

Taliban 2017 – 2019 Discussion

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Recommended Age(s)/Grade(s): High School Senior or College Freshman Course

Time Needed – Preparation: Half a Class Period

Time Needed – Execution: One Classroom Period

Standards (optional):

National Geography Standards

Standard 1: How to use maps and other geographic representations, geospatial technologies, and spatial thinking to understand and communicate information

Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

- A) Understand different data types – spatial, temporal and descriptive
- B) Critically analyze data sources

Definitions

Voice of Jihad (VOJ) – dataset that was created from Taliban reports

Combo (Layer) – This dataset may include an event(s) reported various sources including the Voj however if the Voj reported the event it is only in this database if another source reported the same event. For example – New York Times and Voj

VOJ Only (Layer) – This dataset includes only events reported by Voj only.

Prep Work (Download the 2017 – 2019 Afghanistan Dataset and save it as an Excel file for Displaying to their students)

- 1) Please go to the following website - <https://acleddata.com/#/dashboard>
- 2) Click Data – Data Export Tool
- 3) In the Data Export Tool, please set the following sections:
 - A) From – 01/01/2017
 - B) To - 31/12/2019
 - C) Actor - Taliban

D) Country – Afghanistan

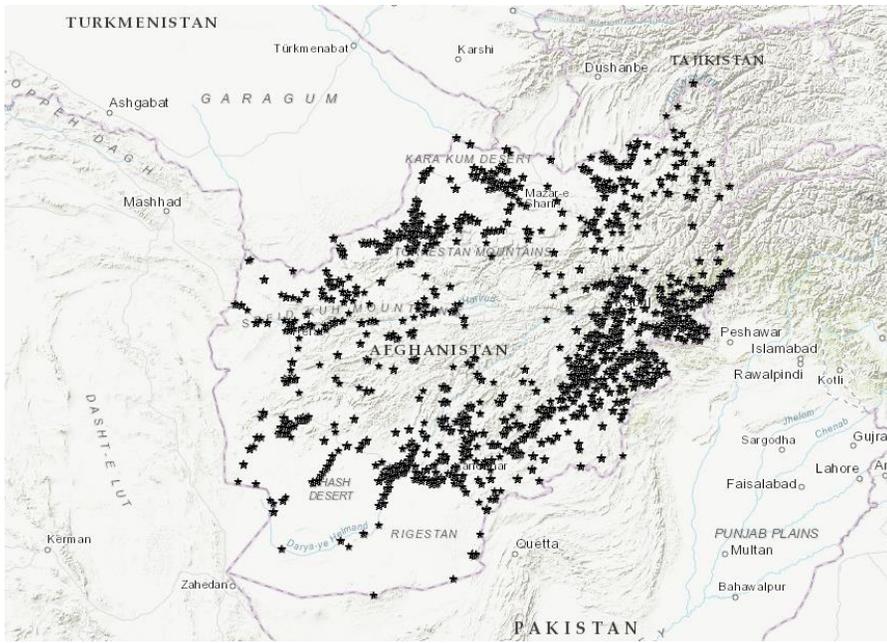
From:	01/01/2017	Region:	All
To:	31/12/2019	Country:	Afghanistan x
Event Type:	All	Location:	All
Sub Event:	All	Keyword:	match exact single word / phrase
Type:		Export Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actor Based <input type="checkbox"/> Compatibility Mode
Actor Type:	All		
Actor:	Taliban x		

- 4) Click Export – Accept
- 5) The file will probably be saved to your Download folder.
- 6) Open Excel and Open the data file (it will be a .csv file)
- 7) Then you can sort the material, etc.

