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## 5 killed in US-led airstrikes in Afghanistan

9/17/2013



At least five people have been killed in airstrikes carried out by US-led forces in Afghanistan's Helmand and Wardak provinces

A US-led drone attack killed at least four people in the western province of Helmand, local officials said in a statement on Tuesday.

Meanwhile, another person lost his life in a similar air attack in central province of Maidan Wardak.

According to local officials, the victims were all Taliban militants.

On September 15, the US airstrike killed six people in the Jaghatu district in Wardak.

Similar attack killed 22 people in northeastern province of Kunar on September 14.

Hundreds of civilians have been killed in the US-led airstrikes and ground operations in various parts of Afghanistan over the past years.

The US claims that its operations target militants, but local officials and witnesses maintain that civilians have been the main victims of the attacks.

Civilian casualties have long been a source of friction between the Afghan government and US-led forces, and have dramatically increased anti-US sentiments in the war-torn country.

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 as part of Washington's so-called war on terror.

The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but insecurity continues to rise across the country, despite the presence of thousands of US-led troops.