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Afghan and NATO troops arrest Taliban leaders in Helmand

January 30, 2013

Afghan and coalition security force arrested two Taliban leaders in Nahr-e Saraj district, Helmand province, NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) announced following a statement on Wednesday.

The source further added, “The first detained Taliban leader is believed to be directly responsible for orchestrating assassinations of Afghan National Security Force members, overseeing attacks on Afghan Local Police checkpoints and directing attacks against Afghan and coalition forces. He is also accused of having organized the acquisition and transfer of multiple heavy weapons and improvised explosive devices to Taliban fighters operating in Nahr-e Saraj district.”

According to ISAF, “The second detained Taliban leader is believed to be directly responsible for the transportation and financing of IED-making materials, IED emplacement operations and the execution of IED attacks against Afghan and coalition forces.”

During the operation, the security force also detained four other suspected insurgents, ISAF confirmed.

In a separate operation, an Afghan and coalition security force arrested a Taliban leader in Khanabad district, Kunduz province, ISAF said following the statement adding that the detained Taliban leader is accused of being directly involved in planning and executing IED attacks against Afghan and coalition forces as well as Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan officials. He is also believed to have provided financial and logistical support to

Taliban and suicide bomber operations throughout Kunduz province. The security force detained two other suspected insurgents and seized several firearms as a result of the operation.

ISAF following the statement also added that Afghan and coalition force killed two insurgents and detained nine others after being fired upon during a security operation in search of a Taliban facilitator in Khugyani district, Nangarhar province, today.

The Taliban facilitator is suspected of providing logistical support to Taliban leaders traveling throughout western Nangarhar province. The security force also seized several firearms and associated ammunition as a result of the operation. No civilians were harmed during the operation.

Anti-government armed militant groups yet to comment regarding the reports.