

Afghanistan strike kills seven children

by UPI

KABUL, Afghanistan, - More than 100 people, including seven children, have been killed in fighting in southern Afghanistan in the past three days, officials said Monday.

NATO military officials said in a statement they could not confirm the exact number killed during the heavy gunfire over the weekend. However, the victims were believed to include civilians, police and members of the Taliban.

U.S. military officials said Monday an airstrike by the U.S.-led coalition that was aimed at al-Qaida fighters resulted in the deaths of seven children.

"We had surveillance on the compound all day and saw no indications there were children inside the building," coalition spokesman Maj. Chris Belcher said.

Children who survived the airstrike, which also killed several militants, said they were forced to stay inside the buildings in the eastern Afghanistan compound all day Sunday, CNN reported.

"Credible intelligence named the compound, which contained a mosque and a madrassa, as a suspected safehouse for al-Qaida fighters," the military statement said. "Coalition forces confirmed the presence of nefarious activity occurring at the site before getting approval to conduct an airstrike on the location."

Copyright © 2007, by United Press International. All Rights Reserved.

Afghanistan strike kills seven children by UPI