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US-led airstrike kills 12 people in southeast Afghanistan

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A US-led airstrike has claimed the lives of at least a dozen people, and injured several others in the troubled southeastern Afghanistan, security officials say.

The sources said the deadly air attack happened in the southeastern province of Logar on Thursday.

There are conflicting reports about the identity of the victims. Locals say the dead were civilians, but Afghan officials insist that they were all Taliban militants.

This comes after 16 others lost their lives in a similar attack in the eastern Paktia Province.

Thousands of people have died in US-led airstrikes in Afghanistan since the invasion of the country. The Afghan government has repeatedly called on foreign forces to stop the airstrikes in residential areas.

Washington claims that its airstrikes target militants, but local sources say civilians have been the main victims of the attacks.

The Afghan government has on numerous occasions warned Washington to stop attacks on innocent civilians.

Civilian casualties caused by foreign forces have been a major source of tension between Kabul and Washington.

The casualties inflicted by US-led troops have sparked massive anti-US protests in the past.

In separate developments, nearly fifty people were reported killed in incidents of violence across Logar, Wardak and Ghazni provinces over the past 24 hours.

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in October 2001 as part of Washington's so-called war on terror. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but insecurity continues to rise across the country, despite the presence of thousands of US-led troops.