

# *U.S. Airstrike Kills 13 Afghan Civilians in Parwan*

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Kabul, January 18 (RHC)-- An Afghan fact-finding mission has found that a recent U.S. airstrike has killed at least 13 civilians in the country's northeastern province of Parwan. A member of a fact-finding mission said on Friday that 13 civilians, most of them women and children, were killed in the U.S. airstrike in Parwan Province on Wednesday. Initial reports had put the death toll at eight.

During a press conference in Kabul, an Afghan official said most of the victims were women and children. The fact-finding mission began work after President Hamid Karzai ordered an investigation into the deadly attack.

A large number of civilians have been killed or injured at the hands of US-led foreign forces -- most of them in nighttime raids and airstrikes. The casualty rate has risen over the past few months, even though the Afghan government had asked foreign forces to make every effort to avoid killing civilians.

An escalation in the U.S.-led strikes on Afghanistan's civilian areas has angered both the public and the government. Afghans have held numerous protest rallies countrywide to condemn such attacks. Afghan government officials -- including President Karzai himself -- have also frequently condemned the killings of civilians by foreign forces.

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