

## **ANNEX 5**

### **Public**

### **Chronology of relevant events**

## CHRONOLOGY OF RELEVANT EVENTS

In accordance with Regulation 49(3), the Prosecution submits the following chronology of relevant events. This chronology does not contain an exhaustive list of all relevant events as set out in the Request for Authorisation, but is meant to provide an indicative overview of key developments related to the armed conflict in Afghanistan.

- 1978      *Coup d'état* brings the communist People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan to power.
- 1979      Soviet Union invades Afghanistan in an effort to prop up the communist government, fighting against *mujahideen* insurgency.
- 1988      Peace accords between Afghanistan, USSR, USA and Pakistan pave the way for withdrawal of Soviet troops. Soviet-aligned government led by Mohammad Najibullah remains in place.
- 1992      Najibullah's government falls, civil war ensues as rival *mujahideen* factions fight for power.
- 1996      Taliban, led by Mullah Mohammed Omar, seize control of Kabul.
- 2001      Ahmad Shah Masood, leader of the main opposition to the Taliban – the Northern Alliance – is assassinated by al Qaeda-linked operatives, two days before the 9/11 attacks.
- US-led coalition launches OEF on 7 October. The Taliban are ousted from power by December.
- UN hosts the Bonn Conference in Germany from 2-5 December, resulting in agreement to establish an Afghan Interim Authority and draft a new constitution. Hamid Karzai is selected as chairman of the Interim Authority. Power is officially transferred to the Interim Authority on 22 December 2001.
- 2002      ISAF deploys to Kabul, mandated by the UN Security Council to assist in maintaining security.
- US determines that Al Qaeda and Taliban fighters will not be granted prisoner of war status or the protections of Common Article 3 (7 February).

OEF troops conduct Operation Anaconda in eastern Afghanistan, in an effort to root out remaining Al Qaeda and Taliban elements (March).

CJTF-180 assumes overall control of US forces in Afghanistan, reporting to US Central Command (May).

A national *Loya Jirga* convenes and elects Hamid Karzai as President of the Afghan Transitional Administration, with a two-year mandate (19 June).

2003 Afghanistan deposits its instrument of accession to the Rome Statute on 10 February; the Rome Statute enters into force for Afghanistan on 1 May 2003.

UN Security Council expands ISAF's mandate to cover the whole of Afghanistan, through UNSC Resolution 1510 (13 October).

CFC-A is established by the US military in November 2003, subsuming CJTF-180 as the overall command headquarters of US forces in Afghanistan.

2004 A *Loya Jirga* convenes and approves a Constitution for Afghanistan in January.

Presidential elections are held in October; Hamid Karzai is declared the winner.

2005 Mine and IED attacks in the south and southeast increase by 40% between May 2004 and May 2005.

Parliamentary elections are held in September and members of parliament take office in December.

2006 The Taliban insurgency intensifies significantly in the spring, with a marked increase in suicide bombings, IED attacks and armed clashes in the southern provinces. US forces conduct 340 airstrikes in support of NATO and OEF operations against the Taliban in Kandahar, Helmand, Zabul and Uruzgan provinces, including Operation Mountain Thrust (May-July) , Operation Medusa (September) and Operation Mountain Fury (September-December).

Taliban publish the first version of their military code of conduct (*Layha*), on 1 August.

2007 Parliament adopts the Law on Public Amnesty and National Stability.

2008 ICRC is granted access to some US military Forward Operating Bases.

US Forces-Afghanistan is established, replacing CFC-A.

2009 Taliban publish the second version of their military code of conduct (*Layha*), on 9 May.

Presidential elections are held; Hamid Karzai is declared the winner after his opponent in the second-round runoff, Dr. Abudullah Abdullah, withdraws his candidacy in October.

2010 Taliban publish the third version of their military code of conduct (*Layha*), on 29 May.

US deploys an additional 30,000 troops to Afghanistan, bringing the total number of US troops stationed in Afghanistan to approximately 100,000, in addition to approximately 40,000 NATO troops.

Parliamentary elections are held on 18 September.

2011 Osama bin Laden is killed by US Special Forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan on 2 May. Ayman al-Zawahiri replaces him as leader of Al Qaeda and renews Bin Laden's pledge of allegiance to Mullah Omar.

Governor of Kandahar and half-brother of President Hamid Karzai, Ahmad Wali Karzai, is killed by the Taliban (12 July).

Chair of Afghanistan's High Peace Council and former President, Burhanuddin Rabbani, is killed by a suicide bomber (20 September).

US President Barack Obama announces plan to hand over security responsibilities to Afghan National Security Forces by the end of 2014.

2012 US and Afghanistan sign a Strategic Partnership Agreement on 2 May, US designates Afghanistan as a "Major Non-NATO Ally".

NATO Summit in Chicago (20-21 May) and Donor Conference in Tokyo (8 July) set the stage for post-2014 withdrawal of international

troops; Afghanistan agrees to anti-corruption measures as a condition for continued development assistance.

The National Director of Security, Asadullah Khalid, is seriously injured by a suicide bomber in Kabul posing as a peace envoy (6 December).

2013 President Karzai appoints a fact-finding delegation to investigate allegations of torture in Afghan detention facilities. In response to their findings, he adopts a presidential decree on 16 February, reinforcing the prohibition on torture and ordering additional measures to prevent and punish its occurrence.

US formally transfers control of the Parwan Detention Facility (within Bagram Airbase) to the Afghan government (25 March).

Taliban officially open a liaison office in Doha, Qatar (18 June); the office is closed five days later in response to opposition from the Afghan government.

2014 Following a disputed presidential election, the two finalists agree to a power sharing arrangement. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ghani is sworn in as President, and Dr. Abdullah Abdullah as Chief Executive Officer, on 29 September.

US and Afghanistan sign a Bilateral Security Agreement, allowing US troops to remain in Afghanistan after 2014 (30 September).

ISAF mission formally ends and U.S. declares an end to combat operations under OEF in December. Both are succeeded by missions focused on training and advising the Afghan National Security Forces.

2015 Taliban acknowledge the death of their leader, Mullah Omar, and appoint Mullah Akhtar Mansour as his successor. Sirajuddin Haqqani, leader of the 'Haqqani Network', is appointed as second deputy (July 2015).

Taliban briefly seize control of Kunduz city, the first time they have controlled a provincial capital since 2001 (28 September – 13 October).

2016 New Taliban leader Mullah Mansour is killed in a US drone attack in Pakistan's Baluchestan province; Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada is named as his successor (25 May 2016).

Taliban advance to the outskirts of Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand, and the northern city of Kunduz. The group gained the control of the most part of these two provinces after the withdrawal of NATO forces by end of 2014.

The Afghan government signs a peace agreement with the militant group Hezb-e-Islami (29 September); the leader of the group Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and other members are granted amnesties for grave violations of international humanitarian law and human rights.

2017 Rise in ISIS activities reported in a number of northern and southern provinces.

Thirty people are killed and more than 50 wounded in an attack on a military hospital in Kabul (March).

The US drop the largest non-nuclear bomb ever used in combat on ISIS caves near the border with Pakistan (April).

ISIS-affiliated fighters capture the mountainous region of Tora Bora in Nangarhar province, which was formerly used as a base by the late al-Qaeda leader Osama Bin Laden.

A massive explosion in a highly secure diplomatic area of Kabul kills at least 90 people and wounds more than 461, reportedly one of the largest attacks hitting Kabul since 2001 (31 May).