## ISIS Beheads 7 People Including 3 Women, 1 Child in Afghanistan — Thousands Protest

## NBC:

(...) The seven civilians beheaded were Hazaras, an ethnic and religious minority that have been discriminated against for centuries in Afghanistan. Fellow Shiite Muslim have also been massacred by ISIS and other extremist groups in neighboring Pakistan, as well as in Iraq and Syria.

Thousands of mainly Hazaras carried the bodies of the victims through the streets of Kabul on Wednesday and called on the government to halt sectarian violence. Hazaras were oppressed and massacred by the Taliban government before it was toppled by U.S.-backed forces in 2001.

"We are all here — Hazara, Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek — to demand justice," protester Kamela, a 22-year-old university student, told NBC News referring to the country's main ethnic groups. "We will not go back to those days," she added, referring to the Taliban era, and the country's civil war which saw ethnic militias turning on each other.

ISIS-linked Uzbek militants who provincial officials believe kidnapped and killed the Hazaras in the southern province of Zabul over the weekend are fighting alongside a fighters struggling to wrest control of the Taliban away from Mullah Akhtar Mohammad Mansour, who took over in July.

Around 400 Uzbeks are fighting with the <u>faction led by</u> <u>Mullah Mohammad Rasool Akhund, according to a spokesman for</u>

the group, Abdul Manan Niazi. The Islamic Movement of
Uzbekistan (IMU) pledged their loyalty to ISIS in a video
released on July 31...