

# NATO backed Terrorist, Asadullah Khalid

by Anthony C Heaford, 1 September 2022

Afghanistan's former acting defense minister (2018-2020) - one of the people the USA had wanted to leave in-charge of Afghanistan - was a NATO backed drug lord / murderous gangster, who was dressed up for the cameras in either a suit or a military uniform, as the occasion required.

When celebrating NATO's 70th anniversary with US General Scott Miller (right) & the barbaric Rashid Dostum (center) in December 2019, Asadullah Khalid (left) was dressed up like a soldier and sat on a throne.

US General Scott Miller appears unfazed that on NATO's 70th anniversary he's sharing a stage with two men accused of some of the most horrific war crimes committed over the last twenty years in Afghanistan. That alone is a fair reflection on NATO itself.



Here (photo to right) Asadullah Khalid is dressed in a suit at NATO's June 2019 defense minister's meeting in Italy, shaking hands with Elisabetta Trenta of Italy's ministry of defence. In Khalid's 'Afghan-bios' entry, it says Abdul Rasul Sayyaf was the politician who demanded Khalid be appointed Afghan Minister of defense. Other listings identify Khalid as being one of Sayyaf's 'top lieutenants'.

As well as being Asadullah Khalid's 'boss', Abdul Rasul Sayyaf also employed trained and mentored 9/11 terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in the 1980s & 90s. Sayyaf vouched for and sent the assassins posing as journalists who murdered Ahmad Shah Massoud just two days before 9/11. And in 2020 it was another Italian civilian NATO representative who expressed NATO's 'strong support' for Khalid's boss Abdul Rasul Sayyaf:



Asadullah Khalid's questionable connection to two of Afghanistan's most notorious war criminals (both Sayyaf and Dostum are accused of some of the most horrific crimes committed during the forty years of conflict Afghanistan suffered) could be dismissed as 'unfortunate realities'. But how could NATO continue to ignore the formal and documented accusations of kidnap, extortion, rape, torture, murder and drug production against Asadullah Khalid himself?

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## The Career of & Allegations Against Asadullah Khalid:

Governor of Ghazni Province (2001-2005)

Governor of Kandahar Province (2005-2008)

Nominated Minister of Tribal and Border Affairs, no vote of confidence 2008,

Minister Tribal and Border Affairs (2010-2012),

National Directorate of Security (NDS) Head (2012 - 2013)

Minister of Defense (2018 - 2021, with absences)

Kidnapping, extortion, torture, opium production & smuggling  
(whilst Governor of Kandahar Province 2005-2008)

In 2006/07 Richard Colvin (a Canadian diplomat posted in Afghanistan) reported:

Khalid was known to have private detention facilities where he held businessmen to extort money. Colvin says this was known within Canadian government officials in May and June of 2006. Canadian Government documents detailed accusations that Khalid is the most crucial member of a narcotics producing and smuggling syndicate. Various sources say one of Gul Agha Shirzai's (former governor of Nangarhar) tasks was to collect a toll from narcotics caravans for Asadullah Khalid. Canadian Government documents detailing the accusations were heavily censored by the government which, claiming national security, blacked out the references to "the governor."

Ordering the murder of five United Nations employees  
(again while Governor of Kandahar Province 2005-2008)

Chris Alexander, a top Canadian official working with the United Nations, alleged:

That Asadullah Khalid had ordered the deaths of five United Nations workers in a bombing. Alexander, who at the time was the deputy UN special representative in Afghanistan, told Canadian officials that the UN's internal assessment of a recent deadly bombing of a UN vehicle in Kandahar concluded it was ordered by Khalid.

