Press TV

Afghans protest NATO killing of civilians

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Afghans have held a demonstration in a northeastern town to protest against the deadly attacks on civilians by the US-led foreign forces.

On Thursday, hundreds of people in the Chawki district of Kunar province protested against a US-led NATO night attack that killed six civilians on Wednesday and also chanted slogans condemning foreign forces occupying the country in the center of the district, a provincial official said.

Afghan parliamentarians also expressed outrage over the civilian deaths and demanded an immediate end to night raids that often kill more civilians than Taliban fighters.

A woman and a child were among the dead in the air and ground attack on Dewa Gul Vally, in the Chawki district, provincial governor Fazlullah Wahidi stated.

"The raid was not coordinated with us. Those killed were civilians, among them a woman and a child," Wahidi said, adding, "Now the people are demanding justice."

The raid is said to have been part of the US kill-and-capture operations in Afghanistan. NATO has confirmed the attack, saying it is investigating the incident.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has set up a commission to probe into the civilian deaths in Kunar.

Hundreds of civilians have been killed in US-led airstrikes and ground operations in various parts of Afghanistan over the past few months, with Afghans growing increasingly outraged over the seemingly endless number of deadly assaults.

Moreover, the rising death toll for Afghan civilians as a result of NATO and US military operations in the country has increased tension between President Karzai and his Western allies.

The United Nations has reported that the number of civilians killed in Afghanistan rose by 15 percent in the first half of 2011 to 1,462.