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Air strikes on a hospital in the Afghan city of Kunduz that killed 19 people were "tragic, inexcusable and possibly even criminal", the UN human rights chief says.

High Commissioner Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein urged a full and transparent investigation into the attack.

Medical charity [Medecins Sans Frontieres said](#) at least 12 of its staff and seven patients were killed.

US forces were carrying out air strikes at the time.

At least 37 people were seriously injured, 19 of them MSF staff.

"All indications currently point to the bombing being carried out by international Coalition forces," MSF said.

The Nato alliance has admitted its forces may have hit the hospital.

US President Barack Obama expressed his "deepest condolences" for the deaths in [a White House statement](#). But he said he would wait until the US defence department had conducted its own investigation before making a definitive judgement on the incident.



Fire swept through the hospital after the air strikes.



The attack on the hospital in Kunduz was a "clear violation of the principles of international humanitarian law," UN experts say. "The attack was a deliberate and targeted attack on a civilian object, and the use of air strikes was disproportionate to the military objective." The UN experts also noted that the attack was "a clear violation of the principles of international humanitarian law, and the use of air strikes was disproportionate to the military objective."



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