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Hundreds of foreign, local militants mass in Logar's Azra district

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Hundreds of local and foreign militants have arrived in the Azra district of central Logar province and they plan to carry out group attacks, the town's administrative chief said on Monday.

Talking to Pajhwok Afghan News during an interview, Hamidullah Hamid said the number of foreign and local militants in the Azra district had massively increased.

He said the foreign rebels included Pakistanis, Chechens and Arabs and they had arrived from Pakistan to the district with support of local comrades.

The officials said local security forces were also preparing themselves for battles, but they alone could not resist the large number of militants.

Hamid said the insurgents wanted to turn Azra district into their terrorist centre and threaten the security of other districts besides Nangarhar province and Kabul.

He insisted security officials should take early measures against the situation in Azra. He said had shared the issue with the governor's house, but there had been no response.

A resident of Azra district and member of the provincial council, Abdul Wali Wakil, also confirmed hundreds of foreign militants had sneaked into the town.

“Right now I am in Azra district and aware that hundreds of foreign and local Taliban gunmen have arrived here and they plan attacks.”

The public representative said if the government did not take timely measures, the district would fall into the hands of rebels.

But the Logar governor’s spokesman, Salim Saleh, said enough security forces were available in Azra district to maintain security there.

“First we believe the existing forces can protect Azra district and if there is a need, more forces from other parts will be sent there,” he said, confirming foreign militants had arrived in Azra.