

Flygtningenævnets baggrundsmateriale

Bilagsnr.:	304
Land:	Aserbajdsjan
Kilde:	Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition
Titel:	No Respite: Violence against Health Care in Conflict
Udgivet:	maj 2021
Optaget på baggrundsmaterialet:	7. december 2021

**SAFEGUARDING
HEALTH
IN CONFLICT**



**Insecurity
Insight**
Data on People in Danger

2020

No respite: Violence against Health Care in Conflict



Physicians for
Human Rights



Center for Public Health and
Human Rights

**HUMAN
RIGHTS
CENTER**

UC Berkeley School of Law



OFFICE OF
Global Health
Harvard School of Public Health



NAGORNO-KARABAKH

Between 1 and 2 p.m. on October 28, 2020 an Azerbaijani unguided artillery rocket damaged the new maternity ward of the Republican Medical Center in Stepanakert, which had yet to open. In the attack, four stories of windows were blown out and pieces fell from the ceiling. The strike also damaged the adjacent medical center that was treating COVID-19 patients. Azerbaijani authorities denied responsibility and in turn accused Armenia of launching a rocket strike on Barda town that killed more than 20 civilians and wounded over 70. Armenia rejected these accusations.¹²⁴

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS			
 13 REPORTED INCIDENTS	 9 INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DESTROYED OR DAMAGED	 5 HEALTH WORKERS INJURED	 2 HEALTH WORKERS KILLED

↓ Source: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data

OVERVIEW

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 13 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the Nagorno-Karabakh region in 2020. In these incidents health facilities were damaged and health workers killed and injured.

This factsheet is based on the dataset [2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data](#), which is available on the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX).

THE CONTEXT

On September 28 Azerbaijan began air and ground attacks across the disputed Armenian-controlled enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Fighting continued until November 9, when a peace deal involving Armenia, Azerbaijan, and the Russian Federation to end the military conflict was brokered by the OSCE Minsk Group.

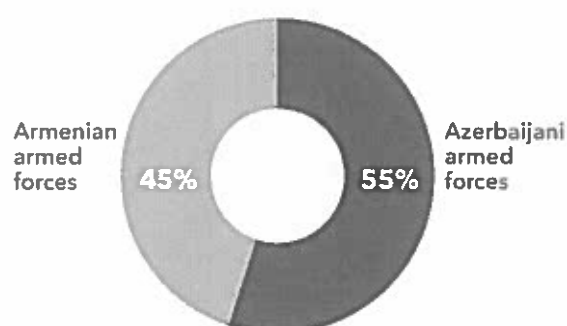
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During the six-week conflict, hospitals were damaged and health workers killed and injured. Both sides in the conflict were accused of using banned cluster bombs.

PERPETRATORS AND WEAPONS USE

Armenian and Azerbaijani armed forces using aerial bombing, missiles, and shelling were both named as perpetrators of violence against or obstruction of health care in Nagorno-Karabakh.

Reported conflict parties responsible for violence against health care¹²⁵



Reported weapons use

Aerial bombing, missiles and shelling



↓ Source: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data

Azerbaijani armed forces fired missiles from Grad multiple rocket launchers and used cluster munitions during the conflict, damaging at least four hospitals, including two in Martakert and two in Stepanakert.^{126,127,128,129} An ambulance transporting wounded people was also damaged on October 11.¹³⁰

Martakert Public Hospital was hit on multiple occasions beginning on September 27, after which staff moved all 39 patients, including children and mothers with new-born babies, to the basement.¹³¹ The hospital sustained significant damage on November 9, when shelling in the area was particularly heavy.¹³²

Armenian armed forces fired rockets that damaged at least four medical centers in Barda town and Agdam, Fuzuli, and Tartar districts. They killed a male Azerbaijan Red Crescent Society volunteer, and on October 28 injured two female volunteers in Barda town who were identifying the needs of people living in a temporary shelter.¹³³ Azerbaijani forces disguised in Armenian military uniforms shot and killed a male military doctor and injured an ambulance driver in Kalbajar district on September 28.¹³⁴

Unidentified perpetrators

On 28 September artillery shell fragments hit an ambulance in Tartar city, cutting off the driver's leg and killing a civilian.¹³⁵ The Health Center for Women and Children in Stepanakert city was hit by an airstrike during an attack in October. Several windows were broken and buildings damaged.¹³⁶

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- 124 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 962; 963.
- 125 This chart only shows the perpetrators who are named in the original source. Information on the perpetrators in two incidents is not available and therefore not included in the chart.
- 126 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 961.
- 127 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 1407.
- 128 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 962.
- 129 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 963.
- 130 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 960.
- 131 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 1406.
- 132 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 1407.
- 133 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 964.
- 134 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 1128.
- 135 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 1404.
- 136 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2021 Report Dataset: 2020 SHCC Health Care Nagorno-Karabakh Data. Incident number 1405.