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Khost suicide attack: Death toll rise to 20, 62 others wounded

By Zabihullah Moosakhail

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^[1]The death toll from yesterday's suicide attack in Khost province has climbed to 20 people while 62 others are wounded.

Mubariz Zadran, spokesman for the acting governor of Khost province confirming the casualty toll says that some of the wounded in critical condition were sent to Kabul for treatment.

Member of Parliament Hamayoun Hamayoun and also the head of the Defense Committee of Parliament

Zadran says MP Hamayoun Hamayoun among the ones sent to Kabul for treatment.

The suicide attacker detonated his explosive materials among protesters who had taken to the streets against the acting governor of Khost at around 10:00Am on Thursday.

Demonstrators demand the dismissal of Abdul Jabar Naimi the acting governor from Khost accusing him of corruption.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Taliban have rejected hand in the attack through a statement sent to media.

President Mohammad Ashraf Gahni, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Abdullah Abdullah and NATO have strongly condemned the attack.

A statement issued by the presidential palace regarding the attack states that peaceful protest is the right of the civil society and the attack was an “unforgivable” crime.

CEO Abdullah Abdullah has issued a statement in which beside condemning the attack he says that the security agencies will investigate the attack and their findings will be shared with the nation.

NATO forces in Afghanistan have also strongly condemned the attack through a statement sent to media.

“RS strongly condemns the suicide bombing in Khost City this morning. Current reports state the bombing struck a political protest and left several dead and injured,” statement issued by NATO-led Resolute Support (RS) mission states.

In the statement, NATO forces have renewed their commitment of working with the people of Afghanistan for a prosperous Afghanistan.

“We maintain our commitment to the people of Afghanistan who value progress and growth and reject violence, as we work to our shared goal of a prosperous Afghanistan,” the statement adds.