Another interviewee, whose family members were killed in this attack, told Rawadari:

"I heard the sound of an aircraft and then a terrifying explosion. I ran outside at once and saw that my brother's house had vanished into smoke and dust. I shouted at the top of my voice and called for help. I could hear the crying and moaning of the victims trapped under the rubble. When we pulled them out, they had all died. There was no wound or injury visible on their bodies — they had all died from the collapse of the roof and walls and from suffocation under the rubble. A bomb had also struck our neighbour's house. The blast was so powerful that the neighbour's wife and her child had been hurled out of the house. The

31 UN, World News in Brief (26 December 2024). <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158551>

32 Dawn, Pakistan conducted anti-terrorist operation in 'border areas based on security threats': FO (26 December 2024). <https://www.dawn.com/news/1881200>

33 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 15, 16 March 2026.

34 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 18, 20 March 2026.

woman's abdomen was gone and her face was unrecognizable. The child had lost a leg but was still breathing. We rushed him by car to the local clinic, but after examining him the doctor pronounced him dead."³⁵

In another incident, on 27 February 2026 at around two o'clock in the morning, following an armed clash between Afghan and Pakistani forces along the Durand Line in Barmal district of Paktika province, Pakistani air and artillery forces carried out multiple attacks on the villages of Ibrahim Khel, Lor Dangar and Walgad in the district. The information obtained shows that three residential homes belonging to civilians were struck, killing 21 civilians — 12 men, 7 women and 2 children — and injuring 3 others.

A resident of Lor Dangar village, who lost 14 members of his family in this attack, with another family member injured, told Rawadari:

"It was the month of Ramadan, and heavy fighting was going on along the Durand Line. Drones were patrolling the sky, and out of fear of the bombardment I had moved my whole family to the farmland near our house so they would be safe there. Only I and one of my nephews stayed at home. Around half past two in the morning, the village fell quiet and we thought the fighting was over. The family members who had taken shelter in the fields came back to the house for the pre-dawn meal (Sahari). We were all eating Sahari when the sound of explosions rose again. I grew worried and told my cousin, who was sitting beside me, to take all the women and children down to the basement. I myself went out through the back door to see where the attack was happening. At that very moment I noticed a Pakistani drone circling — and suddenly there was a huge explosion. The whole house disappeared into smoke and dust..."³⁶

"We were all civilians — people with no part in any of it. There were no Taliban there, nor any other armed men. We are poor farming people with no ties to the Taliban. They could see for themselves that the women and children had gone down into the basement — and still they attacked, and killed my entire family. What was our sin? Who hears our cries? Where are human rights? To whom are we supposed to complain? Who will give me my family back? Pakistan says, 'We killed terrorists' — are women and children terrorists? Last year I lost 13 of my relatives and friends in the earthquake, and this year 14 members of my family were killed in Pakistan's attack. I have lost almost everyone — my family and those closest to me."³⁷

3. Airstrikes on Gurbuz District, Khost Province

On 25 November 2025, at around midnight, a military aircraft attributed to Pakistani forces bombed a residential house in Mughulgai village of Gurbuz district, Khost province, where two brothers and their families lived. The strike killed every member of one of the two families — among the dead were 9 children and one woman — while 2 members of the second family were killed and 3 others injured.

³⁵ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 19, 11 March 2026.

³⁶ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 16, 9 February 2026.

³⁷ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 20, 12 May 2026.

However, the Pakistani military spokesperson strongly denied any involvement in this attack, stating that their military has not conducted any operations inside Afghanistan, does not target civilians, and officially announces any of its military operations.³⁸

A local resident described the incident in his interview with Rawadari:

"When we heard the explosion, the cries and screams of children could be heard from far away. The whole village was in a state of panic and terror. When we reached the site, the house had been razed to the ground, and amid the smoke and gunpowder the bodies of the dead could barely be told apart."³⁹

Another interviewee said:

"We can't say exactly how many strikes there were, because there were so many. Everyone was driven from their homes. Those who had cars left the area quickly, and those who didn't fled on foot with the women, children and livestock. There were also very poor and destitute people who simply had no idea what to do or where to go. It was night, and the weather was bitterly cold..."⁴⁰

The findings of this report show that a considerable share of the victims of this incident were killed or wounded by blast shrapnel and by the collapse of the house's roof and walls. According to eyewitnesses, the attack came while the family was asleep, leaving them no chance to escape.

A health worker told Rawadari:

"It was past two in the morning when a phone call from colleagues at the clinic woke me. I immediately dispatched the medical team and an ambulance to the site of the attack, and set off for the clinic myself. Around three in the morning, the bodies of 10 victims — including 9 children, among them a one-month-old baby wrapped in a blanket — were brought to the clinic. Three others, who were severely injured, received emergency care and were then transferred to the central hospital of Khost province for further treatment. The victims' bodies were later buried in their home village."⁴¹

The head of this family, who was working abroad at the time of the attack and lost his wife and all of his children in the incident, told Rawadari:

"It is very hard for me to tell this story — I cannot put into words the pain I carry. I had worked the night shift and returned to my room in the morning when a man from my home province, who also works as a labourer there, called and said he wanted to see me. A few minutes later he called again and said he was waiting outside my room. When I went out, I saw he had brought five other men from our village with him, including my cousin. Seeing them, I was shaken — I knew something must have happened. I asked urgently what was wrong and why they had all come. They said my mother had passed away. I recited the fatiha, and because I love my mother dearly, I was overcome with grief... With some difficulty I collected my passport from my workplace, bought a plane ticket, and made my way to Khost. The village

38 Dawn, DG ISPR Refutes allegation by Afghan Taliban of Pakistan airstrikes in Afghanistan: State media, (25 November 2025), dawn.com/news/1957285

39 Interviewee No. 10, 6 June 2026.

40 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 21, 5 July 2026.

41 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 21, 5 July 2026.

malik came out to receive us. When I saw him, my worry and fear only deepened, because on the way I had heard that the Pakistani air force had bombed our district. I said to him: tell me the truth — I know about the airstrikes; was our house hit too? He confirmed it. When I reached home, I saw with my own eyes that my house had been completely destroyed and my whole life wiped out. My wife and my seven children had been killed. Every time I used to speak to my daughters on the phone, they would ask me: Father, when are you coming home? But when I came back, not one of them was left in this world... It is so hard. I don't know how to describe the pain I am carrying..."⁴²

The interview with this survivor had to be paused several times because of his emotional state. He wept repeatedly during the conversation and, at points, was unable to answer follow-up questions owing to the depth of his grief over the loss of his wife and children.

