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By Guadi Calvo
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Afghanistan once again



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A new event has put the Afghan reality back on tenterhooks and revived the war that Daesh Khorasan has been waging against the Taliban since the group founded by Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in 2014 managed to establish itself in northern Afghanistan, according to Iranian intelligence, with the help of the CIA, in 2015.

On Monday 5, at the gates of the consular section of the Russian embassy in Kabul, a suicide bomber or *shahid* (martyr) member of *Daesh Khorasan*, would have been hit by the shots of an embassy guard before he could approach a group of people waiting at the door of the consulate and detonate the device of the explosive vest he was wearing.

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However, the explosion killed two embassy officials along with six other Afghan nationals and injured ten others who were waiting to process their visas. This attack becomes the first against a foreign delegation since the Taliban's seizure of Kabul in August last year.

No doubt the attack aims to weaken the already very weak international position of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, since Russia, along with a group of 13 other countries including China, Pakistan, Iran, India and Turkey, which have representation in the Central Asian country, beyond that they have not officially recognized the new government of the *mullahs*. Russia is the only European country that has maintained representation in Kabul, after the fifteenth of August 2021, while most nations closed their embassies when the Taliban captured Kabul.

Beyond Russia's failure to recognize Afghanistan, in addition to an official Afghan representation in Moscow, incipient negotiations have been established for Kabul's purchase of commodities such as wheat, gas and oil and even a delegation of *mullahs* participated in the recent *St. Petersburg International Economic Forum*. . Meanwhile, the Taliban are waiting for the United States to release the nearly \$7 billion that Washington holds in U.S. banks.

The explosion surprised the second secretary of the Embassy, Shah Mahmoud, as he left to communicate the names of Afghan citizens who had benefited from obtaining the Russian visa. On Monday night, *Daesh Khorasan* acknowledged responsibility for the incident, confirming that it was one of its *mujahideen* who was wearing the explosive vest.

Attacks on foreign delegations in the years of the Taliban's war against The American invaders were extremely rare throughout the twenty years of occupation, with one being recorded in 2017 in Zandaj Square, the epicenter of what is known as Kabul's green zone, a site then ultra-controlled by security forces. both Afghan and U.S. There the explosion of a tanker truck driven by a *shahid* carrying about 1,500 kilos of explosives killed about 100 people and injured 500 others. (See Afghanistan: When the smoke dissipates, when the dust settles.) In 2015 a Taliban car bomb exploded at the gates of the Spanish Embassy, killing a security guard, so two events cannot be strictly classified as attacks on embassies, but as events in which foreign representations could be considered as "collateral damage" in events where embassies were not strictly linked. Thus, with Monday's attack, *Daesh*

Khorasan opens a new escalation in its "war" against the Taliban, whom it classifies as *takfiris* (*apostates*) who do not respect the laws of the Koran.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov reported that the corresponding measures were taken to strengthen the security of the embassy with the collaboration of the Afghan authorities. He also expressed the hope that "those responsible for the attack will be punished as soon as possible."

On all fronts Daesh Khorasan

In that increasingly virulent war that the *Daesh* maintains against the Taliban, and very particularly in the escalation that began in August 2021, a new episode happened last Friday, September 2, when in the mosque of Guzargah, one of the largest in western Afghanistan, in the western city of Herat, the *ṣalāt al-ẓuhr* was held. (noon prayer) the one that gathers the largest number of faithful on the holiest day of the Islamic week, a suicide bomber detonated his explosive charge killing about twenty people and injuring 23 others, including the influential *Maulawi* (religious scholar) pro-Taliban Mujib ur Rahman Ansari, who was in the crosshairs of *Daesh*, since at the end of June, in the course of a meeting in which some 3,000 *ulema* and tribal chiefs participated, he had demanded that those who committed even the "smallest act" against the Government be beheaded.

Ansari, who was a fierce critic of all the Afghan governments supported by the United States, given his anti-American militancy became an adviser to the regime's deputy prime minister, the very powerful *Mullah* Abdul Ghani Baradar, and in a few weeks becomes the second cleric killed, after Rahimullah Haqqani, also killed in a similar attack on August 11 at his *madrassa* (Koranic school) in Kabul. (See: The Bloody Afghan Lattice.)

Other accounts of Ansari's death indicate that the *Maulawi* was killed by an "impure enemy of the religion of Islam and humanity," according to a spokesman as he approached the mosque and a *shahid*, who posed as a follower blew himself up while kissing the cleric's hand.

While the actions of *Daesh Khorasan* are becoming more frequent and aim to attack the heart of the new Afghan government, they have long concentrated their actions

particularly against members of the *Shia-Hazara* minority, the latter a subgroup of the former, considered blasphemous, heretic and enemy of Islam, and also against the *mystical Sufi* minority. That despite being Sunni is not considered sufficiently attached to the *Koran*, so they have been *subjected* to violent attacks that in only 13 attacks last year have produced 700 deaths according to a report by *Human Rights Watch* (HRW), which also points out that the Taliban is also not responsible for protecting the *Hazara* nor to the rest of the religious minorities from suicide bombings and deadly attacks, in addition to failing to provide adequate medical care and assistance to the victims and their families.

Last April, *Daesh* has been particularly active in operating against *madrassas*, *mosques* and *Shiite community centres*. It has also been known that attacks are constant in different parts of the interior of the country, which are not reported due to the strict censorship established by the Taliban.

On 19 April, six people were killed and 20 others injured in a suicide bombing at *Abdul Rahim Shahid Secondary School* in western Kabul. Just two days later another thirty people were killed and about 90 injured after the attack on the *Seh Dokan* mosque in Mazar-e Sharif, capital of Balkh province. One of the largest *Shiite* mosques in the country, which has since remained closed. During the same month, 14 people were killed in attacks on *Hazara* in their workplaces and on public roads in the northern province of Samangan and the city of Mazar-e Sharif.

In Kabul 120 dead and wounded occurred on August 7 during the celebrations of *Ashura*, the tenth day of the month of *Muharran*, of the year 680, in which the battle of Kerbala was fought and the martyrdom of Ali, grandson of Muhammad, the founding point of *Shiism* (common cause or party) of Ali's followers.

A little more than a year after the Taliban's victory, no one knows what to do with the country, where the only constant thing is the repetition of cycles of violence in Afghanistan, once again.

Guadi Calvo is an Argentine writer and journalist. International Analyst specialized in Africa, Middle East and Central Asia. On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/lineainternacionalGC>.

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