## Other formal reports cataloguing Khalid's transgressions:

In 2012 Amnesty International made an appeal to the Afghan government about Asadullah Khalid:

*"There have been numerous reports of Asadullah Khalid's alleged involvement, both directly and in a supervisory role, in the commission of crimes under international law, including torture and unlawful killings in particular during his service as Governor of Ghazni Province between 2001-2005 and the Governor of Kandahar Province between 2005-2008. In 2007 Amnesty International reported on cases of torture including at the Kandahar NDS detention facility, while Asadullah Khalid was serving as Governor of Kandahar and had oversight of all provincial departments including the NDS. There are also credible allegations that Asadullah Khalid was involved in the bombing of a UN vehicle in Kandahar that killed five UN workers in April 2007. As Kandahar Governor, Khalid supervised Brigade 888, which comprised tens of armed men, who are alleged to have arbitrarily arrested and tortured individuals, perceived as having links with the Taliban and other insurgent groups in Kandahar. It is widely reported that detainees were tortured on the Kandahar governor's premises."*

In 2019 Human Rights Watch called for an investigation of Asadullah Khalid: *"There is also strong evidence directly implicating Khalid in acts of sexual violence against women and girls when he was governor of Ghazni and Kandahar. Khalid allegedly threatened his victims, saying "they would be killed and their families destroyed if they told anyone what had happened." Ghani's opportunistic and callous move in appointing Khalid appears aimed to score short-term gains in the upcoming presidential election. Khalid had enjoyed the protection of former President Hamid Karzai; in 2009 a US official described Khalid as a "bag man" for the role he played buying votes for Karzai's 2009 re-election effort."*



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## December 2018 - Trump versus the Military Industrial Complex

December 2018 was open political warfare between the Military Industrial Complex / Deep State and President Trump. Trump unilaterally declared an end to the US mission in Syria and announced the withdrawal of half (7000) the US troops in Afghanistan. The appointment of Asadullah Khalid was the Deep State's effort to escalate that war. Asadullah Khalid was Abdul Rasul Sayyaf's proposed candidate for the post of Afghanistan's acting Defense Minister. Sayyaf is the 'strongly supported' NATO ally in Afghanistan, a 1980s Mujahideen leader Sayyaf employed, trained & mentored both the 1993 World Trade center bomber Ramzi Yousef and his Uncle 9/11 terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. Sayyaf is an Arabian Gulf nations funded, Saudi backed, Wahhabi professor.

Trump's Afghanistan policy - withdrawing troops and negotiating with the Taliban in Doha - was effectively pulling the rug from under the NATO nation's gravy train there. His Secretary of Defense James Mattis reigned in protest. But as seen in a tweeted photo of Trump's new defense secretary Mark Esper and Khalid shaking hands at a NATO defense minister's meeting in Italy six months later, the Military Industrial Complex and Deep State were still pulling the strings through their European NATO allies (the Italian connection, via NATO's senior civilian representative Italian diplomat Stefano Pontecorvo endorsement of Sayyaf, Elisabetta Trenta of Italy's ministry of defense endorsing Khalid and Khalid's presence at the NATO summit in Italy) and their criminally corrupt Afghan alliances with Abdul Rasul Sayyaf and Sayyaf's proxy Asadullah Khalid.

Other Deep State endorsement of Asadullah Khalid came from India. They gifted Khalid four Mi-35 helicopter attack gunships (purchased from Belarus) for the Afghan Air Force. The first were delivered in May 2019, as shown in the tweet here, and the balance was delivered in August 2019.

This was not NATO's Resolute Support mission strengthening the Afghan armed forces. They'd already been abandoned in the field which is why they surrendered so quickly just two years later in summer 2021.

This was the Military Industrial Complex and the Deep State using all its levers of power and influence to disrupt President Trump's efforts to close down their 'forever wars'.

This was the Military Industrial Complex and the Deep State using NATO to openly ally themselves with the most ruthless and criminally corrupt players in Afghanistan - Dostum, Sayyaf, Khalid. These are the people the Deep State / Military Industrial Complex wanted NATO to leave in



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charge of Afghanistan - war criminals, an international terrorist and an opium kingpin.

This Afghan website news report (pictured right) from November 2019 shows the Crown Prince of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi (who is also the Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE forces) very publicly and personally backing Abdul Rasul Sayyaf's man Asadullah Khalid in his Afghan defense ministry role.

The photo below, from April 2019, shows General Miller with:

- Abdul Rasul Sayyaf - named EIGHT times in the 2004 9/11 Commission report for his extensive relationship with 9/11 terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in the 1980s & 90s. Filipino terror group Abu Sayyaf are named after him. He is an international terrorist mastermind.

