

Human Rights Situation of the Hazara under Taliban Rule, Escalation of Human Rights Violations, and Immediate Suspension of Deportations to Afghanistan

On the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan. Saturday, 15 August 2026

to the President and the competent bodies of the German Bundestag,
to the Federal Foreign Office and the Federal Ministry of the Interior, as well as the competent state authorities,
to the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF),
to the Members of the German Bundestag and the political parties.

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

we, as representatives of Hazara Kulturhaus München e. V., in cooperation with the Federation of Hazara in Germany and the Hazara Diaspora Network in Europe - an association of civil society institutions, cultural associations and human rights organisations based in European countries - , address this letter, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the collapse of the Afghan Republic and the return of the Taliban to power, to the German Bundestag and the competent state authorities. The purpose is to draw attention to the acute security and human rights emergency facing the Hazara in Afghanistan and to its immediate implications for German asylum, refugee and deportation policy.

With this letter, we particularly wish to draw attention to the critical security and human rights situation in Afghanistan and to the specific deterioration of the risk situation affecting the Hazara. Our statements are based on national and international documentation as well as reports by authoritative international institutions.

We are aware that the living conditions and risk situation are not identical for all Hazara and that ethnic affiliation alone cannot be decisive for the outcome of an asylum procedure. We nevertheless request that asylum and protection applications by Hazara not be assessed solely on the basis of a general assessment of the situation in Afghanistan. Rather, ethnic and religious affiliation, region of origin, any social or political activity, as well as the general risk situation arising from targeted killings, discrimination and systematic exclusion at all levels of society to which Hazara continue to be subjected, should be examined independently, specifically and on the basis of reliable evidence, alongside the other individual grounds and circumstances.

Against this background, we, as an association of members of cultural and social associations, human rights organisations and persons engaged in civil society, call upon the Federal Government, the BAMF and the other competent state authorities to:

1. Immediate suspension of forced deportations of Hazara asylum-seekers and persons entitled to protection from Germany to Afghanistan, with full observance of the most recent judgment of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR), No. 077 (2026), dated 26 March 2026

In that judgment, the Court held that the removal of a Hazara asylum-seeker to Afghanistan, owing to the existing risk to life and physical integrity and the risk of torture and inhuman treatment, would constitute a violation of Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Court expressly found that the interaction of several factors - including membership of the Hazara ethnic group, the region of origin, and the applicant's failure to adapt to the strict and profoundly repressive rules of the Taliban regime - may, taken together, establish a real risk of inhuman treatment.

The conditions and practice of forced returns to Afghanistan must be continuously assessed against the most up-to-date country-of-origin information available, in particular reports by the EUAA, UNAMA/OHCHR and

UNHCR, the official country information of the BAMF, and relevant reports by international media.

2. Consideration of the critical situation of the Hazara, as well as other minorities and particularly vulnerable population groups, as a specific risk group in country-of-origin information and in the individual protection assessment

The precarious security and human rights situation of the Hazara, as well as of other minorities and particularly vulnerable population groups, should be expressly taken into account as an independent component of country-of-origin information and should be appropriately weighed in the examination of protection applications and the granting of international protection.

In proceedings concerning persons of Hazara origin, individual risk factors should be examined in addition to the general situation in Afghanistan. These include, inter alia, ethnic and religious affiliation, social or political activity, a dissenting political or social position, previous threats, and the family situation.

3. Support for independent international mechanisms to investigate, document and ensure accountability for serious human rights violations against Hazara

The Federal Government and the German Bundestag should support independent international mechanisms for the investigation, documentation and accountability concerning serious human rights violations against Hazara.

This should include, in particular, the ongoing documentation of the forced displacement of the population from their ancestral areas of settlement, the transfer or appropriation of land and property belonging to the local population, and other forms of human rights violations against Hazara, including the transfer of armed or security-related groups from Pakistan and the southern provinces of Afghanistan. These developments should be systematically documented and taken into account in the respective country-of-origin analyses.

4. Creation of protection funding and safe pathways for persons at particular risk and persons subject to persecution

For persons internally displaced within Afghanistan, as well as persons living as refugees in neighbouring states who are particularly at risk and threatened with persecution - including human rights defenders, persons engaged in civil society and political activities, artists, women, and other particularly vulnerable persons - sufficient support programmes, as well as safe and legally reliable pathways for departure and admission to Germany, should be established.