4. Airstrikes on Behsud District, Nangarhar Province

On 21 February 2026, Pakistani warplanes carried out airstrikes that hit, among other targets, a residential house in the Gerdi Kats area of Behsud district, Nangarhar province, killing 15 members of the family. The victims comprise three men, eight children and four women. One member of the family was injured and was transferred to Nangarhar's public hospital for treatment.

Following these strikes, the government of Pakistan announced that, based on intelligence, it had precisely targeted seven terrorist camps and hideouts belonging to the Pakistani Taliban affiliated with 'Fitna al-Khawarij (FAK)', its affiliated groups, as well as the Khorasan branch of ISIS (ISKP) in the Afghan-Pakistan border regions.⁴³

The head of the family, who survived the attack, recounted:

"It was around midnight, and fighter jets were circling in the sky over the area. We assumed the aircraft belonged to Afghanistan. Then suddenly there was a massive explosion, and at first I thought a powerful earthquake had struck. I was in one of the rooms with a few of the children, and once we managed to find a way out, we saw that the entire house had been flattened and my family was trapped under the rubble. The villagers then arrived at the site and helped recover the bodies and move the injured."⁴⁴

Another interviewee, whose house was struck twice by airstrikes within a short interval that same night, recounted:

"I was asleep in the guest house when a deafening explosion threw me out of bed. My leg was injured and hurting, my ears had gone deaf, and I didn't know what had happened. I rushed out of the guest house, which stood a little apart from the main house, and ran towards the house. Thick smoke and dust had swallowed everything. With a flashlight I went into the house where my wife and children had been sleeping. The moment I reached the door I heard my youngest child crying, and I knew he was alive — but at that very moment the drone dropped a second rocket on my house, which struck the livestock pen. When I went inside, I found that my wife and children, including my two-year-old daughter, had been severely injured. Some had broken legs, some broken arms. My wife's arm was broken,

⁴² Rawadari, Interviewee No. 13, 18 June 2026.

⁴³ Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Press Release, (21 February 2026). https://x.com/MoIB_Official/status/2025316690855354804

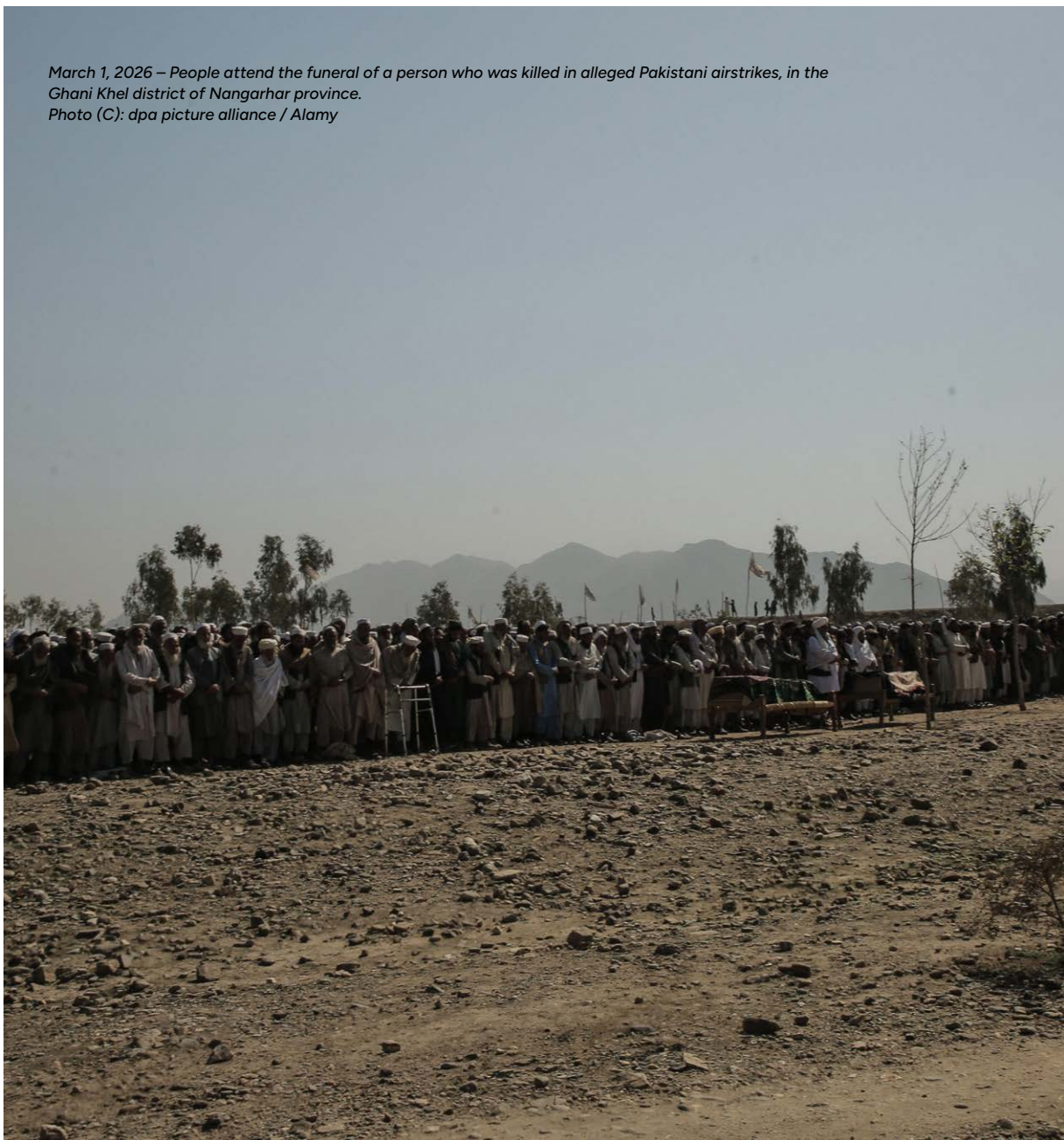
⁴⁴ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 16, 9 February 2026.

and so were her ribs. All of their bodies and faces were burnt, and bomb fragments had struck their faces and bodies. I don't know why they bombed my house. I am a neutral man, a farmer. I have never worked for any government, and I have no ties to any party.”⁴⁵

As the evidence and information documented in this section show, a considerable share of the Pakistani military's airstrikes hit residential homes and other civilian areas, killing and injuring large numbers of women, children and other civilians. In many of the incidents examined, there was no evidence of any military target at the impact site, nor of the victims' direct participation in hostilities.

Moreover, the attacks were carried out mostly in the middle of the night or at dawn, without any prior warning or effective notification — conditions that considerably heightened the risk of harm to civilians. From the standpoint of international humanitarian law, such acts constitute clear violations and may amount to war crimes.⁴⁶

*March 1, 2026 – People attend the funeral of a person who was killed in alleged Pakistani airstrikes, in the Ghani Khel district of Nangarhar province.
Photo (C): dpa picture alliance / Alamy*



⁴⁵ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 5, 17 May 2026.

