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US drone attacks kill 12 in eastern Afghanistan

10/19/2013



Three separate US killer drone attacks have claimed the lives of a dozen people in eastern Afghanistan in less than 24 hours.

On Saturday, at least ten people were killed as two airstrikes ripped through the eastern Kunar Province, which lies near the border with Pakistan.

In a similar attack on Friday, two people lost their lives in Afghanistan's eastern province of

Nuristan.

Many civilians have lost their lives in US-led airstrikes and operations in various parts of Afghanistan over the past decade, with Afghans becoming increasingly outraged at the seemingly endless number of the deadly assaults.

The United States uses its killer drones in a number of countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia, claiming the targets of the attacks are militants, but local officials and witnesses say civilians have been the main victims.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has repeatedly questioned the legality of the US drone strikes and on numerous occasions has called on Washington to stop the attacks.

According to data released by the Pentagon in February, Afghanistan is becoming a “drone war” with a 72-percent increase in the number of drone strikes from 2011 to 2012. The United States carried out over 500 drone attacks in Afghanistan last year, the Pentagon said.

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 in the country.