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## Taliban make a massive statemen

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An assault by Taliban insurgents on the heart of Kabul's diplomatic and military enclave has ended after 20 hours, when security forces killed the last of six attackers, a spokesman for the Afghan Interior Ministry said on Wednesday.

"The operation just ended and six terrorists were killed by police. Details on casualties will be announced later," spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said on Twitter.

At least nine others were killed and some 20 wounded in the attack.

The insurgents had holed up in a multistory building still under construction and launched their attack early on September 13.

United States Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the "cowardly attack" would not intimidate Washington nor its allies in Afghanistan, Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty reported.

"The opposition of violent extremists - the Taliban and their allies - engage in a constant effort to threaten and to undermine the peace and progress of the Afghan people," she said. "So we will be vigilant, but we will be continuing with even greater commitment to doing all we can to give the Afghan people who have suffered so much a chance at a better future for themselves and their children."

North Atlantic Treaty Organization secretary general Anders Fogh Rasmussen said the attacks were aimed at derailing plans to hand over security to Afghan forces and that they would fail.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai said the attacks would only stiffen the resolve of Afghan security forces.

United States think-tank Stratfor earlier reported:

A team of as many as 10 Afghan Taliban militants armed with automatic weapons and rocket-propelled grenades mounted an assault September 13 in a high-security zone in the capital Kabul against the US Embassy among other targets.

At least four of the attackers were likely suicide bombers and detonated themselves during the attack. The attack began at 1:30 pm local time and has been underway for close to two hours. The militants took over a building in an area near Abdul Haq Chowk Square, a location in close proximity to Afghan government and Western security installations, including NATO headquarters.

While there have been many attacks in Kabul, this incident is one of the rare occasions that militants have demonstrated the capability to get extremely close to the heart of the Western military and intelligence presence in the Afghan capital. The ability to get numerous operatives armed with explosives and heavy guns into this area could not have been possible without the Taliban obtaining aid from Afghan security personnel posted in high-security areas.

The attackers are unlikely to succeed in doing much damage, and they will likely be overpowered by coalition forces - a fact the planners of the attack knew in advance. The light weapons the attackers were armed with simply could not cause significant damage to a hardened facility such as the US Embassy.

Therefore, the attack was meant to be more of a psychological operation than a physical one. This attack, likely the work of the Haqqani network, is designed to undermine US efforts to negotiate with the senior leadership of the Afghan Taliban movement.