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<http://www.pajhwok.com/en/2013/09/30/prayers-martyrs-being-offered-today>

Prayers for martyrs being offered today

9/30/2013

Countrywide condolences ceremonies are being held today (Monday) in remembrance of thousands of people massacred during the Soviet-backed communist regime in the late 1970s.

On Sept. 18, the Dutch government issued a list of nearly 5,000 Afghans who were arrested, tortured and killed by the Afghan regime of that time. The list is based on investigations by the International Crimes Unit of the Netherlands National Police.

Dutch police began their investigation into the grisly crime in 2010 after an Afghan immigrant revealed the torture of inmates in 1978-79, when headed the Interrogation Department of the intelligence service.

A day earlier, hundreds of people took to the streets in Kabul to condemn the communist regime for killing and torturing thousands of people and demanded the public execution of the perpetrators.

The protestors began a march from the Shah Do-Shamsher Shrine and assembled in the Zarnigar Park area, where they chanted slogans against war criminals and called for their trial.

Fateha will be offered today from 1:30pm to 3:30 pm at all mosques across the country and the national flag will fly half-mast for two days in memory of the martyrs, the Office of Public Affairs said.

Timings and venues of condolence ceremonies in the provinces will be decided by governor's offices and the heads of provincial councils.