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## NATO airstrike kill 9 civilians in eastern Afghanistan

September 8, 2013

According to local authorities in eastern Kunar province of Afghanistan, at least 15 people including 9 civilians were killed following a NATO airstrike in this province.

Local police officials said the incident took place late Saturday evening after in Watapur district, killing militants and local residents including women and children.

Provincial police chief Abdul Habib Syed confirming the report said the airstrike targeted a pick-up truck soon after a number of Arab and Afghan militants boarded it.

Mr. Syed further added that the a number of civilians were also inside the vehicle which was targeted by NATO airstrike.

He said at least four women, four children and the driver of the pick-up truck were among those killed killed.

In the meantime, a spokeswoman for the NATO troops, 1st Lt. Ann Marie Annicellie confirmed that 10 militants were killed following the airstrike, but she said that they have not received any reports regarding the civilian casualties.

This comes as civilian casualties in NATO operations and airstrikes have long been a controversial issues between the Afghan government and the coalition security forces.