#	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V
1	data_id	iso	event_id	event_date	year	time_prec	event_type	sub_event	actor1	assoc_act	inter1	actor2	assoc_act	inter2	interactor	region	country	admin1	admin2	admin3	location	
2	6815393	4	AFG42766	42766	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Military Fc Police For			1	Taliban		2	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Takhar			Khwaja Baha Wuddin	Khwaja Ba
3	6815394	4	AFG42768	42768	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Military Fc Police For			1	Taliban		2	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Zabul			Shah Joy	Shah Joy
4	6815397	4	AFG42310	42310	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Explosions	Remote ex Taliban			2	Militia (Pro-Governm		3	23	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Paktia			Zurmat	Zurmat
5	6815398	4	AFG42763	42763	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Military Forces of Afg			1	Taliban		2	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Faryab			Almar	Almar
6	6815402	4	AFG42348	42348	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Police Forces of Algh		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Herat			Zinda Jan	Zinda Jan
7	6815403	4	AFG42801	42801	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Police Fori Military Fc		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Takhar			Daraqad	Daraqad
8	6815404	4	AFG42804	42804	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Non-state Taliban			2	Military Fc Police For		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Balkh			Balkh	Balkh
9	6815405	4	AFG42784	42784	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Military Forces of Afg			1	Taliban		2	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Helmand			Naava-e Barakzayi	Naava-e Ba
10	6815406	4	AFG42502	42502	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Explosions	Air/drone Military Forces of Afg			1	Taliban		2	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Takhar			Dasht-e Qal	Dasht-e Qal
11	6815407	4	AFG42802	42802	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Police Fori Military Fc		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Kunduz			Archi	Archi
12	6815408	4	AFG42288	42288	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Explosions	Remote ex Taliban			2	Military Forces of Afg		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Badakhsh			Warduj	Warduj
13	6815410	4	AFG42772	42772	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Military Forces of Afg			1	Taliban		2	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Baghlan			Nahrin	Nahrin
14	6815413	4	AFG42767	42767	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Military Fc Police For			1	Taliban		2	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Zabul			Shinkay	Shinkay
15	6815414	4	AFG42730	42730	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Military Forces of Afg		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Sar-e Pol			Sayyad	Sayyad
16	6815415	4	AFG42734	42734	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Military Forces of Afg		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Kabul			Surobi	Surobi
17	6815416	4	AFG42785	42785	31-Dec-19	2019	2	Strategic d	Non-violer Taliban			2			0	20	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Jowzjan			Darزاب	Darزاب
18	6815417	4	AFG42739	42739	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Military Forces of Afg		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Baghlan			Pul-e Khumri	Pul-e Khun
19	6815418	4	AFG42740	42740	31-Dec-19	2019	2	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Military Forces of Afg		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Kunduz			Qalay / Zal	Qalay / Zal
20	6815419	4	AFG42330	42330	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Military Forces of Afg		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Ghazni			Khugiani	Khugiani
21	6815420	4	AFG42748	42748	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Military Forces of Afg		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Helmand			Khush Rod	Khush
22	6815421	4	AFG42749	42749	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Military Forces of Afg		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Helmand			Nad-e Ali	Nad-e Ali
23	6815422	4	AFG42750	42750	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Explosions	Remote ex Taliban			2	Militia (Pro-Governm		3	23	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Helmand			Nahri Saraj	Girishk
24	6815423	4	AFG42751	42751	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Police Forces of Algh		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Faryab			Qaynar	Now Dari
25	6815424	4	AFG42752	42752	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Military Forces of Afg		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Helmand			Nahri Saraj	Girishk
26	6815425	4	AFG42753	42753	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Battles	Armed clac Taliban			2	Military Forces of Afg		1	12	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Nimruz			Khush Rod	Shishabah
27	6815426	4	AFG42754	42754	31-Dec-19	2019	1	Explosions	Shelling/ar Taliban			2	NATO: No-Military Fc		8	28	Caucasus / Afghanistan	Laghman			Qarghayi	Lalkhanab

