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Abdullah Abdullah criticizes Karzai's recent comments

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Dr Abdullah Abdullah has criticised president Karzai's recent comments to ban the US forces' night raids in Afghanistan. Leader of the Coalition for Change and Hope, Dr Abdullah Abdullah, criticised Afghan president Hamid Karzai's recent comments about the United States military operations in Afghanistan, especially night raids. He said that Afghan security forces are not able to take security responsibilities alone. President Karzai in an interview with the Washington Post on Saturday had said that the US forces must put an end to their night raids and that they must be more careful about the lives of Afghans in carrying out their military operations. "I don't know if Mr Karzai has got Taliban's guarantee that they will not continue their night raids or Mr Karzai is making these comments without taking into account the realities in Afghanistan," Dr Abdullah said. "Now is the time to reduce foreign forces' operations. This is the time to reduce the presence of American troops in the public that the daily life of Afghans should not be interrupted," president Karzai was quoted by the Washington Post on Saturday. Meanwhile, the top US commander of foreign forces in Afghanistan, Gen. David Petraeus had said on Sunday that the killing and arrest of insurgents was the main purpose of the United States military strategy in Afghanistan. A US senator said he was astonished about president Karzai's recent comments and cited ending night raids disastrous for Afghanistan. "We have reports from our commanders about night raids which have a major impact on eradicating Taliban," the US Republican senator, Lindsey Graham said. Mr Graham said these issues have not been discussed with president Karzai, but he said in a recent meeting with the Afghan president, the US government promised to establish two new permanent military air bases as part of its long-term commitments to Afghanistan. The leader of the Coalition for Change and Hope, Dr Abdullah Abdullah also criticised president Karzai's comments about presidential

elections. "Mr Karzai has said that Afghanistan's last year's presidential election was stolen by the United States. Anyway, this action has benefited Mr Karzai and today he is leading a government that was shaped as a result of these elections," Mr Abdullah told TOLONews. The US president Barack Obama has pledged to begin withdrawing American troops from Afghanistan in July, 2011, although the US administration has said that the drawdown process will be based on the conditions on the ground. President Karzai has said before that Afghan forces will be ready to take security responsibilities by 2014.