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## UN says 14 civilians killed in Kabul attack

May 14, 201

A press release sent to media by the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) states that 14 civilians were killed and several others wounded in Taliban attack last night.

Government has only confirmed the killing of five people in the terrorist attack on Park Palace Hotel in Kolola Pushta area of Kabul city.

One American, two Indians and two Afghans were confirmed killed in the attack.

Georgette Gagnon, UNAMA's Human Rights Director writes in the press release that "These deliberate attacks on civilians are atrocities,"

Gagnon says that Taliban should immediately stop attacking civilians. "Taliban statements on avoiding civilian casualties ring hollow when we set them against the latest killings. The Taliban should abide by their commitments and immediately stop deliberately attacking civilians." Gagnon is quoted in the statement.

According to UNAMA statement these attacks may amount to war crimes.

"UNAMA highlights that international humanitarian law, which binds all parties to the conflict in Afghanistan including the Taliban, prohibits attacks against civilians and civilian locations,

such as civilian government offices and hotels, at any time and in any place whatsoever. Such acts may amount to war crimes.” the statement states.

In the meantime UNAMA says that the first four months of current year shows 16 percent increase in civilian casualties to that of the first four months of 2014.

2,937 civilian casualties have been recorded in these four months out of which there are 974 deaths and 1,963 others are wounded.

UNAMA has extended condolences to the families of those killed and wounded yesterday and again urged all sides to refrain from acts that cause civilian casualties.

“With this years’ appalling rise in civilian casualties, UNAMA again urges parties to the conflict to take all necessary measures to protect civilians in line with their obligations under international humanitarian law,” Georgette Gagnon, UNAMA’s Human Rights Director said.