Province: Sar-i-Pul

Governor: Syed Anwar Rahmati

Provincial Police Chief: Muhammad Bilal Niram



Population Estimate: 505,400 ¹		Urban: 36,	500		Rur	Rural: 438,300 ²		
Population by Gender:		Male: 258,800		Fen	Female: 246,600			
Area in Square Kilometers:	16,.360			Capital: Sar-i-Pul				
Names of Districts:	Sar-i-Pul		Sozme Qala					
	Saya	d	Koh	istanat				
	Balk	hab	Sang	gcharak				
	Gosf	andi						
Composition of	Ethnic Groups:		Religious Groups: Sunni, Shi'a, Isameli					
Population:	Uzbek (majority),		(minority), Syyed Shi'a, and Sufis (minority)					
		n ³ , Hazara,						
		s, followed						
		ıll Arab						
	and Ta							
	communities.		l		1			
Occupation of Population:		Rain-fed ag				: trade and		
	livesto	ck, non-farn	n labo	1 0,		arakul skin		
37.1	trading, opium.							
Main Languages:	Dari (a Persian language), Uzbeki and Turkmen (both Turkic							
	languages). The Pashtuns speak Pashtu. Many persons, mainly							
	men, are bilingual.							
Crops/Farming/Livestock:	Sesame, tobacco, cott				_	Sheep, goats, horses, cattle,		
	<u> </u>	, melons, ma					camels.	
D . T . 1 100/ 6	barley and flax, and vegetables. or men, 6% for women. ⁴ Nationwide, Sar-i-Pul has the lowest school							
				ationwide,	Sar-1-Pul	has the lov	vest school	
attendance rates (enrolled bu			8%).	C 11	/T.T. *.*			
Number of Educational Institutions: 337	Schools:			Colleges/Universities:				
Institutions: 33/	Primary: 301 Secondary: 36			N/A				
					1			
Poppy (Opium)	<u>2005</u> :	<u>2006</u> :	-	<u>2007:</u>	<u>2008</u> :	<u>2009</u> :	<u>2010</u> : Lost	
Cultivation: ⁵	3,227 h	a 2,252	ha	260 ha	poppy	poppy	poppy-free	
					free	free	status	
NGOs Active in	Coordination of Afghan Relief, IbnSina Public Health							
Province:	Programme for Afghanistan, Peace Winds Japan, Save the Children USA, UNAMA			ildren USA,				
	UNAMI	1						

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¹ Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Central Statistics Organization (CSO), 2009 numbers, http://www.cso.gov.af/demography/population.html

² Afghan Information Management Services, 2003-2004 Population Statistics, available from http://www.aims.org.af/ (accessed September 17, 2007).

³ There is a community of Ishaqzai Pahstuns in Sar-i-Pul, some of whom have been victims of land-grabbing attacks from powerful warlords and commanders including Commander Kamal Khan and his brother Al-Haj Payenda Mohammad Khan.
⁴ Sar-i-Pul Provincial Profile, *Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development*.

http://www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp/Provincial%20Profiles/Sar-e-Pul%20PDP%20Provincial%20profile.pdf

⁵ UNODC, Afghan Opium Survey, 2009, page 2.

Transportation:	Primary Roads: only 12% of roads in Sar-i-Pul are able to take car			
	traffic in all seasons, and two thirds (67%) able to take car traffic in			
	some seasons.			
Electricity:	Estimated Population w/access: On average 6% of households in			
	Sar-i-Pul province have access to electricity and only half of			
	these (3%) have access to public electricity. ⁶			
Health Facilities:	Hospitals: 2	Clinics, etc.: 8	Pharmacies:	
	Sar-i-Pul district hospital		48	
	Sancharak District Hospital			
Availability of Potable	On average 12% of households use safe drinking water. ⁷			
Water:				
Telecommunications: Both Roshan and AWCC are available to wireless subscribers in Sar-i-Pul.				
Significant Topographic	⁸ Three quarters (75%) of the province is mountainous or semi			
Features	mountainous terrain.			

Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:

Governor Syed Anwar Rahmati

Little information is currently available on the current Governor.



(Former) Governor Muhammad Bashir Qant Chah Abi - The former Sar-i-Pul governor is a *Jamiat* commander from the Chah Ab district of northern Takhar province. He has been governor since August, 2008 but was replaced by Syed Anwar Rahmati in 2010.

Chief of Police Muhammad Bilal Niram

No Known Photo

Little information is currently available on the current Chief of Police.

