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5 children, 4 women killed in Afghan and NATO troops operation

February 13, 2013

^[1]According to local authorities in eastern Kunar province of Afghanistan, at least nine people including five children and four women were killed following a joint military operation by Afghan and coalition security forces in Shaigal district.

Provincial governor Syed Fazlullah Wahidi said the operation was conducted around 1 am local time on Tuesday night at Chopan village.

Mr. WAhidi further added at least four militants were also killed following the operation.

This comes as human rights organizations have expressed concerns regarding civilians casualties specifically women and children deaths during military operations in Afghanistan.

Rights advocates warned that civilians casualties during the militar operations in Afghanistan have increased as compared to previous years.

In the meantime provincial governor Syed Fazlullah Wahidi said the incident took place after Afghan and NATO troops attacked a house used by Taliban militants as a shelter.

He said a senior Taliban commander was also killed during the operation while local residents said that the security forces have arrested at least six militants.

However a spokesman for the Taliban group Zabiullah Mujahid denied militants casualties during the operation and said only nine women and children were killed during the operation.

He said at least five police officers were killed and three others were injured during the clashes.