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Times of India

Afghan policeman suspect in killing of US officers: Sources

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KABUL: Afghan authorities said on Sunday they believe an Afghan police intelligence officer may have been involved in the shooting deaths of two US officers inside the interior ministry a day earlier, prompting [Nato](#) to recall all its staff from ministries.

Abdul Saboor, 25, is the main suspect in the killing, which took place at close range well inside the heavily fortified ministry in the centre of the capital, [Kabul](#), senior security sources told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

"Abdul Saboor is at large right now. He is the main suspect for us but we can not draw any conclusions over whether or not he is the killer," one of the sources said, adding that CCTV footage shows that Saboor had access to the Command and Control Centre where the slain Americans were found.

The killing of the American officers took place as rage gripped the country for a fifth straight day over the burning of the Muslim holy book at a [Nato](#) base, despite an apology from US President [Barack Obama](#).

If the shootings are found to be linked to Afghan forces, new questions will arise about [Taliban](#) infiltration as well as their ability to secure [Afghanistan](#) once [Nato](#) combat forces withdraw in 2014.

The Taliban took responsibility for the American deaths.

Afghan President [Hamid Karzai](#) repeated his plea for calm and restraint on Sunday. "I hope people will be calm and be assured that we are seriously pursuing this matter," he said of the burning of the Korans.

Riots across the country killed 29 people and wounded 200 more, Karzai said, including the shooting of two US soldiers by an Afghan army officer who joined the protests earlier in the week.