

Taliban: Second S. Korean hostage killed

by UPI

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A Taliban spokesman said Monday that members of the militant group have killed another of the South Korean church volunteers it was holding in Afghanistan. The announcement that a second hostage was slain Monday came hours after the militants reportedly reached a deadlock with Afghan officials regarding their demand for the release of eight Taliban prisoners, CNN reported. The militant group, that is holding 21 hostages, killed one hostage as part of its effort to gain the release of the imprisoned rebels. After the announcement of the second killing, Taliban spokesman Qari Mohammad Yousuf said that additional deaths would be forthcoming if Afghan officials don't react. Since the church volunteers were kidnapped July 19, the Afghan government has maintained that it has no plans to agree to a prisoner exchange. CNN said Monday's violence also comes in the wake of an emotional plea from one of the hostages, who said, in a telephone call: "We are all pleading for you to help us get out of here as soon as possible. Really, we beg you."

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