

This is a translation of a report from a local radio station in Afghanistan, following Operation Burnham. This is not an NZDF-originated document. Therefore, NZDF is unable to verify the accuracy of this translation.

Date: 22.08.10
Topic: ISAF Operation in Baghlan province.
Dropped by: Moh.Salim Amin
Radio correspondent in Baghlan province.
Translated by: PSR(sen)1
Radio section

About 18 were killed and injured due to operation of ISAF in Tala-o-Barfak district in Baghlan province.

Mohammad Esmayel district governor in above mentioned district said that night ago, ISAF forces conducted a military operation in Teergaran village in that district and resulted killing and injuring of about 18 civilians and women and children are included among victims.

He further said that the operation has been launched without coordination with Afghan security organs and therefore, caused fatal casualties of civilians.

District governor

Based on our information, two or three nights ago at 12 to 12:30 at night, about 11 foreign helicopters appeared around the space of Teergaran village and of those 11 choppers, 5 landed down and dropped militaries and just started firing and the rest 6 helicopters supporting the troops and as well as bombarding the village unit 05:00 in the morning.
As I have precise information out of the incident, 6 civilians including 4 men, one woman and one 6 years child lost their lives and 12 more were injured including 6 men, 4 women and 2 children.

District governor also adding that in case if such arbitrary and non arranged operations are continued every where then many problems will arise to endanger security of the areas.

Meanwhile, Mawlawi Zainullah Biddin Olawi, representative of this district in provincial council (parliamentarian) in Baghlan province is confirming casualties of insurgents in the operation but not identifying the exact figures. He is adding that civilians have suffered a lot rather than insurgents in this operation.

Representative

As information I have got behind the last operation in Tala-o-Barfak district , innocent civilians have been killed and injured a lot and insurgents enemies lesser.
The more damage and harm went to innocent people and families and a few enemies were killed because enemies and insurgents fled of the area before operation.

At the same time, Abdul Gheyas Barati, a tribal elder in the district condemning the operation and saying that ISAF should conduct operation in close coordination with ANSF and local officials in order to prevent tragic civilian casualties.

Tribal elder

It is our idea that the operations should be fulfilled in coordination with ANA and ANP and governor should lead it.
Way to approach success is to do such things in accord with area people.
I can surely say that the majority of people in many villages and areas are pestered with crime and cruelty of enemies and insurgents and in some cases, insurgents extort crops and money of people as Osher(regular charity in Islam to feed needy and poor families as the 3rd pillar of Islam)

And if the operations are done in agreement with area residents and elders will have good impact and more success.
It is our request from foreign troops when they want to run operations in any area, should let government authorities, police headquarter and national security department.
We are also agree with conducting of operations against insurgents but before operation, the sense of operation should be clear weather there are insurgents or not but not agree with operations where there are not insurgents regularly.

Simultaneously, residents in Baghlan province saying, if the operations are done regardless to coordination with ANSF can create much distance between people and government.

Resident 1

I am Abdul Hakim, a resident in Baghlan province. I believe that conducting of operations by (foreign troops is good, can weaken moral of enemies and as well as enemies can not take the chance to reshuffle their elements and sabotage security of our villages and high ways but the operations should be fulfilled carefully to avoid civilian casualties and damage.
Unluckily, the last operation look the lives of a numbers of our innocent people which definitely, people hate foreign troops and their activities in Afghanistan and as well as try to keep distance with them.

Resident 2

I am Fraydoon, a resident in the city of Pol-e-Khomri.
Well, there were some insurgents in Tala-o-Barfak district in Baghlan province and the operation was done to smash down them and clean the village away from them but when the operation was launched unfortunately, a numbers of innocent people lost their lives. I wish such operation which harming people should be prevented every where.

According to statements of provincial officials in Baghlan province, it has been for several times that ISAF troops have been conducting military operation without coordination with ANSF and resulting civilian casualties.