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Press TV

US soldier gets away with Afghan murder

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The United States' military has dropped all charges against the last of five soldiers accused of killing unarmed Afghan civilians for sport.

The US Army on Friday dropped all charges against Michael Wagon who had been charged with the killing of an Afghan civilian in February 2010.

A US army spokesman stated the charges were dropped “in the interest of justice,” but gave no clear reasons for the dismissal.

The case is linked to a “kill team” organized by Spc. Jeremy Morlock, who has confessed his own involvement in the killings which were staged to look like combat engagements in Kandahar province.

Morlock testified that Wagnon participated in the scheme to kill an Afghan civilian.

Four other members in Wagnon's infantry have been convicted and sent to prison in connection with the murder of unarmed Afghan civilians.

Seven other soldiers were convicted with lesser offenses including drug use, mutilating and photographing Afghan remains, illicit weapons possessions, and gang-beating a fellow soldier who reported the drug use.

In all, 11 of the 12 soldiers were convicted on various counts.

Since the US invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan, American forces have committed war crimes including the use of illegal weaponry, murder, torture, and prisoner abuse.