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Attacks on Health Care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories

19-25 December 2023



Recorded Violence Against Health Care in Israel and the oPt, 07 October-14 December 2023

	 REPORTED INCIDENTS	 HEALTH WORKERS KILLED	 INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED	 HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED
Israel	14	9	1	0
oPt	525	119	106	88

Data source: [Insecurity Insight](#) on [HDX](#).
[Contact](#) us for curated datasets.

Explore the incidents on our [interactive map](#)¹ and on this [data visualisation](#) by Soha Elghany.

Insecurity Insight has identified 539 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories between 07 October and 14 December 2023.

- Fourteen incidents were reported in Israel including nine health workers killed in attacks carried out by Hamas militants.
- In the oPt where 525 incidents were recorded, 386 took place in the Gaza Strip and 86 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.¹ Of the 119 incidents that reported health facilities being extensively damaged, at least 13 hospitals were damaged more than once. In addition, 119 health workers were killed in 79 incidents mostly by explosive weapons used by Israeli forces in Gaza. We are aware of other sources reporting higher health worker killings. 119 is based on the number of health workers killed where location and date has been identified as we do not report aggregate numbers but compile our numbers based on individually reported cases. We continue to work on collating a complete list from information that has been provided in different formats such as names or professions of health workers who were killed. This cross-checking process is complex to avoid double counting the same individuals based on the fact that different victim information was provided by different information providers. The total number of health workers killed is believed to be higher than the current verified number.
- In the West Bank, at least 45 health workers have been detained in 25 incidents, mostly while responding to health emergencies, and ambulances have frequently been obstructed from reaching patients in need of care. In Gaza, at least 41 health workers have been detained in 24 incidents.

Insecurity Insight calls for independent investigations and for all conflict parties to uphold international humanitarian law. Health workers and facilities are protected.

The incidents reported below are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care between 19-25 December 2023 and have not been verified through ground investigations. There is a delay in reporting incidents due to our open source verification protocol. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available. If you have additional information on an incident documented here, or a new incident, please get in [touch](#). **Help support**

¹ 52 incidents were recorded by the WHO SSA without specifying the location and no additional source could be identified to determine the location of the reported incident.

the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: bit.ly/19-25Dec2023OPTHealth

Past incident reports: [12-18 December](#); [01-11 December](#); [24-30 November](#); [12-23 November](#); [06-11 November](#); [All](#)

Visit our [oPt](#) webpage. Join our [mailing](#) for the latest information. 2022 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) factsheets: [Arabic](#) and [English](#)

Israel

No incidents identified during the reporting period.

Occupied Palestinian Territories

Gaza

19 December 2023: In Jabalia city, North Gaza governorate, the windows of the PRCS ambulance centre were shattered when an Israeli airstrike hit a nearby building. **Source:** [PRCS](#)

19 December 2023: In Jabalia Refugee Camp, North Gaza governorate, the Al Awda Hospital is now reportedly out of essentials like general anaesthetic and oxygen. **Source:** [MSF](#)

19 December 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, the Head of Orthopedics at Al Shifa Hospital was arrested by Israeli forces. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

20 December 2023: In Jabalia city, North Gaza governorate, 12 people including an unspecified number of PRCS staff members were injured when Israeli airstrikes hit the vicinity of Al-Amal Hospital and the PRCS headquarters housing around 14,000 people. **Source:** [PRCS](#)

20 December 2023: In Jabalia Refugee Camp, North Gaza governorate, the PRCS ambulance centre was surrounded by Israeli soldiers after they took control of the camp. 127 people, including 22 injured patients being treated by staff, were inside the building. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera I](#), [PRCS](#) and [OCHA Flash 74](#)

20 December 2023: In North Gaza governorate, As Sahaba Hospital, the only functional maternity hospital in northern Gaza was expected to run out of fuel due to insecurity in that area affecting fuel deliveries. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 74](#)

20 December 2023: In Deir Al Balah city and governorate, Al Aqsa Hospital was hit, likely by Israeli bombing, at about 07:00. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 74](#)

20 December 2023: In Rafah city and governorate, Israeli bombing was reported in the vicinity of the Al-Kuwaiti Hospital, injuring an unspecified number including journalists. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera I](#), [Al Jazeera II](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

