

## **Chronology of Events in Afghanistan, July 2002\***

### **July 2**

#### **UNHCR: Afghan violence blocks refugee return. (Reuters)**

UNHCR stated that it has halted the return of displaced families to parts of north and central Afghanistan because of rising violence including that against ethnic minorities, women and children. "Renewed factional fighting is not only hampering the return of refugees but also sparking new displacement," UNHCR spokesman Yusuf Hassan said. Hassan said several parts of Balkh province, which includes the city of Mazar-i-Sharif, and neighbouring Samangan, were "extremely volatile" and tense and the return of displaced people had been suspended in some areas. Scores of attacks against ethnic minorities had been reported in the provinces of Faryab, Balkh and Jowzjan. "There are criminal activities - robberies, rapes and murders," he said. Security in the Kahmard and Saighan districts of the central highland Bamiyan province was also rapidly deteriorating. "Last week there was some intense fighting in Kahmard, resulting in the deaths of civilians, especially women and children," he said. "There were reports of people fleeing to Saighan as well as incidents of human rights violations in several villages in Kahmard."

In Mazar, several NGOs have pulled out staff amid increased robberies, extortion and the recent gang rape of a U.S. aid worker. Burkard Oberle, head of the WFP in Mazar, said plans to evacuate were always "on the horizon" in case of emergency, but there was no such imminent threat. Michael Zwack, head of UNHCR for north Afghanistan, said U.N. operations had been hampered by the violence. "The information (about violence) is probably the tip of the iceberg. We have been advised to be extremely cautious. The ceiling of (international) staff has been reduced to 50 among all the U.N. organisations. And that limits our effectiveness."

#### **Split in northern Afghan political party. (London-based Radio Voice of Afghanistan).**

A split has occurred in [special representative of the Interim Administration, deputy Defence Minister and general operational commander of the northern zone] General Abdorrashid Dostum's Junbish-e Milli-e Islami [National Islamic Movement]. Mowlawi Torkestani and some other associates of Dostum have left the Junbish to form a new political party, Adalat-e Shura [Justice Council]. Mowlawi Torkestani has stated that the headquarters of the new party is in Kabul and that he held talks with the head of the transitional government of Afghanistan [Karzai] and Marshal Fahim [Defence Minister] on the establishment of the new party. Torkestani was one of the famous associates of Dostum, and he held talks on behalf of Dostum with the Taleban when the Taleban were in power.

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### July 3

#### **Senior northern commander appoints new aide and spokesman. (Afghan Balkh radio)**

The transitional government of Afghanistan's General Operational Command of the northern zone's Instruction No 504 stated that "To organize, manage and improve the affairs of the northern zone, I appoint the head of the office for political affairs of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Islami party in the northern zone, esteemed Alhaj Mohammad Sardar Saidi, the aide and spokesman of the northern zone's leadership." The instruction was signed by General Abdorrashid Dostum.

### July 4

#### **US renews Afghan travel warning, suggests leaving Mazar-i-Sharif. (Agence France-Presse / AFP)**

The United States State Department has renewed a warning to US citizens urging them not to travel to Afghanistan because of continued instability in the country despite the formation of a new government in Kabul. "Travel in all areas of Afghanistan, including the capital Kabul, is unsafe due to military operations, landmines, banditry, armed rivalry among political and tribal groups and the possibility of terrorist attacks," the department said in a statement. "The ability of Afghan authorities to maintain order and ensure the security of citizens and visitors is very limited," it said, adding remnants of the former Taliban regime and Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network remain active. Around Mazar-i-Sharif, the statement said UN and other aid workers had reported an increase in attacks over the past month and said US citizens in the area should get ready to leave. "The US government warns American citizens, including those with experience in the area, against traveling to or residing in the Mazar area," it said.

#### **Pakistan: Camp for Afghan refugees fleeing reprisals to be moved. (Associated Press / AP).**

The United Nations is planning to move about 6,000 Afghan families living in poor conditions in a makeshift border camp who have been denied entry to Pakistan. The refugees, numbering about 25,000, are mostly ethnic Pashtuns from northern Afghanistan who are fleeing reprisals from other ethnic groups who dominate the north because they are the same ethnicity as the Taliban. The refugees are moving against a tide of Afghans who are flooding home from neighboring Pakistan following ouster of the Taliban's harsh regime by an Afghan military coalition with the help of a massive U.S. bombing campaign. Aid agencies have distributed tents and food and are trucking potable water into the border camp, but conditions have deteriorated as more people arrived in recent months.