⁶ Sar-i-Pul Provincial Overview, *Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development*.

 $[\]underline{\underline{http://www.mrrd.gov.af/nabdp/Provincial\%20Profiles/Sar-e-Pul\%20PDP\%20Provincial\%20profile.pdf}$

⁷ Tom Shaw, Afghanistan Livelihood Trajectories Evidence from Sar-i-Pul, *Afghan Research and Evaluation Unit*, May 2010, page 7.

⁸ Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 166.



Wolesi Jirga Members:9

Mohammad Hussain Fahimi- He is a former commander for the *Hezb-e-Wahdat* (Mohaqeq) faction and formerly served as the provincial planning official and district governor of Balkhab. He is Hazara.

Al-Haj Payenda Mohammad Khan- An Arab, Al-Haj Payenda Mohammad Khan is a former *Junbesh* (Dostum)commander and brother of Commander Kamal Khan. In 2008, allegations of gang rape surfaced and implicated the son of Al-Haj as being one of five men who stormed a house and raped a teenage girl. The family of the the victim accused Al-Haj of obstructing justice and protecting the five accused rapists. Al-Haj has indicated the charges are baseless and are the work of his rivals, Ishaqzai-Pashtuns, who also accused him and his brother (Commander Kamal Khan) of illegally seizing their land.



Hajji Khair Mohammad Aimaq- Hajji Khair is a former *Jamiat* party affiliate and new member of Younus Qanooni's (New Afghanistan Party). He is part of the Aimaq minority.



Mawlawi Abdul Khabir- Mawlawi Abdul Khabir is an Uzbek mullah affiliated with Dostum's *Junbesh*. He teaches Islamic law at a madrassa.



Humaira Gulshini- Humaira Gulshini is a female, Uzbek *Junbesh* affiliate and former PDPA member. She serves as the head of Junbesh Women's Council in Sar-e Pol.



Meshrano Jirga Members: 11

Qazi Soraya Ahmadyar- (Female). Senator Soraya Ahmadyar, daughter of Mirza Ahmad Ali, was born in 1966 in the village of Alqani in Sar-e Pul province. She completed her primary education at Mirmon Khatol Primary School in 1971 and her secondary education at Minhaj Seraj High School in Sar-e Pul.

She graduated from the Faculty of Law of Kabul University in 1986.

After receiving her law degree, Sen. Ahmadyar served as a provincial court judge in Jowzjan province and a judge in the Shiberghan City Court. From 1988 to 1993, she served as a judge in the Office of the General Attorney and she was acting director of Civil Commerce Office of the Jowzjan Provincial Court. From 1993 until the Taliban took power, she was the director of the public security office of the Jowzjan Provincial Court. After the collapse of

⁹ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

¹⁰ "Rape becomes a topic in Afghanistan," *New York Times*, August 12, 2008. http://www.nytimes.com/2008/08/12/world/asia/12iht-rape.1.15199078.html

¹¹ Information obtained from website of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. Accessed June 8, 2008.

the Taliban regime and the creation of the Afghan Interim Authority, Sen. Ahmadyar served as a director of the Department for Women's Affairs. In 2002, she became a member of the Human Rights Commission.

Sen. Ahmadyar is a member of Judges and Lawyers Association of Afghanistan. She has been awarded several certificates of appreciation in recognition of her judicial service in Jowzjan. She speaks Pashto, Dari and Uzbeki and conversational English. She familiar with computer programs. She lived in Pakistan for a brief time.Sen. Ahmadyar was indirectly elected to the Meshrano Jirga through the 2005 Provincial Council elections in Sar-e Pul province.

Qazi Abdul Hai Khadem – Senator Qazi Abdul Hai Khadem, son of Murtaza, was born in 1956 in the village of Deh Surkh in Kohistanat district of Sar-e Pul province. He completed his primary education at the Hemat Primary School of Kohistanat in 1971, and his secondary education at Abu Hanifa School in

Kabul in 1977. He was admitted to the Islamic law Faculty of Kabul University in 1978.

Following the Communist coup in 1979, he fled to Pakistan where lived until 1981. As part of his religious duties, he re-entered Afghanistan in 1981 to join the armed resistance against the Soviets. He was subsequently captured by the Soviet puppet government and spent a year in the Sherpur Temporary Jail and at the Directorate of National Security. He was released in 1982, and again headed to the front lines in Jawzjan and Saripul provinces. He served in the Kohistanat front line until 1992. From 1992 to 1994, he served as the chief of staff in the 26th Jihadi Division in Saripul. In 1994, he was promoted to the rank of brigadier general by then-President Ustad Rabbani. In 2006, President Karzai awarded him with a Medal of Honor for Jihad and Resistance.

