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<http://www.khaama.com/explosion-kill-or-injure-8-including-children-in-helmand-1761/print/>

Explosion kill or injure 8 including children in Helmand

August 17, 2013

At least 8 people including children were killed or injured following a roadside improvised explosive device (IED) explosion in southern Helmand province of Afghanistan on Saturday.

According to local government officials, the incident took place early Saturday morning in Marjah district, killing at least five people and injuring three others.

Deputy provincial security chief confirming the report said five people including children were killed and three others were injured in today's explosion.

No group including the Taliban militants has so far claimed responsibility behind the incident. Local officials blame Taliban group for the incident as Taliban fighters frequently use improvised explosive device to target Afghan and coalition security forces which normally leads to civilian casualties.

This comes as the United Nations in it's latest report said that the number of civilians killed or injured in war-related incidents in Afghanistan rose 23% during the first six months of 2013.

UN in it's report further added that around 1,320 civilians including women and children were killed and more than 2,500 were injured in war-linked incidents.

According to UN insurgent groups were responsible for 74% of civilian deaths and injuries in the first half of the year, with Improvised explosive devices planted by insurgents still remaining the single biggest threat for Afghan civilians.