

## **Schnellrecherche der SFH-Länderanalyse vom 17. November 2015 zu Afghanistan: Einnahme des Distrikts Chahar Dara (Provinz Kunduz) und der Stadt Kunduz durch die Taliban, Kinderarbeit in der Stadt Kunduz**

Fragen an die SFH-Länderanalyse:

- Wurde der Distrikt Chahar Dara einschliesslich des Dorfes Qarya Qasab in der Provinz Kunduz im Juni 2015 von den Taliban eingenommen?
- Ist es üblich bzw. nicht ungewöhnlich, dass ein 14-jähriger Junge seinem Vater im Schuhladen in der Stadt Kunduz bei der Arbeit hilft? Ist es üblich bzw. nicht ungewöhnlich, dass dieser 14-jährige Junge in einem Zimmer über dem Laden in der Stadt Kunduz alleine übernachtet, während der Vater jeweils über Nacht nach Hause zur Familie fährt?

Die Informationen beruhen auf einer zeitlich begrenzten Recherche (Schnellrecherche) in öffentlich zugänglichen Dokumenten, die uns derzeit zur Verfügung stehen sowie auf den Informationen einer sachkundigen Kontaktperson.

### **1 Die Taliban in der Provinz Kunduz**

**Einnahme des Distrikts Chahar Dara durch die Taliban im Juni 2015.** Laut *BBC News* (21. Juni 2015), *New York Times* (21. Juni 2015) und *Sydney Morning Herald* (21. Juni 2015) nahmen die Taliban am 21. Juni 2015 den Distrikt Chahar Dara (auch geschrieben als Chardara oder Char Dara) ein. Gemäss Auskunft eines Sicherheitsberaters einer internationalen Organisation in Kunduz vom 11. November 2015 eroberten die Taliban bereits vor dem 21. Juni 2015 zahlreiche Dörfer einschliesslich des Dorfes Qarya Qasab im Distrikt Chahar Dara. Am 21. Juni brachten sie das Distriktzentrum unter ihre Kontrolle. Aktuell (11. November 2015) kontrollieren die Taliban laut Auskunft des Sicherheitsberaters mit Ausnahme des Distriktzentrums und der Strasse, die nach Kunduz-Stadt führt, den gesamten Distrikt Chahar Dara. Gemäss dem *Afghanistan Analysts Network* (30. September 2015) soll ein Talibankommandeur am 27. September 2015 vom Dorf Qarya Qasab im Distrikt Chahar Dara aus eine Drohbotschaft verbreitet haben.

**Strategischer Wert des Distrikts Chahar Dara als Basis für die Taliban, Kämpfe um die Stadt Kunduz und Kontrolle der Stadt durch die Taliban im September/Oktober 2015.** Der Distrikt Chahar Dara liegt laut *BBC News* (21. Juni 2015) nur einige Kilometer von der Stadt Kunduz entfernt. Bereits am 24. April 2015 starteten die Taliban laut *New York Times* (28. April 2015) eine Offensive auf die Stadt. Am 24. September 2015 brachten sie laut *New York Times* (28. September 2015) die Stadt unter ihre Kontrolle. Dies geschah laut *The Long War Journal* (28. September 2015) ausgehend von den Distrikten Chahar Dara im Südwesten, Imam Sahib im Norden und Khanabad im Südosten, die alle drei unter Taliban-Kontrolle stehen sollen. Laut *The Guardian* (1. Oktober 2015) und *New York Times* (5. Oktober 2015) brachten afghanische Sicherheitskräfte mit Unterstützung von internationalen Spezialkräften die Stadt Anfang Oktober 2015 zumindest teilweise wieder unter ihre Kon-

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trolle, wobei die Situation gemäss *BBC News* (1. Oktober 2015) und *Reuters* (6. Oktober 2015) weiter instabil blieb. Laut *The Guardian* (1. Oktober 2015) zogen sich einige Taliban vor Beginn der Regierungsoffensive unter anderem in den Distrikt Chahar Dara zurück. Während die Kämpfe in und um Kunduz weitergingen, bombardierte laut *BBC News* (7. Oktober 2015 und 5. November 2015) ein US-amerikanisches Kampfflugzeug am 3. Oktober 2015 das von *Médécins Sans Frontières* geleitete Spital von Kunduz. Dabei wurden 30 Personen einschliesslich Patientinnen und Patienten sowie medizinisches Personal getötet. Am 13. Oktober 2015 zogen sich die Taliban laut *New York Times* (13. Oktober 2015) aus Kunduz zurück.

