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Another NATO Strike Kills 14 Afghan Civilians in Khost

By Jason Ditz

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NATO air strikes in the Khost Province district of Shamal [this morning killed at least 14 civilians including eight children](#). It was the second strike in the province this week, with a Tuesday attack killing as many as 11 other civilians.

NATO admitted to the first strike, [but termed the slain “associated family members”](#) of the Taliban they were trying to kill, and insisted some Taliban were killed. They have yet to comment on the new strike, though they did say they were investigating a third incident of civilian killings.

The third incident came Wednesday, when NATO air strikes killed a pair of young shepherds in the Ghazni Province. The provincial police chief confirmed that the deaths were the result of a NATO attack, but NATO insisted the attack had killed only one person, an insurgent.

The Khost killings [sparked public protests](#) with many hundreds of demonstrators taking part. The Karzai government has recently lashed NATO over civilian casualties, but has yet to respond to the latest incidents.