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HRW urges US to investigate alleged Afghan killings

November 7, 2013

The US-based Human Rights Watch (HRW) following a statement on Wednesday called for a “thorough and impartial investigation” into allegations US special forces were complicit in the torture and killings of Afghan civilians.

HRW in its statement cited an article published on November 6, 2013, by Rolling Stone magazine which contains new information that US personnel were implicated in the killings in Nerkh district, Wardak province, and urged for the prosecution of those who were responsible.

Andrea Prasow, senior counter-terrorism counsel at Human Rights Watch said, “The Nerkh incidents should be investigated rigorously, impartially, and transparently.”

Prasow further added, “While it is clear that crimes occurred, US authorities need to establish what exactly happened and who is responsible.”

He also added that the United States had a poor record of prosecuting rights abuses allegedly committed by American forces during the 12-year-old war in Afghanistan.

The statement by Human Rights Watch (HRW) was followed after alleged reports regarding the alleged disappearance of 10 civilians in central Maidan Wardak province, whose remains were later found buried near the base of the Green Beret unit, known as ODA 324.

The article published by Rolling Stone also quoted a local Afghan who was detained by US forces alleging he saw an Afghan interpreter, Zikria Kandahari, execute his neighbor with American troops standing by and doing nothing to stop him.

The Afghan authorities accused Zikria Kandahari for torturing and killing of civilians while working for the Green Berets and was arrested in May.