⁴⁶ Additional Protocol I, Article 57(2)(c).

B) Ground and Rocket Attacks

In addition to the events described above, Pakistani military forces carried out [??] ground and rocket attacks against civilian targets in the provinces of Khost, Paktia, Paktika, Nuristan and Kandahar. According to the information obtained, at least 133 civilians including 70 men, 44 children and 19 women, were killed in these attacks and 20 others injured.

Below are details of some of the most significant of these attacks, carried out between December 2024 and June 2026 and selected for the significance and scale of their human consequences.

1. Rocket Attacks on the Provincial Centre and Nari District of Kunar Province

Of all the ground attacks carried out by Pakistani military forces during the period under review, 13 struck parts of Kunar province — including the districts of Nari, Sarkano, Baghcha and Khas Kunar and the city of Asadabad — killing and injuring at least 60 civilians: 36 men, 19 children and 5 women.

One interviewee said:

“On 29 March, 2026 Pakistani military forces once again targeted civilian areas and residential homes in the city of Asadabad, Kunar province, with missile strikes. Three civilians — two men and one woman — were killed, and 13 others injured, including 9 children. One of the wounded, who had been critically injured, died in hospital after four days in a coma.”⁴⁷

Another interviewee stated:

“At the time, heavy fighting was under way between Pakistani forces and Taliban forces. The Taliban were attacking Pakistan’s border posts, and Pakistani forces were bombing Taliban positions and bases. At the same time, missiles were being fired from Pakistan’s border posts at villages and residential areas as well. In Do Kalam village of Nari district alone, 20 civilians, including women and children, were killed and 30 others wounded. Most of these people were killed or injured by the Pakistani military’s missiles while inside their homes and compounds, going about their daily business, or trying to flee.”⁴⁸

The evidence gathered shows that the Pakistani military’s rocket, artillery and mortar attacks struck residential and other civilian areas, causing loss of life and extensive damage. Given the nature of these attacks and the wide scatter of their impact sites, Pakistan’s actions constitute violations of fundamental principles of international humanitarian law, including the principle of precaution and the principle of civilian protection.

⁴⁷ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 4, 7 May 2026.

⁴⁸ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 3, 29 April 2026.

C. Simultaneous Air and Ground Attacks on Kandahar and Kunar Provinces

According to the findings of this report, three of the 50 attacks were carried out simultaneously by air and by ground in Kandahar and Kunar province, killing and injuring at least 360 civilians, including 199 men, 107 women and 54 children.

1. Attack on Spin Boldak District, Kandahar Province

In October, November and December 2025, attacks by Pakistani military forces on Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province and parts of Helmand province killed or injured at least 243 civilians, including 181 men, 41 women and 21 children.

The Pakistani military announced that the operation was conducted in response to cross-border attacks originating from Afghan territory and within the framework of the right to self-defence. According to these statements, the Pakistani military strikes exclusively targeted Taliban military positions and infrastructure, resulting in the deaths of more than 200 terrorists. Furthermore, the Pakistani military emphasized that all necessary measures were taken to prevent civilian casualties. The military went on to call upon the ruling authorities in Afghanistan to prevent the activities of anti-Pakistani armed groups on Afghan soil.⁴⁹

According to the findings of this report, on 15 October 2025 Pakistani military forces launched an attack on a Taliban military position in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province. The attacks then spread to villages and residential areas, leading to extensive civilian casualties, above all among women and children.

A health worker from Spin Boldak district told Rawadari:

*"The Pakistani military bombed civilian areas and residential homes, causing extensive loss of life. The number of victims was very high — 40 people had been killed and 170 others wounded."*⁵⁰

Another interviewee stated:

*"The fighting began with light weapons such as Kalashnikovs and then escalated with heavy weapons. After that, the Pakistani military began its bombardment and targeted civilian areas. In the Shahid area of Spin Boldak district they bombed ordinary people, and in one incident about six people were buried and killed when the roof of a house collapsed. The attacks then spread to the Inzergai area, where returning refugees had gathered, and after that reached Kandahar city. First Luqman village, near where we live, was hit — and after that, our own village was bombed as well."*⁵¹

Similarly, another interviewee said:

"I was sitting at home when I heard an aircraft, then an explosion and the impact of a bomb. I ran outside immediately. Dust and debris filled the air, and the women and children were nowhere to be seen. After searching, I found some of them; one woman had been

49 Pakistan Today, 23 Troops Martyred, Over 200 Taliban terrorists killed as Pakistan Respond to Afghan Aggression: IAPR, (13 October 2025). <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2025/10/13/23-troops-martyred-over-200-taliban-terrorists-killed-as-pakistan-responds-afghan-aggression-ispr>

50 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 17, 12 October 2025.

51 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 7, 9 May 2026.

injured, and I took her to hospital... The rooms of my own house were also destroyed and damaged. I am still digging the children's powdered milk cans out from under the dirt. All my household belongings are buried in the soil. It was a terrifying attack. What sin have women and children committed, that they should be bombed?"⁵²

2. Attack on Kunar Province

Rawadari's findings show that on 27 October 2025, Pakistani military forces launched extensive air and rocket attacks on the city of Asadabad and Sarkano district of Kunar province, killing and injuring at least 108 civilians, including 66 women, 33 children and 9 men.

One interviewee stated:

"In late April, Pakistani forces launched bloody attacks. They struck a house near Kunar University, attacked the Faculty of Education, and heavily bombarded Sagai village and Chagai village in the provincial centre, as well as the districts of Sarkano and Marawara, with rockets and 'chehel' bombs. The number of wounded was over 90, but I personally saw 55 civilian women, children and men who had been injured in these attacks. One rocket hit the Faculty of Education, wounding 11 people. In other strikes on residential homes and the villages I mentioned, dozens of civilians were killed and injured."⁵³

Another interviewee said:

"On 27 April 2026, Pakistan's border forces struck the centre of Kunar province with several aerial attacks. My cousin, who worked at a bakery, decided together with the baker to flee to safety out of fear of the strikes. But as they were fleeing, a 'chehel' bomb landed near them. The baker was thrown into a stack of wheat, and shrapnel from the bomb struck my cousin's body; he bled to death."⁵⁴

As the information gathered shows, in several incidents Pakistani military forces carried out ground and air attacks on the same area simultaneously or within a short interval. In some cases, the attacks came while civilians were fleeing the area or trying to take shelter after the ground assaults. This method of attack considerably increased the harm to civilians; the Pakistani military's conduct runs contrary to the principles of distinction and precaution and may amount to a war crime.⁵⁵

Attacks on Civilians During Funeral Processions and Burials

One of the troubling patterns documented in this report is the continuation of attacks — or of the threat posed by them — during the recovery, transfer and burial of victims' bodies. A number of civilians came under attack while collecting, escorting and burying victims, and others, fearing renewed strikes, were forced to bury their relatives late, under cover of darkness, or in other villages. Three of the interviewees for this research stated that civilians were struck by follow-up attacks while burying victims, and six others described burying victims' bodies in other villages out of fear of renewed attacks.

