

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).

October
2019

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.

Access [data](#) from the Attacks on Health Care Monthly News Brief on HDX Insecurity Insight.

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Africa

Cameroon

31 October 2019: In Mayo Moskota, Mayo-Sava department, Extreme North region, a hospital was attacked by Boko Haram. One patient was killed, and two others injured. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Central African Republic

26 October 2019: Near Barawa-Dembia, Mbomou prefecture, four national NGO staff members were reportedly abducted by UPC militia. The team were transporting medical supplies from Bangassou to Djéma, when they were ambushed. The armed perpetrators also looted and burned the NGO vehicles. **Source:** [AWS](#)²

26 October 2019: In Bria city, Haute-Kotto prefecture, unidentified armed men robbed an MSF base. In response, MSF reduced its activities, providing only vital emergencies in hospitals. **Source:** [Garda Crisis 24](#)

Attacks on Ebola Response in the DRC

Supporting organisations and health care providers with information alerts, 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 outputs.

Information Alerts

English: [1-15 Nov](#); [15-31 Oct](#), [1-15 Oct](#), [15-30 Sept](#), [1-16 Sept](#), [Jul-Aug](#)

French: [1-15 Nov](#); [15-31 Oct](#), [1-15 Oct](#), [15-30 Sept](#), [Juil-16 Sept](#)

Nigeria

30 October 2019: The Nigerian Government suspended a ban it had imposed on Mercy Corps and Action Against Hunger after accusing them of providing food and medicine to Boko Haram fighters, which the INGOs had denied. Despite suspending the ban, the government announced that all NGOs must be vetted and registered before they can operate, and that all vendors working with aid groups will be screened. **Source:** [AP](#)

South Sudan

27 October 2019: In Isebi, Morobo county, Yei River state, three UN volunteers - two male and one female - working in Ebola screening points were killed, while two others were wounded in a crossfire incident during clashes between armed groups. A female volunteer and



The 2019 SHCC report focuses on 973 attacks on health care in 2018. Available in [Arabic](#), [English](#) and [French](#). Access [data](#) from the SHCC 2018 report on HDX Insecurity Insight.

the child of one of the slain volunteers were also abducted. Their whereabouts are unknown. On October 30, the agency suspended EVD screening activities at the entry points of Isebi, Bazi, Kirikwa, Lasu and Okaba along the South Sudan-DRC border. **Sources:** [AWSD²](#), [IOM I](#), [IOM II](#), [Radio Tamazuj](#), [VOA I](#) and [VOA II](#)

Sudan

22 October 2019: In Nyala city, South Darfur state, members of the Rapid Support Forces reportedly assaulted a doctor and a pharmacist. In response, doctors at the Nyala Teaching Hospital began to strike until with plans to continue until at least October 24, demanding that the perpetrators are arrested and brought to justice. **Source:** [ACLED¹](#) and [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Europe

Turkey

15 October 2019 (reported date): In Canakkale, Canakkale province, an elderly Kurdish man was attacked and wounded in a hospital. After speaking Kurdish to his wife, another patient in the room said, "This is the Turkish Republic" and threw a glass bottle at the man. **Source:** [Bold Medya](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq

General: In Baghdad, anti-government protesters in need of medical assistance have refused to enter ambulances or public hospitals for fear of being arrested or killed by Iraqi security forces. **Source:** [TNH](#)

05 October 2019: In Baghdad, roadblocks prevented a volunteer paramedic from reaching Sadr City district via motorcycle to assist an anti-government protester who had been shot by Iraqi security forces. The volunteer paramedic then tried to enter on board an ambulance from a nearby public hospital, but protesters threw rocks at the vehicle, preventing him from reaching the patient. **Source:** [TNH](#)

Libya

Reported on October 12: In Ghadamis, Nalut, West, six doctors were abducted by an armed group from Zintan while in transit. They were released twelve days later. **Sources:** [Libya Observer](#) and [Libyan Express](#)

24 October 2019: In Salah Aldeen, Tripoli, suspected LNA forces targeted a field hospital, killing one paramedic and wounding three others. **Source:** [Libya Observer](#)

24 October 2019: In Wadi al-Rabi, Aljfarra, suspected LNA forces targeted a field hospital, injuring a nurse. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

02 October 2019: In Afrin city, Aleppo governorate, a doctor was assaulted by members of an opposition faction in his clinic after they refused to treat one of the group's members because he tried to skip to the front of the queue during a visit to the clinic. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

