

# Rare U.S. missile attacks kill 12 in NW Pakistan

AS/A12

Well Done

6/21/2011

BY HUSSAIN AFZAL  
The Associated Press

the most dangerous militant group battling foreign forces in Afghanistan.

## 2 men executed for mass killings

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two men convicted of killing more than 40 people in a February siege on a bank in the eastern city of Jalalabad were hanged in a prison Monday in rare executions ordered by Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

The hangings, which came as Karzai's government is in the midst of a faltering effort to negotiate with Taliban insurgents, were condemned in a statement from the Taliban, who vowed "to target all those individuals and government organizations involved in this case."

Karzai signed the death warrants Sunday amid intense public pressure after Afghanistan's highest court ruled last week that the two men — an Afghan and a Pakistani — should face the death penalty.

## ALSO

**Iraq bombing:** Iraqi officials said 22 people were killed and dozens wounded when two explosives-laden suicide bombers Tuesday morning near a government compound in Diwaniyah, south of Baghdad.

PARACHINAR, Pakistan — Suspected U.S. drones fired missiles at a vehicle and a house in northwest Pakistan, killing 12 people Monday in a rare attack in an area where some of NATO's fiercest enemies have reportedly traveled, Pakistani officials said.

The first attack in the Kurram tribal area hit a vehicle, killing five, said Noor Alam, a local government official. As tribesmen rushed to the scene, the vehicle was struck again, killing two more people, he said.

Minutes later, a suspected U.S. drone attacked a nearby house, killing five people, Alam said.

Seven of the 12 people killed were Afghan extremists whose bodies were taken across the border to be buried, Alam said. The attacks were confirmed by two Pakistani intelligence officials.

The Obama administration has dramatically stepped up covert CIA drone attacks against rebels in Pakistan, but there have been only a handful of strikes by the missile-firing pilotless planes in the Kurram tribal area.

Most of the recent drone strikes have taken place in North Waziristan, an important sanctuary for the Haqqani network, which U.S. military officials have said is