Steps

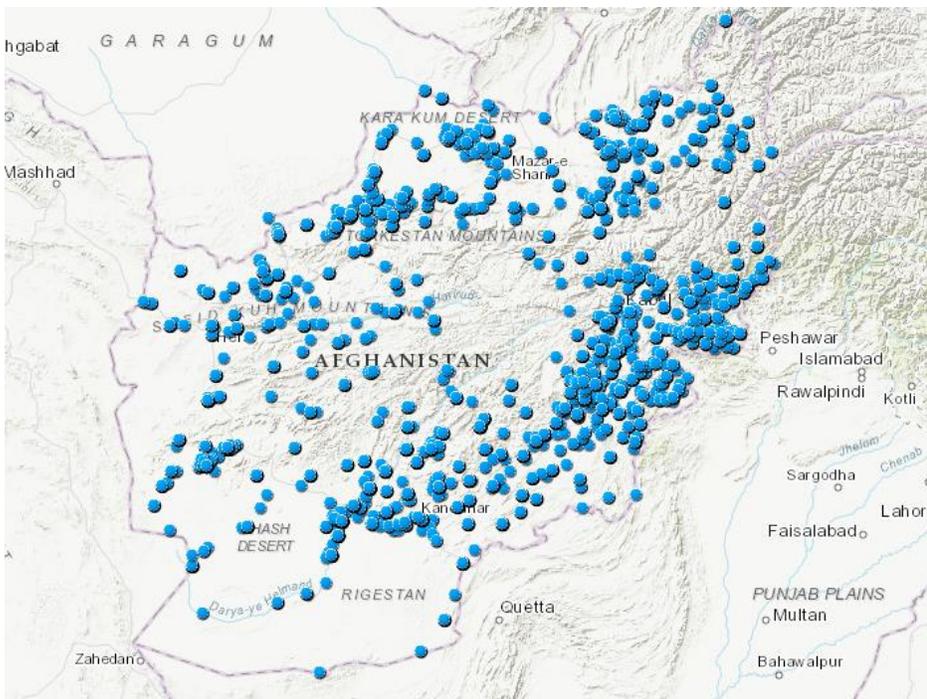
- 1) Students will watch the following video on YouTube before class discussion
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PcQNJrQ2kMf>
- 2) The professor will briefly discuss ACLED's workflow to create this database. Then the students will be shown the ACLED Dashboard and the downloading of data. The professor will show the students different fields in the database and discuss the issues of sources.
- 3) Students should click on the following link: <http://arcg.is/1DS5m4>
- 4) Then sign into their ArcGIS Online.
- 5) In ArcGIS Online, the following map will be shown. It is a map of all events involving the Taliban from 2017 – 2019.



Taliban 2017 2019 (Features: 32125, Selected: 0)

- 6) The professor will discuss that a new source was added to the database – Voice of Jihad – A Taliban-run news and website.
- 7) Students will then turn off this layer and add the Combo layer. This layer shows the events for this time period before the new source (VOJ Only) was added to the database.