**Strategische Bedeutung der Stadt Kunduz für die Taliban.** Gemäss *BBC News* (29. September 2015) hat die Stadt Kunduz durch ihre zentrale Lage im Norden Afghanistans strategische Bedeutung. Sie ist nach Süden mit der Hauptstadt Kabul und nach Westen mit der Stadt Mazar-i-Sharif verbunden, nach Norden mit Tadschikistan. Vor 2001 kontrollierten die Taliban von Kunduz aus den Norden des Landes. Über die durchlässige Grenze nach Tadschikistan wird afghanisches Opium und Heroin nach Zentralasien und von dort weiter nach Europa transportiert. Kontrolle von Kunduz bedeutet also gleichzeitig Kontrolle einer der wichtigsten Schmuggelrouten für Drogen in der Region. In den letzten zwei Jahren haben die Taliban ihre Kämpfe in der Provinz Kunduz verstärkt. Laut dem *Afghanistan Analysts Network* (30. September 2015) nimmt Kunduz durch seine Lage eine Schlüsselstellung auf der Route von Kabul nach Takhar und Badakhshan ein, zwei Nachbarprovinzen, die sich bereits zum Teil unter der Kontrolle der Taliban befinden. Ausserdem hat Kunduz historische Bedeutung: 1988 war es die erste Stadt, die die Mudschahedin einnahmen. In den 1990er Jahren diente es den Taliban als Basis für ihre Expansion im Norden, und es war die letzte Stadt, die die Taliban 2001 verloren.

**Menschenrechtsverletzungen an der Zivilbevölkerung durch die Taliban während der Kunduz-Offensive im September/Oktober 2015.** Laut *Amnesty International* (1. Oktober 2015) sollen die Taliban während der Kunduz-Offensive zahlreiche Menschenrechtsverletzungen an der Zivilbevölkerung verübt haben, unter anderem Massenmord, Gruppenvergewaltigungen («gang rapes») und Hausdurchsuchungen («house-to-house searches»).

**Rekrutierung von Kindern durch die Taliban während der Kunduz-Offensive im September/Oktober 2015.** Laut einem *Al Jazeera*-Interview mit der UN-Sonderbeauftragten für Kinder und bewaffnete Konflikte vom 14. Oktober 2015 sollen die Taliban, die immer wieder Kinder rekrutieren, während der Kunduz-Offensive Dutzende Kinder im Alter von 10 bis 15 Jahren als Kämpfer eingesetzt haben. Ausserdem wurden mindestens 10 Kinder in der Kunduz-Offensive getötet und 53 verletzt. Laut *Amnesty International* (1. Oktober 2015) sollen Talibankämpfer Jungen dazu benutzt haben, Zielpersonen zu identifizieren, an denen die Taliban dann Menschenrechtsverletzungen begingen.

*BBC News*, 21. Juni 2015:

«Government forces in northern Afghanistan have launched a counter-offensive against the Taliban, after they took control of a key district. Chardara district is just a few kilometres from the provincial centre of Kunduz, and a major road to

**the capital Kabul runs through it.** A Taliban website has shown militants at a captured police post in Chardara. Meanwhile the government says it has taken back another district, Yumgan in Badakshan province, from the Taliban.

**Chardara local official Muhammad Yusuf Ayubi told AFP news agency that the district had fallen to the Taliban** after hours of fighting, adding that 12 soldiers had died and 17 were wounded. **Last month tens of thousands were displaced after the Taliban moved into the same area. The government believes that there are many foreign fighters allied to Islamic State fighting alongside the Taliban here.** Militant violence has increased across the country since the departure of most US and Nato forces last year.» Quelle: BBC News, Afghans counter Taliban offensive in northern Kunduz province, 21. Juni 2015:  
[www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-33215948](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-33215948).

New York Times, 21. Juni 2015:

**«After Taliban insurgents said Sunday that they were on the verge of taking their first city, Kunduz in the far north of Afghanistan, officials there expressed alarm as residents began to flee the area.** But the central government in Kabul said there was no cause for concern. (...) Sunday's developments, if confirmed, would be the first time this year that a major population center has been directly threatened. Kunduz, Afghanistan's fifth-largest city with a population of 300,000, is an important trading city on vital supply lines — and also smuggling routes — to Tajikistan, with that country's border only about 40 miles from the city.

The insurgents' spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, announced that after fighting all night Saturday, **the Taliban had taken control of the administrative center and all 12 police posts in the district of Chahar Dara in Kunduz Province on Sunday [21 June 2015].** The district not only adjoins Kunduz city, but its administrative center is also only about two and a half miles from the city's outskirts. The insurgents captured 25 police officers there, according to Mr. Mujahid.