**Agence France-Presse report on the same news:** The UNHCR said most of the Afghans seeking political asylum in Pakistan were ethnic Pashtuns fleeing persecution in the volatile Tajik and Uzbek- dominated north. The Pashtuns will not return to their home cities of Shibarghan and Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan because they fear violence from the dominant Uzbek groups. The Pakistani authorities were holding them at a detention centre following a decision in February not to allow any more to come in. The UNHCR said it carried out a head count of the stranded refugees at Chaman in a bid to help relocate them. "The head count, carried out in the

last week of June with the help of local authorities and non-governmental agencies, found there were 6,003 families and 25,693 individuals," the UNHCR said in a statement. UNHCR spokesman in Pakistan Jack Redden said the agency was not actively encouraging refugees to return because of the grim conditions awaiting them at home, but they had voluntarily decided to go back.

**Relatives of Taliban commander said killed in Afghan wedding bombing. (Pakistani newspaper *The News*)**

As many as 60 wounded persons, including men, women and children, have been admitted to the main hospital in Kandahar while the affected families and relatives are still busy in burying the victims of 30 June night bombing by US planes. Relatives reaching Kandahar with the injured families' members said the US planes bombed Derawut on the outskirts of Tarin Kot, provincial capital of Urozgan, for several hours and the air raids started at 11.00 p.m. came to a halt at about 4.00 a.m. local time. It was reported that "the bombing took place at the wedding of the niece of Taliban military chief for southern provinces, Mola Beradar. Both the bride and bridegroom are believed to have been killed in the bombing". Informed sources reported that "It was the wedding of the daughter of Mola Anwar Akhond, brother of Beradar Akhond. The informers misguided the US forces to bomb the village, believing that Beradar Akhond might be attending the wedding".

**Afghan women protest against U.S. bombing. (Reuters)**

Dozens of Afghan women wearing blue *burqas* staged a peaceful protest outside the U.N. offices in Kabul to denounce the U.S. bombing of a wedding party in Uruzgan province. Protest banners carried slogans such as "We condemn the Uruzgan bombings" and "Condolences to the bereaved". The Coalition Front for Unity and Democracy, a social and cultural organisation with no known political links, said it decided to hold the protest away from the U.S. Embassy for security reasons.

**July 5**

**Eleven Afghan refugees killed in Pakistan tribal fighting. (Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press news agency / AIP)**

As a result of fighting between two tribes, 11 Afghan refugees were killed near Miram Shah, the centre of northern Waziristan. According to details, since the evening of 3 July fighting has been going on to the north of Miram Shah, in Pakistan, between two branches of the Wazir and Dawar tribes over a land dispute. Eye witnesses from Miram Shah said that the fighting is going on 5 km from the town using artillery and missiles. According to the witnesses, a shell fell in Darga today, a residential area of Afghan refugees 8 km from Miram Shah. As a result two men and two women were killed. Also another shell fell on the house of another Afghan refugee and killed one person. After the Friday prayers the fighting became more bitter and localized and Afghan refugees are leaving their houses in some places.

## **July 6**

### **Government minister assassinated. (UN OCHA Integrated Regional Information Network / IRIN)**

The Minister for Public Works, Haji Abdul Qadir was assassinated in Kabul. The prominent Pashtun leader, who was also one of the country's three vice presidents, was shot in the head. "This was a terrorist act," spokesman for the Afghan Foreign Ministry, Omar Samad, stated. According to eyewitnesses, two gunmen sprayed the minister's Toyota land cruiser as it was leaving the Ministry for Public Works midday, killing both Qadir and his driver, before escaping in a waiting taxi.

A former governor of Nangarhar province, Qadir was one of the most powerful men in eastern Afghanistan and one of the few ethnic Pastun members of the interim government. His death will undoubtedly heighten already growing concerns over peace and stability in the country. Asked if Qadir had received threats on his life before, Samad said: "Every person today - especially those working for the new Afghanistan - understands that they are facing certain risks. This country was ruled for a long time by terrorists - including the Taliban - until just a few months ago. They haven't all disappeared yet."

