

COI Update Vol. 169

This document provides an update of UK Country Guidance case law, UK Home Office publications and developments in refugee producing countries (focusing on those which generate the most asylum seekers in the UK) between 11 and 24 April 2018.

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Legal Update

Afghanistan

[AS \(Safety of Kabul\) Afghanistan CG \[2018\] UKUT 118 \(IAC\)](#)

Risk on return to Kabul from the Taliban

(i) A person who is of lower-level interest for the Taliban (i.e. not a senior government or security services official, or a spy) is not at real risk of persecution from the Taliban in Kabul.

Internal relocation to Kabul

(ii) Having regard to the security and humanitarian situation in Kabul as well as the difficulties faced by the population living there (primarily the urban poor but also IDPs and other returnees, which are not dissimilar to the conditions faced throughout many other parts of Afghanistan); it will not, in general be unreasonable or unduly harsh for a single adult male in good health to relocate to Kabul even if he does not have any specific connections or support network in Kabul.

(iii) However, the particular circumstances of an individual applicant must be taken into account in the context of conditions in the place of relocation, including a person's age, nature and quality of support network/connections with Kabul/Afghanistan, their physical and mental health, and their language, education and vocational skills when determining whether a person falls within the general position set out above.

(iv) A person with a support network or specific connections in Kabul is likely to be in a more advantageous position on return, which may counter a particular vulnerability of an individual on return.

(v) Although Kabul suffered the highest number of civilian casualties (in the latest UNAMA figures from 2017) and the number of security incidents is increasing, the proportion of the population directly affected by the security situation is tiny. The current security situation in Kabul is not at such a level as to render internal relocation unreasonable or unduly harsh.

Previous Country Guidance

(vi) The country guidance in [AK \(Article 15\(c\)\) Afghanistan CG \[2012\] UKUT 163 \(IAC\)](#) in relation to Article 15(c) of the Qualification Directive remains unaffected by this decision.

(vii) The country guidance in [AK \(Article 15\(c\)\) Afghanistan CG \[2012\] UKUT 163 \(IAC\)](#) in relation to the (un)reasonableness of internal relocation to Kabul (and other potential places of internal relocation) for certain categories of women remains unaffected by this decision.

(viii) The country guidance in [AA \(unattended children\) Afghanistan CG \[2012\] UKUT 16 \(IAC\)](#) also remains unaffected by this decision.

UK Home Office Publications Update

Afghanistan

UK Home Office, [Country Policy and Information Note, Afghanistan: Security and humanitarian situation](#), 19 April 2018

UK Home Office, [Country Policy and Information Note, Afghanistan: Unaccompanied children](#), 19 April 2018

Country News and Publications

Global

Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, [2018: Time to reframe policy and practice on internal displacement](#), 17 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [Death Sentences And Executions 2017](#), 12 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [The Death Penalty in 2017: Facts and Figures](#), 12 April 2018

Afghanistan

UNICEF press release, [500,000 children affected by drought in Afghanistan – UNICEF](#), 23 April 2018

Radio Free Europe, [At Least 57 Killed In Kabul Voter-Center Suicide Attack](#), 22 April 2018

Radio Free Europe, [Six Afghan Civilians Said Killed In Attack In Western Province](#), 17 April 2018

Human Rights Watch commentary, [What US Generals Get Wrong About Afghanistan](#), 12 April 2018

Algeria

OHCHR press release, [Committee on the rights of migrant workers closes its twenty-eighth session](#), 20 April 2018

Amnesty International article, [Death penalty: Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco/Western Sahara must abolish the death penalty in law](#), 12 April 2018

Bangladesh

International Federation for Human Rights press release, [EU must use dialogue to demand government protect human rights defenders and address rights abuses](#), 19 April 2018

Burma/Myanmar

Amnesty International campaigns, [Myanmar: Further Information: Kachin Prisoner Of Conscience Released: Lahpai Gam](#), 20 April 2018

Amnesty International campaigns, [Myanmar: Further Information: Kachin Pastors Released In Amnesty: Dumdaw Nawng Lat And Langjaw Gam Seng](#), 20 April 2018

Radio Free Asia, [Myanmar Lifts Travel Restrictions on Rohingyas With 'Verification Cards'](#), 19 April 2018

International Federation for Human Rights urgent appeal, [Myanmar: Killing of Mr. O Moo](#), 17 April 2018

UNHCR press release, [Bangladesh and UNHCR agree on voluntary returns framework for when refugees decide conditions are right](#), 13 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [Myanmar: Case against Reuters journalists upheld as media restrictions intensify](#), 11 April 2018