Sayed Sarwar Hussaini, the spokesman for the Kunduz Province police, denied that any police officers had been captured and said the Chahar Dara District had not fallen to the insurgents. "The Taliban fighters didn't take control of the district," Mr. Hussaini said. "They took control of about 50 percent of the district, but we still have support from the central government and the Ministries of Defense and Interior." He insisted that there was no imminent threat to Kunduz city.

However, a senior provincial official in the city, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to talk to the news media, said **the situation there was grave. "If the government does not send enough reinforcements, the city of Kunduz will fall to the Taliban,"** the official said. (...)

While he was hearing the official denials of a problem in Kunduz, General Amarkhel said by way of example, **a resident of Chahar Dara District called him and said he was fleeing and thought Kunduz would fall next. Many local Kunduz residents also posted photos and videos on social media sites showing people fleeing Chahar Dara District for nearby Kunduz city.**

**On Sunday, a spokesman for the Defense Ministry in Kabul, Brig. Gen. Dawlat Waziri, confirmed both that Yamgan District had been retaken from the insurgents, and that Chahar Dara District had fallen to them. He blamed an Afghan local police unit in the district center, which had retreated when the insurgents attacked, for the collapse. "We are preparing to retake it," he said.** » Quelle: New York Times, Taliban and Afghan Government Dispute Status of Kunduz, 21. Juni 2015:  
[www.nytimes.com/2015/06/22/world/asia/taliban-and-afghan-government-dispute-status-of-kunduz.html?\\_r=1](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/06/22/world/asia/taliban-and-afghan-government-dispute-status-of-kunduz.html?_r=1).

Sydney Morning Herald, 21. Juni 2015:

**«Taliban insurgents advancing on the capital of a northern Afghan province have captured a key adjoining district, officials said on Sunday, sparking renewed alarm among residents who fear the fall of the besieged city. The Taliban launched their annual spring offensive in late April with a brazen assault in Kunduz province, coming close to overrunning the provincial capital and sending civilian casualties soaring in outlying districts. The capture of Chardarah district - on the edge of Kunduz city - on Saturday reignited concerns over its potential fall.**

**"The district has fallen to Taliban after hours of fierce fighting" Chardarah district chief Mohammad Yousuf Ayubi said. "Twelve Afghan forces have lost their lives and 17 have been wounded." The militants are now as close as three kilometres to Kunduz city, increasingly hemmed in by the insurgency, with sporadic fighting still ongoing between the Taliban and pro-government forces. (...)**

**Civilians are bearing the brunt of a large-scale insurgent offensive in Kunduz, the keystone of the Taliban's summer fighting season which is expected to be the bloodiest in a decade. The province is facing a humanitarian crisis, with thousands of families trapped in a vortex of violence as militancy spreads across the north, beyond traditional Taliban hotbeds in the south and east. Fierce battles between insurgents and government forces in Chardarah late on Saturday sent terrified residents fleeing towards Kunduz city, carrying babies, livestock and household possessions. (...)**

**"The Taliban are fighting during the fasting month of Ramadan. They are not Muslims," she told AFP. The militants recently rebuffed requests from senior Afghan clerics to halt attacks during Ramadan despite surging civilian casualties. The streets of Kunduz city were deserted, with shops closed and local administration officials deserting government buildings, residents said, as fears of a Taliban takeover grew.** » Quelle: Sydney Morning Herald, Afghanistan: Taliban advance on key northern city, 21. Juni 2015:  
[www.smh.com.au/world/afghanistan-taliban-advance-on-key-northern-city-20150621-ghtu5f.html](http://www.smh.com.au/world/afghanistan-taliban-advance-on-key-northern-city-20150621-ghtu5f.html).

Afghanistan Analysts Network, 30. September 2015:

**«[A] day before the attack [on Kunduz], the Taleban released a short video clip on social media in which an unnamed commander of the province's 'commandos'**

(also referred to as the 'red unit' – this is something like a quick reaction force set up by the Taliban this year) addressed Vice President General Abdul Rashid Dostum in response to rumours that Dostum would visit the province on a military campaign – as he had done in the summer in Faryab and Sar-e Pul. The commander can be seen breaking into mocking laughter and saying: "I will deal with Dostum in a way he will remember forever." **He also gives the full address of the area where he was allegedly speaking from (Chardara's Qarya-e Qasab village in Sarak Bala area), to show he was not afraid.**» Quelle: Afghanistan Analysts Network, The Fall of Kunduz: What does it tell us about the strength of the post-Omar Taliban?, 30. September 2015:

[www.afghanistan-analysts.org/the-fall-of-kunduz-what-does-it-tell-us-about-the-strength-of-the-post-omar-taliban/](http://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/the-fall-of-kunduz-what-does-it-tell-us-about-the-strength-of-the-post-omar-taliban/).