Historical sources and documentation have, since the late nineteenth century, recorded extensive cases of genocide, enslavement, expropriation of the Hazara's ancestral lands and assets, as well as the displacement and forced relocation of large parts of the population. On the basis of local documentation and official reports by international institutions, the consequences of this continuing systematic violence persist to this day in the form of killings, persecution, discrimination and targeted disadvantage in the political, social, economic and cultural spheres.

A blanket equation of all Afghan nationals with regard to their individual level of risk is therefore not consistent with the differentiated assessment approach emphasised by the EUAA in the context of the granting of international protection.

Official documentation and reports on the deterioration of the security and human rights situation of the Hazara in Afghanistan

1. Hazara continue to be exposed to repression and particular risks

The February 2026 report of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA) considers Hazara and Shia as a distinct group in its assessment of the situation in Afghanistan. The report refers, inter alia, to the historical continuity of discrimination and repression, restrictions on the social and political participation of Hazara, restrictions on religious practices, the arbitrary detention of Shia clerics and Hazara activists, discriminatory restrictions on access to national and international humanitarian assistance and development projects, as well as forced displacement of Hazara and the unlawful appropriation of ancestral land and assets in numerous regions.

Source: Official EUAA report, Afghanistan: Country Focus, February 2026 - Hazaras and other Shia groups; see EUAA report.

The Country Guidance: Afghanistan published by the EUAA in June 2026 also expressly considers Hazara and other Shia groups in the assessment of international protection and states that certain measures directed against these persons may reach the threshold of "torture and killing". The report refers, inter alia, to the detention of Shia clerics, forced displacement and forced evictions in connection with land disputes, widespread discrimination, violence against certain Hazara women, and attacks by ISKP against Shia and Hazara.

Source: Official EUAA guidance, Country Guidance: Afghanistan, June 2026; see EUAA guidance.

2. The risks faced by Hazara are not limited to terrorist attacks

The human rights risks faced by Hazara are not limited solely to the threat of attacks by the Taliban, the so-called Islamic State - Khorasan Province (ISKP), or other terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan.

European and international sources instead report a complex interaction of various risk factors, including ethnic and religious discrimination, restrictions on social and political participation, restrictions on religious practices, arbitrary detention and torture, targeted obstruction and pressure against Hazara and Shia communities, forced displacement and the unlawful appropriation of fertile land, as well as the violent takeover of Hazara villages and areas of settlement.

In its June 2026 assessment, the EUAA emphasises that in numerous regions Hazara are subjected to discriminatory treatment by Taliban authorities and that the Hazara population has been deliberately and systematically excluded from access to national and international humanitarian assistance, development projects and public services.

Source: Official EUAA document, Country Guidance: Afghanistan, June 2026.

3. Terrorist attacks against Hazara have not ceased; the risk of lethal violence persists

A proper and balanced assessment of the situation requires consideration of two facts that are compatible with one another: on the one hand, the EUAA reports that the number of large-scale terrorist attacks against the Hazara and Shia population has declined from its peak in 2022. On the other hand, individual terrorist attacks, as well as other forms of targeted violence and persecution, continue, meaning that significant risks to life and physical integrity remain.

Source: Official EUAA guidance, Country Guidance: Afghanistan, June 2026.

4. Official German authorities also assess the general human rights situation in Afghanistan as extremely concerning

The Federal Foreign Office has stated in its information on Afghanistan that the country is under the de facto control of the Taliban and that, inter alia, torture, extrajudicial executions, corporal punishment, violent suppression of protests, restrictions on freedom of expression, and a weakening of the rule of law have been recorded.

Source: Federal Foreign Office website, Afghanistan: Political Portrait, status as of 10 March 2026.

In addition, the Federal Government has previously pointed out that the human rights situation in Afghanistan has continuously deteriorated since the Taliban returned to power and that ethnic and religious minorities, as well as other particularly vulnerable groups, must not be overlooked under these circumstances.

Source: Official statement of the Federal Foreign Office on the human rights situation in Afghanistan dated 15 August 2024.

5. Individual risk assessment must be at the centre of asylum-law decisions and return decisions

The EUAA expressly states that, with regard to Hazara and other Shia persons, risk assessment must take into account individual factors such as religious activity or function, region of origin, gender, and other circumstances increasing the level of risk.

