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www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

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AFP

Roadside bomb kills four civilians in Afghanistan

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A roadside bomb killed four civilians in Afghanistan's southwestern province of Farah Thursday, the provincial police chief said.

"A civilian vehicle hit a roadside bomb planted by terrorists in Parchaman district today, resulting in the death of four of our countrymen and injuring eight others," said Sayed Mohammad Roshandel.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but roadside bombs are frequently planted by Taliban-led insurgents fighting a decade-long war against NATO-led foreign troops and Afghan government forces.

There are around 140,000 international troops, mainly from the United States, in Afghanistan helping government forces combat the insurgency.

The United Nations said the number of civilians killed in violence in Afghanistan rose by 15 per cent in the first six months of this year to 1,462, with insurgents blamed for 80 percent of the killings.