⁵² Rawadari, Interviewee No. 18, October 2025.

⁵³ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 4, 7 May 2026.

⁵⁴ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 2, 21 May 2026.

⁵⁵ Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rules 1, 11, 14, 15 and 24; Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Article 8(2)(b)(i), (ii) and (iv).

One interviewee said:

*"On 26 February 2026, a mortar shell fired from a Pakistani military post near Barikot village in Nari district of Kunar province hit the home of a civilian resident, killing a 21-year-old son and an 8-year-old daughter of the family. When we learned of the incident, we went to his house despite fear and dread, because he was a friend of ours. But the shells kept coming, one after another, and the Pakistani forces were targeting civilians. So we decided to bury the bodies in another village under cover of night, to stay safe from the attacks. Several young men were busy digging the graves when the Pakistani forces targeted them. As a result, three young men — aged 18, 25 and 30 — were killed. And so, in the darkness of night, amid grief and mourning, we buried five bodies instead of two. It was a dreadful situation, and even talking about it is hard for me."*⁵⁶

There are numerous other cases in which civilians, fearing renewed attacks, were forced to bury their relatives in more distant villages. As one interviewee recounted:

*"A mortar shell fired by Pakistani military forces landed near my house. My brother's wife, who was 40 years old, and her 9-year-old daughter were killed on the spot by the mortar fragments. We struggled to carry their bodies into the house, because at every moment we feared further strikes. We could not even bury them in our own village, in our own graveyard. Fear and terror had gripped the whole village, so we buried the victims in a village farther away."*⁵⁷

Another interviewee, from Momand Dara district of Nangarhar province, said:

*"Fearing Pakistan's rockets, we left our village and fled to Surkh Rod district of Nangarhar province. We spent the night at a relative's house. The next morning my brother called me. He was terrified, and his voice was trembling. He told me that a Pakistani mortar shell had hit our house; my 8-year-old nephew, a schoolboy in the first grade, had been killed, and my mother had been wounded. The news shook me. I immediately hired a car and set off for home. On the way, I spoke to my brother several times; he said mother was being treated in hospital. A few minutes later I called him again, but this time one of the village elders answered and said: your mother has been martyred. Hearing that was unbearably painful. When I arrived, the villagers had decided to bury the victims in another village, because at any moment Pakistan's rockets might be fired again. In the end, we laid the shattered bodies of my mother and my nephew to rest side by side."*⁵⁸

Attacks on religious rites — and in particular on funeral processions or the burial of attack victims — constitute a clear violation of the principle of civilian protection; beyond the loss of life, they leave deep psychological and social scars on victims' families and local communities. The evidence obtained shows that Pakistani military forces repeatedly targeted civilians during burials, or that civilians, fearing renewed strikes, were forced to bury their relatives under cover of darkness or in other villages. This situation demonstrates the Pakistani military's failure to abide by the principles of distinction and civilian protection and, accordingly, constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law.⁵⁹

⁵⁶ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 3, 29 April 2026.

⁵⁷ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 6, 1 May 2026.

⁵⁸ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 1, 27 April 2026.

⁵⁹ Customary International Humanitarian Law, Rules 1, 11, 14, 15 and 24; Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Article 8(2)(b)(i), (ii) and (iv).

ATTACKS ON CIVILIAN PROPERTY AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

Civilian objects comprise all objects that are not military objectives. Military objectives are limited to those objects which, by their nature, location, purpose or use, make an effective contribution to military action and whose total or partial destruction, capture or neutralization, in the circumstances ruling at the time of the attack, offers a definite and direct military advantage. Furthermore, in case of any doubt as to whether an object is military or civilian in character, it is presumed to be civilian and must enjoy the protection provided under international humanitarian law.⁶⁰

The findings of this report show, however, that between December 2024 and June 2026, as a result of Pakistan's military attacks, civilian property — including residential homes, schools, health centres and other public and private facilities — suffered extensive damage.

60 Additional Protocol I, Article 52(1), (2) and (3).



March 16, 2026 – An attack targeted a hospital for drug addicts at Omid Camp in Kabul.
Photo (C): Pajhwok Afghan News

A. Number of Residential Homes Destroyed

The information gathered shows that during the period under review, at least 394 residential homes belonging to civilians were completely or partially destroyed — including 170 in Paktika province, 104 in Kunar province, 57 in Kandahar province, 53 in Khost province, 6 in Nangarhar province, 3 in Paktia province and 1 in Kabul city.

Given the restricted access to some of the affected areas, it was not possible to fully document the extent of the damage; therefore, the actual number of destroyed residential homes is likely higher than what is presented in this report.

According to a report by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, nearly one thousand residential homes have been damaged or completely destroyed since the escalation of armed hostilities between Afghanistan and Pakistan.⁶¹

In addition, 18 of the interviewees for this research described the complete destruction of, or partial damage to, their own homes, and 6 others provided information about the complete or partial destruction of other civilians' homes. As one interviewee, whose house was completely destroyed in a Pakistani airstrike, recounted:

*"Suddenly there was a huge explosion, and at first I thought it was an earthquake. My house covered about one jerib of land, with no other house adjoining it. I had built it on part of my farmland, and the rest of the land was an orange orchard. The guest house stood a short distance from the main house and consisted of one large separate room. After the attack, my house was completely destroyed. The solar system we used to draw water from the well was damaged too. Everything was lost, including a car — only the guest house was left standing."*⁶²

This account shows that the damage caused by the Pakistani military's attacks was not limited to the destruction of residential homes: civilians' assets and sources of livelihood — including livestock, vehicles, orchards, farmland, and the equipment used to supply water and electricity — were harmed as well.

Another interviewee, who works for a non-governmental organization, provided the following information:

*"Pakistan's border forces, positioned on the mountaintops to the south, deliberately targeted civilians, residential areas and public-benefit facilities. Our data and assessment results show that in the villages of Do Kalam and Barikot in Nari district of Kunar province alone, 12 residential homes were destroyed."*⁶³

Likewise, another interviewee said:

*"In Kunar province, more than 100 houses have been destroyed by Pakistani rocket and air attacks. In Asadabad, the provincial centre, alone, 14 residential homes have been completely destroyed, along with 6 houses in Kara Mar and 8 in the Manu area."*⁶⁴

⁶¹ United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Afghanistan Humanitarian Update (March and April 2026). <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-humanitarian-update-march-and-april-2026>

⁶² Rawadari, Interviewee No. 5, 17 May 2026.

⁶³ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 3, 29 April 2026.

⁶⁴ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 4, 7 May 2026.

Residential homes, so long as they have not been turned into military objectives, count among civilian objects and enjoy the full protection of international humanitarian law. In the events documented by Rawadari, however, no evidence or documentation was found indicating any military use of these homes or their conversion into military objectives. The actions of the Pakistani military therefore stand in open conflict with the principle of distinction and the obligation to protect civilian property, and constitute a violation of international humanitarian law.⁶⁵

B. Destruction of Public Facilities and Civilian Infrastructure

According to the findings of this report, at least 22 schools, 1 hospital, 1 clinic, 11 mosques, 46 shops and 10 car dealerships in the provinces of Paktia, Paktika, Khost, Kunar, Nangarhar and Kandahar and in Kabul city have been completely destroyed or partially damaged.

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has stated in a report that its assessments show that since the escalation of hostilities between Afghanistan and Pakistan, civilian infrastructure — including schools, health centres and water supply systems — has also been damaged or destroyed. The report adds that around 19 health facilities have suspended operations, closed, or scaled back their services, restricting access to health services for roughly 78,000 people. It further stresses that during this period, more than 13,000 students in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces have faced disruption to their education.⁶⁶

One interviewee told Rawadari:

“As a local journalist who has followed these events closely, I can say that in Kunar province, as a result of the Pakistani military’s attacks, 5 mosques have been damaged, 10 schools destroyed, and the Faculty of Education of Kunar University damaged, with its solar system destroyed.”⁶⁷

Another interviewee said:

“The schools of Do Kalam village and Barikot village (Nari district, Kunar province) have been completely destroyed. Several mosques have also been destroyed — I personally saw two of them: the central mosque of Do Kalam village and the central mosque of Barikot village, both completely destroyed and no longer usable. No military personnel were present in these mosques, yet they were attacked and destroyed all the same. Pakistan’s border forces also fired a mortar shell at night that hit a middle school in Chuna Gala village and a clinic in Barikot village. The school was completely destroyed, but fortunately no one was hurt, because the attack came during the night.”⁶⁸

Another interviewee, from Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province, stated:

“A mortar shell had hit a madrasa. Fortunately no one was inside at the time, but parts of the building were destroyed. Beyond that, when I visited the area I saw a number of damaged schools, some with collapsed roofs. I also saw another mosque that had been completely destroyed, its walls and roof entirely caved in... I personally saw three schools that had been

⁶⁵ ICRC Customary IHL Study, Rules 7, 9 and 10; Additional Protocol I, Art. 52.

⁶⁶ OCHA, Afghanistan Humanitarian Update (March and April 2026). <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-humanitarian-update-march-and-april-2026>

⁶⁷ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 4, 7 May 2026.

⁶⁸ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 3, 29 April 2026.

attacked, one of them completely ruined. Afterwards, students stopped going to those schools, because people believe that if a few people gather in one place, the Pakistani forces may bomb it. For the same reason, people avoid gathering in public places. The local bazaar also suffered heavy damage — a great many shops were completely destroyed or had their roofs cave in.”⁶⁹

Blockade of the Road Serving Bargi Matal and Kamdesh Districts, Nuristan Province

The evidence and information obtained show that from 1 February to 14 April 2026, Pakistan’s border forces completely blocked the road serving the two districts of Bargi Matal and Kamdesh in Nuristan province. The closure was at the Barikot area of Nari district in Kunar province. Because Kamdesh and Bargi Matal are mountainous districts, this road is their only route to the centre of Nuristan province and to Kunar and Nangarhar provinces.

According to the information gathered, border forces stationed in the Arandu area of Pakistan’s Chitral region, along the Durand Line, prevented the passage of all vehicles and even the movement of civilians on foot along this route. These restrictions effectively left the two districts in dire conditions for more than two months, creating serious obstacles to residents’ access to basic supplies, health services and other essential needs.

The findings of this report show that on 19 March 2026, the day before Eid al-Fitr, a number of civilians set out on the road, assuming that a declared ceasefire had made passage possible; but the vehicle carrying them came under fire from Pakistani border forces. As a result of the shooting, the vehicle plunged into the river, and a female doctor and her young child were killed.

The evidence obtained further shows that the closure of this route had far-reaching consequences for residents’ livelihoods and their access to essential services, including health and medical care. During this period, with the transport of basic supplies halted, food prices rose sharply and health facilities faced shortages of medicine and essential equipment.

Owing to the dangers of travelling this route and the restrictions imposed by Pakistani military forces, it was in many cases impossible to transfer patients to the better-equipped medical facilities in the centre of Nuristan and in Kunar and Nangarhar provinces. For this reason, some interviewees stated that a number of patients lost their lives during this period because of delayed access — or no access at all — to medical care.

In addition, the findings of this report show that a considerable number of families, faced with the continuing closure of the road and the resulting growth in livelihood hardships — above all the difficulty of reaching medical care — were forced to relocate to Kunar and Nangarhar provinces via the region’s rugged, near-impassable mountain paths, enduring great dangers and hardships.

One interviewee recounted:

“After the roads were blocked and the fighting began, the residents of Kamdesh and Bargi Matal districts faced very serious problems. Food prices had soared, and the pharmacies and health centres lacked adequate supplies. Many patients were deprived of treatment

⁶⁹ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 22, 17 July 2026.

because they could not be moved to other provinces, and some of them even lost their lives. We are civilians and play no part in this fighting — yet we were forced to endure such harsh and painful conditions. We could not understand why the road had been closed to us. Pakistan is an Islamic country; why did it impose such a situation on the people?”⁷⁰

Another interviewee said:

“Pakistani military forces blocked the roads to Kamdesh and Bargi Matal districts of Nuristan province for two months, allowing no one through — neither vehicles nor civilians on foot. During that time, the residents of those two districts faced severe shortages of food, medicine and other essentials. I even heard that children died of hunger, and that several pregnant women who needed to reach better-equipped hospitals outside the district died in childbirth.”⁷¹

On 14 April 2026, however, following mediation and efforts by local elders on both sides of the Durand Line, the restrictions imposed on this route were lifted and movement by the residents of Bargi Matal and Kamdesh resumed.