Sen. Qazi Khadem speaks Dari and Pashto and some Arabic. He traveled to Pakistan in 1978 and 1981, Saudi Arabia in 1981 and 1982, and Iran in 2004. He was indirectly elected to the Meshrano Jirga as a temporary senator. He is married and has twelve children.

Provincial Council Members 2009:

Said Hayathullah Alami	Independent
Assadullah Khuram	Hibii Wahdath Islami Mardom-e- Afghanistan (The Islamic unity of the people of Afghanistan Party)
Al-Haj Mohammad Mossa	Hizibi Jamiat-e-Islami
Al-Haj Mawlavi Habiburhaman	Hizibi Jamiat-e-Islami
Mawlavi Abdul Ghani	Hizibi Junbesh-e-Islami (Head of the Provincial Council)

	Mohammad Arif Sharifi	Hizibi Jamiat-e-Islami
	Masouma	Independent
	Saleema	Independent
9	Masouma Shadaab	Independent

Primary Political Parties:

Jumbish-i-Milli Islami Afghanistan (Islamic Movement of Afghanistan): General Abdul Rashid Dostum controls a political party called Jumbish-i-Milli Islami (National Islamic Movement) which is a core of Jabhe-ye-Motahed-e-Milli. He claims to have a strong support in up to eight provinces in the north of the country, including Samanagn province, predominantly populated by ethnic Uzbeks. Dostum's major power base is in Uzbek enclaves in the northern provinces of Jowzjan, Balkh, Faryab, and Samangan. Dostum's headquarters is located in Jowzjan's capital, Shiberghan. In the past, Dostum held various official positions (deputy defense minister, a special adviser on security and military affairs, President Karzai's representative in the north) until the relations between President Karzi and General Dostum deteriorated.

Jabhe-ye-Motahed-e-Milli (the United National Front): The largest opposition block built by General Dostum and aimed against President Karzai. Burhanuddin Rabbani and the late Ahmad Shah Massoud's closest advisers joined Dostum in his demands to change the presidential system into parliamentary, to negotiate with armed groups and to recognize the Durand line. On August 27 of 2008 the Front in a statement urged the neighboring countries, members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, and members of NATO alliance to hold a crisis meeting on Afghanistan.

Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan): Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan began as a Shi'a umbrella party led by Abdul Ali Mazari. Abdul Ali Mazari died under mysterious circumstances while in custody of the Taliban. During the Soviet invasion the party received support from Iran. The party "remains the primary political force among the Hazara." During the period of Taliban rule, the party held on to the Hazarajat against the attempted blockade by the Taliban. It is currently led by Mohammad Karim Khalili, who is currently the Second Vice President to Hamid Karzai. For a time Haji Mohammad Mohaqeq was the military leader of the party under the political leadership of Khalili. Mohaqeq and Khalili had a falling out, however, over Mohaqeq's decision to run for president without the official approval of the party. Subsequently, Mohaqeq split away and formed his own party, Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Mardom-e Afghanistan. The original Wahdat party has begun to lose influence and support among the Hazara, in part because of the pull of Mohaqeq's

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 $^{^{\}rm 12}$ US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

¹³ Institute for War and Peace Reporting, at http://iwpr.net/index.php?apc_state+hen-sabrina%20saqeb&s=o&o=afghan_elect_2005_profiles.html, accessed on 26 September 2007.

new party and likely because Khalili's position as Second Vice President distracts from his efforts to look after the needs of the Hazara.¹⁴

Jamiat-e Islami (Islamic Society of Afghanistan): Led by Burhanuddin Rabbani, *Jamiat* is predominately a Tajik political party which was active in the anti-Soviet jihad and a major political player in the Northern Alliance. Today, Rabbani passively supports Karzai. Yunus Qanuni's *Hezb-e Afghanistan Naween* broke away from *Jamiat-e Islami*. Two of Sar-i-Pul's provincial council members are Jamiat affiliates: Al-Haj Mohammad Mossa and Al-Haj Mawlavi Habiburhaman.

