

# *Afghan President Says NATO Has Caused Lots of Suffering*

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Kabul, October 8 (RHC)-- Afghan President Hamid Karzai has condemned NATO occupation forces for causing "a lot of suffering" to the people of Afghanistan and failing to bring stability to the war-torn country. Karzai made the remarks during an interview with the British government's BBC which was aired on Monday.

The Afghan president criticized the U.S.-led mission in the country, saying it focused the fight on Afghan villages rather than on Taliban strongholds across the border in Pakistan. The outgoing president also suggested that he might not sign a security pact with Washington on how many American troops will stay in the country after NATO-led troops wind down their military operation in Afghanistan by the end of next year.

Earlier, the Afghan president strongly condemned a recent fatal airstrike by the U.S. forces in Afghanistan, warning that he would not sign the bilateral security pact unless its troops stop targeting residential areas.

The airstrike was carried out near the city of Jalalabad, the capital of the eastern Province of Nangarhar. In the statement, Karzai also accused Americans of violating Afghanistan's sovereignty by attacking civilians.

According to the United Nations, the U.S.-operated drone strikes pose a growing challenge to the international rule of law. The U.S. and its allies invaded Afghanistan in 2001 as part of the so-called war

on terror. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but the country is still gripped by insecurity.

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