

Attacks on Health Care

Monthly News Brief

May
2019

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

Burkina Faso

12 May 2019: In Dablo town, Centre-Nord region, armed men attacked and destroyed the town health centre. The men also attacked the town church, killing six people, before burning down a local shop. Reports suggest the attack may have been linked to the freeing of four hostages in northern Burkina Faso three days earlier. **Source:** [UN-OCHA](#)

23 May 2019: In Soum region, five UN partner national staff members were abducted while working at the Goudoubo Health Centre within Mentao Refugee Camp. Two abductees, both female staff members, were released shortly after the incident. The unidentified perpetrators stole an agency vehicle and fled. **Source:** [AWSD](#)

Central African Republic

14 May 2019 (DOA): In Mingala sub-prefecture, Basse-Kotto prefecture, MSF managed to enter Mingala town for the first time in years, following months of negotiations with the armed group that controls the area. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Throughout May 2019: In North Kivu and Ituri provinces, heightened insecurity coupled with critical underfunding continued to hamper Ebola containment efforts to the point where the epidemic could spread to urban areas and neighbouring nations. Furthermore, local communities who view the disease as a conspiracy subjected health workers to threats and intimidation, forcing some of them to feel reluctant to wear protective equipment or perform vital infection prevention and control measures. **Sources:** [AFP](#), [AP](#), [Devex](#), [France 24](#), [Reuters](#), [Stat](#), [The Guardian \(a\)](#), [The Guardian \(b\)](#), [TNH \(a\)](#), [TNH \(b\)](#), [TNH \(c\)](#), [TNH \(d\)](#) and [VOA](#)

10 May 2019: In Katwa town, North Kivu province, unspecified perpetrators assaulted an Ebola burial team. Local distrust of Ebola specialists and medical professionals in the region continues to be a barrier to safe Ebola response. **Source:** [VOA](#)

This monthly digest comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care.

It is prepared by **Insecurity Insight** from information available in open sources.

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17 May 2019: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, a crowd of local people threw stones at an Ebola burial team. **Source:** [AFP](#)

17 May 2019: In Bunia city, Ituri province, a crowd threw stones at an Ebola burial team. **Source:** [AFP](#)

23 May 2019: In Chianichani village, Beni city, North Kivu province, an armed group looted and burned a local unnamed health centre, as part of a wider assault on the area. **Source:** [AFP](#)

25 May 2019: In Vusahiro village, Mabalako district, North Kivu province, a member of an emergency Ebola team for prevention and control of infections died after locals from Vusahiro village attacked the Ebola team. **Source:** [AWSD](#)

25 – 26 May 2019: In Valumba locality, Butembo health zone, North Kivu province, unspecified perpetrators vandalised a triage centre under unspecified circumstances. **Source:** [France 24](#)

28 May 2019: In Vusahiro village, Mabalako health zone, North Kivu province, unidentified perpetrators attacked and looted an Ebola Treatment Centre, killing a health worker. **Sources:** [Express](#), [France 24](#) and [Reuters](#)

Sudan

18 May 2019: In Ed Damazin city, Blue Nile region, men in Sudanese Armed Forces uniforms reportedly attacked doctors at the city hospital. No further details specified. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Asia

India

28 May 2019: In Mankachar city, Assam state, a doctor working at the Community Health Centre was attacked by a policeman. The motivation for the attack is unknown. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Pakistan

04 May 2019: In Sheikhpura town, Punjab state, unidentified armed men critically injured a doctor by shooting at him. No further details specified. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Middle East and North Africa

Libya

08 May 2019 (DOA): In Twaisha area, Tripoli, Khalifa Haftar-affiliated fighters attacked an armoured ambulance for unspecified reasons, severely wounding the Director of the Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services and two paramedics on board. **Sources:** [Reuters](#), [UN News](#), [WHO](#) and [Xinhua](#)

19 May 2019: In Tripoli, an unnamed armed group loyal to Khalifa Haftar stormed the Shuwairf water distribution station, forcing the workers to close all flow control valves and shut down the wells that supply fresh water to approximately two million people in the capital and other cities in northwest Libya, including Gharyan and Zawiya. **Sources:** [Middle East Monitor](#) and [UNSMIL](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

Throughout May 2019: In Hama and Idlib governorates, Syrian Government and Russian airstrikes and shelling continued to damage or destroy health care facilities and schools amid what is widely considered to be a systematic assault, forcing humanitarian actors to suspend their programmes. Sources estimate that around 32 medical facilities and 64 schools were attacked from April 26 to June 15. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera \(a\)](#), [Al Jazeera \(b\)](#), [Anadolu Agency](#), [NPR](#), [OCHA](#), [Save the Children](#), [SNHR](#), [The Guardian](#), [The New Arab](#), [TNH](#) and [UNSC](#)

01 May 2019: In Qastoun village, Al-Ziyarah sub-district, Al-Suqaylabiyah district, Hama governorate, mortars and shelling hit the Kaston Primary Health Care Centre for unspecified reasons, damaging it.

