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Clashes in Kabul kill at least 44: Taliban

5/25/2013



A Taliban spokesman has claimed that at least 44 people have been killed in an attack by the Taliban militants in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

The Taliban spokesman claimed that the fatalities, mostly US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) agents, were killed in an attack that targeted a building used by the CIA.

On Friday, Afghan security forces fought Taliban militants after several blasts hit an area near the Interior Ministry building in central Kabul.

The number of militants was reported to be five or six. Kabul police chief Gen Ayub Salangi said, "We are dealing with a well co-ordinated attack."

Some reports say Taliban militants also stormed a UN immigration office in the area, severely injuring at least four Nepalese guards. Medics say three of them are now in critical condition.

Kabul and several other main cities have come under several major attacks over the past few weeks.

Taliban militants recently announced the start of their annual "spring offensive" against US-led and Afghan forces, vowing a new wave of attacks across Afghanistan.

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in 2001 as part of Washington's so-called war on terror. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but insecurity remains across the country despite the presence of thousands of foreign troops.