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<http://www.presstv.ir/detail/2013/09/03/321812/1792-afghan-police-killed-since-march/>

1,792 Afghan police killed since March: Interior Ministry

Afghan's Interior Ministry says that the number of police officers killed in the country has doubled this year due to their lack of equipment and frontline combat experience.

Afghanistan's new Interior Minister Umer Daudzai made the remarks on Monday, saying that 1,792 police have been killed in the six-month period from March to September, Reuters reported.

"In the last six months of this year, 1,792 Afghan policemen have lost their lives and over 2,700 were wounded," said Daudzai.

The same number of officers lost their lives in the line of duty in the preceding 12 months.

Daudzai pointed out that most of the police officers were killed by roadside bombs.

The ministry said the country's police are not as well equipped as US-led forces, and that is why so many of them are being killed in their fight against Taliban militants.

In an interview with the British daily *The Guardian* on Monday, the top US and NATO commander in Afghanistan admitted that NATO and Afghan commanders are concerned about casualty rates in Afghanistan's police and army, which have regularly topped more than 100 dead a week.

"I view it as serious, and so do all the commanders," General Joseph Dunford said.

The US-led troops in Afghanistan have handed over responsibility for maintaining security in most parts of the country to Afghan forces.

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan as part of Washington's so-called war on terror. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but the country is still gripped by insecurity.