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Logar people warn Taliban of resistance

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A huge gathering of young men and elders on Monday warned the Taliban of armed resistance if they killed any innocent person in the central province of Logar.

The gathering in Pul-i-Alam, the provincial capital, was attended by hundreds of tribal elders, youth representatives, members of provincial and local councils. Governor Iqbal Azizi and other government officials were also in attendance.

One of the elders, Syed Ali Ahmad, told the meeting that the Taliban were involved in killing and intimidating innocent people. "We have sent many Taliban into exile from our villages. They will face armed resistance if they fail to stop murdering the innocent," Ahmad warned. "The Taliban do not allow development projects in our area. Public anger is on the increase against the fighters," said Abdul Rehman, a youth representative. Provincial council chief Dr.

Abdul Wali stressed the need for a close liaison between people and security forces to combat threats posed by the insurgents. Governor Iqbal Azizi accused the rebels of fueling sectarian and tribal differences.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said such gatherings had no impact on their operations. "We target those who work for the Americans and their allies, not any innocent," Mujahid said.