Cameroon

International Federation for Human Rights urgent appeal, [Cameroon: Ongoing judicial harassment and death threats targeting OFFGO members](#), 20 April 2018

China

Radio Free Asia, [Detained Chinese Rights Lawyer 'Fires' Defense Team Under Suspected Duress](#), 23 April 2018

Radio Free Asia, [Chinese Rights Activist Huang Qi 'Could Die in Detention Center': Mother](#), 23 April 2018

Amnesty International campaigns, [China: Further Information: Chinese Activist 8 Year Sentence Upheld: Wu Gan](#), 19 April 2018

Human Rights Watch dispatches, [In China, a March to Find Her Husband](#), 12 April 2018

Amnesty International campaigns, [China: Free forcibly returned activist](#), 11 April 2018

China-Tibet

Radio Free Asia, [Tibetan Pilgrim Disappears After Chinese Police Interrogation on Her Way to Lhasa](#), 13 April 2018

China-Xinjiang

Radio Free Asia, [Uyghurs in XUAR's Ghulja City Held in at Least Five 'Political Re-Education Camps'](#), 24 April 2018

Radio Free Asia, [Xinjiang Authorities Detain Uyghur Pro Footballer For 'Visiting Foreign Countries'](#), 13 April 2018

Egypt

Human Rights Watch news, [Egypt: Looming Humanitarian Crisis in Sinai](#), 23 April 2018

International Federation for Human Rights press release, [Death threats against Director of Cairo Institute for Human Rights Studies \(CIHRS\), Bahey el-Din Hassan: European States and US must take measures to protect Egyptian human rights defenders, both home and abroad](#), 20 April 2018

Eritrea

Human Rights Watch news, [Human Rights Abuses of Eritreans, At Home and Abroad](#), 18 April 2018

Amnesty International research, [Eritrea: Shadow Report To The African Commission On Human And Peoples' Rights](#), 17 April 2018

Ethiopia

OHCHR press release, [UN Human Rights Chief to conduct follow-up visit to Ethiopia and African Union \(22-25 April\)](#), 20 April 2018

Amnesty International campaigns, [Ethiopia: Further Information: Two Government Critics Released: Seyoum Teshome And Taye Dendea](#), 17 April 2018

Ghana

OHCHR press release, [Ghana must prioritise social protection to achieve Sustainable Development Goals, says UN poverty expert](#), 18 April 2018

India

Human Rights Watch news, [India: Reject Ordinance on Death Penalty for Rape](#), 24 April 2018

International Federation for Human Rights urgent appeal, [India: Acts of harassment and death threats against Ms. Swathi Vadlamudi](#), 20 April 2018

Amnesty International campaigns, [India: Human Rights Defender Threatened At Her Home: Pavitri Manjhi](#), 16 April 2018

Human Rights Watch news, [India: Manipur Victim Families, Activists Harassed](#), 12 April 2018

Iran

Human Rights Watch dispatches, [Notorious Iranian Prosecutor Behind Bars ... For Now](#), 24 April 2018

OHCHR press release, [UN rights experts call on Iran to annul death sentence against Ramin Hossein Panahi](#), 19 April 2018

International Crisis Group report, [Iran's Priorities in a Turbulent Middle East](#), 13 April 2018

Iraq

IRIN News, [The Yazidis who never came down the mountain](#), 23 April 2018

Human Rights Watch news, [Iraq: Officials Dispose of Potential War Crime Evidence](#), 20 April 2018

Human Rights Watch news, [Iraq: ISIS Suspects' Homes Confiscated](#), 19 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [Iraq: Women and children with perceived ties to IS denied aid, sexually exploited and trapped in camps](#), 17 April 2018

Amnesty International research, [Iraq: The Condemned: Woman And Children Isolated, Trapped And Exploited In Iraq](#), 17 April 2018

IRIN News, [Mosul: Overcoming the trauma of IS rule, one haircut at a time](#), 17 April 2018

Human Rights Watch news, [Kurdistan Region of Iraq: Protesters Beaten, Journalists Detained](#), 15 April 2018

Liberia

Amnesty International news, [Liberia: Warlord "Jungle Jabbah" jailed for 30 years in US](#), 20 April 2018

Libya

UNHCR briefing note, [UNHCR convoy reaches displaced people in southern Libya](#), 20 April 2018

Mali

IRIN News, [Negotiations with jihadists? A radical idea gains currency in Mali](#), 19 April 2018

UNHCR briefing note, [Mali violence drives thousands to Burkina Faso](#), 17 April 2018

Nigeria

Amnesty International news, [Nigeria Reckless police crackdown against unarmed protestors put lives at risk](#), 17 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [Nigeria: Government still failing victims of Boko Haram four years on from Chibok](#), 14 April 2018

