Attacks on Health Care

Monthly News Brief

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

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Throughout August 2019: In Goma city, North Kivu province, Ebola response medics are reportedly continuing to encounter attacks and resistance from local communities. North Kivu's Governor announced that those who spread misinformation to hamper relief efforts will face arrest. **Sources: AP and Reuters**

03 August 2019: Near Butembo, Palatalisa, North Kivu province, an unidentified armed group shot at an Ebola Response Team convoy, damaging several vehicles. **Source: ACLED**[1]

06 August 2019: Near Lambo Katenga village, roughly 150km N of Kalemie, Tanganyika province, a group of 15 local Mai Mai militants ambushed the local Red Cross Committee's president and other civilians. The perpetrators beat all the victims, tied them up, and robbed them of their valuables. Two civilians were also injured. **Source: AWSD**[2]

08 August 2019: *Update:* Three Congolese doctors were arrested over the killing of a Cameroonian WHO doctor in Butembo town, North Kivu last April. **Source: BBC**

13 August 2019 (DOA): In Mbau town, North Kivu province, Ebola-related activities operations in the area were suspended after suspected ADF elements attacked and killed six people, including one civil society leader. **Source: CIDRAP**

23 August 2019: In Boga town, Ituri province, ADF rebels looted the Anglican Mission Hospital as part of a wider assault on the town. **Source: Gafcon**
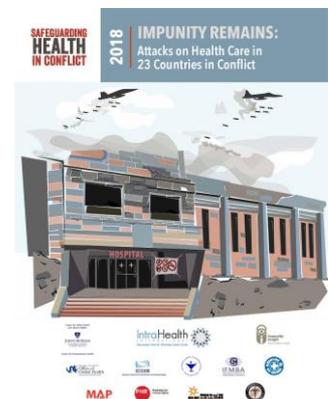
26 August 2019: In Walikale, North Kivu province, the body of a murdered doctor was found. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Attacks on Ebola Response in the DRC

Supporting organisations and health care providers with information, analysis and practical recommendations on how to mitigate the impact of attacks on health care to ensure staff safety and better health outcomes.
Sign up **here** for information alerts, recommendations and analysis.
View and download Information Alert **1** and **2**

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.

Data from the Attacks on Health Care Monthly News Brief is available on **HDX** Insecurity Insight.

Subscribe **here** to receive monthly reports on insecurity affecting the delivery of health care.

Get in **touch** to report an attack on health care or have additional information on an attack we have reported on.

Suggested citation: Insecurity Insight. 2019. Attacks on Health Care Monthly News Brief, August 2019. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight, Attacks on Health Care Project.

The 2019 SHCC report *Impunity Remains* focuses on 973 attacks on health care in 2018.
Now available in **Arabic**, **English** and **French**

Nigeria
11 August 2019 (DOA): In Ibadan city, Oyo state, unidentified gunmen raided a hostel of the University of Ibadan, stealing mobile phones, laptops and money belonging to students. **Source: [Business Day](#)**

Mali
17 August 2019: In the village of Dilly, Nara, Koulikoro region, unidentified gunmen attacked a gas station and a health centre. An ambulance driver was wounded when the assailants attempted to seize an ambulance. **Source: [Studio Tamani](#)**

Asia
Myanmar
17 August 2019: 13 miles from Lashio, Shan state, an aid convoy was targeted by a sniper, supposedly from the Northern Alliance NSAG, killing a male national NGO staff member travelling in a marked ambulance. After the staff member was shot, an RPG hit the ambulance. Other staff members were reportedly wounded, but we are unable to confirm those details at this time. **Source: [AWSD](#)**[2]

Pakistan
30 August 2019: In Gulshan town, Karachi, Sindh, a doctor from a government hospital and member of the Shia community was shot dead by two armed men near KDA Market. The incident is being treated as a targeted sectarian killing. **Source: [Dawn](#)**

Middle East and North Africa
Egypt
Throughout August 2019: In Cairo, Egyptian authorities continued to detain an American-Egyptian teacher, after arresting her last July for criticising the Egyptian Government on Facebook. **Source: [SFGate](#)**

04 August 2019: In Cairo, a car bomb commissioned by suspected Hasm Movement militants exploded in front of the National Cancer Institute, killing 20 people and injuring 47 more. **Sources: [AP](#) and [The Guardian](#)**

Occupied Palestinian Territories
16 August 2019: In Abu Dis, east of Jerusalem, a male local Palestinian Red Crescent volunteer paramedic was shot in the head with a rubber bullet by IDF forces while trying to assist victims during clashes in the town. He was transferred to the hospital for medical treatment. **Source: [AWSD](#)**[2]

Syrian Arab Republic
01 August 2019: In al Latamena town, Hama governorate, alleged Russian warplanes reportedly fired a missile on a Syrian Civil Defence ambulance, destroying the vehicle. **Source: [SNHR](#)**

05 August 2019: In Morek town, Hama governorate, alleged Syrian regime warplanes hit a SCD rescue vehicle with machine gun fire, resulting in severe damage. **Source: [SNHR](#)**

07 August 2019: In Hasaka city, Hasaka governorate, a male doctor was reportedly arrested by Syrian Democratic Forces officials while trying to cross a checkpoint. **Source: [SNHR](#)**

14 August 2019: In Bseqa village, Idlib governorate, alleged Russian warplanes fired missiles at an ambulance station supported by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), killing a nurse, an ambulance driver, and a SCD member (all male). **Source: [SNHR I](#), [SNHR II](#), [Dhaka Tribune](#) and [EA WorldView](#)**

