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Afghan Police: NATO Troops Killed Eight Civilians in Pre-Dawn Raid

By Jason Ditz

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NATO forces issued another of their usual "successful raid" reports last night, saying that a pre-dawn raid on Monday left eight insurgents, including "a Taliban commander" killed in an attack on two compounds in Kandahar City.

The deputy provincial police chief, Mohammad Shah Farooqi, tells a far different story, however, saying that NATO forces raided a pair of homes in the <u>major southern city and that there was no evidence at all that any of the eight slain were involved in any "antigovernment activities."</u>

Unconfirmed reports are that there have been some small protests in Kabul and Kandahar related to the killings, though as with so many other stories the <u>two very different versions</u> will likely leave it unclear exactly what happened.

The death toll across Afghanistan has been soaring over the past several months, and a record <u>number of NATO soldiers have been killed in June</u>. The civilian toll is less readily available, but it appears that it too is on the rise.