

By Anna Doble and Ed Fraser

From [Channel 4](#) | Original Article

EXCLUSIVE: A major security breach reveals alleged "execution squads", an apparent plot to kill the Afghan president and previously unreported civilian deaths. [Wikileaks](#) editor **Julian Assange speaks to Channel 4 News** about his decision to leak the secret files online.

Channel 4 News has seen the classified documents but has been unable to independently verify its authenticity.

Secret Afghanistan files: revealed for the first time

The extraordinary leak made public by whistleblowers' website [Wikileaks](#) has lifted the lid on more than 90,000 US military documents involving classified information direct from the [battlefield in Afghanistan](#). It is the US army's secret war diary - 200,000 pages of it - written by soldiers on the frontline.

The files reveal previously classified information about civilian deaths, a mysterious "assassinations squad" named Task Force 373, an alleged Pakistani plot to kill President Karzai, evidence of suspected foreign support for the Taliban and countless daily incidents in which Nato troops are engaged by Taliban forces.

[Click here to visit wikileaks.org](http://wikileaks.org)

The data gives a graphical record of the war from 2004 until the end of 2009, detailing thousands of US military operations. The leaks contain "cables" filed by US units, often within a couple of hours of combat.

The records contain logs of both civilian and military "kills" - pinpointing when and where a death happened. More than 20,000 deaths have been recorded overall.

Leaked files: death toll

The classified reports contain detailed logs of fatalities - both military and civilian.

Afghanistan expert and author [Stephen Grey](#), who wrote Operation Snakebite, has analysed the data for **Channel 4 News** and calculated the number of deaths revealed in the report. Here is the breakdown:

Enemy killed: **15,506**

Civilians killed: **4,232**

Afghan Army (ANA) killed: **3,819**

Nato forces killed: **1,138**

Wikileaks editor Julian Assange, in an exclusive interview with Channel 4 News said he believes this is "the most comprehensive history of a war ever to be published - during the course of the war".

[Read more from our exclusive interview with Wikileaks founder Julian Assange](#)

The White House has issued a statement to the [New York Times](#) "condemning" the leak. The US newspaper is focusing on Pakistan's alleged connections with Taliban insurgency.

It reads: "We strongly condemn the disclosure of classified information by individuals and organisations, [it] puts the lives of the US and partner service members at risk and threatens our national security.

"Wikileaks made no effort to contact the United States government about these documents, which may contain information that endangers the lives of Americans, our partners, and local populations who co-operate with us."

The 'underreporting' of civilian deaths by coalition forces

Some of the documents appear to indicate the "underreporting" of civilian casualties.

In 2008, a [AC-130 "Spectre" gunship](#) carried out a ground attack on the village of Azizabad in Herat Province. The target was a Taliban commander. The report at the time said that no civilians had died. It only refers to 30 insurgents killed in action.

In fact, according to a UN report, 90 civilians died - 60 of them children as well as 15 women.

Meanwhile in September 2006, troops taking part in Operation Medusa moved into a large area around Panjwayi, west of Kandahar, and a known Taliban stronghold.

A Nato report found that 31 civilians had died - 20 of them from the same extended family following an airstrike. The leaked documents record 181 civilian deaths.



- 1) Target was an AQ Senior Leader
 - 2) Patterns of life were conducted on 18 June from 0600z 1815z (strike time) with no indica
 - 3) The Mosque was not targeted nor was it struck initial reports state there is no damage b
 - 4) An elder who was at the Mosque stated that the children were held against their will and
- UPDATE: 18 0850Z June 07

- Governor Khapakhak has had no success yet in reaching President Karzai (due to the Presid afternoon - 1400Z)

- The Governor conducted a Shura this morning, in attendance were locals from both the Yahy

- He pressed the Talking Points given to him and added a few of his own that followed in line w

- The atmospherics of the local populous is that they are in shock, but understand it was caus

- the people think it is good that bad men were killed

the people regard the loss of life among the children

DISSEMINATION SHEET TO KARZAI

Organization(s) involved: GOVERNMENT OF AFGHANISTAN/INTER-SERVICES INTELLIGENCE
DIRECTORATE/OPERATIONS MILITARY FORCES
25 AUG 2008, SERVIC EVENT REPORT, NO:
211800Z AUG 08

(M) Pakistan intelligence officer targets Afghan President Karzai for assassination

(M) A Pakistan Inter-services Intelligence (ISI) officer has targeted Afghan President HAMED KARZAI for assassination, according to information from August 21, 2008. Colonel MOHAMMAD YUSUF from the ISI had directed Afghan officer Hameed ICCATULLAH to see that Karzai was assassinated. ICCATULLAH reported back to the director to see that Karzai is a suicide mission at the Presidential Palace. There was no information as to how or when the way to be carried out.

also on the internet by Wikileaks



from a 60mm and howitzer at a Taliban observation point in Kandahar)

Even if it is a 60mm howitzer, which is standard for NATO military forces