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MPs blame enemy infiltration for "deadliest" suicide attack on Afghan police

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Text of report by Afghan independent Tolo TV, on 2 February

[Presenter] Twenty-one police officers have died and at least eight other police officers wounded in a suicide attack in [central] Urozgan Province. This incident took place in a police reserve unit in Tarin Kot, the provincial capital of Urozgan Province. The Ministry of Interior is saying that **the suicide bomber, disguised as police officer, blew himself up among a group of police officers**. Meanwhile, the UN secretary-general's special envoy condemns the attack. Pervez Shamal is reporting.

[Correspondent] The Ministry of Interior is saying that the **suicide bomber** with explosives hidden on his body blew himself up among police officers. In all, 21 police officers were killed and eight others wounded in the incident. Local officials describe the health condition of the wounded as worrying. The Taliban have claimed responsibility for the attack. Meanwhile, a number of MPs criticize the process of recruiting police given the fact the **suicide bombers disguise** himself as police officers.

[Urozgan MP Hashem Watanwal, in Pashto] It [the suicide attack] was not carried out by accident. There were some beforehand preparations for the attack.

[Urozgan MP Hamidollah Tokhi, in Pashto] What is surprising is that a person comes and joins the police. They join the police without anyone vouching for them. It is not clear by whose support they join the police. We are saying that an ordinary boy can easily become policeman and police officer. It is a big problem.

[Correspondent] Meanwhile, the Ministry of Defence reports of capturing three would-be **suicide bombers** in Urozgan Province. These persons were captured in a joint operation carried out by the coalition forces and the Afghan army.

[Gen Zaher Azemi, Defence Ministry spokesman] Three **suicide bombers** have been captured along with three suicide attack waistcoats, a number of hand grenades and a Thuraya [satellite] phone in a mopping up operation jointly carried out by the NATO forces in the Dehrawud District of Urozgan Province. The operation was carried out based on an intelligence report. The arrested are Afghan nationals.

[Correspondent] Afghanistan's police come under attack by the government's armed opponents more than any other security bodies. Today's attack is counted as the deadliest one for the Afghan police after the attack on a bus of police academy personnel in Kabul..

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