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"Anti-US rally held in Afghanistan"

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Hundreds of people in central Afghanistan have held a demonstration to protest what they call uncoordinated operations by US-led foreign forces stationed in the war-ravaged country.

The protest comes a day after foreign forces carried out an operation in one of Ghazni's districts.

The protesters say the US-led foreign forces entered residents' homes and arrested a number of civilians.

They say the troops also desecrated the Holy Quran.

The demonstrators have called on Ghazni's governor to respond to that operation and release the arrested people.

Officials in Ghazni and foreign troops have not yet commented on the incident.

The Kabul government says the US-led military alliance is violating security agreements by killing Afghan security guards and civilians.

The Afghan Interior Ministry said in late December NATO was violating a security agreement it had signed with the Kabul government based on which all NATO operations in Kabul must be cleared with the government.

Afghans say the US-led forces disregard local culture and they have targeted hundreds of civilians in different parts of the war-torn country.

The Afghan Interior Ministry said on Sunday that 2010 has been the deadliest year for civilians since the US-led invasion in 2001.

The ministry's spokesman said more than 2,000 civilians lost their lives in violence across Afghanistan last year.

He said nearly 1,300 Afghan police officers were killed and over 2,000 more injured last year.

Civilian casualties caused by NATO attacks have been a major source of tension between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and the US-led alliance.

Over 150,000 foreign troops are currently stationed in Afghanistan.