Source: [Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations](#)

01 May 2019: In Kafr Nbouda town, Hama governorate, Syrian regime forces reportedly shelled near to the surgical unit of Qastun Health Centre, partially damaging the building and the equipment contained within. **Sources:** [SNHR](#) and [OCHA](#)

01 May 2019: In Kafr Nbouda town, Hama governorate, Syrian regime forces reportedly shelled a civil defence centre twice in a row, partially destroying the building, its equipment, an ambulance and a rescue car. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

02 May 2019: In Qalaat al-Madiq town and sub-district, Suqaylabiyah district, Hama governorate, Syrian regime or Russian airstrikes reportedly damaged the Al Madiq Primary Health Centre. **Source:** [OCHA](#)

03 May 2019: In al Rakaya village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces helicopters reportedly dropped barrel bombs near to the primary village health centre, partially destroying the building and the equipment contained inside. **Source:** [SNHR](#) and [OCHA](#)

03 May 2019: In Qal'at al Madiq town, Hama governorate, the director of the administrative office of Sham Hospital in Kafranabel city was killed when Syrian regime forces stationed in al Habousa fired a hand-held missile at his vehicle. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

04 May 2019: In al Rakaya village, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at a Syrian Civil Defence ambulance, killing its passenger, a male national SCD volunteer, and damaging the ambulance beyond repair. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

04 May 2019: In Zayzoun village, Sahl al Ghab area, Hama governorate, Russian warplanes fired missiles at a complex of three vital facilities – a Civil Defence centre, a medical dispensary and a town hall – leaving each of them partially damaged. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

04 May 2019: In Ma'aret Harma village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes reportedly carried out a strike with mounted machine guns near the village dispensary, damaging the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

05 May 2019: In Hass village, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at the Nabd al Hayat field hospital, which was established within a cave, leaving both the hospital structure and its equipment severely damaged. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [Naharnet](#), [OCHA](#), and [SNHR](#)

05 May 2019: In Kafranabel city, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at the Kafranabel Surgical Hospital, killing one civilian and partially destroying the hospital building, equipment and furniture. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [Naharnet](#), [OCHA](#), and [SNHR](#)

05 May 2019: In Deir Senbul village, Idlib governorate, the director of a community health team who worked at Ihsem Dispensary was killed when Syrian regime warplanes fired a missile at the village. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

05 May 2019: In Kafranabel city, Idlib governorate, a paramedic from Ureinba village who worked for the Kafranabel Emergency System was killed when Syrian regime warplanes fired a missile at west Kafranabel city. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

05 May 2019: In Ihsem town, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes reportedly struck Ihsem Dispensary for Primary Care with machine gun rounds, partially damaging the building and its equipment. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

05 May 2019: In Kafr Zita sub-district, Mahardah district, Hama governorate, airstrikes of unspecified origin damaged the Maghara Hospital. **Source:** [OCHA](#)

05 May 2019: In Kafr Zita city, Hama governorate, the Syrian-Russian Alliance carried out a dual strike on a medical facility established within a cave. Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at the surgical unit before Syrian regime helicopters dropped barrel bombs on the facility, partially destroying the building and its furniture. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

06 May 2019: In Kansfara village, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired a series of missiles next to al Amal Hospital for orthopaedics, partially destroying the building and damaging the equipment and furniture contained inside. **Sources:** [OCHA](#) and [SNHR](#)

06 May 2019: In al Zerba town, Aleppo governorate, Syrian regime warplanes reportedly fired two missiles at al Zerba Dispensary, destroying the building and the furniture within. **Sources:** [OCHA](#) and [SNHR](#)

07 May 2019: In Kafr Sajna village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes reportedly fired missiles near a dispensary, partially damaging its building and furniture. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

07 May 2019: In Kafr Sajna village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes reportedly fired missiles next to the Medical Technology Institute of Free Aleppo University, partially destroying the building and severely damaging the furniture contained inside. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

07 May 2019: In Kafr Nbouda town, Hama governorate, Syrian regime helicopters reportedly dropped barrel bombs onto Kafr Nbouda Dispensary in conjunction with a shelling by a missile launcher, leaving the building partially destroyed and its furniture damaged. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

07 May 2019: In Ma'aret Harma village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces reportedly fired missiles near to the village dispensary, destroying the building and its equipment. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

