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US troops interpreters misbehave with Afghan civilians

January 6, 2013



According to reports US special forces based in Maidan Wardak province of Afghanistan are conducting operations without coordinating with the local officials and Afghan security forces.

The US special forces and their Afghan interpreters have also been accused of humiliating innocent local residents in Nerkh district.

The issue was discussed during the national security council meeting led by president Hamid Karzai on Sunday where Afghan defense minister shared the issue.

Afghan presidential media office following a statement said, “Based on the information collected from the individuals who were humiliated and according to reports of the delegation appointed to investigate the issue, around 7 to 8 Afghan interpreters of the US special forces who are using Afghan commandos uniforms during the operations and local residents are complaining regarding their bad behaviours.”

Defense minister quoted in the presidential palace statement said, “When we asked NATO forces to hand over the interpreters, they told us that they are not here and have fled the area.”

The national security council of Afghanistan appointed a delegation to strictly follow the incident and called on coalition officials in Kabul to introduce those involved behind the misbehaviours with the innocent civilians to judiciary institutions.

Afghan interior ministry was also ordered to follow the reports and take necessary actions for disarming irresponsible individuals.

In the meantime ISAF officials said, ”In December, ISAF received an allegation of detainee abuse that allegedly occurred several weeks ago in Maidan Wardak. Upon inquiry, and in cooperation with the Afghan authorities in the Defense Ministry and National Directorate of Security, coalition officials determined that an Afghan civilian who worked as an interpreter in the area had been videotaped assaulting a detainee. At the time of the assault, the detainee was in the sole custody of the Afghan National Security Forces in an Afghan governmental facility. A thorough review of the video confirmed that there were no coalition forces present or involved in the incident. Once the interpreter’s identity was determined, but before he could be arrested by Afghan authorities, the interpreter fled and his whereabouts are unknown. Coalition forces take all allegations of detainee abuse seriously and respect human rights, and we will continue to cooperate with the Afghan government in its investigation into this matter.”