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Funeral blast kills 25 in Afghanistan

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A bomb has exploded during a funeral in northern Afghanistan, leaving at least 25 people dead and 50 others wounded.

The attack took place during the funeral of an Afghan government official in Afghanistan's Taloqan city in Takhar Province.

According to the provincial governor Abdul Jabar Taqwa, local member of Afghanistan's national parliament Abdul Mutalib was among those killed in the blast. Reports say all others killed were civilians.

The official says that the target of the blast was either him or the lawmaker.

Mutalib was a former Mujahedeen commander and the former police chief of Konduz Province.

Meanwhile, the parliament has condemned the attack, calling it an inhumane and terrorist act.

No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. Taliban militants are usually behind such incidents.

Earlier, Afghanistan rejected a deal made between Washington and Taliban militants involving the transfer of five militants from the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba to Qatar.

The United States invaded Afghanistan in 2001 under the pretext of combating terrorism and eradicating the Taliban militancy but its failure has forced Washington to turn to negotiation with the militants.

The US government has planned new rounds of talks with the Taliban in early 2012.

Insecurity continues to grow across Afghanistan despite the presence of foreign forces in the country.