International Crisis Group briefing, [Preventing Boko Haram Abductions of Schoolchildren in Nigeria](#), 12 April 2018

North Korea

Amnesty International campaigns, [North Korea: Is Change Really Around the Corner?](#), 24 April 2018

Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPTs)

Amnesty International campaigns, [Israel/OPT: Further Information: Gazan's Second Leg Saved From Amputation: Yousef Al-Kronz](#), 18 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [Israel/OPT: Israeli forces must end the use of excessive force in response to "Great March of Return" protests](#), 13 April 2018

Amnesty International campaigns, [Israel/OPT: Administrative Detention Of NGO Worker Renewed: Abdul Razeq Farraj](#), 13 April 2018

Pakistan

Amnesty International campaigns, [Pakistan: Disappeared Human Rights Defender At Risk Of Torture: Deedar Ali Shabrani](#), 24 April 2018

Radio Free Europe, [Two Shi'a Killed, One Wounded In Quetta 'Target' Attack](#), 22 April 2018

Radio Free Europe, [Pakistan's Leading Watchdog Slams Country Over Poor Rights Record](#), 16 April 2018

Radio Free Europe, [Pakistani Christians Killed In Drive-By Shooting](#), 16 April 2018

Russia

Amnesty International news, [Russia: Move to block Telegram the latest blow in government assault on freedom of expression online](#), 12 April 2018

South Sudan

UNICEF press release, [Hundreds of children released from armed groups in South Sudan - UNICEF](#), 18 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [South Sudan: One of just two executing states in sub-Saharan Africa in 2017](#), 16 April 2018

IRIN News, [A who's who in South Sudan's splintering civil war](#), 12 April 2018

Sudan

OHCHR press release, [Sudan: UN expert raises concerns about violence against women, calls for legal reform](#), 24 April 2018

Amnesty International campaigns, [Sudan: Religious Teacher Arbitrarily Detained: Matar Younis Ali Hussein](#), 18 April 2018

Amnesty International campaigns, [Sudan: Further Information: More Than Fifty Critics Released Without Charge](#), 18 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [Sudan: Release of political activists is their right, not a gift](#), 11 April 2018

Syria

IRIN News, [Civilians trapped in Yarmouk face "unimaginable" end to siege](#), 23 April 2018

UNICEF press release, [Nearly 5 million Syrian children accessing education despite over seven years of war on children](#), 23 April 2018

Joint NGO Statement, [Syria: Joint NGO Statement For United Nations General Assembly Informal Debate On The International, Impartial And Independent Mechanism For Syria](#), 19 April 2018

Human Rights Watch dispatches, [Syrian City's Devastation Forgotten](#), 17 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [Syria: Block on Douma chemical attack investigation must be lifted immediately](#), 16 April 2018

International Crisis Group media release, [Trigger List: Crisis Group raises Syria threat level to critical](#), 11 April 2018

Turkey

Amnesty International news, [Turkey: Thousands of Afghans swept up in ruthless deportation drive](#), 24 April 2018

Uganda

Human Rights Watch commentary, [Closing Nalufenya Will Not End Torture in Uganda](#), 12 April 2018

Ukraine

Radio Free Europe, [One Ukrainian Soldier Killed Fighting Separatists](#), 17 April 2018

Vietnam

Radio Free Asia, [Vietnamese Environmental Activist's Sentence Upheld on Appeal](#), 24 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [Vietnam: Activists on trial as crackdown on peaceful activism continues](#), 12 April 2018

OHCHR press release, [Viet Nam: UN experts call for change after jailing of rights defenders](#), 12 April 2018

Yemen

Human Rights Watch news, [Yemen: Detained African Migrants Tortured, Raped](#), 17 April 2018

Amnesty International news, [Young Yemeni woman on death row suffers the wrath of the Huthis' 'psychological war' on opponents](#), 13 April 2018

Zimbabwe

Human Rights Watch dispatches, [US Senators Press Zimbabwe to Hold Free, Fair Elections](#), 12 April 2018

Sources consulted: Amnesty International; Human Rights Watch; European Asylum Support Office (EASO); Institute for War and Peace Reporting; Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC); International Crisis Group; International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH); International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR); IRIN; Radio Free Asia news, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty; UN Agencies, Committees, Special Rapporteurs and news.

Useful COI databases (non-exhaustive):

- [Asylos's research notes](#)
- [COI Forum](#)
- [EASO COI Portal](#) [European Asylum Support Office's portal]
- [Electronic Immigration Network](#) [Subscription only]
- [ECOI.net](#) [European Country of Origin Information Network]
- [Refworld](#) [UNHCR's portal]
- [ReliefWeb](#)