## **July 11**

### **Afghan security, intelligence accused of killing prisoners. (Iranian radio Voice of the Islamic Republic)**

The Afghan security and intelligence departments for the first time after the formation of Hamed Karzai's transitional Islamic state of Afghanistan have been accused of killing and torturing prisoners in Afghanistan. The government press office announced that the family of a murderer by the name of Mutalib, son of Noor Abdorrahman, by letter declared to the chairman of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan that Mutalib, after being arrested by the security and intelligence forces, had been killed under torture. Following this claim Hamed Karzai sanctioned by a decree two of his deputies, Nematollah Sharani and Hedayat Amin Arsala, to investigate the truth and accuracy of the matter. Hamed Karzai had heard complaints and informed the authorities about the manner of treatment of security and intelligence officers before, but this is the first time that the issue of torture and killing has been discussed in these departments.

## **July 13**

### **Afghan Deputy Defence Minister orders disarmament in "northern zone". (Afghan Balkh radio)**

The special representative of the head of the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan, Deputy Defence Minister and the commander of the general operational command of the northern zone, [General Abdorrashid Dostum], issued an instruction concerning the calculation, identification and registration of ammunitions, military vehicles, technical equipment pertaining to war and their storage in the depots of headquarters and divisions. Dostum stated that "[in order to] move towards peace and stability and provide a peaceful life and tranquillity for our compatriots, general disarmament has to take place in the country, particularly in the northern zone. Prior to everything, all light and heavy weapons, military vehicles and technical equipment

pertaining to war, which have been scattered throughout the villages and districts and are in hands of individuals, should be collected. They should be stored and kept in depots of headquarters and divisions after registration.

The commission will have to: 1. Visit all divisions and headquarters in all villages, districts and towns. Identify and register all arms and technical equipment in the areas; 2. Control, identify and register all arms, technical equipment pertaining to war and security services of all areas in compliance with their documents. Move the items to the headquarters, divisions and put them in the depots and submit a copy of their document to the general operational command of the northern zone for further registration and consideration; 3. Control the administrative affairs of all headquarters, correct their faults and advise them to observe regulations; 4. Inspect the logistic and construction affairs of all headquarters and organize their work in accordance with regulations; 5. Manage their patrolling schedules, military and operational training and education programmes in compliance with the issued instructions; and 6. Report to me, the result of its [the commission's] work after it is done.”

## **July 15**

### **Afghan government orders illegal armed organizations to disband. (Afghan Radio Afghanistan)**

It was decided in a meeting of the Council of Ministers to set up the Supreme National Commission for General Disarmament. It was also decided that all factions or political institutions, which have armed groups within their organizations, should disband their military structures. Those individuals who meet the requirements for joining the armed forces should be absorbed to the armed forces. It was stressed that armed groups and individuals who function outside the structure of the Defence Ministry are acting illegally and should end their activities as soon as possible. The Council of Ministers decided that in order to further ensure security in the provinces commanders of major units and companies should be transferred from one province to another in order to ensure more coordination in the activities of military units and companies of the country. Also in order to accelerate the reconstruction of departments and ensure appointment of cadres on the basis of merit, competence and experience the high commission for civil services has been ordered to begin its work as soon as possible.

## **July 17**

### **Afghan government reduces night curfew hours by one hour. (Radio Afghanistan)**

The Security Commission of the Internal Affairs Ministry, in a meeting chaired by Taj Mohammad Wardak, and attended by Maj-Gen. Abdol Basir Salangi, security commander of Kabul Province, Mollah Taj Mohammad, the governor of Kabul, Maj-Gen. Din Mohammad Jorat, general head of the Security and Public Order Department of the Internal Affairs Ministry, and Brig-Gen. Khairkhah, the head of traffic department, resolved that the night curfew should be enforced from midnight until 03:30 hours. [Previously the curfew ran from 23:00 to 03:30 local time].

