

[Afghanistan: UN mission condemns blasts that leave 8 dead at cricket stadium](#)

The United Nations mission in Afghanistan on Saturday condemned the attack in Jalalabad that killed at least eight people and injured at least 55 at a cricket stadium in the country's east.

The UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said that four explosives were detonated on Friday, targeting those gathered, after evening prayers, to watch a local match at the venue in Jalalabad.

"I am outraged by this attack that used four bombs carefully calculated to kill and maim civilians watching [a cricket match](#)," said Tadamichi Yamamoto, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan. "This cold and brutal act can have no justification whatsoever; those responsible must be held accountable."

UNAMA said two of the explosives were detonated inside the stadium, and the other two outside, apparently timed to target those fleeing the first blasts. The explosions left scores dead, with many of the injured now in critical condition.

According to media reports, no one has claimed responsibility for the attacks, and the Taliban militant group has denied any involvement. Afghanistan has been in protracted conflict for nearly four decades.

Armed conflict in Afghanistan killed 763 civilians and injured 1,495 in the first three months of this year. The 2,258 civilian casualties, [documented](#) by UNAMA, included 511 deaths and 989 injuries caused by anti-Government groups, including the Taliban and the Islamic State (IS), also known as Da'esh.



UN Photo/Fardin Waezi

United Nations Secretary-General's Special Representative for Afghanistan and head of UNAMA, Tadamichi Yamamoto, addresses reporters at a press conference in Kabul, Afghanistan. (file)

Attacks targeting civilians are violations of international humanitarian law. Under international humanitarian law, such attacks may amount to war crimes. The United Nations maintains that all parties to the conflict must at all times uphold their obligations to protect civilians from harm.

"At a time when Afghans are looking toward much-needed peace, we must not allow such attacks to deter our collective resolve to make progress on ending the conflict," said Mr. Yamamoto, who is also head of UNAMA. "The United Nations stands with Afghans in solidarity and remains committed to an Afghan-led peace process that will end the war and enable Afghanistan to allocate more resources to protect all citizens from such atrocities."

Mr. Yamamoto expressed his condolences to the loved ones of those killed in the attack and wished a full and speedy recovery to those injured.