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Death sentence sought for Alamyar allegedly responsible for over 1,000 lives

By Zabihullah Moosakhail
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Residents of eastern Kunar province urge death sentence for Sediq Alamyar allegedly responsible for over 1,000 lives during the war times in Afghanistan.

Those who had lost their family members or relatives in the incident said on Tuesday that Alamyar had direct hand in the mass massacre of 1260 people and bulldozing them in Kunar province.

“Soldiers of the communist regime went to Karala and Dam villages and told them that government envoys want to talk to you,” said a resident of Asadabad, the provincial capital. “After bringing them to one location, all sudden they were shot and bulldozed into two graves.”

Sadeq Alamyar who was the commander of the 444th Commando Force of the Afghan Army in the year 1979 when the massacre happened was arrested on October 27 in Holland.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in a report after the arrest was made that if this case goes to trial, survivors and witnesses are expected to recount how on April 20, 1979, troops of the 444th Commando Force of the Afghan Army, which Alamyar commanded, shot more than 1,000 men and boys in Karala, in Kunar province, the report states, adding that according to the Afghanistan Justice Project, as the remaining villagers watched, Alamyar’s forces then bulldozed the bodies into a trench. Many were only wounded and buried alive.

“The mass grave is still visible in Karala. The incident has been described in media accounts and documented by human rights organizations, but no one has ever been held accountable for the atrocity,” stated the report.

“In announcing Alamyar’s arrest, the Dutch Public Prosecutor’s Office has called for witnesses to the massacre to come forward. Those who have done so have already sent a clear message from beyond Karala’s mass grave: Alamyar – and other war crimes suspects like him – will never be out of the reach of justice.”

HRW says thousands of killings and systematic torture have taken place during the Afghan wars.

“It’s rare when victims of 36-year-old crimes get their day in court. In Afghanistan’s wars, there have been thousands of killings, systematic torture, rapes, and a litany of other war crimes and grievous human rights abuses. Many Afghans have called for accountability, but few perpetrators have ever faced justice. Human Rights Watch has documented similar cases over the years, and Alamyar’s prosecution would give hope to victims everywhere that they too might one day see justice.”