Also as of 27 Saratan [18 July], owners of all vehicles are duty bound to remove darkened glass from their vehicles. Thus the owners of such vehicles are informed

that they should take into account and implement the decision of the Security Commission of the Internal Affairs Ministry. Those violating the decision will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

## **July 21**

### **Disarmament commission collects arms in northern provinces. (Radio Afghanistan)**

A considerable amount of weapons and military vehicles have been collected and stored in Samangan, Balkh, Sar-e Pol, Fariab and Badakhshan Provinces. A delegation from the central commission, led by Maj-Gen. Abdollah Khan, had been dispatched to the northern provinces of the country. With the cooperation of General Ustad Atta Mohammad, commander of Army Corps No 7, the delegation has managed to collect and store 16,065 pieces of assorted weapons, 45 tanks, 134 motor vehicles, and 911 communication sets that have been kept by individuals without [government ] control. Also the delegation dispatched by the commission to Badakhshan Province reported the collection of 6,930 pieces of arms, 128 pieces of artillery, 21 tanks and 21 motor vehicles. The work of collecting arms in the northern provinces of the country, including Konduz, Takhar and Baghlan, is continuing in accordance with the plan. Since the start of its work the central commission has collected a total of 13,989 pieces of assorted weapons, 83 tanks, 35 pieces of artillery, and 221 sets of communication from Parwan and Kapisa provinces alone.

## **July 19**

### **Kandahar head of justice killed. (Voice of the Islamic Republic)**

The head of Kandahar Province's law and justice department was shot dead outside his home. Azizollah was shot by anonymous people. No one has accepted responsibility for this incident yet.

## **July 20**

### **Female doctor killed by gunmen (AP)**

A female doctor was killed and her husband seriously wounded when gunmen fired at their vehicle along a main Afghan highway. The shooting took place near Spinboldak, on the road between the Pakistan border and Kandahar. He said the doctor, who went by the single name Malali, was en route to a clinic she ran in Kandahar. No arrests were made and the motivation for the ambush was not known.

### **Afghan truckers refuse to work, cite lawlessness (Reuters).**

Around 70 truck drivers in Spin Boldak have refused to take essential food supplies to some provinces of Afghanistan because of deteriorating security on the roads. It was reported that the drivers were too afraid to take their loads of food and other essential goods due to highway robberies and killings. They have parked their trucks on the roadside in Spin Boldak and chanted slogans against the governor of Herat, where the security situation has worsened. Spin Boldak is along an important supply route to several Afghan provinces, including Kandahar, Herat, Helmand, and Zabul. A U.N. aid agency providing food supplies to several parts of the war-ravaged country also has some storage facilities in Spin Boldak and hires private truckers to transport the goods. The drivers said several of their colleagues had been murdered. They also

complained about checkpoints along the roads, with each provincial government charging them local taxes.

## **July 22**

### **Thousands of people protest in Jalalabad (AIP)**

Thousands of people, as many as 5,000, in a big demonstration demanded from the central government that the official post of Haji Qadir should be given to a member of his family. The demonstrators also called on the government to arrest the murderers of Haji Qadir and their prosecution in Nangarhar Province.

## **July 23**

### **Tajiks and Pashtuns battle in Herat, 12 killed (Reuters)**

At least 12 people have been killed in clashes between rival Afghan factions fighting for control of the Sheen Dend district in Herat. Haji Hazrat, a local commander in Herat, stated that the fighting between ethnic Pashtun and Tajik gunmen started on [July 22] following instructions from the Tajik governor of Herat, Ismail Khan. According to Hazrat, Saleh Gul, a local commander in the southern city of Kandahar, had sent reinforcements to the Pashtun fighters overnight.

**AIP report on the same news:** At the mediation of the central government, commander Amanollah Khan, an opponent of commander Ismail Khan [the governor of western Herat Province], has freed eight prisoners of the latter, and both sides are observing the cease-fire.

## **July 24**

### **Shelling breaks ceasefire between Tajiks and Pashtuns in Herat. (Reuters)**

Shelling continued in Herat as ethnic Tajiks and Pashtuns fought over control of an old Soviet air base, defying a government-brokered ceasefire. The clashes broke out early in the week around Shindand, some 120 km south of the city of Herat and in an area which marks a boundary between the Persian-speaking north of Afghanistan and the Pashto-speaking south. Nasrullah, a spokesman for Pashtun commander Amanullah Khan, accused forces loyal to the Tajik governor of the province of Herat, Ismail Khan, of violating the ceasefire by intermittently bombarding Pashtun positions. He said Pashtun forces had destroyed at least three Tajik tanks. Nasrullah also said Tajik tank fire had hit some residential areas but there were no immediate reports of casualties. Ismail Khan's forces captured the base in November while local residents staged an anti-Taliban uprising in Shindand. It is not immediately clear who controlled the base. Ismail Khan's intelligence chief Nassir Ahmed Alavi blamed the fighting on "Taliban remnants" led by Amanullah Khan and backed by "power circles" he did not identify.

