

Hajji Din Mohammad Biography



Hajji Din Mohammad, a former mujahedin fighter from the Khalis faction of Hezb-e Islami, became governor of the eastern province of Nangarhar after the assassination of his brother, Hajji Abdul Qadir, in July 2002. He is also the brother of slain commander Abdul Haq. He is currently serving as the provincial governor of Kabul Province.

Hajji Din Mohammad's great-grandfather, Wazir Arsala Khan, served as Foreign Minister of Afghanistan in 1869. One of Arsala Khan's descendents, Taj Mohammad Khan, was a general at the Battle of Maiwand where a British regiment was decimated by Afghan combatants. Another descendent, Abdul Jabbar Khan, was Afghanistan's first ambassador to Russia.

Hajji Din Mohammad's father, Amanullah Khan Jabbarkhel, served as a district administrator in various parts of the country. Two of his uncles, Mohammad Rafiq Khan Jabbarkhel and Hajji Zaman Khan Jabbarkhel, were members of the 7th session of the Afghan Parliament.

Hajji Din Mohammad's brothers Abdul Haq and Hajji Abdul Qadir were Mujahedin commanders who fought against the forces of the USSR during the Soviet Occupation of Afghanistan from 1980 through 1989. In 2001, Abdul Haq was captured and executed by the Taliban.

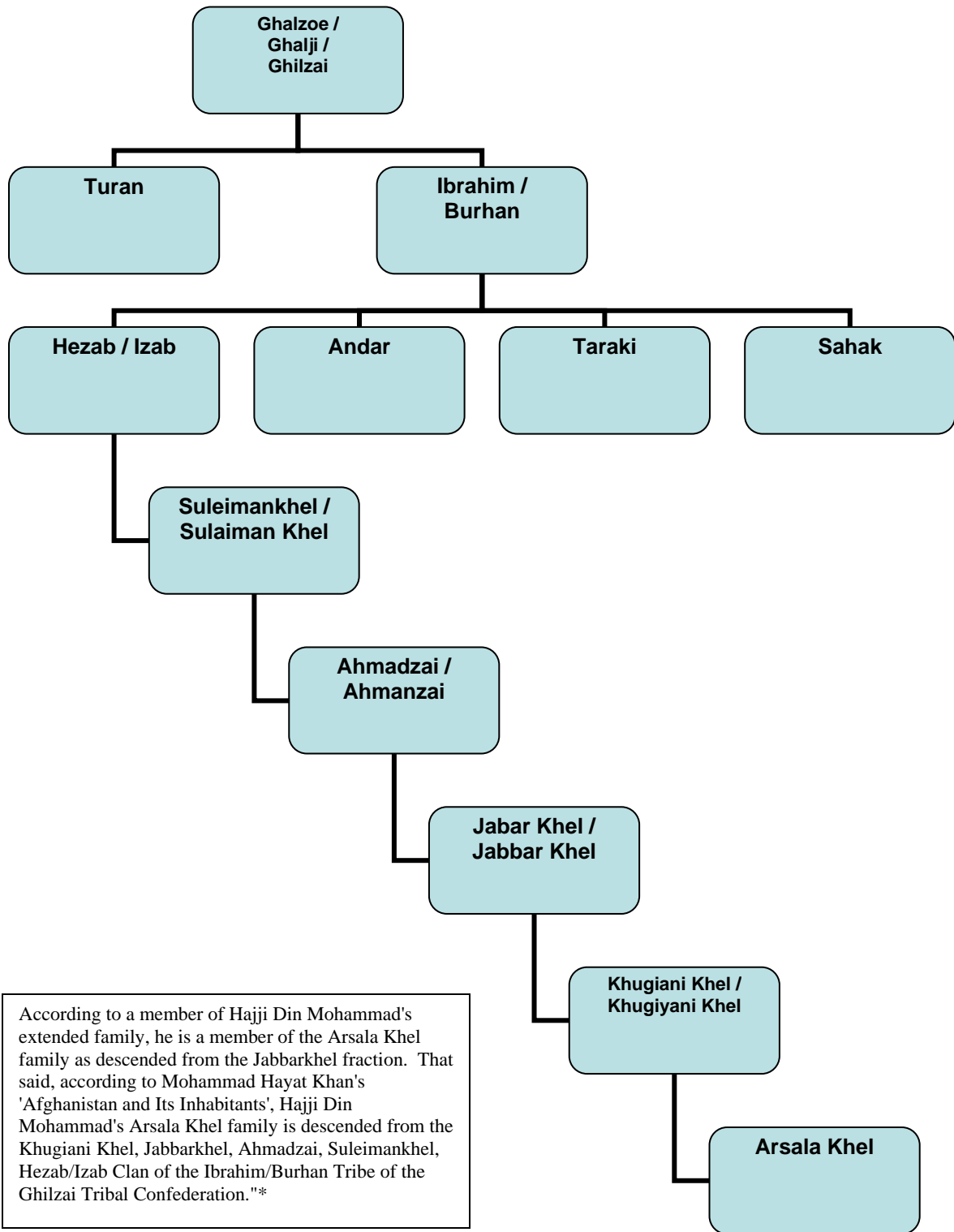
Hajji Abdul Qadir served as a Governor of Nangarhar Province after the Soviet Occupation and was credited with maintaining peace in the province during the years of civil conflict that followed the Soviet withdrawal. Hajji Abdul Qadir served as a Vice President in the newly formed post-Taliban government of Hamid Karzai, but was assassinated by unknown assailants in 2002.