Human Terrain:

Uzbeks: Although primarily inhabiting the North of Afghanistan, Uzbeks can be found all over the country. At present, Uzbeks in Afghanistan number just under three million, making up approximately nine percent of the country. They are concentrated in Balkh, Jawzjan, Sar-i-Pul, Takhar, Kunduz, and Faryab provinces. The most famous Uzbek in the country is undoubtedly the warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, a colorful character who has fought on most sides in the last thirty years. After the Taliban took control of his home base of Mazar-i Sharif he fled to Turkey, but has since returned to Afghanistan, and is once again debatably the most powerful man in Northern Afghanistan. Uzbeks speak Uzbek, a Turkic language, although many, especially outside of their core areas in Northern Afghanistan, speak Dari and other languages. In Nimroz a reported 10% of the population speaks Uzbek. ¹⁵

Tajiks: ¹⁶ Tajiks are the second largest ethnic group in Afghanistan after the Pashtuns and comprise between 25-30% of the population. The Tajiks in Afghanistan tend to live in settled communities as opposed to a nomadic lifestyle. Pashtuns refer to them as Farsiwan, or speakers of Farsi, the lingua franca of Afghanistan (50% of Afghanistan speaks Farsi, as opposed to only 35% for Pashtu). Between the Tajiks and Pashtuns there has been significant animosity in recent years. Forming the backbone of the Northern Alliance, they also have a base in the nation of Tajikistan. They held out fiercely against the Taliban. Most Tajik are Sunni Muslims, but a few are Shi'a. Tajiks made up the majority of the Northern Alliance, both in terms of membership and leadership. Tribal ties have largely broken down among the Tajiks; therefore, social organization is defined primarily by geography. Despite their lack of cohesiveness the Tajiks are often brought together due to the perceived common threat posed by the Pashtuns. ¹⁷

Hazara: The Hazara, a distinct ethnic and religious group within the population of Afghanistan, have often been the target of discriminatory and violent repression. Most likely descended from the Mongols of Genghis Khan, (there is also a strong argument that they are of Eastern Turkic origin), the Hazara are noticeably different in physical appearance when compared to the Pashtun majority. In terms of religion, the vast majority of the Hazara are of the Shi'a Muslim faith, again in contrast to the Pashtuns who are Sunni Muslim. Due to these differences, "the Hazara have experienced discrimination at the hands of the Pashtun-dominated government throughout the history of modern Afghanistan." As the traditional underclass of Afghan society, Hazara were exploited and made to work as servants and laborers. As a result there tends to be an anti-government and anti-Pashtun bias among the Hazara. In present day Afghanistan, the Hazara are divided geographically into two main groups: the Hazarajat Hazara and those who live outside the Hazarajat. The Hazarajat is located in the Hindu Kush Mountains in central Afghanistan and is "centered around Bamiyan province and include[s] areas of Ghowr, Uruzgan, Wardak, and Ghazni province." The Hazara living outside of the Hazarajat live in and around Kabul, Herat, Mazare-Sharif and Samangan province. Due to atrocities committed against them by the Taliban, the Hazara by and large

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¹⁴ Global Security, *Karim Khalili*, at http://www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/afghanistan/khalili.htm, accessed on 26 September 2007. 15 "Provincial Profile," Nimroz, Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development and the National Area Base Development Programme, 2006, http://www.mrrd.gov.af/ (February 20 2008)

 $^{16\} Table\ on\ Tajik\ tribal\ genealogy\ is\ available\ at\ our\ site: http://www.nps.edu/programs/CCS/Docs/Tribal%20Trees/Tajik.pdf$

^{17 2007} CIA World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency, https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/af.html (accessed June 28, 2007).

¹⁸ US State Department Afghanistan Culture and Ethnic Studies, 2004.

¹⁹ Ibid.

are opposed to the Taliban. In August 1998, the Taliban massacred approximately 4,000 Hazara in Mazara-e-Sharif; this massacre was followed by another the next month when the Taliban killed another 500 Hazara in Bamiyan. The Hezb-e Wahdat (Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan) is an umbrella political organization which commands the support of large numbers of Hazara. The Hazara are also often at odds with the Kuchi population within the Hazarajat. Hazara Genealogy (PDF)

Tatars: ²⁰ The Tatars, a group of Turkic people most of them live in Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation, around the Volga River in Russia. Large ethnic Diasporas are Central Asian and Caucasus of the former Soviet Union, Turkey and Afghanistan. In Afghanistan, many of the Tatars settled after either trying to escape the Russians, or as traders. Majority are Sunni Muslims.

