

# *New defense minister of Afghanistan accused of war crimes and human rights abuses*

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Kabul, January 16 (RHC)-- In news from Afghanistan, Human Rights Watch is calling for the international community to impose sanctions and investigate recently appointed Defense Minister Asadullah Khalid.

Khalid, a former governor of Kandahar, is accused of committing war crimes and human rights abuses, including enforced disappearances, torturing prisoners and ordering the murder of five U.N. workers in 2007.

The human rights group also says there is evidence Khalid personally committed acts of sexual violence against women and girls.

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