Hajji Din Mohammad served as the deputy of the Hezb-e-Islami Khalis Party founded by Yunis Khalis. He served as the National Security Advisor in Afghanistan's Interim Government in Exile during the 1990s and as Minister of Education in the Mujahedin Government which was established after the collapse of the Communist government. He also served as Deputy Prime Minister in the same period, but resigned when infighting erupted among the rival factions of Ahmad Shah Massoud and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar. Hajji Din Mohammad lived in exile during the Taliban Era. Hajji Din Mohammad's son Ezatullah Sahil was captured and killed by the Taliban along with Abdul Haq in 2001.

Hajji Din Mohammad and his brother Nasrullah Baryalai Arsalai remain active in politics in Nangarhar and Kabul.¹

¹ Eurasia Insight. *Afghan Politician's Murder Touches off Political Discord*. By: Camelia Entekhabi-Fard. 10 July 2002.

Arsala Family Tree²



According to a member of Hajji Din Mohammad's extended family, he is a member of the Arsala Khel family as descended from the Jabbarkhel fraction. That said, according to Mohammad Hayat Khan's 'Afghanistan and Its Inhabitants', Hajji Din Mohammad's Arsala Khel family is descended from the Khugiani Khel, Jabbarkhel, Ahmadzai, Suleimankhel, Hezab/Izab Clan of the Ibrahim/Burhan Tribe of the Ghilzai Tribal Confederation."*

² Afghanistan and its Inhabitants; Translated from the Hayat-I-Afghani of Muhammad Hayat Khan, C.S.I. by Henry Priestly; 1874

* Arsala, Kushal. Email message to author. 10 Nov. 2007.

Historical References and Notes:

Ethnology of Ghilzais

The Ghilzais are one of the two largest groups of Pashtuns in Afghanistan, along with the Durrani tribe. There are several subdivisions of the Ghilzais; however some of the more important are listed below:

- Suleiman Khel (Hezab / Izab, Burhan)
- Kharoti (Turan)
- Nasirs (Turan)
- Andars (sub-division of the Musa / Musa Khel)

“The tribe was historically nomadic, either trading, or grazing their flocks. A large number, calculated at some 300,000 used to migrate annually into British India, passing through the Kurram, Tokhi and Gumal Valleys in the autumn, carrying merchandise from Central Asia to the Punjab and Bengal, they return at the beginning of summer. The semi-permanent settlers, and those who pass through into Pakistan, are represented by the Suleiman Khel, Kharotis, Malla Khel, Taraks, Shinwars, Hotaks, Andars, Tokhis, Mia Khel. In all, the total number of those semi permanently settled in the country is some 13,000 males, the majority of them living in settlements, called Kirris.”³

Ethnology of Sulaiman Khel

“The Sulaiman Khel is the largest and most important of all the Ghilzai tribes, while they and the Ali Khel are the most important of the Burhan division.”⁴

“The Ahmadzai are reportedly the most powerful division of the Suleiman Khel.”⁵

“Noted in Katawaz as having engaging in 'unruly behavior'; during 1923 and 1924 remained virtually at war with the Hazaras and other Ghilzai tribes, especially the Nasirs and Taraks”⁶

Intertribal relations

They are noted in the British Notes on the Ghilzais and Powindah Tribes from 1929 to be permanently at feud with the Nasar/Nasir and Taraki Ghilzais. “The Kaisar Khel and Samalzai of the Suleiman Khel have historically been mutual enemies.”⁷

³ The Pathans. 1938.

⁴ Ludwig W. Adamec, Ph.D., ed. Kabul and Southeastern Afghanistan., Volume 6, 1985.

⁵ Military Report: Afghanistan. Dehli: Government of India Press, 1925, p.386, 387

⁶ Military Report on Afghanistan, Part I - History; General Staff India, 1940., p.107, 150

⁷ Topography, Ethnology, Resources, & History of Afghanistan. Part II. Calcutta:, 1871, p.4