Taliban 2017 2019
 Combo
 Voj Only
 Topographic

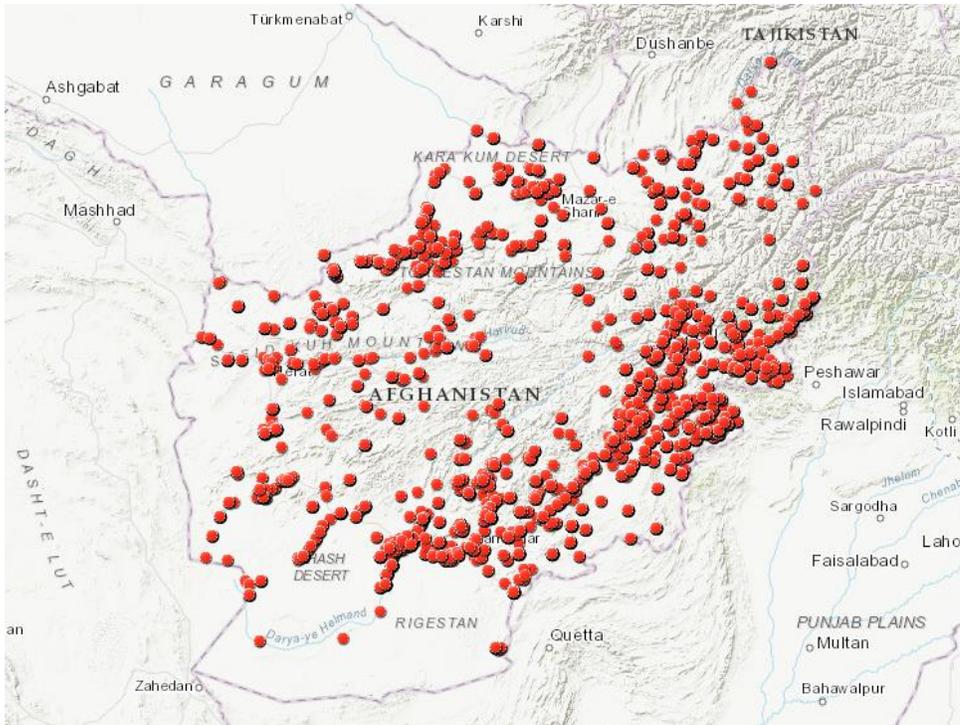


Combo (Features: 11547, Selected: 0)

- 8) Please write down the total number of events.
- 9) The professor will also show the students the variety of sources

	A	B
1	Row Labels	Count of source
2	1TV (Afghanistan)	43
3	1TV (Afghanistan); AP	2
4	1TV (Afghanistan); AP; Khaama Press	2
5	1TV (Afghanistan); Ariana TV; Pajhwok Afghan News; TOLO News	1
6	1TV (Afghanistan); Bakhtar News Agency; Afghan Ministry of Defense; Pajhwok Afghan News	1
7	1TV (Afghanistan); Helmand Radio	1
8	1TV (Afghanistan); Khaama Press	1
9	1TV (Afghanistan); Khaama Press; AFP	1
10	1TV (Afghanistan); Khaama Press; AP	1
11	1TV (Afghanistan); New York Times	1
12	1TV (Afghanistan); New York Times; VOA	1
13	1TV (Afghanistan); Pajhwok Afghan News	2
14	1TV (Afghanistan); Pajhwok Afghan News; Xinhua	1
15	1TV (Afghanistan); Radio Bost	1
16	1TV (Afghanistan); RFE/RL; Khaama Press; SHAM; AP; Pajhwok Afghan News; Ariana TV; AFP; RFE/RL	1
17	1TV (Afghanistan); Siv	1
18	1TV (Afghanistan); Siv; Voice of Jihad	2
19	1TV (Afghanistan); Voice of Jihad	1
20	1TV (Afghanistan); Voice of Jihad; Siv	1
21	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency	392
22	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Afghan Ministry of Defense	1
23	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Afghan Ministry of Defense; Khaama Press	1
24	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Afghan Ministry of Defense; New York Times	1
25	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Afghanistan National Television	1
26	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Afghanistan National Television; Ariana TV; Pajhwok Afghan News	1
27	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Afghanistan National Television; Pajhwok Afghan News	1
28	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; AFP	1
29	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; AFP; AP	1
30	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Aina TV	1
31	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; AP	5
32	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; AP; AFP; TOLO News; Voice of Jihad	1
33	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; AP; Liveuamap; TOLO News	3
34	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; AP; Pajhwok Afghan News; AFP	4
35	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; AP; TOLO News; Liveuamap	2
36	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; AP; TOLO News; Voice of Jihad; AFP	1
37	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Ariana TV; Voice of Jihad	1
38	Afghan Islamic Press News Agency; Bakhtar News Agency	9

- 10) Students will then turn off this layer and add the VOJ Only layer. This layer shows the events for this time period that were only reported by the VOJ.



