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Taliban's Civilian Massacre War Crime

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Amnesty International has condemned the Taliban attack on a Qargha resort outside Kabul saying it shows their disregard for civilian life.

In a statement, Amnesty International said Taliban's repeated brazen attacks targeting civilians show an utter disregard for human life and may amount to war crimes which should be investigated and prosecuted by the International Criminal Court.

Catherine Baber, Amnesty International's Acting Asia and Pacific Program Director said Thursday's attack is a reminder of why the Afghan Government must work with the International Criminal Court to help bring to justice all those responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Afghanistan. "The Afghan government and its international partners must not lose sight of human rights as they pursue reconciliation with the Taliban. Any potential peace deal must not include impunity for war crimes and other grave human rights abuses committed by all parties to the conflict," she added.

The statement further said killing of at least 15 civilians in the Thursday-evening attack was the most serious single loss of civilian life since last year's Taliban attack on Intercontinental Hotel. Afghanistan is a state party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court since 2003.

According to UN data, the Taliban are responsible for the vast majority of attacks on civilians in Afghanistan – out of 3,021 civilian deaths reported last year, 77 per cent were attributed to them and other militant groups.

Amnesty International says it has documented how Taliban and other militant groups have increased their use of sophisticated suicide attacks in busy civilian areas – including hospitals,

schools, hotels and mosques – and have regularly hidden behind civilians, knowingly putting them in danger.

The Taliban have also specifically targeted women, killing the headmaster of a girl's school in May 2011, as well as female MPs and aid workers.