New York Times, 28. April 2015:

**«The assault on Kunduz city, which began Friday, is the cornerstone of the Taliban's spring offensive.** Already, the fighting is posing a dire test of the Afghan security forces, which struggled on multiple fronts last year after taking the lead from coalition forces. Although the city came under threat last summer, when Taliban forces loyal to the commander Mullah Abdul Salam settled in to rule several of the outlying districts, Afghan officials seemed unprepared for the scope of the new assault over the weekend.

"Kunduz city is surrounded from four directions," said Muhammad Yousuf Ayoubi, the provincial council chief. "If the government does not pay urgent attention, there is serious risk of it falling to the Taliban." **The Taliban have targeted four districts surrounding the city, displacing nearly 2,000 families, according to provincial council members.**» Quelle: New York Times, Afghan Troops Rush to Kunduz Amid Taliban Assault, 28. April 2015:

[www.nytimes.com/2015/04/29/world/asia/afghan-troops-rush-to-kunduz-amid-taliban-assault.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/04/29/world/asia/afghan-troops-rush-to-kunduz-amid-taliban-assault.html?_r=0).

New York Times, 28. September 2015:

**«After months of besieging the northern Afghan provincial capital of Kunduz, Taliban fighters took over the city on Monday just hours after advancing,** officials said, as government security forces fully retreated to the city's outlying airport. The Taliban's sudden victory, after what had appeared to be a stalemate through the summer, gave the insurgents a military and political prize — the capture of a major Afghan city — that had eluded them since 2001. And it presented the government of President Ashraf Ghani, which has been alarmed about insurgent advances in the surrounding province for a year, with a demoralizing setback less than a year after the formal end of the NATO combat mission in Afghanistan.» Quelle: New York Times, Taliban Fighters Capture Kunduz City as Afghan Forces Retreat, 28. September 2015:

[www.nytimes.com/2015/09/29/world/asia/taliban-fighters-enter-city-of-kunduz-in-northern-afghanistan.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/09/29/world/asia/taliban-fighters-enter-city-of-kunduz-in-northern-afghanistan.html).

The Long War Journal, 28. September 2015:

«The Taliban assaulted the northern provincial capital of Kunduz from three directions and seized control of areas in the city. Unconfirmed reports from residents and Taliban fighters inside Kunduz indicate that Afghan forces have been driven out of the city and the jihadist group is in full control. According to the BBC, hundreds of **Taliban fighters launched their offensive today from three districts: Imam Sahib to the north, Khanabad from the southeast, and Chardara from the southwest. All three districts are thought to be under Taliban control. (...) The status of the six districts is unclear, but the Taliban is still thought to be in control of Imam Sahib, Aliabad, Chardara, Khanabad, and Dasht-i-Archi.**» Quelle: The Long War Journal, Taliban storms Kunduz city, 28. September 2015:  
[www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2015/09/taliban-storm-kunduz-city.php](http://www.longwarjournal.org/archives/2015/09/taliban-storm-kunduz-city.php).

The Guardian, 1. Oktober 2015:

«**Afghan government forces have recaptured parts of central Kunduz, the northern city seized by the Taliban this week, but fighting endures in and around the city.** Special forces launched an operation at about 9pm on Wednesday alongside soldiers and police. They were backed by international special forces, believed to be acting mainly in an advisory role. (...)

It was (...) unclear where the Taliban had gone. **Some militants appeared to have fled before the government counter-offensive, taking vast quantities of seized weapons and vehicles with them to Chardara district, according to one resident.** "For the moment, [the Taliban] are out of the city but I think they are more powerful now," the resident said.

**The recapture of parts of Kunduz follows three days of heavy fighting after the Taliban seized the city in a surprise assault.** It was the first time since 2001 the insurgents managed to breach a large city. They did so despite being vastly outnumbered. Thousands of security forces simply fled when the militants advanced.»

Quelle: The Guardian, Afghan troops seize parts of Kunduz from Taliban, 1. Oktober 2015:  
[www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/01/afghan-forces-recapture-kunduz-from-taliban](http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/oct/01/afghan-forces-recapture-kunduz-from-taliban).

New York Times, 5. Oktober 2015:

«**Afghan security forces on Monday reported significant progress in trying to retake the northern city of Kunduz from the Taliban.** But evidence of a calculated insurgent offensive on multiple fronts continued, amid reports that yet another provincial capital had come under attack. With much of the attention still on Kunduz, where fighting continued Monday and where a devastating American airstrike on Saturday deprived the city's residents of its most important hospital, new fighting was reported near the provincial capital in Faryab, in northwestern Afghanistan. It was the third northern hub to come under Taliban attack in recent days.» Quelle: New York Times, Afghan Forces Report Progress in Kunduz as Taliban Press Other Fronts, 5. Oktober 2015:  
[www.nytimes.com/2015/10/06/world/asia/kunduz-afghanistan-taliban.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/06/world/asia/kunduz-afghanistan-taliban.html).