This is of direct relevance to the decision-making of the BAMF. The BAMF also points out that country-of-origin information and country analyses constitute an essential basis for decision-making in asylum procedures and that this information is made available to the authorities, ministries and administrative courts responsible for asylum matters.

Source: EUAA, Country Guidance: Afghanistan.

Source: BAMF, Information on the analysis of country-of-origin information; official BAMF information.

6. The principle of non-refoulement must be ensured

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has pointed out that, despite a relative improvement in the security situation in certain regions of Afghanistan, significant human rights and protection-related challenges continue to exist. UNHCR therefore calls upon States to ensure international refugee protection standards, the principle of non-refoulement, and safe access to protection and asylum.

Source: UNHCR, Afghanistan Emergency; official UNHCR information page on the situation in Afghanistan.

We, the undersigned to this letter, call upon the Federal Government, the German Bundestag and the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) to ensure that no person of Hazara origin is returned to that country, solely on the basis of a blanket overall assessment of the situation in Afghanistan, where that person faces a concrete risk of serious human rights violations.

The protection of human dignity, the prohibition of torture and inhuman or degrading treatment, the principle of non-discrimination, and the obligation to prevent the gravest human rights violations are not matters that are subject exclusively to political considerations or political discretion. Rather, these principles constitute an independent normative and legal framework against which German policy towards Afghanistan must also be assessed.

Yours faithfully,

Hazara Kulturhaus München e. V.

in cooperation with the Hazara Diaspora Network, the Federation of Hazara in Germany, signatory social organisations and human rights defenders in Germany

Munich, 15 August 2026

We welcome the opportunity to continue the dialogue and professional exchange on these matters and remain available at any time to answer further questions and for a personal meeting.

For contact or to arrange a personal meeting, you may reach us at the following e-mail address:

hazara.kulturhaus.muc@gmail.com

Note on the sources used:

The sources and documentation on which this letter is based were compiled with reference to recognised and relevant international sources. These include, inter alia, official statements and positions of the parliaments of Spain, the United Kingdom and Australia, United Nations reports on the human rights situation of the Hazara and on the situation in Afghanistan, publications of the European Union Agency for Asylum (EUAA), as well as analyses and documentation by relevant international specialist institutions.

For further information, an in-depth review of the sources used, and the possibility of independent verification of the information presented in this letter, reference is made to the following sources and documentation.

www.hazaragenocide.com www.bolaq.org

1. Hazara Inquiry report (2022) - <https://www.hazarainquiry.com/>
2. Hansard debate "Hazaras in Afghanistan" (2023) - <https://hansard.parliament.uk/commons/2023-06-07/debates/653DC564-10F4-42DD-8FDC-25F72DA4426E/HazarasInAfghanistan>
3. Hansard, Genocide (Prevention and Response) Bill debate, quoting the Hazara Inquiry findings (2024) - [https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-03-22/debates/387CB458-D958-4F67-8A51-D932A73974C2/Genocide\(PreventionAndResponse\)Bill\(HL\)](https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2024-03-22/debates/387CB458-D958-4F67-8A51-D932A73974C2/Genocide(PreventionAndResponse)Bill(HL))
4. UK Parliament written evidence - Hazara Committee UK submission - <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/41647/html/>
5. UK Parliament written evidence - Hazara Research Collective submission - <https://committees.parliament.uk/writtenevidence/11165/html/>
6. Catalonia (Spain): News report on the Catalan parliament's statement on Hazaras (April 2026) - <https://www.afintl.com/en/202605058726>
7. Australia: Parliamentary Friends of the Hazaras group page - <https://www.hazaraadvocacynetwork.com.au/pfh>
8. Australian Greens official statement on the Hazara community - <https://greens.org.au/news/australian-greens-statement-hazara-community>
9. European Parliament (covers Italy reference): EU Parliament written question, "Situation of the Hazaras in Afghanistan" - https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/E-9-2022-002396_EN.html
10. UN: UN Special Rapporteur on Afghanistan (Richard Bennett) - page tracking his Hazara-related reporting - <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-afghanistan>
11. UN Human Rights Council report (Feb - April 2025 session) - documents a killing of 14 Hazara civilians - [https://www.policinglaw.info/assets/downloads/UN_Special_Rapporteur_report_on_Afghanistan_\(2025\).pdf](https://www.policinglaw.info/assets/downloads/UN_Special_Rapporteur_report_on_Afghanistan_(2025).pdf)