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Taliban storm Afghan court complex, killing two

4/9/2015

Mazar-i-Sharif: Grenade-throwing Taliban militants dressed in military uniforms stormed a court complex in northern Afghanistan Thursday, killing at least two people and wounding scores of others in an assault highlighting the country's fragile security situation.

The ongoing assault in Mazar-i-Sharif city comes just before the start of the Taliban's traditional spring offensive, set to be the first fighting season when Afghan security forces battle insurgents without full NATO support.

Explosions rang out as the assailants lobbed grenades and exchanged gunfire with Afghan security forces, setting ablaze one of the buildings in the compound, according to an AFP reporter at the scene.

"Armed men entered the provincial Appeals Court in Mazar-i-Sharif today," Abdul Raziq Qaderi, acting police chief of Balkh province, told AFP.

"The attack is still under way," he added.

Bodies of at least two dead policemen and 31 wounded people -- some in critical condition -- were brought to the provincial public hospital.

"Police, prosecutors, court staff, women and children were among those wounded," Noor Mohammad Faiz, a senior doctor at the hospital, told AFP.