

**Question for written answer E-014610/2015**  
**to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)**  
Rule 130  
**Aldo Patriciello (PPE)**

Subject: VP/HR - Bombing of hospitals and protection of civilians in time of war

Some 20 people were killed and many civilians wounded when bombs landed on the Médecins Sans Frontières hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan on 3 October 2015.

Article 18 of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War stipulates that civilian hospitals 'may in no circumstances be the object of attack'.

Article 19 of the convention states that 'the protection to which civilian hospitals are entitled shall not cease unless they are used to commit (...) acts harmful to the enemy', and then only after a warning setting a reasonable time limit has remained unheeded.

Under Article 8 of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, intentionally directing attacks against hospitals and places where the sick and wounded are collected, provided they are not military objectives, is regarded as a war crime.

Given that the EU promotes compliance with international humanitarian law and strives at all times to consolidate the rule of law, uphold human rights, maintain peace and enhance international security, can the High Representative say what the EU's official stance is on the bombing of the hospital in Kunduz?