- 11) Please write down the total number of events. How many more events were added to the database?
- 12) Now please examine the event definitions - https://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/2017/10/ACLED-Event-Definitions_Final.pdf
- 13) Which events do you think would be more accurate depending on the following type of sources? Why?
 - A) Government sources?
 - B) Popular Media?
 - C) Voice of Jihad?

Analyze the Events

- 14) Student will examine the following factors for each layer:
 - A) Government retook territory
 - B) Attacks on Civilians

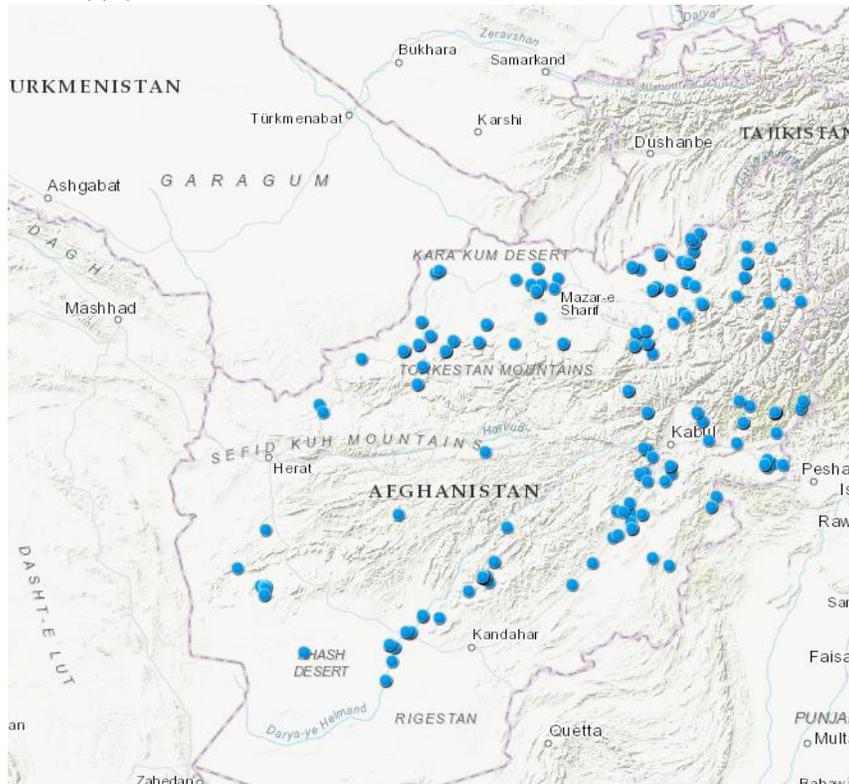
- 15) Turn on Combo Layer
- 16) Click the Filter button in the Table of Contents



- 17) Then set up the following sentence in the Filter Menu – Sub Event is Government regains Territory

sub_event_	is	Government regains t
<input type="checkbox"/> Ask for values		<input type="radio"/> Value <input type="radio"/> Field <input checked="" type="radio"/> Unique

18) Click Apply Filter.



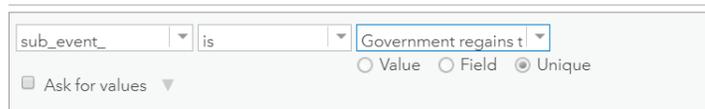
19) Now Click the Open Attribute Table. How many events?

20) Turn on VOJ Only Layer

21) Click the Filter button in the Table of Contents



22) Then set up the following sentence in the Filter Menu – Sub Event is Government regains Territory



23) This will not be possible. This means that in the VOJ Only set of events they never reported any Government Territorial Events.



24) Discussion - Why the difference in amount of events?