20 December 2023: In Khan Younis city and governorate, a group of people leaving the Nasser Hospital were reportedly hit by Israeli artillery shelling. **Source:** [Al Jazeera I](#)

20 December 2023: The PRCS headquarters central operations room lost contact and communication with the operations room and teams in the Gaza Strip as a result of the interruption of communication and Internet services. The interference on the VHF waves hinders the work of PRCS teams in providing timely emergency medical services and reaching the wounded and injured. **Source:** [PRCS](#)

20 December 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, a WHO-assessment team described Al-Ahli Arab Hospital and Al-Shifa Hospital as places where people “are waiting to die” due to a lack of

food, fuel and water. Due to lack of supplies, there are no more operating theatres in the north. **Source:** [WAFA](#)

21 December 2023: In Jabalia Refugee Camp, North Gaza governorate, the home of the General-Director of the Ministry of Health sister was hit in Israeli airstrikes, killing his 13-year-old daughter and wounding him and his family. **Sources:** [Personal Communication](#), [Quds News Network](#) and [The Standard](#)

21 December 2023: In Jabalia city, North Gaza governorate, Israeli forces fired artillery shells and bullets in the vicinity of the besieged PRCS Ambulance Centre, threatening the safety of 127 paramedics, volunteers and their families and 22 wounded people inside. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

21 December 2023: In Jabalia city, North Gaza governorate, Israeli forces stormed the Jabalia Ambulance Centre, arrested team members and paramedics and took them to an unknown place. The centre was shelled and ambulances set on fire. Women were trapped alone inside the centre. Following the incident, PRCS reported that they had no contact with the centre. **Sources:** [Quds News Network](#), [PRCS I](#), [PRCS II](#), [PRCSI III](#), [PRCS IV](#) and [WAFA](#)

21 December 2023: In Jabalia city, North Gaza governorate, the Jabalia Medical Centre was bombed and ambulances set on fire, rendering it out of service. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

21 December 2023: In Jabalia Refugee Camp, North Gaza governorate, a female nurse working at the Al Awda Hospital was shot and killed by Israeli snipers. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

21 December 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, a doctor and his wife were dragged from their home and shot and killed at point-blank. Their home was burned. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

21 December 2023: In Khan Yunis governorate, Israeli shelling was reported in the vicinity of Al-Amal Hospital. Shrapnel scattered onto the building, causing fear and panic among patients and displaced individuals. **Source:** [PRCS](#)

22 December 2023: In Khan Yunis governorate, intense shelling was reported in front of the PRCS Al-Amal Hospital. **Sources:** [PRCS](#) and [WAFA](#)

As reported on 23 December 2023: In Tal Al Zaatar, Gaza, Israeli bulldozers reportedly shot and ran over four pregnant women in labour carrying white flags and attempting to reach a hospital. Their bodies were left in an area held by Israel for over two weeks. **Sources:** [Personal Communication](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

24 December 2023: In Khan Yunis city and governorate, a 13-year-old displaced child was killed by a drone shot as he was standing in the street in front of the Al-Amal Hospital. **Sources:** [PRCS](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

As reported on 25 December 2023: In an unspecified location in the Gaza Strip, a doctor went missing after he went to the Patient's Friends Hospital area to receive treatment. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

26 December 2023: In Khan Yunis city and governorate, the upper floors of the PRCS headquarters was hit by Israeli artillery shelling, injuring several displaced persons sheltering inside. An unspecified number of health workers who were providing medical care to injured people were arrested by Israeli soldiers and taken to an unknown destination. PRCS reported a total loss of communication with its Gaza teams due to disrupted telecommunications and internet services.

The VHF radio network, vital for emergency medical response, was damaged in the shelling, posing challenges in reaching the wounded. **Sources:** [Quds News Network](#) and [WAFA](#)

26 December 2023: In the Gaza Strip, up to 1,000 children have had limbs amputated without anaesthesia since October. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

West Bank including East Jerusalem

13 December 2023: In Jenin city and governorate, West Bank, an ambulance was obstructed by Israeli forces from providing medical assistance to people injured during their on-going military raid on the camp. A paramedic said that Israeli soldiers were preventing them from evacuating wounded individuals without an ID number, ID copy or ID card. A man suffering from multiple gunshot wounds was prevented from being evacuated by Israeli soldiers, as result he died inside the ambulance. A 13-year-old boy also died as a result of Israeli soldiers preventing him from reaching a hospital. **Sources:** [France 24](#), [Middle East Eye](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

