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NATO: Afghan night raids will persist

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A NATO spokesman says the US-led forces will continue nighttime attacks in Afghanistan despite widespread condemnation of the raids by Afghan people and officials.

NATO Spokesman Brigadier General Carsten Jacobson claimed on Monday that the kill-and-capture raids are needed to target militants in collaboration with Afghan forces.

The latest of such attacks two days ago claimed the life of a pregnant woman and left four civilians injured in Afghanistan's southeastern Paktia Province.

Afghan officials, including President Hamed Karzai, condemned the nighttime raids and demanded that foreign troops halt their practice of breaking into Afghan homes.

Paktia's provincial council has shut down its office to protest the attack as Afghans are demanding that perpetrators of the attack be brought to justice.

Civilian casualties caused by US-led foreign forces have triggered deep anger among Afghans, prompting violent demonstrations throughout the country.

The United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001 under the pretext of eradicating the Taliban militants, leaving countless civilians dead or injured.

The security situation remains fragile in Afghanistan despite the presence of nearly 150,000 US-led foreign forces.