



Province: Kapisa
Governor: Khoja Ghulam Ghous Abobakar
Provincial Police Chief: Muhammad Ewaz

Population Estimate: 364,900		Urban: 1,900		Rural: 363,000 ¹	
Area in Square Kilometers: 1,842			Capital: Mahmud-e-Eraqi		
Names of Districts:		Hesa Dovon Kohistan, Hesa Aval Kohistan, Mahmud-e-Eraqi, Koh Band, Nijrab, Ala Sai, and Tag Ab			
Composition of Population:		<u>Ethnic Groups:</u> Tajik, Pashtun, Nuristani	<u>Religious Groups:</u> Majority Sunni <u>Total # Mosques:</u> 2,029 ²	<u>Tribal Groups:</u> Pashai, Safi, Ghilzai, Kata & Ashtu Nuristani	
Occupation of Population		Major: Agriculture, labor, animals		Minor: trade	
Crops/Farming/Livestock:		Wheat, corn, fruit		Cows, sheep, goats	
Literacy Rate Total: 32% ³					
Number of Educational Institutions: 99 ⁴			<u>Colleges/Universities:</u> 1		
Number of Security Incidents, Jan-Jun 2007: 9		January: 2 February: 1	March: 2 April: 2	May: 1 June: 1	
Poppy (Opium) Cultivation:		2006: 282 ha		2007: 835 ha	
Agencies Active in Province:		ACTION, ICRC, MSF, SCA, WFP, IAM, DACCAR			
<u>Provincial Aid Projects:</u> ⁵ Total Projects: 1171 Planned Cost: \$17,072,801.12 Total Spent: \$8,084,042.48		Total PRT Projects: 71 Planned Cost: \$8,332,821.48 Total Spent: \$2,608,068.48		Other Aid Projects: 1100 Planned Cost: \$8,739,979.64 Total Spent: \$5,475,974.00	
Transportation:		<u>Primary Roads:</u> Tagab-Kabul Highway			
Health Facilities:		<u>Hospitals:</u> 2		<u>Clinics, etc.:</u> 35 ⁶	
Primary Sources of Drinking Water/Availability of Potable Water:		Wells, rivers, karezes		22% ⁷	
Rivers: Daria Panshjr runs along the Southwestern border of the province					
Significant Topographic Features		The Northeastern districts contain the foothills of the Hindu Kush and some large forested areas while the Southwest is rockier and flatter towards the Daria Panshjr			

¹ Afghan Information Management Services, *2003-2004 Population Statistics*, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/> (accessed September 17, 2007).

² *Altai Public Opinion Info*, Altai Consulting, 2007.

³ *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 164.

⁴ *Altai Public Opinion Info*, Altai Consulting, 2007.

⁵ ISAF and CJTF 82, *Afghanistan Comprehensive Stability Project*, June 2007.

⁶ *Altai Public Opinion Info*, Altai Consulting, 2007.

⁷ *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 166.

Political Landscape:

Political Leaders:

Governor Khoja Ghulam Ghous Abobaker



Abobaker became Governor of Kapisa in December 2007 replacing Abdul Sattar Murad who held the post since February 2005. An ethnic Tajik from Kohistan, Kapisa Province, Abubakr was affiliated with HIG from 1990 to 1992 and is now part of Jamiat-e Islami.

He attended the Teacher's Training Institute in Kabul, was a provincial governor from 1986 to 1992, member of the Constitutional Loya Jirga (CLJ) in 2003, and served as campaign leader for Karzai. Between June 2005 and July 2007, he was governor of Takhar.

Deputy Governor Sayed Dawood



A Pashtun from Abad District in Kunduz, Dawood is or was affiliated with the Hezb-e Islami (G) party and Fahim Khan. Before coming to Kapisa in December 2006 he was the deputy governor of Kunduz for five years. During the anti-Soviet struggle, he fought under Gen. Massoud, during which time he was wounded severely in the left arm.

Chief of Police Muhammad Ewaz (AKA Aewaz Muhammad, Ewaz Mahmud)



A 54 year-old Tajik from Jurm District, Badakshan, Ewaz has spent most of his professional career in Takhar and Baghlan provinces. Immediately before becoming police chief in Kapisa in July, 2006 he performed the same function in Baghlan Province. He speaks Dari, Uzbek, and English, and has received many recommendations. He is known as a strong leader.

National Directorate of Security Chief Najib





Najib, a Tajik, was appointed the Kapisa National Directorate of Security Chief in December 2003. He is seen as professional.

