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## Clashes Break Out In Kunduz City Centre

10/6/2015



Clashes broke out between security forces and insurgents in the center of Kunduz city on Tuesday morning, despite an ongoing operation to clear the city of the Taliban.

TOLONews' journalist Karim Amini reporting from the city said Kunduz has not yet been cleared of insurgents and clashes are still ongoing, particularly in Chawk-e-Kunduz – the city center.

He said Taliban are still hiding in houses and opening fire on security forces from inside.

However, security officials have not yet commented on the situation.

At least 6,000 people have been left homeless after fleeing the city last week, deputy minister of refugees and repatriations Fazel Ahmad Azimi told lawmakers on Monday, adding that the majority of those who left the city sought refuge in Badakhshan, Kabul, Takhar and Baghlan provinces.

"Unrest in recent months in Kunduz has left hundreds of residents homeless and more were added to the number after the fall of the city - can you explain what you have done for these families," Kunduz MP Kamal Safai asked the ministers.

"Lawmakers had numerous questions about relief and rescue efforts for the displaced families and it appears that the relief and rescue efforts are moving at quite a slow pace," speaker of the Lower House of Parliament, Abdul Rauf Ibrahim said.

Discussing the aftermath of the fall of Kunduz, Azimi said that the collapse of the city has left at least 6,000 people homeless. He stressed that humanitarian organizations are struggling to provide displaced families with necessary assistance.

The Taliban attacked the strategic northern town of Kunduz in the early hours of last Monday. The siege lasted six days until Afghan security forces managed to wrest the city back from insurgents.

Reacting to the fall of Kunduz, rights groups on Sunday accused insurgents of committing major crimes during the siege and called for the perpetrators behind the attack to be brought to justice.