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## Afghanistan paid al Qaeda \$5m to free diplomat Abdul Khaliq Farahi

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The government of Afghanistan led by former President Hamid Karzai paid \$5 million ransom to al Qaeda to release Afghan diplomat Abdul Khaliq Farahi who was abducted in Pakistan.

The New York Times newspaper citing Afghan and Western officials reported late on Saturday that a fifth of \$5 million was comprised of the CIA money which was given to a secret Afghan government fund.

The report further added that the ransom payment were found in the 2011 raid by U.S. Navy SEALs who killed bin Laden at his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan.

According to the Times al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden suggested to convert the money to another currency amid concerns that the CIA knew about the money and had tainted it with poison, radiation or a tracking device.

An al Qaeda official wrote bin Laden that the ransom money would be used for weapons, operational needs and payments to families of al Qaeda fighters held in Afghanistan, the report by Times added.

Farahi served as Afghan consul general in Peshawar city of Pakistan and was abducted in 2008 by unknown gunmen where he was later transferred to al Qaeda.

He was released two years later after Afghanistan paid al Qaeda \$5 million.

According to the Times the CIA delivered to the Afghan presidential palace under President Hamid Karzai was used to buy the support of warlords, legislators and others, as well as expenses for clandestine diplomatic trips and housing for senior officials.