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Anti-Pakistan protests continue

May 7, 2013



Hundreds of people, including the disabled, continued protests against Pakistan in Kabul, Baghlan and Kunduz provinces for the fifth consecutive day on Tuesday, officials said.

In the heavily-fortified central capital, hundreds of special people staged a protest in front of the Eidgah Mosque against Pakistan's attacks on Afghan border posts in the Goshta district of eastern Nangarhar province

"I have already lost one leg while defending my motherland and ma ready to lay down my life but will never let Pakistan capture our territory," vowed one of the physically-challenged individuals, Sakhi Mohammad.

The men initiated a march on Jalalabad, where they would be joined by the disabled from Laghman and Nangarhar provinces in staging a rally and offering condolences to the family of Mohammad Qasim, a border policeman who was killed during the clash with Pakistani forces.

Haji Rahim Shah, a representative of the special people, told Pajhwok Afghan News: “There are two million disabled people across the country. They are ready to establish checkpoints in border areas in case of need.”

Separately, influential figures and students staged an anti-Pakistan rally in Pul-i-Khumri, the capital of northern Baghlan province, said Civil Society Organisations’ Network head, Abdul Rassoul Haba.

He asked the international community to prevent Pakistan from trampling on the rights of neighbours and should and attacks on Afghanistan. He urged the government to declare the Pakistan ambassador *persona non-grata* and sever ties with that country.

While praising the bravery of the Afghan security personnel, tribal elder Mohammad Yasin criticised the government for not summoning the Pakistani ambassador.

Also on Tuesday, protestors in northern Kunduz province carried Qasim’s portraits, chanted slogans against Pakistan and praised Afghan security personnel.

Afghans should stand united against Pakistan’s aggression, stressed one protestor, Abdul Ghafoor Hotak.

The government should try to strengthen and equip Afghan border police and army for the defence from the country, demanded another demonstrator, Zabihullah Daqiq.

Similar rallies were stages in Kandahar, Khost and Parwan provinces. The participants called for the Karzai administration to adopt a clear stance on the cross-border raids.