### **Afghan council of professionals denies it is a political party. (Afghan newspaper *Takhasos*)**

The Council of Professionals set up in Herat has denied it is a political party. The organization said "political parties only cause disunity and that the aims of the council are honesty, accuracy and the service of God". Therefore, they said, "Herat Professionals Shura [council of professionals] decided to establish a society organization, which is free of this kind of concern for advantage and disadvantage.

Not to indulge in yet more reflection and thoughts, not to make ideology, and not to brand those who think differently as infamous or false”.

## **July 25**

### **Afghan leader appoints new governor for Nangarhar Province. (Radio Afghanistan)**

A decree by the head of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan about the appointment of Alhaj Din Mohammad [a brother of the murdered governor, Haji Qadir] as the governor of Nangarhar Province:

### **Afghan students protest in Jalalabad (Voice of the Islamic Republic).**

Students of the Islamic Studies and Technology University in Jalalabad asked for their diplomas on the fifteenth day of their protest. The students who have been studying at the university for eight years now in economics and humanitarian sciences demand the continuation of their education and diplomas. In the past eight years, 900 students have completed their studies but none of them has had a chance to continue their post-graduate studies or to find a job.

## **July 27**

### **Delegation inspects jail in Balkh Province, 12 released. (Afghan Balkh radio)**

Seven adults and five children have been released from a jail in Mazar-e Sharif [Balkh Province] due to lack of criminal evidence against them following the inspection of the jail by a delegation from the supreme prosecutor's department. The delegation consisted of the head of regional prosecutor, Mohammad Sadeq Dana, the head of the public security prosecution, Enayatollah Kamal, the head of the court prosecution, Chambeli, and the head of prosecution of Ward No 11, Besmillah Hamid, came for the assessment of some of the affairs to Balkh Province alongside with the head of the prosecution of the appeal court, Mohammad Zaher Nader, and regional prosecutor for detainees, Abdol Jabbar Saqet, monitored the legal basis, detention, and imprisonment of the accused in the Jail in Balkh Province. During the inspection, the problems of the detainees were presented for discussion by the director of the jail, Abdol Aziz Akhizada. The assessment was carried out, complaints and requests from the detainees were received and legal instructions were issued.

## **July 28**

### **Three new governors appointed by Afghan leader. (AIP)**

The Afghan government has appointed new governors in three provinces, Laghman, Konar and Logar. Mohammad Ibrahim Babakarkhel, former adviser to Prof Sebghatollah Mojjadedi [leader of Jabha-e Nijat-e Milli], was appointed as governor of Laghman; Sayd Yousaf, an important member of Prof Borhanoddin Rabbani's party Jamiat-e Islami was appointed as governor of Konar and Munshi Abdol Majeed, a member of Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami Party of Afghanistan [Islamic Party of Afghanistan] during the war against the Soviet Union, who later left the party, was appointed as governor of Logar. It is not clear whether the [present] governors will accept this order of the government or not. Because a few months ago Sayd Fazal Akbar, the present spokesman to Mr Hamed Karzai, was appointed as governor of Konar and the then governor, Commander Jandad, refused to obey the order and he is

still working as governor of Konar. Abdol Hadi Wahedi is still the governor of Laghman, who is brother of a powerful commander who was killed, Abdollah Jan Wahedi, and his military power is not as great as it was before. A member of Jamiat-e Islami, Fazalolla Mojjadedi, is still working as governor of Logar.