Under international humanitarian law, the parties to a conflict are obliged to protect civilian populations in the course of military operations and to refrain from measures that seriously obstruct or disrupt their access to basic needs, including food, medicine and medical care. Article 54 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions⁷² and the customary rules of humanitarian law prohibit depriving civilians of the basic necessities essential to their survival.⁷³ The conduct of the Pakistani military forces therefore departs from these provisions and constitutes a violation of international humanitarian law.



⁷⁰ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 3, 29 April 2026.

⁷¹ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 4, 7 May 2026.

⁷² Additional Protocol I, Article 54.

⁷³ Jean-Marie Henckaerts & Louise Doswald-Beck (eds.), Customary International Humanitarian Law, Vol. I: Rules, ICRC, Cambridge University Press, 2005.

DISPLACEMENT

The findings of this research show that, following the intensification of armed hostilities and the Pakistani military's attacks, at least 29,000 families in the provinces of Paktika, Paktia, Kunar, Khost, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Kandahar and Helmand were forced to abandon their homes between December 2024 and June 2026. Driven by insecurity and the threat posed by the attacks, by rising food prices, and by restricted access to health services, these people sought refuge in neighbouring, safer areas.

Given the restrictions on access to information, the true number of displaced individuals and families may exceed the figures recorded in this report.

June 29, 2026 – Pakistan carried out an airstrike in Chamkani District, Paktia Province. Photo (C): Pajhwok Afghan News



The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has stated in a report that more than 100,000 people have been displaced in the provinces of Khost, Kunar, Nangarhar, Nuristan, Paktia and Paktika since the escalation of hostilities between Pakistan and Afghanistan.⁷⁴

All 22 interviewees for this research spoke of the displacement of civilians following the intensification of Pakistan's military attacks, and 6 of them stated that they and their own family members had likewise been forced to leave their homes as a result of these attacks.

One of these interviewees said:

*"On the eleventh of Ramadan, I left our village with my whole family, and we took refuge in Sarobi district. We now live under a tent in an area called Spedar-e Nari. Seventy other families from Barmal district are also living in tents in the same area."*⁷⁵

Another interviewee from Kunar province, who worked on collecting data on displaced families for a non-governmental organization, told Rawadari:

*"More than 25,000 people were displaced from various districts of Kunar and Nuristan provinces between February and the end of March 2026. They are now living in parts of the centre of Kunar province — near Marawara bridge, in the Pech valley, in the Hijrat Abad camp that was built for refugees from Bajaur, and in another camp called Osmaniya that had previously been set aside for earthquake victims — as well as in the homes of friends and relatives in various districts and in the cities of Jalalabad and Kabul."*⁷⁶

Similarly, another interviewee stated:

*"In Khost province, around 600 families have been displaced. People went in whatever direction they thought was safer, but wherever they went, they felt no security or peace of mind. Everyone lives in fear and worry. It was like an earthquake — everyone was simply trying to save themselves and their families and reach somewhere safe and secure."*⁷⁷

Problems Facing Displaced Families

Displaced families face numerous problems and challenges, including shortages of food and shelter, life in unsuitable and unsanitary places, a lack of educational and health services, and constant fear of renewed attacks and of losing their loved ones.

All the interviewees for this research cited the lack of food, adequate shelter, and educational and health services as the fundamental problems facing displaced families. Twenty spoke of constant fear of renewed attacks, 18 of shortages of food and health services, and 16 of children being deprived of their right to education.

One interviewee said:

"The displaced face many problems — shortages of tents, food, medicine and doctors, and children with no access to education. In the first days, some displaced families were even living out in the rain without any shelter at all. Thanks to my efforts and those of some

74 OCHA, Afghanistan Humanitarian Update (March and April 2026). <https://www.unocha.org/publications/report/afghanistan/afghanistan-humanitarian-update-march-and-april-2026>

75 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 6, 1 May 2026.

76 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 11, 9 May 2026.

77 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 10, 6 June 2026.

friends, local officials moved them by vehicle to sports grounds and a few other locations. Later, some agencies — such as the disaster management authority and the Afghan Red Crescent Society — provided them with a measure of initial assistance, but this aid fell far short of meeting the needs of the displaced.”⁷⁸

Another interviewee, whose house was destroyed in the Pakistani forces’ attacks, recounted:

“I now live with my family, including my children, on a poultry farm belonging to one of our friends. No chickens are kept there at present, but the place has nothing you need to live — it reeks, and it is no place at all to stay. We have no other choice, and we are forced to live there.”⁷⁹

Another interviewee from Kandahar said:

“The people displaced from their homes fall into three groups. The first are those who had the financial means and made their way to Kandahar city. The second took refuge in the homes of relatives and kin outside the area. But the third group — the largest — fled to the slopes of the Inzergai mountain. There is nothing there. Some of them pitched tents for themselves; others spend day and night in the open without even a tent. No one has helped them — neither the government nor the international relief organizations. A great many people are still displaced, and for fear of the fighting starting again, they have not been able to return to their homes.”⁸⁰

Another interviewee stated:

“My family and I are currently living in a tent. Life here is very hard, and with the heat it grows harder by the day; but we have no choice. The tent we live in is one I previously used for keeping livestock.”⁸¹

The interviewees’ accounts make clear that the displacement of civilians caused by Pakistan’s military attacks has not been limited to the loss of home and place of residence: it has carried long-term human consequences, depriving these families of their basic rights and, in some cases, forcing them to live in harsh conditions and in unsuitable, unsanitary places.

Measures Taken by Local Officials and Aid Organizations

The findings of this research show that the measures taken by local officials and other relief agencies have failed to meet the needs of the injured, of victims’ families and of the displaced. Twelve of the interviewees who lost relatives in the attacks said they had received only limited assistance from local officials or certain relief agencies, while 10 others said they had received no aid or support at all.

The information gathered indicates that local officials and some relief organizations provided between 20,000 and 50,000 afghanis [approx. \$300 to \$750 USD] to victims’ families, 10,000 to 15,000 afghanis [approx. \$150 to \$225 USD] to the injured, and 5,000 to 8,000 afghanis [approx. \$76 to \$120 USD] — and in some cases tents and food — to displaced families. There are also victims who received no assistance whatsoever from these bodies.

78 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 4, 7 May 2026.

79 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 5, 17 May 2026.

80 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 7, 9 May 2026.

81 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 21, 5 July 2026.