14 December 2023: In Jenin city and governorate, West Bank, a 17-year-old Palestinian boy was shot and killed inside Khalil Suleiman Hospital compound by Israeli forces. **Sources:** [AA](#), [Middle East Eye](#), [MSF](#) and [OCHA Flash 69](#)

14 December 2023: In Jenin city and governorate, West Bank, ambulances carrying patients outside Khalil Suleiman Hospital were stopped by Israeli forces. The paramedics and ambulance drivers were forced out of the ambulance, stripped and forced to kneel in the street. **Sources:** [AA](#), [OCHA Flash 69](#), [MSF](#) and [Middle East Eye](#)

14 December 2023: In Jenin city and governorate, West Bank, Jenin Governmental Hospital was raided by Israeli forces. All patients and companions were arrested, and forced to remove their clothes. Tear gas was also fired inside the hospital courtyard which entered the hospital. A number of premature babies were moved from their ward as there was a risk of them inhaling the gas. **Sources:** [Middle East Eye](#) and [Personal Communication](#)

17 December 2023: In Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkarem governorate, West Bank, an injured person died after Israeli forces prevented PRCS ambulance crews from entering the camp to transfer the critically injured individual with a head injury, despite coordination through the ICRC. **Sources:** [PRCS](#), [Personal Communication](#) and [WAFA](#)

17 December 2023: In Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkarem governorate, West Bank, a PRCS volunteer was arrested by Israeli forces from an ambulance while heading to transport a medical case from the camp after obtaining coordination. **Sources:** [PRCS](#) and [WAFA](#)

17 December 2023: In Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkarem governorate, West Bank, Israeli forces arrested a 16-year-old injured person who PRCS emergency teams were transporting from a shelled area. The child was detained briefly before being released back to the medical teams. **Sources:** [PRCS](#) and [WAFA](#)

17 December 2023: In Beita town, Nablus governorate, West Bank, the Nablus Emergency Centre was raided by Israeli forces and medical crews were prevented from entering the centre. **Source:** [WAFA](#)

18 December 2023: In Jayyus village, Qalqilya governorate, a PRCS team was prevented from reaching a man who was shot and injured. The man was detained by the soldiers. **Source:** [IMEMC](#)

20 December 2023: At the entrance to Beit Ainun - Hebron, Hebron governorate, a male pharmaceutical sales representative en route to one of his clients was shot and killed by Israeli forces after turning around at the entrance of the town due to a checkpoint. **Sources:** [Personal Communication](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

23 December 2023: In Jenin refugee camp, Jenin city and governorate, Israeli military vehicles were deployed around the Jenin Government Hospital during a military raid on the camp. **Source:** [WAFA](#)

24 December 2023: In the West Bank, the work of ambulances and rescue teams were hindered due to the closure of main roads between the Al-Bureij, Al-Maghazi, and Al-Nuseirat Refugee Camps because of Israeli airstrikes. **Source:** [PRCS](#)

26 December 2023: In Nur Shams refugee camp, Tulkarm governorate, ambulances were prevented from entering the camp by Israeli soldiers during armed confrontations between Palestinian fighters and Israeli soldiers inside the camp. **Sources:** [Al Mayadeen](#) and [IMEMC](#)

26 December 2023: In Tulkarem governorate, a young man was shot and killed inside an ambulance by Israeli soldiers. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

This document 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 verified through ground investigations. This report 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. **Insecurity Insight. 2023. 19-25 December 2023. Attacks on Health Care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/19-25Dec2023OPTHealth**

Health facility: Refers to any facility that provides direct health-related support to patients, including clinics, hospitals, laboratories, makeshift hospitals, medical education facilities, mobile clinics, pharmacies, warehouses, or any other health facility not named here. Health worker: Refers to any person working in a professional or voluntary capacity in the provision of health services or who provides direct support to patients, including administrators, ambulance personnel, community health workers, dentists, doctors, government health officials, hospital staff, medical education staff, nurses, midwives, paramedics, physiotherapists, surgeons, vaccination workers, volunteers, or any other health-related personnel not named here.

¹ Zoom in and click on Israel or oPT to see the latest figures. Click on the yellow square to read about the recorded events.