- Asadullah Khalid - one of Sayyaf's henchmen (Sayyaf lobbied for Khalid's minister of defense appointment in December 2019. Khalid remains accused of murdering five United Nations employees in 2007, in order to protect his opium business.



All this was occurring while Trump was striving for a negotiated and dignified exit via the Afghanistan peace process in Qatar. The US commander of NATO forces in Afghanistan (much assisted by the afore mentioned Italian Connection) was empowering the very worst of the worst - Dostum, Sayyaf and Asadullah Khalid - and therefore undermining President Trump's efforts. Our mission to train an Afghan army had already failed:

- insider attacks on Afghan security forces by Taliban infiltrators or their sympathisers became frequent and must have been devastating to morale,
- 40% of Afghan security forces in Helmand were described as 'ghost soldiers', i.e. they only existed on paper so their salaries could be drawn by corrupt commanders,
- the frontline Afghan soldiers who were there were under manned, under equipped, under trained, under supported, and often went unpaid too. That's why they suffered so many casualties, lost so much ground and why they reconciled so easily with the Taliban in the summer of 2021.



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From at least 23 December 2018 - the date of Asadullah Khalid's appointment - the entire focus of General Miller's NATO command was on arming the Afghan Air Force and training & operating with the CIA backed Afghan Special Forces Zero Units. Zero Units were elite soldiers of the NDS internal security agency (which Khalid ran in 2012/13), with the very best equipment and support. Asadullah Khalid commanded them both, the air force and zero units.

The NDS Zero Units are accused of perpetrating many atrocities by their wanton use of air power. There was a claim on an anonymous military chat forum - from a British contractor who'd worked in Kabul airport - that the Afghan air force pilots never came back with any ammunition, regardless of whether they'd seen the enemy (Taliban) or not.

The anonymous Kabul airport contractor was suggesting that Afghan pilots were trigger happy, resource greedy, and collateral damage indifferent.

Asadullah Khalid didn't come to my attention until 23 December 2018. I read a twitter announcement of Khalid's appointment to acting minister of defense and so I looked him up on the [afghan-bios.info website \(link goes to Khalid's entry\)](#). Khalid's [afghan-bios.info](#) entry covers the allegations of kidnapping, extortion, torture, murder, and opium running, but it had another important detail I didn't know. It says:

*“[Abdul Rasul] Sayyaf was reportedly applying significant pressure on Karzai to give the job of the NDS Chief to Asadullah Khalid.”*

I've also seen Khalid described as 'a top lieutenant' of Abdul Rasul Sayyaf. Sayyaf is the aforementioned ambitious, devious, Gulf funded, Saudi backed, NATO allied, Wahhabi Afghan mujahideen and professor. I've followed Khalid's career ever since. My first tweets about Trump's withdraw announcement and Asadullah Khalid's appointment were as follows:

Dec 23 2018, 12.43, from my now suspended @quietmanc account:

I don't think there'll be a better chance to end the conflict in #Afghanistan as quickly as it could be ended right now. @realDonaldTrump told @Twitter about US troop #withdrawal before he told his @NATO allies !! This is huge, a coup against #Warmongers

Dec 23 2018, 21:33, @quietmanc tweeted:

#Afghanistan's new Defense Minister. Following US withdrawal notice @ashrafghani has appointed #AsadullahKhalid to Defense Minister. Asadullah Khalid is accused of murdering 5-UN workers in 2007. It's alleged he bombed them to protect his opium business

On 12 January 2019 - nearly three weeks after Khalid's appointment - the US funded Voice of America website reported on the appointment. The headline describes Khalid being accused of murdering five United Nations workers as 'controversial'.

Human Rights Watch ran a report on Khalid on 12 January too, titled:

***'New Afghan Defense Minister Should Face Investigation, Sanctions'***

NATO was in an alliance with a man accused of the most terrible of crimes and it was nearly three weeks before that 'controversy' was even reported by the mainstream media or human rights organisations, like it didn't matter.

