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Press TV

US to blame for Afghan slaughter

July 1, 2010

US-led forces in Afghanistan have killed many civilians in the southern province of Helmand amid public outrage over rising death tolls in the war-torn county, Afghan sources say.

Afghan sources told Press TV that most of the victims of the US-led forces were civilians while a statement by International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said on Thursday that they had killed "a large number" of Taliban militants in the region and captured a Taliban chief of Naw Zad.

Villagers in Baghran district of Helmand province reported that children and women were killed by the foreign troops.

Afghan officials have launched a probe into the deaths.

Thousands of civilians have also lost their lives either in US-led raids or in Taliban-led militancy across the violence-wracked country.

According to official figures, more than 2,500 civilians were killed in NATO operations last year, undermining support for the presence of US-led forces in the country.