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Afghans protest US-led detentions

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Afghan demonstrators have held a protest rally against the arbitrary detention of civilians by US-led forces in Afghanistan's northern Baghlan province.

Chanting anti-US slogans, the protesters on Tuesday blocked a road linking the capital, Kabul to Balkh Province.

The protesters complained that Afghans are often detained in night-time operations by foreign forces without any legal justifications.

The detainees are then taken to unknown places without coordination with Afghan authorities.

Locals say US-led troops are never held accountable for the unwarranted detentions.

In February 2013, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child expressed deep concern at the arrest and detention of Afghan children by US-led forces.

The committee called on the US to take measures to prevent the killing and maiming of civilians and children.

In December 2012, a report, sent every four years to the United Nations regarding the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, revealed that the US military had detained over 200 Afghan teenagers since 2008.

According to the UN report, some of the children were abused in US detention facilities.

Human Rights Watch has called on the US to promptly carry out the UN recommendations to improve the protection of children in the war-stricken country.

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in 2001 on the pretext of combating terrorism. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but years into the invasion, insecurity remains in the country.