

Sec. Carter: Shame on Us!  
I trust the USA will pay for  
rebuilding this  
hospital.

From: Jason Cone - Doctors Without Borders [updates.reply@newyork.msf.org](mailto:updates.reply@newyork.msf.org)  
Subject: A Message to our Supporters  
Date: October 11, 2015 at 6:51 PM  
To: [tkindenver@comcast.net](mailto:tkindenver@comcast.net)

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— Tom Korson,  
Denver



**MEDECINS SANS FRONTIERES**  
**DOCTORS WITHOUT BORDERS**

Dear Mr. Korson & Ms. Mullarkey,

By now you are aware that on Saturday, October 3 at 2:08 am local time, MSF's trauma hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan—where we have been working for four years—was repeatedly hit by direct, focused, and sustained air strikes.

We are very grateful for your words of support and donations during these darkest days for our organization, and we have also heard and understand your questions about our statements requesting an investigation of a war crime.

Any deliberately targeted attack on civilians and protected structures during war is a violation of International Humanitarian Law and can constitute a war crime. MSF's public statements about this incident have no political aim. We are defending our rights as an impartial and independent emergency medical aid organization, and seeking accountability for a clear violation of the very laws that make our work possible.

In order for MSF to deliver lifesaving medical treatment to patients in conflict zones who otherwise have no access to healthcare, we require that all warring parties respect the Geneva Conventions and other international laws that forbid targeting medical facilities and staff.

The attacks on the Kunduz Trauma Center lasted for more than one hour, and continued for 30 minutes after desperate calls from MSF team members to both Afghan and Coalition forces asking them to stop bombing the hospital.

The attack on the MSF hospital in Kunduz was the biggest loss of life for our organization in an airstrike. Our patients burned in their beds. MSF doctors, nurses and other staff were killed as they worked. Our colleagues had to operate on each other. One of our doctors died on an improvised operating table – an office desk – while his colleagues tried to save his life.

MSF's work is by its nature very dangerous. We often operate close to the front lines of conflict, but we mitigate this risk as much as possible by staying in close communication with all sides to the conflict, updating them regularly on the GPS coordinates of our clinics and hospitals. Our ability to work safely depends on our transparency about our principles and objectives of providing medical care regardless of political, religious, or other considerations.

If at any point one side no longer agrees to allow MSF to work, or one side attempts to enter our medical facilities with arms or take it over, we cease work immediately and pull back to reevaluate our ability to continue. There is no scenario in which MSF would continue to provide medical care while armed actors were involved in making warfare inside our hospitals.

We must seek an independent investigation of the events which led to this attack. We are fighting for the respect of the Geneva Conventions, and as doctors, we are fighting for the

