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Taliban suspect Afghan intelligence of targeting them in Pakistan

January 6, 2014

The Afghan Taliban group leaders accuse the Afghan intelligence – National Directorate of Security (NDS) behind the recent assassination of two senior Taliban figures in Pakistan.

Taliban group leaders also suspect that the provincial security chief of southern Kandahar province, Gen. Abdul Razaq was behind the cross-border assassination campaign.

The two senior Taliban commanders were assassinated by unknown gunmen in Quetta city of Pakistan late in December last year, which was followed by the assassination of the top Haqqani Network leader near Islamabad in November.

Unknown gunmen shot dead senior Taliban leader Noorullah Hotak in Quetta city on December 26 last year, while another senior Taliban leader Mullah Abdul Malik was shot dead by gunmen on 29 December.

In the meantime, Taliban group commanders claimed that six suspected individuals were arrested in connection to the assassination of the Taliban leaders in Pakistan.

A Taliban commander speaking on the condition of anonymity said that the arrested individuals have confessed that they were part of a special cell created by Gen. Abdul Razaq.

The Afghan intelligence officials have not independently confirmed the involvement of the Afghan security institutions in the recent killings, however a senior NDS official told Wall Street Journal, “The war is now shifting to the Afghan leadership.”

But another Afghan intelligence official said the deaths were the result of internal rifts within the Taliban movement.

“We wouldn’t do something that would hurt the peace process and our government’s policies,” he said.