

Afghanistan Defies U.S. Pressure and Releases 65 Bagram Prisoners



Kabul, February 13 (RHC)-- Afghanistan has released 65 inmates from Bagram Detention Center, despite U.S. pressures against the move. Kabul released the prisoners on Thursday, a day after the United States voiced concern over the issue.

Washington says the prisoners are "dangerous individuals." But Kabul defied the designation and Abdul Shukor Dadras, a member of the Afghan government's Review Board, said the prisoners were released "because there was no reason to keep them in jail."

The U.S. military had warned Kabul against releasing the men, linking them to attacks that have left around 30 NATO forces and nearly two dozen Afghans dead or wounded. But earlier this month, Kabul announced plans to release the inmates after the Afghan attorney general issued a final decree. The panel of the Attorney General Office said it would continue reviewing the cases of 23 other prisoners.

Washington and Kabul signed a deal under which the U.S. gave control of Bagram in the northeastern province of Parwan to Afghan forces. The release of the prisoners comes as tensions have been high between the two countries over the signing of a long-delayed security deal, which would allow U.S. forces

to remain in Afghanistan beyond the 2014 withdrawal date.

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