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Report: Taliban Hang Afghan Student in Public

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Taliban militants hanged a university student in public in a village west of Kabul after accusing him of involvement in the death of a senior Taliban official, a local government spokesman said Saturday.

Abdul Rahman Mangal said Faiz ul Rahman Wardak, a fourth-year student at Kabul Polytechnic University, was hanged in Sewaka village in Chak district, 60 km (37 miles) outside the Afghan capital.

He said local Taliban insurgents accused him of being involved in the assassination of a Taliban intelligence official named Mullah Mirwais.

“He wanted to spend his holiday at home but was captured on Thursday by local Taliban and they hanged him in public,” Mangal said. “As soon as we got information, we tried to help him but the Taliban hanged him immediately.”

Zabihullah Mujahid, the main Taliban spokesman, said the case was under investigation.

“Once we finish our investigation and fact-finding, we will share the details,” he said.

The Taliban, who U.S. authorities say control or contest around a third of Afghanistan, have an extensive presence in Maidan Wardak, just to the west of Kabul, where they challenge the authority of the Western-backed government