

■ Governor wants probe into madressa attack

KABUL, June 18 (Pajhwok Afghan News): Demanding investigations into the killing of madressa children in a Coalition airstrike, Governor of the southeastern Paktika province Dr. Akram Khpalwak said he was not consulted before the raid.

Seven children were killed in an air raid by the US-led Coalition troops on a madressa in Yahyakhel district of the southeastern Paktika province on Sunday.

The Coalition forces' statement said they had conducted the raid after approval and credible intelligence about the presence of terrorist activity at the compound.

However, the governor categorically rejected they were consulted before the military operation when Pajhwok contacted him for comments.

"We can't tolerate the killing of innocent civilians and demand investigations into the incident," said Khpalwak who added seven terrorist had also been eliminated in the raid.

He said he had visited the district this morning along with other government officials and met people to get their views about the tragic occurrence.

He said investigations must be focused on where the terrorists were hiding and how and why the ill-fated children got there.

In charge of crime investigation in Paktika Col. Shah Wali Sarozawal told Pajhwok the targeted madressa was located in area between Yahyakhel and Yousafkhel districts.

He said the seminary was established and named after a former Taliban commander Asadullah Khadali. Besides imparting religious teachings, the madressa used to provide shelter to 'terrorists' from time to time.

Maj. Gen. Abdul Khaliq, commander of the 203 Thunder Corps, also said the operation was conducted without their permission or consultation.

Speaking to this news agency, Khaliq said Coalition troops should