Wolesi Jirga Members:⁸










	Haji Farid	Pashtun male	Scion of influential spiritual family; former HIG commander. Former acting prime minister for HIG. Loya Jirga delegate.
	Abdul Hadi Safai	Pashai male	Former Commander, teacher.
	Al-haj Mohammad Iqbal Safai	Safai Pashtun male - Sunni	Loya Jirga delegate. Former HIG.
	Tahira Mirzada	Tajik female - Sunni	School principal in Kapisa city.

⁸ US Embassy Kabul Afghanistan Election Observation Team and Joint Election Management Board, 2005.

Meshrano Jirga Members:⁹

No Photo Available	Abdul Saboor Farid	Sunni Tajik male	Former Hekmatyar loyalist, former PM under Rabbani govt. Head of Misaq-e Melli group.
	Mawlawi Aminudin Muzafari	Male	Is studied in Law & Islamic Studies, affiliated with Hamnazar
	Kafil Noor Mohammad	Male	Has a BA, affiliated with Misaq-e Melli

Provincial Council Members:

	Hameedullah		Abdul Wahab
	Doctor Munawar Khan		Mohammad Arif Malek Jan
	Abdul Rahim		Sima Matin
	Enayatullah Kuchi		Soorya
	Zahida Kohistani		

Primary Political Parties:

Hamnazar

One of the most important parties of the Meshrano Jirga, Hamnazar (Alliance), It mainly consists of pro-Karzai MPs, who are Western sympathizers. The group numbers some thirty parliamentarians and is led by Amin Zai. A doctor by profession, he is closely allied with Karzai who strongly supported him for this position.¹⁰

Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HiG):

Mujahideen party active since the Soviet invasion; led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. HiG was famous for its shifting loyalties, and was the favorite party of Pakistan's ISI until the rise of the Taliban. Former members continue to wield considerable influence in the province. Actively opposed to US-led and Afghan national forces. Hekmatyar is a Kharoti Ghilzai and, therefore, less influential than the much more respected and powerful Khugianis, such as Haji Din Mohammad and Anwarul Haq Mohammad.¹¹

Nazhat-e Hambastagi Milli (National Solidarity Movement/National Islamic Front):

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

¹⁰ "The New Parliament: an Afghan Way to Democracy," *CeMiSS Quarterly*, Centro Militare di Studi Strategici, April 2006, available from www.difesa.it/NR/rdonlyres/0FA44F42-56BC-4D58-9F93-46A7F42CC8DE/11177/quart_spring_06.pdf (accessed September 25, 2007).

¹¹ Chris Mason, *Tora Bora Nizami Mahaz*.

Led by Pir Ishaq Gailani. Party promotes national unity, security and a national development plan. Tied to the Maraboutic Sufi order; has considerable influence over the Khugiyani tribesmen. Has a reputation for moderate thought and the traditional mystical and introspective religious currents that characterize Sufism in that sect.

Human Terrain:

Tajik:

Occupy same areas, generally, as the Ghilzai Pashtun. 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. They are of Iranian descent and primarily speak Dari. The majority of Tajiks are Sunni Muslims. 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. They mainly inhabit the Hesa Aval Kohistan, Hesa Dovom Kohistan, and Mahmood Raqi (Mahmud-e-Eraqi) districts.

Ghilzai:

The largest single tribe of the Pashtun ethnicity, the Ghalji or Ghilzai, and in particular the Hotaki clan, formed the backbone of the Taliban movement. Long resentful of the power the Duranni tribe (of which Karzai and Zahir Shah are members), the Ghilzai are fiercely independent and often view themselves, as the largest grouping of Pashtuns in the country, as the rightful leaders of Afghanistan. That being said, they suffered much during the Soviet invasion, and must be included in any effort to secure and develop Ghazni Province. There are a multitude of sub-tribes and clans within the Ghilzai confederation. They mainly inhabit Tagab District.