BBC News, 1. Oktober 2015:

*«Afghan officials say they have regained control of key areas of the northern city of Kunduz from the Taliban. An operation launched overnight saw forces recapture government landmarks and inflict heavy casualties on the militants, officials said. But the Taliban has insisted it still controls large parts of the city.»* Quelle: BBC News, Taliban Kunduz attack: Afghan forces claim control of city, 1. Oktober 2015: [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34409292](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34409292).

Reuters, 6. Oktober 2015:

*«Taliban fighters on motorbikes have carried out hit-and-run attacks on Afghan forces trying to clear Kunduz city of insurgents, more than a week after the militant movement briefly seized the provincial capital. Adopting new tactics, Taliban fighters have been firing at security forces at checkpoints and then melting away into residential areas, rather than directly engaging in gun battles, said Hamdullah Danishi, acting governor of the northern city. "This is a new policy for the Taliban," said Danishi. "They want to create fear among residents so they cannot resume their normal lives."»* Quelle: Reuters, Taliban fighters launch hit-and-run attacks in Afghanistan's Kunduz, 6. Oktober 2015: [www.swissinfo.ch/eng/residents-say-afghan-forces-regain-most-of-kunduz/41685812](http://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/residents-say-afghan-forces-regain-most-of-kunduz/41685812).

BBC News, 7. Oktober 2015:

*«International charity Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) has demanded an independent international investigation into the US bombing of its hospital in the city of Kunduz in northern Afghanistan. At least 22 people, including MSF staff, were killed in Saturday's early morning attack. MSF says dozens were injured and the hospital severely damaged.»* Quelle: BBC News, Afghan conflict: What we know about Kunduz hospital bombing, 7. Oktober 2015: [www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34444053](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34444053).

BBC News, 5. November 2015:

*«Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) staff were shot at from the air while fleeing a hospital in northern Afghanistan that was hit by US air strikes a month ago, the charity says. In a report MSF said there were no weapons or fighting inside the compound in Kunduz before the bombing started. The US initially said its forces had come under fire, but later said the air strikes were requested by Afghan forces under Taliban fire. (...)*

*Some accounts of events mentioned shooting that appeared to "follow the movement of people on the run", the report said. It said the shooting probably came from the plane carrying out the attack. **The death toll was earlier set at 22, but the report says at least 30 people were killed, including 10 known patients, 13 known staff, and 7 more bodies that were not recognisable.** MSF says the co-ordinates of the hospital were well-known and had been communicated again to all sides three days before the bombing. It said the bombing went on for a more than an hour despite repeated calls to US and Afghan military officials in Kabul and Washington to*

call off the strikes.» Quelle: BBC News, Kunduz bombing: US planes 'fired on MSF hospital staff', 5. November 2015:  
[www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34738652](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34738652).

New York Times, 13. Oktober 2015:

**«The Taliban announced that they had withdrawn completely from the northern city of Kunduz on Tuesday, ending their first takeover of any Afghan city during the last 14 years of war. The insurgents held Kunduz for just 15 days, but during that time they destroyed government offices and facilities, seized military hardware, hunted down opponents, and freed prisoners from the city's two prisons. In the process, the Taliban also delivered a shock to hopes that the Afghan security forces could dependably defend the country's most important population centers. In the attack, several hundred Taliban overwhelmed an estimated 7,000 government defenders.**

*Panic sent residents of several other northern provincial capitals fleeing from their homes over the past two weeks, and that pattern continued on Monday — even as the Taliban withdrew from Kunduz in order to avoid, as a statement from the insurgents put it, “unnecessary waste of ammunition.” The group also boasted that it might later retake the city, as it had proved that it was capable of engaging in urban warfare successfully.»* Quelle: New York Times, Taliban End Takeover of Kunduz After 15 Days, 13. Oktober 2015:  
[www.nytimes.com/2015/10/14/world/asia/taliban-afghanistan-kunduz.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2015/10/14/world/asia/taliban-afghanistan-kunduz.html).

