

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).

June
2020

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

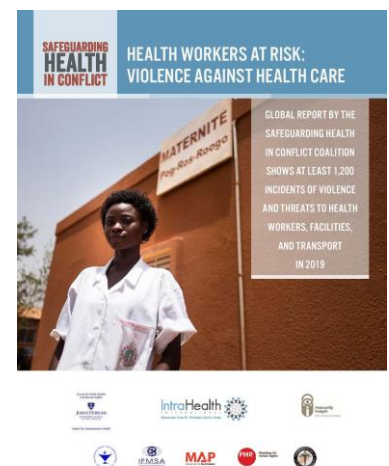
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Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Around 10 June 2020: In Byambwe village, Lubero territory, North Kivu, medics at the local health centres received letters from unidentified perpetrators attempting to extort them and warning them of consequences should they not hand over USD400. **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)

16 June 2020: In Rugetsu locality, Beni territory, North Kivu, unidentified armed men attempted to raid a health centre, but were stopped by local police officers. **Source:** [Kivu Security Tracker](#)

28 June 2020: In Lulimba locality, Fizi territory, South Kivu province, four unidentified armed men kidnapped an MSF Holland agent. The kidnappers demanded a ransom for the hostage's release. **Source:** [Kivu Security Tracker](#)

Mozambique

31 May 2020: In Beluluane, Boane district, Maputo province, the body of a 35-year-old Maputo Central Hospital employee was found near her home, showing signs of rape. **Source:** [Club of Mozambique](#)

01 - 07 June 2020: In northern Mozambique, a maternity ward recently repaired by an ICRC Southern Africa team after it was damaged by Cyclone Kenneth has been destroyed once more in the midst of conflict. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

05 June 2020: In Macomia town, Cabo Delgado province, MSF decided to suspend activities in the region due to the vandalism of a health centre on 28 May during a three-day occupation by armed groups. **Sources:** [Club of Mozambique](#) and [MSF](#)

10 or 11 June 2020: In Chiedeia, Nhamatanda district, Sofala province, a health post was stormed by suspected armed RENAMO members who threatened staff and stole medicines, money and mobile phones from patients and staff. The perpetrators set the premises on fire before fleeing. No casualties reported. **Sources:** [Club of Mozambique](#), [Notícias ao Minuto](#) and [O País](#)

Mali

20 June 2020: Near Koro town and cercle, Mopti region, a team from the NGO MSF aboard two rental vehicles was robbed by armed men a few km from Koro. The robbers released the female staff before removing the male staff, the drivers and the two cars. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

Niger

03 June 2020: In Toumour village, Toumour commune, Diffa region, an ambulance was damaged, and one person kidnapped by suspected Boko Haram militants. **Source:** [Jeunesse Diffa](#)

Nigeria

13 June 2020: In Monguno village and LGA, Borno state, ISWAP fighters armed with heavy weaponry entered the village, which hosts several international NGOs, and overran government forces, killing at least 40 soldiers and 20 civilians. The influx of patients injured in such attacks posed additional stress to healthcare facilities that were already weakened by the armed conflict. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [BBC](#), [European Commission](#), [ICRC](#) and [OCHA](#)

South Africa

20 June 2020: In Pretoria city, Gauteng province, a South African pulmonologist of South Sudanese origin and his wife, a physiotherapist, were assaulted and injured by police during the national coronavirus lockdown. The attack is believed to have xenophobic motivation as abusive language related to ethnicity was used. **Source:** [IOL](#)

South Sudan

26 June 2020: In Pibor town and county, Jonglei state, renewed intercommunal fighting forced MSF to suspend its primary health care services in the town. **Source:** [Radio Miraya](#)

28 June 2020: In Cueibet county, Lakes state, unidentified perpetrators shot a clearly marked ambulance carrying an injured patient due to intercommunal violence, killing the driver, a South Sudanese aid worker from an unspecified INGO. Police have since arrested two suspects. **Sources:** [OCHA](#), [Catholic Radio Network](#), [Radio Miraya](#) and [Radio Tamazui](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

14 June 2020: In Kandahar city, a doctor was shot dead by gunmen. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

15 June 2020: In Kabul, MSF announced its decision to end activities and withdraw from the Dasht-eBarchi Hospital, following an attack on the maternity wing of the facility last 12 May, citing as reasons the insecure context and the likelihood of repeated attacks in the future. **Sources:** [MSF](#) and [UNAMA](#)

India

04 June 2020: In Yaripora area, Kulgam district, Jammu and Kashmir union territory, unidentified militants attacked a police social event, injuring a health worker of the Yaripora Sub-District Hospital. **Source:** [Kashmir Life](#)

Pakistan

17 June 2020: In Karachi city, Sindh province, an under-training cardiologist was shot and injured by a police official of the Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) at the emergency room of the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) allegedly for denying him a prescription for sleeping pills. As a result, the NICVD closed the ER for cardiac patients and instead referred all patients to private hospitals. **Sources:** [Pakistan Today](#), [Tribune](#) and [Dawn](#)

Europe

Germany

22 June 2020: Update: In an unspecified location, police arrested a Syrian doctor on suspicion of carrying out crimes against humanity at a military hospital in Syria in 2011. **Source:** [Channel News Asia](#)

Ukraine

Around 11 June 2020: Across the frontline in Donbass region, daily security incidents continue to damage civilian infrastructure, including water and electricity supply, schools, and health facilities. **Source:** [European Commission](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Libya

04 June 2020: In Ain Zara municipality, Tripoli district, two doctors of the Field Medicine and Support Centre were killed when an unexploded ordnance detonated whilst they were on-duty evacuating injured patients.