Aimaq: The Aimaq are a Persian-speaking nomadic or semi-nomadic tribe of mixed Iranian and Mongolian descent who inhabit the north and north-west highlands of Afghanistan and the Khorasan Province of Iran. ²¹ They are closely related to the Hazara, and to some degree the Tajiks. They live in western Hazarajat in the provinces of Ghor, Farah, Herat, Badghis, Faryab, Jowzjan and Sar-e Pol. The term Aimaq derives from the Mongolian term for tribe (Aimagh). They were originally known as *chahar* or (the four) Eimaks, because there were four principal tribes: the Taimani (the predominating element in the population of Ghor), the Ferozkhoi, the Temuri, and the Jamshidi. Estimates of the Aimak population vary between 250,000 and 2 million. They are Sunni Muslims, in contrast to the Hazara, who are Shiahs. The best estimates of the Aimaq population in Afghanistan hover around 1-2 million. The tally is made difficult since, as a consequence of centuries of oppression of the Hazara people in Afghanistan, some Aimaq Hazaras are classified by the state as Tajik, or Persian instead of Aimaqs.

Turkomen –There are over 125,000 Turkomen scattered around northern Afghanistan. Traditionally Turkomen are semi nomadic. Turkomen speak Turkic dialects and mostly Sunni Muslims. Following the Bolshevik Revolution, many Turkomen migrated to northern Afghanistan and brought with them Turkomen carpet making skills and introduced karakul sheep (Persian lamb) husbandry to the northern steppe of Afghanistan. According to historical data, major groups include: Tekke, Yomud, Tariq, Lakai (Herat area), Ersari, Saroq, Chakra, Salor (Faryab), and Tekke Ersari. 22

Security Landscape:

General Level of Security: Moderate Risk: In 2009, Sar-e-Pul Police Chief, Muhammad Bilal Niram said arms had been collected from any people and three districts, namely, Sancharak, Gosfandi and Sozama Kala areas termed as the peaceful districts of the province. In operations against the Taliban, the police chief said they had arrested a prominent Taliban commander Mullah Nadar along with 11 other people during the recent operations. He said scores of kilograms of hashish and opium had also been seized from people during the operations. ²³ The biggest threat to travelers in Sar-i-Pul remains highway bandits and thieves, corrupt militiamen and police, and road hazards. The Taliban have small cadres operating throughout the province but rely on larger support networks in neighboring provinces.

Militia Commanders and Insurgent Figures:

Commander Kamal Khan- Kamal is an ex-commander of Gen. Dostum's *Jumbish-i-Milli Islami Afghanistan* party and has reportedly illegally confiscated and occupied hundreds of acres of land in Sayed Abad district of Sari-pul province (2007). In April 2008, Kamal and his militia attacked residents after they tried to reclaim portions of their farm land in the Sayed Abad district and killed up to 70 residents in the clash.²⁴ Khan, whose brother is an MP

²⁰ See the table on Tatar tribal genealogy at http://www.nps.edu/Programs/CCS/Docs/Tribal%20Trees/Tatar.pdf

²¹ Janata, A. "AYMĀQ". Encyclopædia Iranica. Ed. Ehsan Yarshater. United States: Columbia University.

²² Louis DuPree, Afghanistan, (NY: Oxford University Press, 1980, second impression 2002), 62.

²³ Zabeehullah Ihsas, "Armed groups a challenge in Sar-i-Pul," *Pajhwok Afghan News*, March 28, 2010. http://www.pajhwok.com/viewstory.asp?lng=eng&id=91784

²⁴ "Warlord Kamal occupied private lands," *Aatash*, April 8, 2008.

from Sar-i-Pul (d), holds considerable sway in the province. The former NDS and Provincial Police Chief of Sar-i-Pul were also former commanders of Dostum and loyal to his *Jumbish-i-Milli Islami Afghanistan* party as well as Commander Kamal Khan.

Gen. Abdul Sabor- A Tajik commander loyal to Atta Noor Muhammad, the current governor of Balkh province and political rival of General Abdul Rashid Dostum.

Mahmud Pashafi- He is a former *Jamiat* commander and allegedly a leutinent of current governor Basheer Chah Aabi. He was convicted of a sex-crime and sentenced to 20 years but was released in 2009 after serving only one year. He killed a man and his son who had testified against him before being recaptured by police in neighboring Takhar province in early August, 2009.

DISTRICTS

The districts of Sar-i-Pul Province are Sar-i-Pul, Sozme Qala, Sayad Kohistanat, Balkhab, Sangcharak, Gosfandi.

