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## Karzai blames foreign forces for corruption in Afghanistan

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**Afghan President Hamid Karzai has blamed foreigners for widespread corruption in Afghanistan, saying the withdrawal of US-led foreign forces in 2014 will help the country rid itself of fraud.**

"The big corruption is in transactions and contracts involving outsiders in Afghanistan...these contracts are given to senior government officials or their relatives," said Karzai in a Saturday speech marking the International Anti-Corruption Day in Kabul.

***"The corruption in our administration is small, the major corruption that involves hundreds of millions of dollars is not ours... it has been imposed on us," he added.***

A recent international survey of public sector corruption released by Transparency International listed Afghanistan as one of the three worst countries in the world.

Karzai went on to say that when "foreign forces have left Afghanistan (in 2014)... their contracts, their administration will gradually disappear," adding, "This will help Afghanistan get rid of corruption, and it will be good for Afghanistan."

Foreign forces are scheduled to withdraw from Afghanistan by the end of 2014 and hand over responsibility for the country's security to the Afghan government.

On December 5, President Karzai also blamed the NATO Western military alliance and the United States for rising insecurity in the country in an interview with NBC television network.

The United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001 under the pretext of combating terrorism. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but insecurity continues to rise across the country despite the presence of thousands of US-led troops.