BBC News, 29. September 2015:

*«The militant seizure of Kunduz has made the north-eastern city the site of one of the Afghan government's worst setbacks since Taliban forces were ousted in 2001. One of Afghanistan's largest cities, it has long been a strategically important transport hub for the north of the country. Kunduz is linked by highways to Kabul in the south, with Mazar-e-Sharif in the west and with Tajikistan in the north. But it has always held symbolic significance for the Taliban because it was a key northern stronghold before 2001.*

**'Drug smuggling route'**

***Kunduz is considered a gateway to Afghanistan's northern provinces and shares a border with Tajikistan, Afghanistan's Central Asian neighbour. The border with Tajikistan is porous, and it is used for the smuggling of Afghan opium and heroin to Central Asia, which finally finds its way to Europe. Any side controlling Kunduz would not only influence the surrounding areas, but could also control one of the most important drug smuggling routes in the region.***

*Security for the region - which was a flagship project for the German army - was transferred to Afghan forces in 2013. But Kunduz has many other problems: bad governance as well as incompetence and intimidation by some local officials have al-*

ienated many in the province. **It has long been at the frontline of a determined campaign by the Taliban to reclaim it.** (...)

The Taliban already control huge chunks of the province's rural areas, where the majority of the population lives. **The insurgents have intensified their fighting in the province over the past two years.** The city is estimated to have about 300,000 residents but those numbers are likely to be fluid because fighting prompted many to flee the city earlier this year. **Tens of thousands of people were displaced, living in shelters, spread across large tracts of countryside. Although the insurgents were pushed back, they always had numbers in the region and many observers believed it was only a matter of time before a determined assault was attempted.**» Quelle: BBC News, Battleground Kunduz: The city the Taliban seized, 29. September 2015:

[www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34387853](http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-34387853).

Afghanistan Analysts Network, 30. September 2015:

«Kunduz itself is also significant. Geographically, it is the gateway to the rest of the northeast, connecting Kabul to Takhar and Badakhshan. **If Kunduz remains contested or under the control of the Taleban, this would cut the main routes to the two neighbouring provinces, Takhar and Badakhshan, parts of which are already under Taleban pressure or even control.** The city also has many important symbolic resonances. **It was the first city to fall to the mujahedin – in 1988. It was the first city in the north to fall to the Taleban in the 1990s, becoming their stronghold as they advanced across most of the rest of northern Afghanistan. It was also the last city in the north that they lost in 2001.**» Quelle: Afghanistan Analysts Network, The Fall of Kunduz: What does it tell us about the strength of the post-Omar Taleban?, 30. September 2015:

[www.afghanistan-analysts.org/the-fall-of-kunduz-what-does-it-tell-us-about-the-strength-of-the-post-omar-taleban/](http://www.afghanistan-analysts.org/the-fall-of-kunduz-what-does-it-tell-us-about-the-strength-of-the-post-omar-taleban/).

Amnesty International, 1. Oktober 2015:

«**Mass murder, gang rapes and house-to-house searches by Taliban death squads are just some of the harrowing civilian testimonies emerging from Kunduz as Afghan forces today claimed to have regained control of key areas of the northern city,** Amnesty International said. The organization has spoken to numerous people, the majority of them women, who have fled Kunduz since Monday, when the Taliban launched a sudden assault on the city. Women human rights defenders from Kunduz spoke of a **“hit list” being used by the Taliban to track down activists and others, and described how fighters had raped and killed numerous civilians.**

“The harrowing accounts we’ve received paint a picture of a reign of terror during the Taliban’s brutal capture of Kunduz this week. The multiple credible reports of killings, rapes and other horrors meted out against the city’s residents must prompt the Afghan authorities to do more now to protect civilians, in particular in areas where more fighting appears imminent,” said Horia Mosadiq, Afghanistan Researcher at Amnesty International. “Heavy fighting continues as Afghan forces try to regain full control and restore law and order in Kunduz. **Protecting civilians from further on-**

**slaughter and serious abuses at the hands of the Taliban is of the utmost importance.** “Many humanitarian agencies have bravely continued their work in and around Kunduz over the past days. They must be granted access to carry out their life-saving work. With thousands forced from their homes, it is also crucial that all parties agree to a humanitarian corridor that allows civilians to leave the city safely.” (...)

**Taliban fighters have allegedly been using young boys to help them to conduct house-to-house searches to locate and abduct their targets, including women.**»

Quelle: Amnesty International, Harrowing accounts emerge of the Taliban’s reign of terror in Kunduz Afghanistan, 1. Oktober 2015:

[www.amnestyusa.org/news/press-releases/harrowing-accounts-emerge-of-the-taliban-s-reign-of-terror-in-kunduz-afghanistan](http://www.amnestyusa.org/news/press-releases/harrowing-accounts-emerge-of-the-taliban-s-reign-of-terror-in-kunduz-afghanistan).

Al Jazeera, 14. Oktober 2015:

«Al Jazeera: How did the Taliban recruit and use children in their frontline operations, in Kunduz?