One interviewee described the situation of one victim's family:

*"After the attack, no one helped his family. Only a local money changer gave the family 5,000 afghanis. He came from a poor family, was newly married, and worked in a bakery. Despite the poverty and economic hardship, he was pursuing his studies — he was a student at the institute of administration and accounting."*⁸²

Another interviewee said:

*"The Red Crescent office and the disaster management directorate, in cooperation with some international organizations, gave displaced families between 5,000 and 8,000 afghanis. They also distributed tents and food to a number of these families."*⁸³

Another interviewee, whose brother was killed in one of the Pakistani military's attacks, recounted:

*"They paid us 30,000 afghanis, of which 5,000 was my brother's wages. Beyond that, no one has done anything, and we have received no other help. They only gave us a document attesting to my brother's martyrdom, which we shared with the Red Cross committee — but to this day we have heard nothing of what became of it, and we do not know whether we will receive any assistance or not."*⁸⁴

Furthermore, in some cases the injured had no access to timely and effective first aid and medical care, as one interviewee described:

*"My father was wounded in one of the Pakistani forces' attacks. We live in a remote village, and there are no health facilities in our area. Each family has only a single first aid kit for treating wounds and basic dressings. We could not get my father to a hospital in time, because the roads had been closed by the war and the fighting. If a hospital had been nearby, he might have survived — he lived for about 20 minutes after being wounded. The nearest hospital was four kilometres from our home, but with the fighting going on, there was no way to reach it."*⁸⁵



82 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 2, 21 April 2026.

83 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 3, 29 April 2026.

84 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 8, 20 May 2026.

85 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 16, 9 February 2026.

PSYCHOLOGICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF THE ATTACKS ON CIVILIANS

The impact of the Pakistani military's attacks on civilians in Afghanistan has not been limited to human casualties and material losses: it has left deep psychological, social and economic consequences for the victims and their families. Persistent fear, the loss of any sense of safety, the disruption of children's education, deepening poverty and displacement are among the recurring themes highlighted in most interviewees' accounts. These patterns show that the consequences of the conflict continue to weigh on civilians' lives even after the attacks have ended, seriously hindering their return to normal life.



March 13, 2026 – A Pakistani airstrike occurred in the Pul-e-Charkhi area of Kabul
Photo (C): Pajhwok Afghan News

A) Psychological Harm to the Victims and Their Families

All the interviewees for this research stated that these attacks have robbed them and their family members of any sense of security and peace of mind, with numerous negative effects on their daily lives.

One interviewee said:

"We are all in a bad way. Sometimes I cry... We are wrestling with poverty and economic hardship. Even the rickshaw (three-wheeler) I work with is not my own — I work for someone else. We have entrusted everything to God. My only request to you is that you carry our voice to the world."⁸⁶

Another interviewee stated:

"When my wife was killed, my life was turned upside down. Since then, I have been struggling with serious psychological problems. Sometimes I wake at night, sit up in my bed, and talk to myself without realizing what I am doing; there have even been times when I have walked in my sleep. It is my friends, who live with me, who tell me about it... This tragedy has dealt a devastating blow to my life."⁸⁷

Another interviewee recounted:

"My nephew was a second-year student in the computer science faculty. His father wanted him to find work alongside his studies. But since losing him, his condition has grown very bad... He has lost six or seven kilos of weight, and the boy's mother is in a very poor emotional state. It is only natural that losing a young child deeply affects a person's life. Our hope is that this reaches the ears of the world, and that such attacks are prevented from happening again. Now, every time aircraft fly over Kabul, everyone is seized by fear and dread."⁸⁸

B) Consequences of the Attacks for Women

Pakistan's military attacks in Afghanistan have had extensive and significant consequences for women. Of all the victims of these attacks documented by Rawadari, 174 (around 15 percent of the total) are women. Likewise, of the 29,000 families displaced across various provinces, a significant proportion are women. The impact of the attacks on women has not, however, been limited to casualties and displacement: it has also imposed sweeping psychological, social and economic consequences on their lives.

Disability, depression, anxiety, a sense of insecurity, physical ailments brought on by psychological strain, and women's poverty and economic hardship are among the issues raised most frequently in interviewees' accounts. In several cases, interviewees spoke of the deteriorating health of victims' mothers and wives, of heart attacks brought on by psychological distress, of prolonged mourning, and of these women's inability to return to normal life. These findings show that women not only suffer the loss of their loved ones and relatives, but also bear the main weight of the attacks' emotional and psychological aftermath.

⁸⁶ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 8, 20 May 2026.

⁸⁷ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 22, 17 May 2026.

⁸⁸ Rawadari, Interviewee No. 9, 2 June 2026.

One interviewee recounted:

*"The psychological and physical condition of his mother and his wife is dire. Our houses share a wall, and every morning we hear his mother and his wife weeping. Since her son's martyrdom, his mother has suffered several heart attacks and has been taken to hospital for treatment. His young wife is also in a very poor psychological state. Every day she talks to herself and weeps without pause. Every day she goes to her young husband's grave, sits there for hours and cries, until the family pleads with her and brings her home."*⁸⁹

Another interviewee said:

*"I was left destitute; every member of my family has been harmed, physically and mentally. My wife was disabled in this attack and can no longer walk..."*⁹⁰

Even though women make up a considerable share of the direct victims of these attacks, they have also borne the other long-term consequences of the conflict in disproportionate measure. This situation underscores the need for special measures to provide psychological, social and economic support, and for attention to their particular needs, including those displaced by the conflict.

C) Psychological Consequences for Children and Their Deprivation of the Right to Education

All the interviewees referred to the psychological harm inflicted on children, including the fear, anxiety and insecurity caused by the attacks. Nine interviewees also stated that, as a result of displacement, children were deprived of their right to education for a period of time.

One interviewee recounted:

*"The children have suffered severe psychological harm. For fear of being hit by shells, they cannot leave the house or play, and at night they wake up in terror. This year, because of the situation, they missed two months of school. People are very poor, but out of fear of the war they cannot even work their own farmland. Our plea to the international community is to hear the voice of our suffering. What sin have we committed? Why does the Pakistani government target civilians? Why does it strike us?"*⁹¹

Another interviewee said:

*"We lost my father in this attack, and my mother was wounded. My livestock perished, and my children still do not go to school — they stay at home. Before the attack, all of them attended school and the madrasa, but now, out of fear and a sense of insecurity, they have lost their desire to continue their education."*⁹²

89 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 2, 21 May 2026.

90 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 5, 17 May 2026.

91 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 1, 27 April 2026.

92 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 11, 9 May 2026.

Similarly, another interviewee stated:

"The health of my children is very poor... My sons cannot go to school because of the injuries they suffered in the explosion. At night they wake up screaming in terror. My life has been ruined. I have been left without home or hearth. I want my children's and my wife's physical and mental health to be cared for, and my house to be rebuilt."⁹³

D) Economic and Social Consequences

Analysis of the interviews shows that Pakistan's military attacks have had far-reaching economic and social consequences for the lives of victims' families, displaced people and other civilians. Eighteen interviewees identified addressing economic and livelihood problems as among the most important and most urgent needs of victims' families and the displaced.

