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Press TV

US drones, B-52 killing Afghan civilians on daily basis: Prof. Hanifi

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A university professor tells Press TV that the US occupying forces attempt to manipulate any kind of information or reports of Afghanistan war casualties.

Civilian casualties have long been a source of friction between the Afghan government and US-led foreign forces and have dramatically increased anti-US sentiments in Afghanistan. The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in 2001 under the pretext of combating terrorism. While the war removed the Taliban from power, insecurity continues to be high across the country.

Press TV has conducted an interview with Professor Shah Mahmoud Hanifi, from James Madison University (Virginia), to further discuss the issue of US war on terror in Afghanistan.

A rough transcription of the interview with Professor Hanifi follows.

Press TV: Professor, in the past years, how is the war on terror transformed?

Hanifi: Well, in terms of the inflammation manipulation about the war, there has been a consistent threat that the war is actually a service for oppressed women in Afghanistan, who are interminably oppressed by Pashtuns.

So, the narrative really has not changed. What this incident does, is [to] draw attention to the relative independence of any commission that President Karzai commissions.

The ultimate arbiter of any information or report coming out of Afghanistan is the occupying force, which is the United States. And the report would signal now a number of things on the ground.

There will be an immediate attempt to try to pay blood money to the relatives of the deceased and if recent information is accurate, this blood money is now being resisted by locals in eastern Afghanistan as really almost bitter or what anthropologists call 'bad money'.

And so, even the mechanisms of apologizing for an official mistake through payments or perhaps a local jirga, which again looks rather forced, indicate that the incident today really does not change the war as it has been conducted in Afghanistan or the information about the war in Afghanistan.

Press TV: Indeed. I mean with the use of drones and of course, the many acts of disrespecting of Islamic sanctities by US troops especially in Afghanistan, plus the reports we had in the past about the Pentagon having in mind to destroy Mecca and Medina, some say that the war on terror has been transformed into a war on Islam.

What do you think?

Hanifi: In some sectors of the public discourse that seems a reasonable conclusion. As far as Afghanistan is concerned, it is the experimental testing ground for all of this new technology that is really on the cusp of legality, paralegal detentions and experimental paying raise, psychosocial testing, genetic profiling.

These kinds of things are a number of forums considered illegal and in the sense of information, the drones that are deployed are complemented by blimps. And nonstop B-52s hovering around the airspace of Afghanistan, the number of civilians that are daily killed is the trend.

The report reflects one incident but I think these incidents are far more common than are reported. And the drone photography and the blimp photography of Afghanistan which is 100 percent surveyed from the air will reflect that the civilian casualty rates in Afghanistan may have been low but they are consistently large and intolerable.