Leila Zerrougui: **The information that we have received is that children are not only recruited and used by the Taliban in the frontline, something that is completely unacceptable, but also that the number of children killed and maimed in the conflict was also very high. The access to these areas are very difficult but what we know so far is that at least 10 children have been killed in the Kunduz conflict and 53 have been injured.**

Al Jazeera: What kinds of violations against children are we talking about since the beginning of the Taliban offensive in Kunduz?

Leila Zerrougui: We have seen the Taliban recruiting children before for a long time. **The information we have received from Kunduz is that children as young as 10 were forcibly recruited and have been used in fighting in Kunduz.** In the past, we also had information of abduction of children and their use particularly for planting IEDs and as suicide bombers. They are also recruited as spies where they ran the risk of being killed by the other side. **In Kunduz, children between the ages of 10 and 15 were used by the Taliban and dozens of them were deployed according to eyewitnesses, but we cannot confirm the exact number for now.**» Quelle: Al Jazeera, Q&A: The Taliban’s child soldiers in Kunduz, 14. Oktober 2015: [www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/qa-taliban-child-soldiers-kunduz-151014110739457.html](http://www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/qa-taliban-child-soldiers-kunduz-151014110739457.html).

## 2 Kinderarbeit in Afghanistan

**Weite Verbreitung von Kinderarbeit in Afghanistan.** Laut Informationen des afghanischen Arbeitsministeriums von 2008 (zitiert in *UNESCO/Government of Afghanistan/Ministry of Education*, 2014) zählten damals 1,2 Millionen afghanische Kinder im Alter zwischen 6 und 17 Jahren als Kinderarbeiter, arbeiteten also, ohne eine Schule zu besuchen. Weitere 700'000 arbeiteten neben der Schule. Laut *Welthungerhilfe/Danish Refugee Council/Samuel Hall* (Mai 2014) dürften zumindest die in den *Kabul Informal Settlements* erhobenen Statistiken die tatsächliche Situation so-

gar noch unterschätzen, da nicht alle Familien bereitwillig über die Arbeit ihrer Kinder Auskunft geben. Mit dem Rückgang der Entwicklungshilfe sind afghanische Familien laut *US Department of State* (25. Juni 2015) in Zukunft noch mehr auf das zusätzliche Einkommen angewiesen, welches Kinder erwirtschaften, so dass sich das Problem der Kinderarbeit noch ausweiten dürfte. Gemäss eines Berichts des Risikoanalysten *Maplecroft* (2014) (zitiert in *UNICEF*, November 2015) gehört Afghanistan zu den zehn am meisten von Kinderarbeit betroffenen Ländern weltweit. In Afghanistan übten laut dem *Afghanistan Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey* (MICS) von 2012 (zitiert in *UNICEF*, November 2015) 25 Prozent aller Kinder im Alter zwischen 5 und 14 Jahren eine Arbeit aus.

**Fehlende Umsetzung der existierenden gesetzlichen Regelungen zur Kinderarbeit.** Laut *US Department of State* (25. Juni 2015) sieht das afghanische Arbeitsgesetz 18 Jahre als Mindestalter für Arbeit vor. Allerdings erlaubt es 14-jährigen, als Auszubildende zu arbeiten, und 15-jährigen, «leichte Arbeit» zu verrichten. Kinder, die 16 oder 17 Jahre alt sind, dürfen bis zu 35 Stunden in der Woche arbeiten. Kinder, die jünger als 14 sind, dürfen unter keinen Umständen arbeiten. Allerdings werden diese gesetzlichen Regelungen zur Kinderarbeit in der Praxis kaum umgesetzt. Kinderarbeit bleibt ein weitreichendes Problem in Afghanistan.

**Arbeit und Übernachtung eines 14-jährigen in einem Schuhladen in Kunduz.** Die Arbeit in einem Laden («shopkeeping») zählt laut *US Department of State* (25. Juni 2015) zu den weit verbreiteten Tätigkeiten von Kindern in Afghanistan. Gemäss Auskunft eines Sicherheitsberaters einer internationalen Organisation in Kunduz vom 11. November 2015 sei es durchaus üblich, dass ein 14-jähriger Junge seinem Vater im Schuhladen in der Stadt Kunduz bei der Arbeit hilft. Weiterhin sei es nicht ungewöhnlich, dass dieser 14-jährige Junge in einem Zimmer über dem Laden in der Stadt Kunduz alleine übernachtet, während der Vater jeweils über Nacht nach Hause zur Familie fährt.

