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Press TV

Nine people die in car bomb explosion at Jalalabad airport

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At least nine people have been killed and several others injured after a car bomb hit the gates of Jalalabad airport in Afghanistan's eastern province of Nangarhar, Press TV reported.

Provincial spokesman Ahmad Zia Abdul Zai said that US-led forces, who have a base in the airport, sealed off the area and launched an investigation into the incident.

The explosion occurred at around 7:00 a.m. local time Monday, said Nangarhar provincial police spokesman Hazrat Mohammad. Government officials say three Afghan soldiers are also among the dead.

Reports say several vehicles have been damaged in the powerful bomb blast for which Taliban militants have claimed responsibility, claiming to have killed a number of American soldiers.

The explosion comes as more than 30 Afghans have been killed in six days of violent anti-US protests across Afghanistan over the burning of copies of Holy Qur'an at the US-run Bagram military airbase near the capital, Kabul.

Seven US soldiers also were wounded in a grenade attack on their base in northern Kunduz province on Sunday.

The US-led invasion of Afghanistan took place in 2001. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but insecurity continues to rise across Afghanistan despite the presence of tens of thousands of US-led troops in the battle-weary country.

Thousands of civilians including women and children have been killed as a result of the war.