KABUL - US military advisors are assisting Afghan forces in their driving operations against Taliban insurgents in southern Ghazni province amid sporadic clashes, killing more than 140 assailants since August 11.

US forces spokesman Lt. Col. Martin L. O’Donnell said in a statement that driving operations against the Taliban were under way and sporadic clashes particularly outside the city continued.

He rejected claims of the High War Council being closed and protesters being being freed as false.

He said the Highway-1 was open with Afghan forces occupying key checkpoints to maintain security.

He said Afghanistan repelled an ineffective Taliban attack against the city’s prison on August 12, which resulted firmly under government control.

“Ghazni City remains under Afghan government control and the isolated and disparate Taliban forces remaining in the city do not pose a threat to its collapse as some have claimed,” he said.

But he said Taliban’s attempts to hide themselves amongst Afghan populations “does pose a threat to the civilian population”, which were terrorized and harassed by the in-effective attack and the subsequent execution of innocents, destruction of homes and burning of a market. (More on PD-D)

KABUL - For the fourth straight day, Afghan security forces have been fighting the Taliban in Ghazni, a key provincial capital in the east of the country. The insurgents have been attempting to seize control of the city since Friday.

The Taliban launched a massive assault on the city last week, which is a strategic center on the main highway linking the capital Kabul with southern Afghanistan. Read more: Why Taliban won’t leave Ghazni

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IEC Responds to Closure of their Offices by Protestors

IEC - The IEC’s chief said the commission would not be responsible for any delays in the election process in the wake of protest action.

The Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan (IEC) on Monday issued a declaration on the disqualification of some candidates and said that the forms closed by protesters of the commission’s office was not acceptable. “Faxed forms by the protest groups to the commission’s address was not acceptable and that in doing this, unnecessary delays can be experienced,” said IEC chief Abdul Rashid Sayar.

The commission again stated that disqualified candidates need to take up the matter with the Independent Election Complaints Commission (IEC).

Trapped Ghazni Residents Run Out of Food, Water

GHAZNI - More than 200,000 residents of Ghazni city have run out of food and drinking water and have been unable to access health services due to the ongoing conflict.

Dozens of residents from southern Ghazni province on Monday arrived in front of the Grand Mosque in Kabul, asking the government to deal with the conflict in Ghazni capital.

On Sunday night, hundreds of heavily armed Taliban militants stormed the Ghazni City from four directions, sparking intense fighting with Afghan security forces.

Reports said both the warring sides and locals had suffered casualties in the clashes, leaving a fourth day on Monday.

Accurate information about the situation and (More on PD-D)

New Round of Taliban-US Negotiations, Next Month

KABUL - Following their groundbreaking negotiations last month, the Taliban say they will hold another round of talks with the United States.

In Doha in September: A leading British newspaper on Sunday quoted a senior member of the Taliban’s Qatari Shura as describing the first round of basic contacts as helpful, quoting to the Guardian, he said the next round will be more specific and focused on key issues – once the breakthrough is started, it will be stunning for all.