25) Now under the Combo Layer, click the Filter button

26) Now Click Remote Filter

Filter: Combo

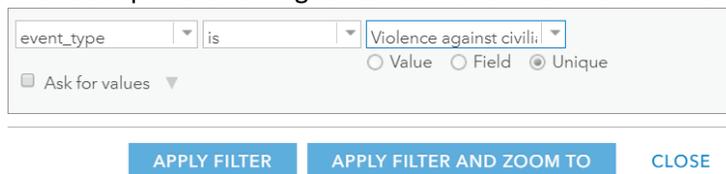


27) Turn on Combo Layer again

28) Click the Filter button in the Table of Contents



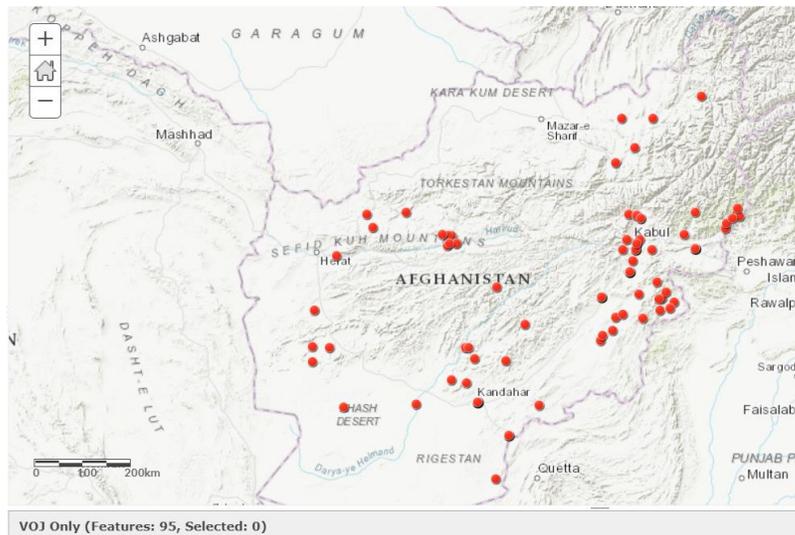
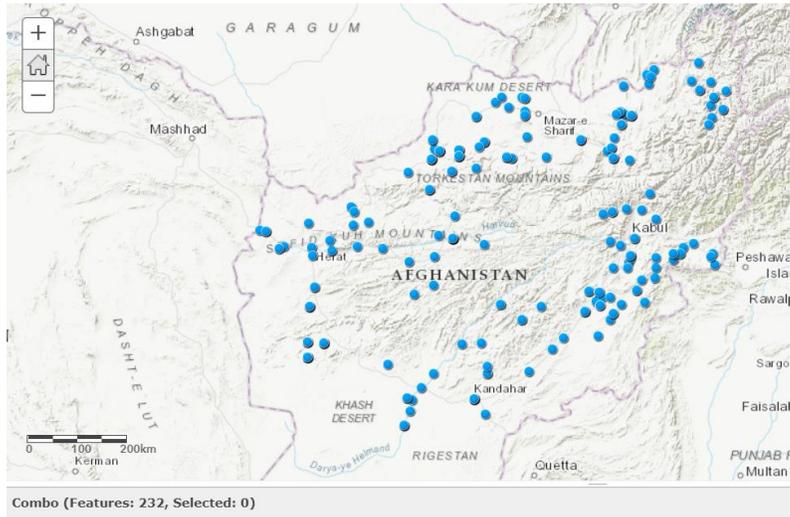
29) Then set up the following sentence in the Filter Menu – Event Type is Violence against civilians



30) Click Apply Filter.

31) Then turn on the VOJ Only layer and click repeat Steps 29-31.

32) Open both attribute tables to examine the amount of events



33) Discussion - Why the difference in the amount of events?

34) Students will submit written answers to the questions.

35) After the submission, the students will then read –

<https://www.acleddata.com/2019/12/19/the-world-according-to-the-taliban-new-data-on-afghanistan/>