[Afghan conflict causes more than 2,000 civilian casualties in first quarter of 2018, UN mission reports](#)

Armed conflict in Afghanistan killed 763 civilians and injured 1,495 in the first three months of this year, the United Nations mission there said Thursday.

"All parties to the conflict in Afghanistan must do everything in their power to protect civilians from harm," said Ingrid Hayden, the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Afghanistan. "Afghan [civilians continue to suffer](#), caught in the conflict, in ways that are preventable; this must stop now."

The 2,258 civilian casualties, documented from 1 January to 31 March by the UN Assistance Mission in the country, known as UNAMA, are at the similar levels recorded in the first three months of 2017 and 2016. Anti-Government elements caused 1,500 civilian casualties, up six per cent from the same period last year.

Suicide improvised explosive devices (IED) and complex attacks were the leading cause of civilian casualties – a new trend. The Mission found that combats on the ground were the second leading cause, followed by targeted and deliberate killings, explosive remnants of war, and aerial operations.

The full report is available in English, Dari and Pashto [here](#).