

Pentagon attempts to bribe relatives of Afghans killed in drone strike

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The drone attack in Kabul killed as many as 10 civilians, including seven children [File: Wakil Kohsar/AFP]

Washington, October 17 (RHC)-- The United States military has offered to pay unspecified bribes to the relatives of 10 Afghan nationals who were killed in a botched US drone attack in Afghanistan last month.

The U.S. drone attack in Kabul on a car in mid-September left seven children and three adults dead, including the driver. Members of the Afghan family killed in strike demanded a face-to-face apology and compensation on Saturday. The driver, Ezmarai Ahmadi, had been wrongly identified as a militant.

U.S. intelligence had tracked Ahmadi's white Toyota for eight hours on August 29 before targeting it with a missile, killing all the children and adults aboard.

General Frank McKenzie, the top general of US Central Command at the Pentagon, admitted that the deadly strike was an error on behalf of U.S. forces. McKenzie told reporters that the strike was a "mistake" and offered an apology.

Relatives of an Afghan family wiped out in a U.S. drone strike last month are demanding justice from international institutions as well as a face-to-face apology from American officials.

The Pentagon kept insisting for over two weeks that the August 29 strike was warranted and necessary to prevent an attack on American troops in the wake of a bombing at the Kabul airport that killed 13 US military servicemen and as many as 170 Afghan civilians.

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