

Karzai: 'US Not After Terrorists in Afghanistan'

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Afghan President Hamid Karzai has hinted that the US and its Western allies are not serious enough in hunting down terrorists in the country.

Karzai made the remarks at the presidential palace in Kabul in a Saturday meeting with visiting Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard.

Australia has 1,500 soldiers in Afghanistan and 21 Australian soldiers have been killed in the country since 2002.

The Afghan president said the security situation in Afghanistan does not improve as the US-led foreign forces have not been targeting the militants' main hideouts in the war-torn country, the office of Karzai's spokesman said in a Sunday statement, a Press TV correspondent reported.

Karzai said on Saturday that the US-led foreign forces were pursuing their own national security interests in Afghanistan.

The Afghan president has recently increased criticism of the US airstrikes that have caused a large number of civilian casualties.

Hundreds of civilians have lost their lives in US-led airstrikes and ground operations in various parts of Afghanistan over the past few months.

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