Challenges and Vulnerabilities Post-Deportation
A Case Study of Afghanistan

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Who am I?

2012-2015; 2016-2018: fieldwork in Afghanistan

Pule Khumri (Baghlan) & Kabul: Ethnography (Living with Extended families, with>1 member abroad) *financed by Leverhulme Trust UK*

Kabul: 100 semistructured Interviews with Afghans deported from Europe (Belgium, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, UK) and family members; Interviews with government officials and advisors, ANSF members, Civil Society Organisations, Journalists, etc.

Current project– Families, Culture, Policy

Current Situation in Afghanistan

➢ Population 30 Million???
  ➢ 1 Million+ IDPs
  ➢ 1 Million+ Returnees
➢ 2014 – Worsening security situation (political, economic, social); ethnic tensions;
- 2015 – Increase in Afghan emigration
- 2016 –European reactions; Insecurity spreads across Af.; Forced return from Iran und Pakistan (1 Million in 6 Months); Increase in IDPs; JWF
- 2017 – More attacks by Daesh, Taliban, increasing criminality

Last week in Afghanistan

➢ 49 young people killed in Kabul
   Ghazni besieged
   6 girls killed in Laghman
   49 security forces killed in Baghlan
   9 police in Kandahar
➢ 150 people kidnapped near Kunduz
➢ 100s injured
➢ Fear widespread – impact on jobs, education, life

Yesterday
– rockets fired into Central Kabul

Deportations to Afghanistan

Relatively few from Europe – mostly from Germany, Norway and Sweden (<1,000)

A large number (>50%) have never lived in Afghanistan or left as children

A large number have spent their formative years in Europe, and cannot read or write in Dari or Pashto

Most financed their flight with the help of their families through the sale of family property or loans

Arrival in Kabul?

First impressions – Shock, fear and Euphoria

(families and friends cannot come inside terminal)

Left Afghanistan a long time ago or more recently?

Airport – charter flight or commercial flight?

IOM? ACE (Afghanistan Centre of Excellence)?

To stay in Kabul or travel onwards?

First days in Kabul

Security:

- Generalized violence
- Original specific threats
- New threats (Contamination, Rumours)

Food

Medical care and medications

Following Days

Accommodation
- Networks
- Knowledge

Employment
- Networks
- Knowledge

Education
- Afghan Education System

Family Tracing

Return and Reintegration packages

Short term

Context inappropriate   (Real jobs, real training?)

- \>40% Unemployment
- Chronic Underemployment
- TVET

Daily life?

Network society

Fear and Mistrust

Strong, strictly policed social norms

A society without individual private sphere – everything observed and commented upon

What happens post-deportation?

Death (explosions, attacks, suicide)

Destitution and drug addiction

When the reasons that people left originally remain (insecurity, poverty) are worse than when they left, and when they are now indebted, and a burden on the family – then there is no choice but to leave again. But *where*…