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8 civilians dead in Kabul explosion

Aug 7, 2012

Eight civilians were killed and four others injured during a roadside bomb explosion in the Paghman district of central Kabul province on Tuesday, the interior ministry said. The explosion took place at around 5:20 am in the Khaldari village, where a passenger bus struck a remote-controlled bomb, a statement from the ministry said.

Accusing the Taliban of planting the bomb, the ministry said the mine planter had been detained in cooperation with area residents.

Hasibullah, the resident of the Qazi Khel area, said 12 people were killed and nine others injured during the explosion. The injured were evacuated to a health facility in the district. He said: "The attacker wanted to target an Afghan National Army (ANA) vehicle. But the passenger bus approached the scene ahead of the ANA vehicle." All the victims were men, who were apparently on their way to work.

President Hamid Karzai, meanwhile, denounced the attack and said: "Terrorists who plant roadside bombs on public routes during the holy month of *Ramadan*, killing innocent Muslim civilians, are definitely neither Muslims nor Afghans.

"They will achieve nothing but public abhorrence and severe punishment in the court of Allah," added Karzai, who offered his deepest condolences to the victims' families and prayed for the quick recovery of the wounded.

There has lately been a spike in militant-linked violence across the country, with the month of June alone seeing the highest number of attacks in nearly two years. Last week, the *NATO*-led

force said more than 100 assaults, including clashes and roadside blasts, happened on a daily basis in the country in June.