

The following is summarised information from a Combined Threat Assessment Group (CTAG) Threat Insight. Where possible, excerpts of the original document have been used. Some details are withheld under section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 as release would prejudice national security.

Threat Insight: Afghan Evacuation: Violent Extremism Threat Implications for New Zealand

Report Date: 1 September 2021

Report No: 21-126-TI

- This product provides an assessment of the potential impact of the evacuation of Afghan nationals on the domestic terrorism threat environment, specific to the assessed backgrounds of the evacuees, and domestic violent extremists' reaction to the evacuation. It does not assess threats from foreign interference, espionage or criminality.
- CTAG has low confidence in its assessments. This product was prepared in consultation with the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service (NZSIS) and New Zealand Defence Intelligence (NZDI).

Key judgments

- New Zealand's evacuee stream is highly likely to include individuals from the Hazara, Tajik, and Pashtun ethnic groups.
- We cannot discount the possibility that individuals within New Zealand's evacuee stream have current or historical connections to violent extremist groups.
- There is no indication that violent extremist groups of any ideology have the intent to deliberately penetrate New Zealand's evacuee stream.
- There is currently no change to the National Terrorism Threat Level, which remains at **MEDIUM**; *terrorist attack is assessed as feasible and could well occur.*
- There is currently no indication of a specific, credible violent extremist threat to New Zealand or New Zealand interests abroad in relation to the evacuation programme.
- There is a realistic possibility that historic Afghan sectarian or ethnic conflicts could manifest in the evacuee population and impact of New Zealand's terrorism threat environment over the long-term.