

Press Release



Office of Public Affairs

U.S. Embassy

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United States Embassy in Kabul Responds to Press Report Alleging Abuse

The United States Embassy has learned through press channels that an Afghan police officer, who reportedly was held by Coalition forces in Gardez and Bagram in August 2003, has alleged he was striped naked, photographed while naked, kicked and subjected to sexual taunting while he was incarcerated. According to the report the officer was later released.

The U.S. military has launched an immediate investigation. "To the best of our knowledge this is the first time anyone in the military chain of command or the United States Embassy has heard of this alleged mistreatment. We are not aware of the existence of any photos of the alleged incident," said U.S. Special Presidential Envoy and Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad.

Ambassador Khalilzad said he was confident the U.S. military's investigation will be thorough, will determine the truth of the allegations and if they are true, appropriate action will be taken.

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