03 October 2019: In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib city and governorate, suspected Syrian regime forces shelled a First Aid centre supported by Save the Children and Syria Relief, injuring at least six civilians including a doctor, and damaging the building and equipment. **Sources:** [Diyaruna](#) and [SNHR](#)

07 October 2019: In al Sheikh Maskin city, Daara governorate, an internal disease specialist doctor was arrested by suspected Syrian regime forces in a raid on his house. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

10 October 2019: In Ras al-Ayn town and district, al-Hasakah governorate, members of a Turkish-led offensive attacked a water pumping station, putting it out of service. **Source:** [VOA](#)

11 October 2019: In Tell Abyad town and district, Raqqa governorate, the Turkish-led offensive forced the closure of an unspecified number of private and public hospitals. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

11 October 2019: In Ras al-Ayn town and district, al-Hasakah governorate, the Turkish-led offensive forced the closure of an unspecified number of private and public hospitals. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

12 October 2019: In Mahmoudiya neighbourhood, Afrin city, Aleppo governorate, an IED exploded near al Mahmoudiya clinic, partially damaging the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

13 October 2019 (DOA): Near Ras al-Ayn town, sub-district and district, al-Hasakah governorate, unidentified perpetrators attacked a trauma stabilisation centre. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

14 October 2019: Near Tell Abyad town, Raqqa governorate, a male national Kurdish Red Crescent doctor was killed during a Turkish airstrike. **Source:** [AWS²](#)

15 October 2019: In northeast Syria, the Turkish-led offensive forced Mercy Corps and MSF to suspend most activities and evacuate all international staff. **Sources:** [Devex](#) and [Reuters](#)

16 October 2019: In Jasim, Izra', Dara'a, governorate, a doctor and member of the "Reconciliation Committee" aimed at reconciliation with the regime was fatally shot in his clinic by unidentified gunmen. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

24 October 2019: In the Suluk area, Tell Abiad, Ar-Raqqa governorate, three health workers, including two nurses, were executed by pro-Turkish Islamist faction fighters operating as part of Operation Peace Spring. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

Yemen

18 October 2019: In Salh district, Taizz city and governorate, a male nurse was injured inside Ath Thawra hospital by gunmen believed to be affiliated with Islah Militias. **Sources:** [Althawra News](#), [Civilian Impact Monitoring Project \(CIMP\) Daily Alert](#) and [Yemen Press](#)

23 October 2019: Update: The Saudi and Emirate-led coalition finally acknowledged its responsibility for an airstrike on the MSF-supported Shiara Hospital on 10 January 2016, blaming it on a projectile malfunction. **Source:** [MSF](#)

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

Chad

30 October 2019: Between Ngouboua and Tchoukoualia, Mamdi, Lac region, a doctor, a nurse and their driver were abducted by suspected ISWAP/Boko Haram militants while travelling. **Source:** [Punch](#)

Zimbabwe

07 – 13 October 2019: In Harare, nurses of two unnamed hospitals launched a strike over pay and work conditions. **Source:** [VOA News](#)

14 October 2019: Across Zimbabwe, Zimbabwean doctors led by the Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association continued to strike for the 43rd consecutive day, calling upon the government to increase their salaries and provide essential services at state hospitals. **Source:** [VOA News](#)

Asia

India

28 October 2019: At Udai nagar Square, Nagpur city, Maharashtra State, a hospital worker was stabbed to death over a dispute about a poster of a politician torn down during the assembly election campaign.

Source: [Times of India](#)

Nepal

24 October 2019: In Bharatpur city, Chitwan district, Narayani, two health workers at Bharatpur Hospital were beaten by police. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Turkmenistan

08 October 2019: In Turkmenabat, Lebap, police officers forced doctors to deny medical treatment to a man who had been detained and tortured into confessing to a theft. Doctors were told not to report his injuries as a result of torture. **Source:** [Hronika Turkmenistana](#)

WHO SSA reported incidents: October 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	4						3	1	2	1				
Burkina Faso														
Cameroon														
CAR														
DRC	32		4	5	3		4	31	1					14
Ethiopia														
Indonesia														
Iraq														
Libya	4												4	
Mali														
Myanmar														
Nigeria														
oPt	8													8
Pakistan														
Somalia														
South Sudan														
Sudan														
Syria	8	1	1				1		1				6	1
The Philippines														
Turkey														
Ukraine														
Yemen														
Total	56	1	5	5	3	0	8	32	4	1	0	0	10	23

Source: [WHO SSA](#)

Date period: October 2019

Data accessed: 20 November 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.

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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.

¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 11 November 2019.

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. Accessed 11 November 2019.