15 August 2019: In Heesh village, Idlib governorate, alleged Syrian regime helicopters reportedly dropped

gas cylinders near a SCD centre, injuring an SCD member and damaging the building. **Source: SNHR**

17 August 2019: At Damascus International Airport, a male former director of the eastern section of the SCD in Daraa governorate was detained by Syrian regime officials. **Source: SNHR**

19 August 2019: In al Sheikh Hamad village, Hasaka governorate, unidentified gunmen bombed al Salam Private Hospital using IEDs, partially destroying its building. As a result of the attack, the hospital was unable to continue its operations. **Source: SNHR**

20 August 2019: In Shaghouriet village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces fired artillery shells, resulting in the death of a SCD member. **Source: SNHR**

21 August 2019: In Talmennes town, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes fired missiles on al Rahma Surgical Hospital, partially destroying the hospital's building. **Source: SNHR**

24 August 2019: In al Tah village, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes fired missiles on the medical centre, partially destroying its building. At the time of the bombing the medical centre was closed due to the recent military operations in the area. **Source: SNHR**

26 August 2019: In Kafr Aweed village, Idlib governorate, a male SCD member was reportedly injured by missiles fired by Syrian regime warplanes. **Source: SNHR**

27 August 2019: In al Ghadafa village, Russian warplanes fired a missile on Martyr Myassar al Hamdo Hospital, partially destroying its building. At the time of the bombing the medical centre was closed due to the recent military operations in the area. **Source. SNHR**

30 August 2019: In al Zerba town, Aleppo governorate, Syrian regime warplanes reportedly fired missiles on SAMS-supported al Zerba medical dispensary, destroying its building and rendering it out of service. **Source: SNHR**

31 August 2019: In Urm al Kubra village, Aleppo governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles on al Eman Children's and Women's Hospital, partially destroying its building. **Source: SNHR**

Yemen
21 August 2019: In As Silah, Ash Shaykh Outhman district, Aden city, southern Yemen, unidentified armed men reportedly shot dead a civilian doctor. **Source: ACLED**[1]

<div style="background-color:red;">

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

</div>

Africa

Liberia
01 August 2019: In Tappita district, Nimba county, residents stormed the premises of the Jackson F Doe Memorial Regional Referral Hospital to resist the removal of a neuro-surgical microscope donated by the Kole-Bu Neuroscience Foundation in Ghana. **Source: The New Republic**

Sudan

28 August 2019: In Soraf Omra locality, North Darfur state, members of the Forces for Freedom and Change organised a protest in front of the Saraf Omra Hospital against the return of doctors affiliated with the former Sudanese Government, and allegedly involved in the illegal sale of medicines. **Source: Dabanga Sudan**

Zimbabwe

26 August 2019: Zimbabwean medical personnel rejected the wage offer of the Zimbabwean Government and threatened a strike if their demand to have their wages benchmarked in the US dollar is not met. **Source: Africa News**

Asia

India

17 August 2019: In the Kathi Darwaza area of Srinagar city, Jammu and Kashimir province, a pharmacist received serious eye injuries when police fired pellets at a pharmacy. **Source: Tribune India**

26 August 2019: In Hyderabad city, Hyderabad, Telangana state, a 25-year-old junior female doctor was assaulted at Niloufer Hospital by two people when she along with three other doctors were tending to an 11-year-old child. Doctors who came forward to help her were also hit. **Source: The News Minute, The Hindu and Times of India**

Europe

Russia

08 August 2019: In Arkhangelsk city and oblast, Russian authorities failed to warn three doctors of the Arkhangelsk Regional Clinical Hospital who were in charge of treating three people who had been injured in a blast that the patients were potentially radioactive, thereby exposing them to serious radioactive danger. **Source: Newsweek**

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

17 August 2019: In Tebnine, Bint Jbeil District, Nabatieh governorate, a doctor reportedly sustained skull fractures and brain contusion after being attacked by the family of a patient at Tibnine Governmental Hospital. **Source: Hisham Bahmad on Facebook**

Saudi Arabia

01 August 2019: Saudi authorities released a doctor with dual Saudi-American citizenship who had been detained and reportedly tortured since November 2017. **Source: The New York Times**

WHO SSA reported incidents: August 2019

This table shows the number of incidents reported by the WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA) in countries monitored by the Safeguarding Health Care in Conflict Coalition (SHCC). Incidents are broken down by attack type.

	# of reported incidents	Abduction, arrest, detention of health personnel or patients	Armed or violent search of health care personnel, facility or transport	Assault (without weapon)	Chemical agent	Militarization of civilian health facility	Obstruction to health care delivery	Psychological violence/of violence/intimidation	Removal of health care assets (e.g. transport, supplies, materials)	Setting fire	Sexual assault	Unknown	Violence with heavy weapons	Violence with individual weapons
Afghanistan	1													1
Cameroon														
CAR														
DRC	31	1	1	5			9	21		1				8
Ethiopia														
Indonesia														
Iraq														
Libya	5			2							1		1	1
Mali														
Myanmar														
Nigeria	3	1							1	1			1	2
oPt	12			1										11
Pakistan														
Somalia														
South Sudan														
Sudan														
Syria	8	1											7	1
The Philippines														
Turkey														
Ukraine														
Yemen	1												1	
Total	61	3	1	8	0	0	9	21	1	2	1	0	10	24

Source: WHO SSA
Date period: August 2019
Data accessed: 18 September 2019.
Note: See **SHCC Methodology** for information on how the SHCC uses this data.
Caveats and comments: This information may change as the WHO SSA is updated.

---

[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.

All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.