**Taliban prisoners allege torture, Afghan intelligence denies torturing. (AFP & Middle East News Agency)**

A group of Taliban prisoners, including the movement's former foreign minister, are being tortured and sexually abused in a jail near a US-military base in southern Afghanistan. "The Taliban prisoners are facing extreme torture," said Mullah Fazal Mohammad, a former Taliban commander who was admitted to hospital in this Pakistani border town. He claimed 300 prisoners were languishing in the jail near a US- military airbase in the main southern city of Kandahar. He said the torture was inflicted by Afghan intelligence officials conducting interrogations of the prisoners who were also facing starvation. He stated that "Ferocious dogs are often let loose in the prison cells by Afghan agents who use third degree methods in the process of extracting information about the Taliban... In a bid to humiliate them, the local secret service agents subject them to sexual abuse and inflict injuries to their private parts." He said the detained Taliban included former foreign minister Wakil Ahmed Mutawakil, his spokesman Abdul Hai Mutmaen, former governor of western Herat province Maulawi Khairullah Khaikhawa and some other Taliban officials.

Mullah Fazal Mohammad, 30, who served as the Taliban militia's commander in Afghanistan's southern region along the Pakistan border, was arrested soon after the fall of Taliban in December. He was released four days ago on health grounds and brought to the border town of Chaman on Saturday for medical treatment. During the interview the ex-commander appeared scared and nervous, often losing his temper and shouting abuse.

The Afghan authorities in Kandahar denied that Afghan intelligence elements tortured and neglected 300 prisoners of Taliban movement detained in a camp near the city. Fazlallah Mohammad, a former Taliban leader, said that the detained prisoners were wounded, subjected to sexual abuses and were denied proper food and basic medical care.

**July 30**

**People in Logar reportedly reject new governor. (AIP)**

Hundreds of people in Po-e Alam, the provincial capital of Logar, stage a demonstration today in support of the former governor, Fazlollah Mojjadedi. The demonstrators issued a statement at the end and said that the Kabul administration should not remove the former governor, otherwise they would continue to stage protest rallies.

**Afghan women jailed for transgressing social norms. (AP)**

Two days after she was born, Munawar Mohammed was already promised as someone's bride. But after puberty and before the big day, she refused to go through with the marriage. She had found another and fled with her beloved toward the Pakistani border. But their freedom was short-lived. The 16-year-old was found by her brother who ordered her jailed two weeks ago. Munawar faces an uncertain fate. She is accused of breaking a marriage contract and having sex with a man who was

not her husband. She may be given a jail term as punishment for failing to keep her end of the bargain, or she could be released if the man she wants to marry can come up with enough money to buy her out of the contract. Even then, there is a chance her family or tribal elders might interfere. Most of the women arrested in Kandahar these days are in similar situations - they've been caught with lovers after trying to get out of marriage pacts.

Another prisoner, 16-year-old Shakira, refused to marry a week before her arranged wedding. The court ordered Shakira jailed for five years unless her new boyfriend paid \$1,700 for her dowry.

### **July 31**

#### **Afghan authorities identify groups behind assassination attempt. (Voice of the Islamic Republic)**

The new Afghan Deputy Interior Minister, General Helaloddin Helal, has identified the remnants of Al-Qa'idah, the Taleban group and Goboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Islami [Islamic Party] as the masterminds behind the plan to make an assassination attempt on the president of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, Hamed Karzai. On 29 July, the security forces of the Afghan government seized a car carrying over 200 kg of explosives and detained two persons.

#### **US bombing kills one civilian in eastern Afghanistan. (AFP)**

One civilian was killed in overnight US bombing of a town in eastern Afghanistan. The civilian was killed in the raid on Zormat town, 22 kilometers south of Gardez, the capital of Paktia province. Zormat is 10 kilometers from the Shahi Kot Valley where US-led coalition forces in March conducted their largest air and ground offensive of the 10-month military campaign in Afghanistan to flush out Taliban and al-Qaeda fighters.

**Guardian newspaper's report on the same news on August 2:** At the US military base in Bagram, the spokeswoman, Captain Christa D'Andrea, said: "There was no bombing. There have been none injured or killed. The information is incorrect." But Abdul Matin Hassankhel, one of the Afghan commanders in Zormat whose men fought alongside the Americans in the March operation, said a US helicopter attacked the village on Wednesday night. "I don't know whether it was a bomb or rocket, but last night around 9 pm an American helicopter fired on the village," he said. One man was killed and two were injured, he said. Faiz Mohammad, secretary to the governor of Paktia province, said US troops had promised to inform provincial officials before any bombing, but had said nothing this time. He added that the attack was made because of "a wrong report to the Americans" and suggested that US troops had been used to settle a local feud.

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