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NATO Airstrike Hits Civilians, Toll Unclear

By Jason Ditz

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NATO warplanes continuing the massive offensive in the Kunar Province, which yesterday they reported has [killed at least 115](#) “insurgents,” struck a crowd of civilians overnight, wounding at least 13 of them.

“A coalition munition fell short of the insurgents’ position,” Capt. Justin Brockhoff explained, insisting that they weren’t aiming at the civilians. [He said all 13 were wounded but only three were taken to the hospital.](#)

That’s the official position, at least. Other reports, so far unconfirmed, have suggested that some of the victims may have been killed, with one even suggesting all 10 who weren’t taken to the hospital died on the scene.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai has been repeatedly critical of NATO over air strikes putting civilians in harms way. Since NATO said the 115 already killed in the past week in Kunar included a large number of air strikes, this might bring more of the offensive’s victims into question as well.