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Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

18-31 October
2023

Over 1500 Attacks on Health Care So Far in 2023

Insecurity Insight has identified 1597 attacks on health care in 42 countries and territories in conflict between 01 January and 05 November 2023. In these incidents, health facilities have been damaged at least 388 times. In addition, 299 health workers have been killed, 114 kidnapped, and 208 injured. High incident numbers have been reported in Ukraine, the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), Myanmar, and Sudan.

See where incidents happened on this [interactive map](#). Download this data on [HDX](#). Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.



Conflict related incidents
reported globally: **1597**

01/01/2023 – 05/11/2023

388 Health facilities damaged

299 Health workers killed

114 Health workers kidnapped

208 Health workers injured

18 Attacks on Health Care in Syria in Five Days

Insecurity Insight has identified 18 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Syria between 04-09 October 2023. All these reported events involved explosive weapon use by Syrian regime and Turkish forces which damaged health facilities and transport and killed a health worker. This intensive use of explosive weapons affecting health care is a marked escalation in the observed patterns of continued violence against health care in Syria. [Read more](#)

2022 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) Syria Factsheet: [Arabic](#) and [English](#)

Past News Brief editions: [04-17 October](#); [20 September-03 October](#); [06-19 September](#); [All](#).

Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in curated datasets, if you have made a public statement that you would like us to include in our Bi Monthly News Brief, to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on. Join our [mailing list](#).

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SHCC Attacks on Health Care

The section aligns with the [definition](#) of attacks on health care used by the [Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition](#) (SHCC).

Africa

Central African Republic

19 October 2023: On the Obo road, near Zemio town, Haut-Mbomou prefecture, a clearly marked INGO ambulance on an emergency call in a neighbouring village was ambushed by armed UPC militants who demanded money from the staff members in exchange for their release. **Source:** [Corbeau News](#)



Burkina Faso

13 October 2023: In Bourgou, Gnagna province, Est region, a pharmacy and nurses accommodation at a health centre were looted by suspected JNIM militants. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

Ethiopia

As reported on 12 October 2023: In Bahir Dar city and special zone, Amhara region, soldiers raided the Tibebe Ghion Hospital, where they dragged six patients from their beds, and executed them. They also fired at hospital staff. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

13 October 2023: In Dera woreda, North Shewa, Oromia region, a health centre and a school were burned down during an attack on the area by OLF Shane militants. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

27 October 2023: In Haru Town, Haru woreda, West Wellega, Oromia region, an Ethiopian Red Cross Society ambulance vehicle parked at a health centre was set ablaze by an unidentified armed group. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

Mali

26 October 2023: Between Souleye and Tiontie, Macina cercle, Segou region, an ambulance was shot at and a nurse, driver, patient, and another individual kidnapped by suspected JNIM militants. All except the driver were subsequently released. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

25 October 2023: In Tabankort village, Bourem cercle, Gao region, a health centre was burnt down by a FAMA and Wagner patrol deployed from Anefis to the village. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

Nigeria

17 October 2023: Along Jangargari-Awe road, Awe LGA, Nassarawa state, a doctor travelling on a motorcycle was ambushed by an unidentified armed group who attacked and killed him with a machete. His motorcycle rider was also injured. **Source:** [Nigeria Punch](#)

Sudan

Insecurity Insight has identified at least 202 attacks on Sudan's health care system between 01 January-27 September 2023. In these incidents, at least 31 health workers have been killed, 51 injured, seven kidnapped and 17 arrested. In addition, health facilities have been damaged on 45 occasions. This data is available on [HDX](#). See where incidents happened on this [interactive map](#). Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.