Safi (Safay):

Primarily located in the Koh Band and Nijrab districts, their territory abuts that of every other ethnicity in Kapisa. Sometimes seen as a less-controversial compromise ethnicity that some of the others in Kapisa, half of the Wolesi Jirga members are Safi. Traditionally, the Safis historically have been one of the most independent tribes in Afghanistan, with a major uprising against the central government in 1945-1946. The tribe is divided into three clans, the Gorbuz, the Massoud and the Wadir. The three clans were divided politically during the communist era. In large part the Wadir Safis were aligned with the communists and served in the government. Many Safis mujahedin leaders came from the Gorbuz clan. The Massoud clan, however, was split between both sides.¹²

Pashai:

Located primarily in Ala Sai and Nijrab districts, alongside Nuristani tribes. There is very little useful data on the Pashai, outside of some intense research on their language. They inhabit Nuristan, parts of Laghman, and northern Nangarhar, seemingly between the Pashtun and Nuristanis. Many consider themselves Pashtun. They speak a Dardic language referred to as Pashai. Often they are associated with or referred to as Kohistani.

Nuristani Tribes:

The Nuristani in Afghanistan primarily live in high elevations in northeast Afghanistan. In Kapisa, they primarily live in Ala Sai and Nijrab districts, alongside Pashai tribes, their linguistic cousins. Across the border in Pakistan they similarly live next to the Kohistani (as the Pashai are referred to in Pakistan). For centuries the Nuristanis were known as “kafirs,” or infidels (this is still a pejorative term for them). This has changed as most converted to Islam at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. There are fifteen Nuristani tribes with numerous sub-groups. Five languages and numerous dialects are spoken by the Nuristani. They do not have overly positive relations with other Afghans or Pakistanis and a strong animosity toward Arabs. Two of the largest tribes, the Kamozi (or Kam) and the Kushtaz, have had a series of conflicts since the fall of the Taliban. Additionally, for over two decades foreign-funded Wahhabi preachers have been working to convert the tribes to their more hard-line interpretation of Islam. Nuristanis, however, remain protective of their distinctive culture. The tribes speak Dardic languages, often mutually unintelligible. Due to what many Nuristanis claim is Greek blood left over from the

¹² US Department of State Asadabad Provincial Reconstruction Team Political Officer Reporting, 2005.

mighty armies of Alexander, many Nuristanis have distinctly European features, blue and green eyes, and blond or red hair.

Security Landscape:

General Level of Security: Moderate

Similar to its neighboring provinces, Kapisa faces the challenges of poverty, ethnic strife, insurgent activity, and narcotics trafficking. However, its proximity to Kabul allows greater access to the political and economic resources of the capital. The majority of the people in Kapisa support International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) efforts to establish peace within the province, even though a significant Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin (HiG) presence still exists. Qari Baryal, a senior HiG commander, oversees all insurgent activity within the province. The Tag Ab valley is Qari Baryal's primary area of responsibility and most of the valley was an insurgent safe haven until recent actions.¹³ There have been reports of clashes between HiG and Taliban elements.

Low Risk: Hesa Dovon Kohistan, Hesa Aval Kohistan, and Koh Band

Moderate Risk: Mahmud-e-Eraqi and Ala Sai

Significant Risk: Tag Ab and Nijrab

The districts of primary concern are:

Tagab: This district has had the greatest number of security incidents in the first six months of 2007. The Tagab-Kabul road has proved particularly difficult to secure. Clashes between HiG and Taliban supporters have occurred as well.

Nijrab: While not experiencing as many security incidents as Tagab, Nijrab is a problematic district due to both its remoteness and its ethnic mix. Home to Nuristanis, Pashai, Ghilzais, Safis, and Tajiks, the district is hilly and difficult to access.

Public attitudes toward security: Police in Kapisa are among the best paid in Afghanistan, which undoubtedly helps them preserve a good reputation.¹⁴

Public attitudes toward FF: Unknown

Public attitudes toward Taliban: Among groups hostile towards the Afghan government, two have a significant presence in Kapisa: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami (HiG) and the Taliban. Due to conflict between the two [who's the more repressive fundamentalist?], the Taliban finds itself caught between coalition forces and hostile militants. This distances them from the local population already receptive to HiG, and forces them to change tactics as they confront a force much more familiar and embedded in the local population than coalition forces.¹⁵

¹³ Afghan Information Management Services, *District Profiles*, available from <http://www.aims.org.af/> (accessed August 3, 2007).

¹⁴ *Afghanistan Human Development Report 2007*, United Nations Development Program, 2007, 163.

¹⁵ *Altai Public Opinion Info*, Altai Consulting, 2007.

DISTRICTS

The seven districts of Kapisa Province, the smallest province in Afghanistan, are Hesa Dovan Kohistan, Hesa Aval Kohistan, Mahmood Raqi, Koh Band, Nijrab, Ala Sai, and Tag Ab.

