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1500 families flee after Taliban's capture of Darqad

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Some 1500 families have been displaced after the Taliban captured Darqad district of northern Takhar province, a local official said on Saturday.

The Darqad district fell to Taliban insurgents late on Wednesday. The gubernatorial spokesman, Sunatullah Taimur, told Pajhwok Afghan News nearly 1,500 families had migrated to Khwaja Bahauddin district of the province.

He alleged the insurgents were not allowing inhabitants to move to other parts of the province. "Taliban use people's houses as trenches, making it difficult for security forces to conduct operations," he said, adding the security forces planned to launch an operation after vacating houses from inmates.

"Most of the people secretly leave the district because Taliban don't allow them to do so," a resident of the district, Qudratullah, said.

He said the Taliban had told locals not to leave because there was complete security in the district and they had also distributed their cell phone numbers in order to be called in case of any problem.

The Taliban have not yet commented on the issue.