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## Taliban stage public execution in Wardak

By Hakim Basharat

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The Taliban publicly executed an alleged murderer in front of hundreds of people in a bazaar in the central province of Maidan Wardak, officials said on Saturday.

Watched by heirs of the slain person, the execution was carried out in the Sebaka bazaar of Chak district on Friday, residents and officials said.

The man identified as Omar, resident of Syedabad district, had allegedly killed a man in Chak district. The Taliban shot him dead with Kalashnikov rifles in the bazaar.

The Chak district chief, Ismail Wafa, confirmed the incident, saying Omar had recently returned from Iran to his village in Syedabad. However, he had no further information.

Muslim, the Syedabad district chief, said the Taliban had seized Omar in the district and shifted him to Chak district, where he was killed. He gave no further details.

An elder, who did not want to be named, said the Taliban brought the man into the bazaar on Friday and shot him dead in presence of the slain man's family members. Omar's body was left on the ground, he added.

However, Zabihullah Mujahid, the Taliban spokesman, expressed his unawareness about the execution that highlighted the influence the Taliban still wield in the region.