*UNESCO/Government of Afghanistan/Ministry of Education*, 2014:

**«NRVA (2008) reports that 21% of Afghan children aged 6-17 (about 1.9 million) are working. Of these, at least 13% (1.2 million) can be classified as child labourers, e.g. only working. Child labour is a key reason for children being out of school.»** Quelle: *UNESCO/Government of Afghanistan/Ministry of Education*, Afghanistan national Education for All (EFA) review 2015 report, 2014:  
<http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0023/002327/232702e.pdf>

*Welthungerhilfe/Danish Refugee Council/Samuel Hall*, Mai 2014:

**«[I]t is suspected that [in the Kabul informal settlements] child labour rates are under-estimated as households are often reluctant to reveal children's economic activity. Yet, households report an incidence of child labour at 8%, which, with a 5% margin of error can reach double digits, a non-negligible fact and a key concern for child protection actors.»** Quelle: *Welthungerhilfe/Danish Refugee Council/Samuel Hall*, 'Cash-Based Assistance Programmes for Internally Displaced Persons in the Kabul Informal Settlements, Mai 2014:

[http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Studay%20Report-Cash-Based%20Assistance%20Programmes%20IDP%20in%20KIS%20May%202014\\_0.pdf](http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Studay%20Report-Cash-Based%20Assistance%20Programmes%20IDP%20in%20KIS%20May%202014_0.pdf)

US Department of State, 25. Juni 2015:

«c. *Prohibition of Child Labor and Minimum Age for Employment*

**The labor law sets the minimum age for employment at 18 but permits 14-year-olds to work as apprentices, allows children who are 15 and older to do “light work,” and permits children 16 and 17 to work up to 35 hours per week. Children less than age 14 are prohibited from working under any circumstances.** The law prohibits the employment of children in work likely to threaten their health or cause disability. In February the labor ministry released a list of “hazardous occupations” forbidden for children. The list includes mining, begging, and garbage collection; work in blast furnaces, waste-processing plants, and large slaughterhouses; work with hospital waste; drug-related work; security guard services; and work related to war.

**The government lacked a specific policy on implementing the law’s provisions on child labor.** Generally poor institutional capacity was a serious impediment to effective enforcement of the labor law, including inadequate resources, inspections, remediation, and penalties for violations, and the government made minimal efforts to prevent child labor or remove children from exploitative labor conditions. In addition reports estimated fewer than 10 percent of children had formal birth registrations, further limiting authorities’ already weak capacity to enforce laws on the minimum age of employment.

**Child labor remained a pervasive problem, with indications the problem could become more widespread as families become more reliant on income produced by children as development aid drops and profit margins become lower. (...)**

**Child laborers worked as** domestic servants, street vendors, peddlers, and **shopkeepers**, as well as in carpet weaving, brick making, the coal industry, and poppy harvesting. Children were also heavily engaged in the worst forms of child labor in agriculture, mining (especially family-owned gem mines), commercial sexual exploitation (see section 6, Children), transnational drug smuggling, and organized begging rings. Some sectors of child labor exposed children to land mines. Children faced numerous health and safety risks at work, and there were reports children were exposed to sexual abuse by adult workers.» Quelle: US Department of State, Country Report on Human Rights Practices 2014 – Afghanistan, 25. Juni 2015: [www.ecoi.net/local\\_link/306241/443515\\_de.html](http://www.ecoi.net/local_link/306241/443515_de.html).

UNICEF, November 2015:

«*Reports on child labour and slavery*

**253. A 2014 report by Risk Analysis Firm Maplecroft identified Afghanistan as one of the 10 places where child labour is most prevalent; the other nine countries were Eritrea, Somalia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Sudan, Pakistan, Zimbabwe, Yemen, and Burundi<sup>437</sup>.**

254. *Child labour is a systemic, countrywide problem according to the 2014 UNICEF situational analysis. **The 2014 (sic) Afghan MICS reported the total prevalence of child labour among children ages 5-14 years at 25 per cent**<sup>438</sup>. 27 per cent of children aged 5 to 11 years and 22 per cent aged 12 to 14 years were engaged in child labour activities<sup>439</sup>. Boys appear more involved than girls (28 per cent and 23 per cent respectively), and almost twice as many children in rural areas (28 per cent) as in urban locations (15 per cent) are involved in child labour<sup>440</sup>.* » Quelle: UNICEF, Child Notice Afghanistan, November 2015, S. 81:

[www.refworld.org/cgi-](http://www.refworld.org/cgi-)

[bin/taxis/vtx/rwmain?page=search&docid=56430b2d4&skip=0&query=%22child%20labour%22&coi=AFG&searchin=title&sort=date](http://bin/taxis/vtx/rwmain?page=search&docid=56430b2d4&skip=0&query=%22child%20labour%22&coi=AFG&searchin=title&sort=date).