

[Multiple Attacks in Afghanistan Target a Hospital and Funeral Ceremony](#)

Multiple attacks rocked Afghanistan on Tuesday, which resulted in at least 48 deaths, including two newborn infants in a maternity ward. On Tuesday afternoon local time, gunmen stormed a hospital where Doctors Without Borders runs a maternity ward, and killed 24 people including two infants. Doctors Without Borders and other international aid groups immediately condemned the attack and said that protections for civilians must be increased in the face of violence. The attack at the hospital followed a suicide bombing at a funeral earlier in the day. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani blamed the Taliban for the attacks, and pledged to immediately resume full military operations against the group. However, Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid denied the group was behind the attacks.

The hospital that was attacked is located in the Dashti Barchi neighborhood of Kabul, an area that has seen attacks from ISIS in the past. The hospital is also run by the government, which could have played into the targeting of the facility. Over 70 patients were evacuated to other hospitals in the area when security forces regained control from the gunmen.

Earlier in the day, a suicide bomber targeted the funeral of a high profile, pro-government, former militia commander in the Khewa district. Shaikh Akram, the former commander, had died overnight of a heart attack. In this attack, the final death toll was 24, with an additional 68 wounded, but the authorities warned that the scale of the attack meant it was likely that the numbers increase. Included in the casualties were two provincial politicians who were in attendance at the funeral. ISIS later claimed responsibility for the attack, and the Taliban denied being involved in any capacity.

Both the hospital attack and the funeral bombing came just days after a spate of attacks by ISIS in Kabul. The terror group claimed responsibility for four bombs that went off in Kabul on Monday after the authorities in Afghanistan arrested an ISIS commander, Zia-ul Haq. Additionally, the hospital is in a majority Shia neighborhood which has been targeted by ISIS in the past.

Tensions between the Taliban and the Afghan government have subsided recently, with the implementation of a US-brokered peace agreement. Both sides had agreed to reduce their military action against each other, and meet for face-to-face talks. The Taliban also pledged to not allow Al Qaeda or any other extremist group to gain a foothold in the country. However, the negotiations are seemingly in jeopardy after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani accused the Taliban of orchestrating the dual attacks on Tuesday and pledged to resume military activities against the group. Afghanistan's national security adviser said the point of the peace talks were to facilitate an end to violence that has plagued the country for nearly two decades, but the Taliban was seemingly uninterested in achieving peace.