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Bomb blast injures 2 Afghan intelligence agents

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At least two intelligence agents have been wounded after a bomb attack in Afghanistan's southeastern Province of Paktika.

On Monday, a bomber detonated his explosive-laden vehicle in the province's Khair Kot district, injuring the two agents.

The injured were reportedly sent to nearby hospitals for medical treatment.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack, but similar incidents have been blamed on Taliban militants.

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan as part of Washington's so-called war on terror. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but the country is still grappling with insecurity.

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

The militant group said it would use "every possible tactic" to inflict casualties on Afghan and US-led forces. They specifically mentioned insider attacks, and bomb attacks.

Meanwhile, a new UN report says civilian deaths in Afghanistan jumped 16 percent in the first eight months of 2013.

Georgette Gagnon, Director of Human Rights for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), told journalists in Afghanistan's eastern city of Jalalabad on October 2, "Anti-government groups - which continue to deliberately target civilians - have caused the vast majority of civilian deaths and injuries."

She added that figures show a "stark" increase in violence against civilians in the war-torn country.

Gagnon said that the eastern Provinces of Kunar, Laghman, Nangarhar and Nuristan witnessed a 54 percent hike in civilian casualties in the first eight months of 2013 compared to the same period last year.