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Press TV

Afghan officials come under fire at US rampage site in Afghanistan

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Afghan officials visiting the scene of the recent murderous rampage by US soldiers in Afghanistan's southern Kandahar province have been attacked by armed men.

At least one policeman was killed and two other people were injured after the Afghan government delegation, including two of President Hamid Karzai's brothers and several senior

security officials, came under attack in Panjwaii district on Tuesday.

Afghan officials said that the members of the delegation are safe and heading back to Kandahar city.

On Sunday, a US soldier opened fire on Afghan civilians inside their homes, killing at least 17 and injuring several others in the southern province.

Afghan tribal leaders, however, say the carnage had been planned and was carried out by a group of US soldiers, not a single trooper.

The Taliban promised revenge for the killings that has triggered angry calls for an immediate withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan.

US Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said that the soldier could face the death penalty “if convicted.”

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has condemned the bloodshed, calling it an unforgiveable act.

US President Barack Obama only expressed condolences over the massacre and claimed he would hold accountable anyone responsible for the "tragic and shocking" incident.

Civilian casualties in Afghanistan have been a major source of tension between Kabul and Washington.

The US-led invasion of Afghanistan was launched in 2001. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but insecurity continues to rise across the country despite the presence of tens of thousands of US-led troops.