

Chronology of Events

- In early January 2012, 535 TF Protector became concerned about activities in the Detention Facility Library that may threaten security.
- 18 to 20 February, US service members conduct a security sweep of library materials. At that point, there is no plan to remove any books from the library.
- 19 February, an Afghan-American linguist assisting US service members reported that approximately 60% of all books contained extremist content.
- 19 to 20 February, leaders received periodic reports that the library contains large quantities of extremist material and junior leaders perceive they have guidance to remove the material.
- 20 February, US service members begin separating texts for removal.
- During the evening of 20 February, junior leaders begin to coordinate and execute plans to remove the books from the library.
- Later that evening, a work detail composed of guards and supply personnel begin to load the books onto a military truck as part of the routine, nightly trip to the burning facility.
- About that same time, Afghan National Army Soldiers working at the Detention Facility observe the removal and loading of the books, express concern, and notify ANA leadership. One US service member tells the ANA that the books are going into storage. The loading is complete and the truck departs the DFIP for the burn pit.
- A few minutes after the truck departed, US DFIP Operations received a call from ANA DFIP Operations voicing concern over the books and the religious material.
- After receiving the call, US DFIP Operations sent a team to locate the truck, but it had already departed the DFIP.
- Shortly after departing Camp Sabalu-Harrison, the truck arrived at the Bagram Airfield burn pit. Because the material contained sensitive information, the US service members drove directly to incinerator #1 and began to unload books from the back of the truck into the incinerator.
- A local national employee who operates the incinerator approached the US service members to help off-load the material from the back of the truck. He noticed that Korans were among the books and shouted to the other local national workers near the incinerator. A bucket-loader operator filled his bucket with water from a nearby puddle and attempted to douse the fire inside the incinerator.
- Approximately 15 local nationals gathered around. The US service members re-entered the truck and began to exit burn pit and return to Camp Sabalu-Harrison.
- The involved US service members notified the chain of command regarding the incident and were instructed to store the books.
- Local nationals at the incinerator were able to put the flames out and recovered some of the burnt books from the incinerator.