One interviewee said:

"These attacks have had a devastating effect on people's lives... Many people are now struggling with psychological problems — even the sound of an ordinary gunshot fills them with terror. People are constantly afraid that the war will start again, and so they live in permanent fear and anxiety. They face economic hardship too: many families cannot even afford to buy potatoes. I know many people who have lost everything and who at present do not even have the money to buy cooking oil for a single meal."⁹⁴

Another interviewee recounted:

"These attacks have taken a heavy toll on people's economy and livelihoods. Every time the sound of a rocket is heard, the bazaars and shops close, people are gripped by fear and worry, and everyone runs for home... Because of the Pakistani forces' attacks, people have developed psychological problems, and no one feels calm or safe, because there is always the chance of a rocket strike. The farmers, too, have been unable to tend their fields for fear of attack. In general, an atmosphere of permanent fear and dread hangs over the centre of Kunar province, and especially over its border districts. Women and children have suffered the greatest psychological harm... Every time an explosion or gunfire is heard, the children scream and the women recite the kalima."⁹⁵

Another interviewee said:

"Our life was destroyed. Two members of my family were martyred, and the pain of losing them still lingers in our household. We lost our work and our livelihood, our house was ruined, and our farmland was left uncultivated. The children and the women are struggling psychologically and cannot sleep peacefully at night. We have no money to buy food. The lack of safe drinking water, medicine and doctors is our greatest problem. Our other worry is that we do not know when we will be able to return home, or how we can begin our old life again."⁹⁶

93 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 5, 17 May 2026.

94 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 7, 9 May 2026.

95 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 4, 7 May 2026.

96 Rawadari, Interviewee No. 6, 1 May 2026.

As the victims' accounts make plain, despite the differences in the kinds of losses they suffered and in their living conditions, nearly all of them stressed a handful of shared demands: an end to the attacks; support for victims' families and the displaced; attention to the physical and mental health of those harmed; compensation for the losses inflicted; and carrying their voice to the international community.

June 29, 2026 – Pakistan carried out an airstrike in Chamkani District, Paktia Province. Photo (C): Pajhwok Afghan News



Conclusion

The findings of this report illustrate that in the period of December 2024–June 2026, Pakistani military forces carried out a series of air and ground attacks across various provinces of Afghanistan, killing and injuring hundreds of civilians — including women and children — and destroying residential homes and public facilities. The attacks also led to displacement of thousands of families.

During this period the Pakistani military carried out its attacks mostly at night and without observing the principles of distinction and precaution, striking civilian sites and residential areas belonging to civilians in Afghanistan — conduct that increased human casualties, deepened the suffering of civilians, and inflicted extensive damage and harm.

The continuation of Pakistan’s air and ground attacks against civilian targets in Afghanistan, repeated over recent years, stands in clear contradiction to the fundamental principles of international humanitarian law and may amount to war crimes.

We hope that the findings and recommendations of this report will receive due attention from the UN and other relevant international bodies, and will pave the way for effective and practical measures to end the suffering of civilians. We call for measures to ensure the accountability of the warring parties for violations of international humanitarian law, and to address effectively the situation of victims’ families, the injured and the displaced. It is likewise essential that these measures protect victims’ rights, remedy the losses inflicted, and prevent the recurrence of such violations.

Recommendations

In light of the findings of this report, and with the aim of strengthening accountability, preventing the recurrence of violations of international humanitarian law and, above all, guaranteeing the protection of civilians in the ongoing conflict, Rawadari makes the following recommendations.

1. To the Government of Pakistan

- We strongly urge the Government of Pakistan to put an immediate end to attacks that cause civilian casualties and, as a matter of legal obligation, to observe the principles of distinction, proportionality and precaution in any military operation, in accordance with international humanitarian law.
- We further call on the Government of Pakistan to strictly refrain from any attack or military operation against civilian and economic facilities and infrastructure in Afghanistan, such as hospitals and health centres, schools, mosques, residential homes and markets.
- The Government of Pakistan should conduct independent, impartial and effective investigations into violations of international humanitarian law and hold the perpetrators to account. The Pakistani Government should likewise provide reparation for the losses inflicted on victims and their families in Afghanistan.

2. To the De Facto Authorities in Afghanistan

- We strongly urge the de facto authorities (DFA) in Afghanistan to honour their legal obligations regarding the protection of civilians and to refrain from stationing any military equipment, weaponry or forces in densely populated civilian areas.
- The DFA are expected to lift the restrictions imposed on access to information and to allow the media, human rights organizations and aid groups to work without obstruction. They should further enable independent and impartial investigations by human rights organizations and international bodies into the consequences of Pakistan's military attacks for the lives of civilians in Afghanistan.
- The DFA must also guarantee that victims and witnesses can share their information with human rights bodies and the media without any restriction or fear of retaliation and harassment.
- The DFA are called upon to conduct independent, impartial and effective investigations into civilian casualties, the destruction of public and private property, displacement and other possible violations of international humanitarian law, and to publish their findings.
- The DFA must provide urgent and essential assistance — including food, shelter, health services and other humanitarian support — to victims' families, the injured and the displaced, and guarantee their equal access to these services.
- Rawadari calls on the DFA to adopt and implement the measures necessary to ensure displaced children's effective and non-discriminatory access to their right to education.
- In addition, the DFA are asked to design and implement special support programmes for the women, children, elderly people and persons with disabilities harmed by the attacks, and to enable the voluntary, safe and dignified return of the displaced.

- We call on the DFA to rebuild the affected areas — especially schools, madrasas and health facilities — and to restore citizens' access to services.

3. To the United Nations, the International Community and International Bodies

- We call on the United Nations to examine the violations of international humanitarian law in Afghanistan — in particular the attack on the drug rehabilitation centre in Kabul city — independently, impartially and effectively, and to use every available mechanism to hold the perpetrators to account, support the victims, and prevent further violations.
- The United Nations should bring pressure to bear on Pakistan to honour its obligations under international humanitarian law and to refrain from any act that endangers the lives and safety of civilians.
- We likewise expect the United Nations to increase humanitarian assistance — particularly in the areas of shelter, food, health services, psychosocial support and attention to the situation of the displaced — and to facilitate access to these services for those who have been harmed.
- We call on international relief agencies to expand psychosocial services for the victims of the attacks — especially women, children and other vulnerable groups — and to design and implement economic and livelihood empowerment programmes for them.
- Finally, we call on the international community to support effective political, diplomatic and humanitarian measures to protect civilians in Afghanistan, to reduce the harm caused by the conflict, and to prevent the recurrence of attacks against civilians.

