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Taliban kill 4 people for "spying" in Pakistan

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Suspected Taliban militants killed four people in northwest Pakistan after accusing them of spying for the United States, local officials said on Saturday.

The bullet-ridden bodies of four persons were found near Karak, a main city in northwest Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa province, they said.

Written notes were found on the bodies saying that the men were punished for spying in the North Waziristan tribal region for the United States troops in Afghanistan.

The note warned that anyone spying for the U.S., Pakistan army and Afghanistan would meet the same fate. The note said that the killed had confessed to their "crime."

Locals said they saw the bodies along a road and informed the local police. The slain men could not be identified.

Taliban claim that spies pass on information to the U.S. authorities in Afghanistan about the hideouts of the militants in Pakistani's tribal belt for U.S. drones attacks.

U.S. drones regularly fire missiles on hideouts of suspected militants in Waziristan tribal regions. The militants believed that the government authorities are also providing information to the U.S. but the government rejected the charges.

Taliban punish people on espionage charges in the tribal regions, along the border with Afghanistan, but it is the first time that people were killed outside the tribal areas, the officials said.

Taliban militants also release videos of alleged spies, who make confessional statements. It is believed that the detained people are forced to make confessional statements.

U.S. and Afghan authorities claimed that al-Qaeda and Taliban- linked militants operated from the tribal regions of Pakistan and organized attacks on U.S. and Afghan forces across the border in Afghanistan.