Past incident reports: [18-31 Oct](#); [04-17 October 2023](#); [20 September-03 October](#); [All 2022 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition \(SHCC\) Factsheet](#): [Arabic](#) and [English](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

11 October 2023: In Maimana city, Faryab province, a female doctor at a maternity hospital was forcibly removed from her position by a Taliban fighter. She was threatened with a weapon and with arrest and taken to a patient within the hospital. Following the incident female doctors initiated a strike in protest. **Source:** [Hasht-e-Subh](#)

Pakistan

03 October 2023: In Pasani, Lakki Marwat town, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a polio vaccinator was shot and killed by unidentified perpetrators. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#)

As reported on 18 October 2023: In Kari Umer Khan village, Tank district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, four members of a polio vaccination team, including a driver, were abducted by around 10 gunmen. The driver and a female vaccinator were shortly freed, whilst the other two male vaccinators were released on 19 October after talks with tribal elders. **Sources:** [Arab News](#) and [India Today](#)

Myanmar

Insecurity Insight has identified at least 305 attacks on Myanmar's health care system between 01 January-30 September 2023. In these incidents, 27 health workers have been killed and health facilities have been damaged 90 times. Most incidents have been attributed to the Myanmar military. Explosive weapons including air and drone strikes, IEDs, and mortar shells have been used in over 70 incidents. These attacks undermine health care providers' ability to effectively meet patient needs, maintain safe staffing levels and impact the population's access to health care. Access the data on [HDX](#). See where incidents happened on this [interactive map](#). Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.

Past incident reports: [18-31 Oct](#); [04-17 October](#); [20 September-03 October](#); [06-19 September](#); [All](#)
Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) Factsheets: [2022](#); [2021](#); [2020](#)

Europe

Ukraine

At least 1157 attacks on Ukraine's health care system have been documented between 24 February 2022 and 09 September 2023. Explore this [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) to see incidents where health facilities were damaged or destroyed in Ukraine since February 2022.

Middle East and North Africa

Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories

Insecurity Insight has identified 229 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories between 07 October and 05 November 2023. Ten incidents were reported in Israel including five health workers killed and a hospital hit with rocket fire during attacks carried out by Hamas militants. In the oPt where 219 incidents were recorded, 39 incidents reported health facilities being extensively damaged, some facilities were damaged more than once, 57 health workers were killed in 34 incidents by explosive weapons used by Israeli forces in Gaza. In addition, in the West Bank 37 health workers have been detained in 18 incidents, mostly while responding to health emergencies, and ambulances have frequently been obstructed from reaching patients in need of care. Access the data on [HDX](#). See where incidents happened on this [interactive map](#). Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.

Past incident reports: [01-05 Nov](#); [23-31; October](#); [16-22 October](#); [12 -15 October](#); [07-11 October](#); [All](#)
2022 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) Factsheet: [Arabic](#) and [English](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

As reported on 24 October 2023: In Ras al-Ayn city, sub-district and district, Al Hasakah governorate, Turkish police arrested two nurses from the National Hospital on allegations of collaborating with the SDF and sharing information about killed and injured members of pro-Turkey factions. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

Yemen

As reported on 04 October 2023: Update: The Criminal Court of First Instance specialising in terrorism and state security cases has ordered the execution of four men accused of kidnapping two MSF staffers in March 2022. **Source:** [The National News](#)

The Americas

Colombia

22 October 2023: In La Paz, Arauca department, a man working promoting an eye health campaign was kidnapped by an unidentified armed group. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Haiti

Between 26 September and 27 September 2023: In Mirebalais commune, Centre department, armed men attacked Mirebalais Hospital which is one of the largest hospital centres in the country. No casualties were reported. **Source:** [France Info](#)

31 October 2023: In Petion-Ville, Ouest department, a female doctor was kidnapped by unidentified armed bandits. An unspecified ransom was demanded for her release. **Sources:** [AmeriqueInfo7](#) and [Personal Communication](#)

This Bi-Monthly News Brief comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care. It is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases. The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care and have not been independently verified. All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations. This document is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It is funded and supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK government through the RIAH project at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester, by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and by the Tides Foundation. The opinions expressed in it do not reflect in any way the position of the UK government, USAID, the U.S. Government or the Tides Foundation who are not responsible for the content expressed in this document.

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 02 November 2023