## Afghan President Criticized for Installing Controversial Defense Minister

By Ayaz Gul  
January 12, 2019 06:29 AM

ISLAMABAD – A global watchdog demanded Saturday international donors impose sanctions against Afghanistan's new defense minister, Asadullah Khalid, saying there is "credible evidence" linking him to serious rights abuses.

The defense minister, who previously had governed volatile Kandahar and Ghazni provinces and served as the Afghan spy chief, is also accused of ordering the killing of five United Nations workers in a roadside bombing in April 2007 in Kandahar,

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Acting Afghan defense minister Asadullah Khalid was a guest at the June 2019 NATO conference in Italy, and then at the February 2020 Munich Security Conference in Germany - as pictured here with US defense secretary Mark Esper, US secretary of state Mike Pompeo and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani:



It was Khalid's presence in Munich in February 2020, and Pompeo and Esper's blatant endorsement of the man, that prompted me to act - given that no one else appeared too bothered.

I took it upon myself to report Khalid's presence in Munich to Interpol. I did this through the proper reporting channels and then shared those reports on twitter:



Anthony C Heaford  
@MancunianQuiet

9:09 PM · Feb 14, 2020

.@calxandr @INTERPOL\_HQ @NCA\_UK @UN

An Afghan national with credible allegations of murder of 5-United Nations workers against him is in Munich TODAY

PLEASE take some action before I lose all hope; details in my email below

#MunichSecurityConference

Heaford Anthony

Sent [REDACTED] 20:56



URGENT, F.A.O. INTERPOL

To: communication@nca.gov.uk

Please be aware that an Afghan national called Asadullah Khalid is in Munich TODAY.

There is credible evidence that Asadullah Khalid ordered the murder of 5-United Nations workers (4-Nepalese security guards and their Afghan driver) by the use of an improvised explosive device in 2007.

Details of those allegations are viewable here:

"Chris Alexander, a senior Canadian official working with the United Nations in Afghanistan at the time, alleged that Khalid ordered the killing of five UN workers in a roadside bombing in Kandahar in April 2007."

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2019/01/12/new-afghan-defense-minister-should-face-investigation-sanctions>

Details of Asadullah Khalid's presence in Munich today here:

<https://twitter.com/lmwaheedfaizi/status/1228350697277722624>

I will ensure that this email is shared publicly due to my lack of confidence in British security services integrity (I think you're corrupt but I hope you can prove me wrong in this matter)

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There appeared to be no action from Interpol regarding Khalid's presence at the Munich Security Conference in Germany. Despite the incredible allegations of kidnap, torture, extortion, murder, drugs, etc against Asadullah Khalid from two senior Canadian diplomats (one of whom was representing the United Nations), all those allegations remain uninvestigated and Khalid appears untouchable.

Following the Munich Security Conference Khalid's public presence did diminish and his role as defense minister appeared intermittent. I recall seeing a photo of Khalid on twitter looking emaciated some months later; he was reportedly receiving medical treatment in the United Arab Emirates. The medical treatment may have been related to the abdominal injuries he suffered in one of numerous assassination attempts against him.

Twitter reports say Khalid served twenty-five months (December 2018 to January 2021) as defense minister and that three other defense ministers served after him: Shah Mohmood Miakhel, Yasin Zia, and Bismillah Khan Mohammadi.

Since NATO's shameful exit from Kabul in August 2021 I've seen few reports about Khalid.

The Canadian diplomats / United Nations officials who accused Khalid of kidnap, torture, rape, extortion, murder, drugs, etcetera appear to have lost interest.

Interpol did not respond to my reports of Khalid's presence at the Munich Security Conference in Germany in February 2020.

And Khalid remains a hugely under reported figure in the international media, as does NATO's relationship with him. And the families of the four Nepalese security guards and their Afghan driver employed by the United Nations and murdered in 2007 - allegedly on Asadullah Khalid's orders - have been denied Justice. Those five lives and likely hundreds of other Afghan lives taken or destroyed by Khalid appear not even to register when it comes to the public discourse about NATO and its allies like Sayyaf, Dostum and Khalid.

