

'Taliban hold sway over in 97% of Afghanistan'

By [Global Research](#)

Global Research, September 11, 2009

[Trend](#) 11 September 2009

Region: [Asia](#)

Theme: [Terrorism](#)

In-depth Report: [AFGHANISTAN](#)

A policy research group says the Taliban have a significant presence in almost every corner of Afghanistan, eight years after their overthrow by US-led forces, [Press TV](#) reported.

A security map by the London-based International Council on Security and Development (ICOS) showed a deepening security crisis with substantial Taliban activity in at least 97 percent of the war-ravaged country.

The council added that the militants now have a "permanent presence" in 80 percent of the country.

ICOS defined "permanent" presence as one or more attacks a week and "substantial" as one or more attacks a month.

ICOS noted the Taliban are substantially active in another 17 percent of Afghan territory.

The report comes at a time as insurgency has skyrocketed in southern and eastern provinces where the US-led forces have lost several grounds to the Taliban linked militants.

The insurgency has intensified in the eastern and southern provinces. The US-led forces in Afghanistan lost 77 more troops in August, setting a new monthly record since the invasion began in 2001.

Based on the report, insurgent attacks have increased dramatically across northern Afghanistan as well.

The developments also come after 125 people, many of them civilians, were killed and scores of others injured on last Friday.

NATO warplanes targeted stolen fuel tankers on orders of a German commander in the northern Kunduz province. Kunduz was once considered relatively safe.

More than 140 Afghan civilians were killed in a series of US airstrikes in the western Farah province in early May.

More than 1,000 civilians have lost their lives either in US-led air strikes or in the Taliban-led insurgency across the violence-wracked country in the first half of the current year, according to a UN report.

Civilians have been the main victims of violence in Afghanistan, particularly in the troubled southern and eastern provinces.

The UN also noticed that the number of civilians killed in the Afghanistan conflict has jumped 24 percent so far this year.

The frightening picture comes at a time when the chief prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) says investigators are studying evidence of alleged crimes against humanity in Afghanistan.

Media reports said the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — which includes US and other western troops — could potentially become the target of an ICC prosecution.

The group further warned of a power vacuum if Afghanistan's presidential election goes to a runoff.

Political uncertainty and civilian casualties have increased pressure on the US and its western allies to pull out troops from the violence-wracked country.

The original source of this article is [Trend](#)
Copyright © [Global Research](#), [Trend](#), 2009

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Global Research](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca