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www.afgazad.com

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Nearly 12,000 Afghan Taliban eliminated in 2013, says UN

November 18, 2013

^[1]According to a latest United Nations report, at least 12,000 Afghan Taliban fighters have been killed, wounded or captured during the military operations in Afghanistan this year.

The report by UN which cites a threefold increase in violence in Afghanistan, comes amid preparations by US-led NATO forces to withdraw the bulk of 75,000 troops from Afghanistan by the end of the next year.

The report which was prepared for the UN Security Council also warned of growing violence by Taliban militants, and warned that the use of homemade improvised explosive device by insurgents were becoming increasingly sophisticated.

Improvised explosive device (IED) attacks accounted for almost 80 per cent of the casualties among Afghan security forces.

“Losses on the insurgent side are difficult to estimate, but government sources and Taliban internal statistics alike estimate them at between 10,000 and 12,000,” the report said.

UN in its report also added that the government of Afghanistan was facing “elevated levels of violence not seen since 2010”, despite the Taliban militants suffered substantial casualties without making any major gains or achieving significant popular support.