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Afghan shot dead by Taliban in Pakistan on espionage

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Taliban militants Wednesday shot dead an Afghan national over espionage charges in Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region, said a tribal elder in the region.

The bullet-ridden body of the Afghan national was found five kilometers away from Miranshah, center of North Waziristan, near a canal, he said on telephone.

A local official said the man in his 40s was identified with the help of a note recovered from his pocket. The official said that an ATM card of Afghan Bank was also found with his body and Taliban militants had kidnapped him from Afghanistan and brought him to Pakistan.

Another note was found near the body, which says that he was spying on Taliban for the U.S. forces in Afghanistan. The note warned that all those would face similar fate if found spying on Taliban.

Taliban militants in North Waziristan have killed dozens of people including Afghans on spying charges.

Taliban sources said the U.S. has established a strong network of spies in the region to monitor their activities and pass on information to the U.S. intelligence. They said that Taliban are targeted by U.S. drones on the basis of intelligence provided by spies.

Tribesmen said that drone strikes in North Waziristan have forced militants to avoid public appearance and also keep on changing hideouts.

Pakistan publicly opposes drone strikes but some opposition groups and defense analysts said that strikes are conducted with the consent of the Pakistani government. The government denies the charge.

Afghan officials say that the North Waziristan region is a main launching pad for Taliban, al-Qaida and Haqqani network to launch cross-border attacks into Afghanistan on foreign and Afghan forces.

Pakistan is under mounting U.S. pressure to act against the militants in North Waziristan which is still under Taliban control. In 2007 the Pakistani security forces launched a peace deal with the main Taliban group in the area.

Both sides still hold the agreement despite several attacks by other militants group who are believed to be operating in the region.