Source: [WHO](#)

06 June 2020: In Abu Qurayn municipality, Misrata district, Tripolitania region, an airstrike from an unidentified source hit an ambulance point affiliated to the Field Medicine and Support Centre, significantly damaging the facility and an ambulance. **Source:** [WHO](#)

08 June 2020: In Western Sirte, Sirte district, a suspected Libyan National Army airstrike reportedly targeted an ambulance as well as several Government of National Accord vehicles, resulting in the killing of five people, including paramedics. **Source:** [Air Wars](#)

10 June 2020: In Jarif town, Sirte district, a mortar shell from an unidentified source killed a doctor inside her home. **Source:** [Air Wars](#)

10 June 2020: In Tripoli, doctors at the al-Khadra General Hospital are afraid to report to work because the health facility could be attacked at any time amid clashes between the LNA and GNA. **Source:** [TNH](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territories

23 June 2020: In Gaza and the West Bank, a high-level dispute between the Palestinian Authority and Israel over the latter's plans to annex parts of the West Bank has prevented scores of Palestinians from travelling to Israel for life-saving medical care, leading to preventable deaths. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

14 June 2020: In Idlib, Idlib district, the deputy director of Idlib's health directorate was arrested by the police forces of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) following a vigil by medical students against the directorate's recent decree that bans them from interning at local hospitals. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

25 June 2020: Russia has quit a voluntary UN deconfliction arrangement aimed at protecting hospitals and aid deliveries from being hit by warring parties in Syria. Under the arrangement, coordinates were given for the location of protected facilities in an attempt to prevent them from being targeted. Russia has been found to have repeatedly targeted hospitals and humanitarian facilities throughout the conflict **Source:** [Reuters](#)

Yemen

05 June 2020: In Al Masbah neighbourhood, Al Qahirah, Taizz governorate, a pharmacy was reportedly attacked by a group of armed men. They kidnapped the owner's son to pressure the owner to drop a legal case. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

06 June 2020: In Ataq, Shabwah province, two civilians were killed by small arms fire inside Ataq City Hospital. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

06 June 2020: Ataq city, Shabwah governorate, a doctor and a patient were killed when the city hospital was attacked by pro-Hadi Islah forces. They stormed the hospital throwing tear gas grenades and opening fire on the civilians. Allegedly, the motive for the attack was the lack of beds in the hospital to treat fighters that were injured in the Shuqrah frontline in Abyan. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

06 June 2020: In the Al Byrain area, Sabir al Mawadim district, Taizz governorate, the car of the 35th Armored Brigade's doctor, who was driving with the accountant of the Brigade, was reportedly fired at by pro-Islah elements who managed to steal the vehicle. No one was injured. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

22 June 2020: In Al Sahul, Al Makhadir district, Ibb governorate, a doctor was assaulted by an unidentified armed group who also attempted to kidnap him at an isolation facility but civilians at the spot intervened. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

26 June 2020: In An Nur city, Al Mudhaffar district, Taizz province, a medical facility was hit by artillery shells. Two civilians were injured. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

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.

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

15 - 21 June 2020: In Mbandaka city, Equateur province, local residents staged protests against Ebola response efforts, prompting police to open fire on them. **Source:** [TNH](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

15 June 2020: In Gallamari area, Khulna city, district and division, relatives of a patient who died after receiving treatment at the private clinic assaulted the doctor and principal of the Medical Assistant Training School over allegations that the doctor gave the wrong treatment, which led to her death. The doctor later died from injuries while undergoing treatment at the hospital on 16 June. On 17 June, doctors, nurses and officials of different hospitals and clinics launched a 72-hour strike to protest the murder of their colleague. **Source:** [New Age I](#) and [New Age II](#)

28 June 2020: In Dhaka, temporary medical officers of the BIRDEM General Hospital staged a sit-in in front of the hospital's chamber complex, demanding full payment of their salaries, safety equipment and job security. **Source:** [New Age](#)

Europe

France

16 June 2020: Across France, thousands of health workers protested to demand better pay and resources at the workplace. In the midst of a peaceful protest attended by approximately 18,000 people in Paris, a group of more than 10 police officers arrested a protesting female nurse as she screamed and begged for her inhaler. **Sources:** [BBC](#) and [Sputnik News](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Islamic Republic of Iran

30 June 2020: In Tehran, an explosion said to be from a gas leak at Sina At'har Clinic killed 15 women and five men. An Iranian journalist alleged that such an incident, alongside similar others, could be deliberate. **Sources:** [BBC](#), [The Guardian](#) and [VOA](#)

The Americas

Mexico

24 June 2020: In Colonia Unidad, Xalapa city, Veracruz state, a female paramedic was shot and killed by an armed man who arrived and left in a taxi. **Sources:** [Liberdad Bajo Palabra](#) and [LBP](#)

WHO SSA reported incidents: June 2020

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	Setting fire	Sexual assault	Unknown	Violence with heavy weapons	Violence with individual weapons
Libya	2												1	
oPt	1		1			1								
South Sudan	1													1
Syria	1							1						
Total	5		1			1		1					1	1

Date period: June 2020 **Data accessed:** 14 June 2020

See [SHCC Methodology](#) for information on how the SHCC uses this data. This information may change as the WHO SSA is updated.

Notes

This document is part of the Attacks on Health Care project. It is published by Insecurity Insight and funded and supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK government through the RIAH project at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at Manchester University, UK. 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. Suggested citation: Insecurity Insight. 2020. Attacks on Health Care Monthly News Brief, June 2020. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight, Attacks on Health Care Project.



¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 5 July 2020