07 May 2019: In al Hawija village, Sahl al ghab area, Hama governorate, Syrian regime forces reportedly dropped barrel bombs near to the al Ghab al Awsat Dispensary, partially destroying the building and its equipment. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

07 May 2019: In the Ghab valley, Al-Suqaylabiyah district, Hama governorate, an explosion of unspecified origin hit the Hwejah Medical Centre under unspecified circumstances, damaging it. **Source:** [Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations](#)

08 May 2019: In Kafr Zita city, Hama governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired a missile at the Kafr Zita Dispensary and Primary Health Care Centre, partially destroying the building and severely damaging the equipment and furniture contained inside. **Source:** [SNHR](#) and [Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations](#)

10 May 2019: In Tramlala village, Kafr Nabl sub-district, Maarrat al-Nu'man district, Idlib governorate, Syrian Government and Russian aerial attacks forced the evacuation of the Tarmala Maternity and Children's Hospital. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

11 May 2019: In al Hwash village, Hama governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired a missile near to the “112 Specialist” Hospital for women and children, damaging the building and the equipment contained inside. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

11 May 2019: In Kafranabel city, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired a series of missiles in front of Sham Central Hospital, partially destroying the hospital building and damaging the equipment contained inside, leading to the hospital being rendered out of service. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

13 May 2019: In Kafr Nabl town and sub-district, Maarrat al-Nu‘man district, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes targeted the Syria Civil Defence centre, causing serious damage to vehicles and equipment. **Sources:** [SNHR](#) and [The White Helmets](#)

15 May 2019: In Tramla village, Kafr Nabl sub-district, Maarrat al-Nu‘man district, Idlib governorate, a Syrian Government aerial attack destroyed the Tarmala Maternity and Children’s Hospital, causing no casualties for the reason that the facility had been vacant since 10 May 2019. **Source:** [NPR](#)

22 May 2019: In Jisr ash-Shugur city and district, Idlib governorate, a Syrian Government warplane targeted a Syria Civil Defence team responding to an earlier airstrike, injuring two of its members. The double tap strike left a total of one civilian killed and nine others injured. **Source:** [The White Helmets](#)

24 May 2019: In Kfar Oweid village, Kafr Nabl sub-district, Maarrat al-Nu‘man district, Idlib governorate, a Syrian Government aerial attack knocked down an unnamed healthcare facility. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

25 May 2019: In al Bara village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces reportedly fired missiles next to the Ibn al Shahid Physical Therapy Center, partially damaging the building and its contents. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

28 May 2019: In Kafranabel city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime force warplanes reportedly bombed a hospital in parallel with a shelling from a missile launcher, leaving the building severely damaged and out of service. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [SNHR](#)

31 May 2019: In Kafr Aweed village, Idlib governorate, two Syrian Civil Defence volunteers were injured in a double-tap strike while aiding the injured of a previous bombing. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Yemen

18 May 2019: In Sana’a city and governorate, the Ath Thawrah Hospital was attacked by armed Houthi forces who assaulted medical staff and patients, leaving a least one doctor with serious injuries. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Global Health Insecurity

These events go beyond the definition used by the SHCC to cover a wider range of events that affect the provision of health care including events perpetrated by patients or relatives of patients, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by health care personnel.

Aid in Danger

Africa

Kenya

17 May 2019 (DOA): Update: In an unspecified remote village, Jubaland autonomous region, al Shabaab has demanded a ransom for the release of two Cuban doctors its members kidnapped on 12 April 2019. **Source:** [IOL](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

16 May 2019: In Ruyi Dab district, Samangan region, a female midwife working at an NGO clinic was reportedly sexually assaulted by six locals and a security guard of the clinic. **Source:** [AWSD](#)

Singapore

08 May 2019: Unidentified hackers managed to access the website of the Singapore Red Cross and stole personal details, including names, blood types, and contact numbers of 4,297 potential blood donors.

Source: [Coconuts Singapore](#)

Europe

France

28 May 2019: In Paris and several other locations across France, including Nantes and Corsica, emergency room personnel at 65 unnamed hospitals staged a five-minute walkout at the call of the Inter-Urgences Collective to protest against the lack of staffing and resources, which they claim is putting them under severe strain and putting patients in danger. The collective announced further plans to strike again on 06 June 2019. **Source:** [France 24](#)

The Americas

Haiti

20 – 22 May 2019: In Port-au-Prince, doctors-in-training of the State University of Haiti Hospital went on a strike to protest the lack of resources and the unsanitary environment, and to demand six months of back pay. **Source:** [France 24](#)

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

² The AWSD database does not include the names of individual victims or the agencies affected by an incident. This is done in consideration of the victims and their families who may not wish to have the names publicised in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available.