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## NATO chopper shot down in Afghanistan

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Taliban militants say they have shot down a US-led NATO helicopter in the troubled southern Afghanistan, killing all foreign soldiers onboard.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said on Monday that the militant group was responsible for shooting down the chopper, saying the NATO helicopter was shot down over the Zhari district in southern Kandahar Province.

All the people onboard the chopper were killed in the assault, the Taliban spokesman added.

However, the NATO alliance's press office in Kabul said the attack was launched on Sunday, but no one was hurt in the incident.

The NATO did not provide any further information about the attack.

Taliban militants have increased violence against US-led forces in Afghanistan, targeting NATO helicopters and drones.

At least 31 American troops were killed in the Taliban's latest offensive against a US-led NATO helicopter in the eastern province of Wardak in early August.

The Taliban have focused their roughly ten-year battle against the invading US-led forces in Afghanistan on the country's southern provinces of Helmand and Kandahar.

NATO has acknowledged the growing power of militants in Afghanistan despite the presence of nearly 150,000 US-led forces in the country.

The rising death toll of US-led foreign forces in Afghanistan has also prompted growing opposition to the Afghan war in NATO member states and other countries that have contributed troops to the military occupation.