

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).

July
2020

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.

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

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

Join our [Attacks on Healthcare](#) mailing list

Follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Get in [touch](#) to report an attack on health care or have additional information on an attack we have reported on.

Africa

Cameroon

06 July 2020: In Mamfe city, Southwest region, seven health workers were detained by security forces during a security operation in the area.

Source: [Human Rights Watch](#)

Around 07 July 2020: In Kumbo city, Bui district, Northwest region, Shisong Hospital was stormed by members of the military who threatened to remove patients they suspected to be Ambazonia fighters. A nurse was almost beaten for defending the medical treatment of people without discrimination. **Source:** [Mimimefo Info](#)

09 July 2020: Near Kumba city, Meme department, South West region, a Cameroonian volunteer community health worker employed by MSF was kidnapped and killed. An Ambazonian separatist group fighting government forces in the region first claimed responsibility in a video circulating on social media, before a denial from the political branch of the independence movement in exile. In the video, the aid worker was accused by these fighters of "being a spy in the pay of the government".

Sources: [Barrons](#), [Mimi Mefo Info](#), [MSF](#) and [RFI](#)

21 July 2020: In Kumbo city, Bui district, North West region, shootings near the Shisong Hospital premises forced patients to abandon treatment and flee. **Sources:** [Mimimefo Info](#) and [Mimimefo Info II](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

03-04 July 2020: In Ziralo town, Kalehe territory, South Kivu province, the MSF-supported Kusisa Health Centre was looted during the night by armed men who tied up the guard and stole the hospital's only respirator. Two civilians, a woman, and her child, were shot and injured when the perpetrators were fleeing. **Sources:** [Actualité](#) and [La Prunelle](#)

11 July 2020: In Mangazi village, Beni territory, North Kivu province, suspected ADF militants robbed and burned down a pharmacy as well as a health centre, along with multiple houses, as part of a wider attack on the village. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹, [Garda World](#) and [Kivu Security](#)

12 July 2020: In Abendi village, Irumu territory, Ituri province, three Congolese Red Cross staff and three civilians were rescuing victims from a previous attack when they were ambushed and killed by ADF militiamen. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

14 July 2020: In Baraka town, Fizi territory, South Kivu province, a nurse was shot dead by armed men. Health workers organised a demonstration on the following day. **Source:** [La Prunelle](#)



The 2020 SHCC report is out! Read your copy [here](#)

21 July 2020: In Beni city, North Kivu province, a male nurse working as a supervisor in the central bureau of Beni health zone was killed by gunmen. **Sources:** [Actualité](#) and [Radio Okapi](#)

Equatorial Guinea

09 July 2020: In Malabo city, Bioko Norte province, a general surgeon doctor was assaulted by five military and police officers in Loeri Comba hospital for not immediately attending to a wounded young man who they had brought to the hospital. The surgeon was responding to another emergency case at the time of the incident. The perpetrators were arrested. **Source:** [Diario Rombe](#)

Mozambique

12 July 2020: In Cabo Delgado province, 27% of health units in the province were shut down due to terrorist attacks over the last three years, and mobile health units continue to have limited access due to ongoing insecurity. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [O País](#)

13 July 2020: In Milangueleia, Muidumbe district, Cabo Delgado province, an ambulance was ambushed by militiamen. Two people were killed. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Niger

07 July 2020: In the area of Gosso, Bani Bangou town, Tillaberi region, an ambulance was fired at by suspected ISGS militants. The driver escaped and the vehicle was not damaged. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Asia

Pakistan

08 July 2020: In Orakzai District, a national UN Agency staff member was followed and physically assaulted by a group of policemen at the hospital after he examined a polio patient. The victim received a series of injuries, lost consciousness, and experienced blurred vision. **Source:** [AWSO](#)²

Middle East and North Africa

Libya

02 July 2020: In Shahat town, Jabal al Akhdar district, Cyrenaica region, a group of visitors physically and verbally abused the health administrative officer and nursing staff of the Cyrene Teaching Hospital after visiting hours, injuring two workers. **Source:** [WHO](#)

04 July 2020: In Yefren municipality, Jabal al Gharbi district, Tripolitania region, unidentified perpetrators in a vehicle fired intensely towards a Yefren General Hospital ambulance while it was carrying a patient in critical condition, causing damage to the vehicle. **Source:** [WHO](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

05 July 2020: In al Bab city, Aleppo governorate, a member of the nursing staff at al Farabi Hospital was fired at with a gun by a patient's companion. The hospital suspended services for two days in protest. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

06 July 2020: In Breiha village, Sur sub-district, a doctor was beaten and a nurse insulted in the Fayhaa Hospital by a commander in Syrian Defence Force's Deir-ez-Zor military council, as the staff did not allow the commander to film the treatment of injured people, mostly women. The hospital was closed and relocated to al Hasakeh following this incident. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

12 July 2020: In al Bab city, Aleppo governorate, the chairman of the Pharmacists Association of the town was shot and injured by gunmen while travelling with his family in their car. His child was also wounded. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

14 July 2020: In Ariha city, Idlib governorate, a missile launched by Syrian regime ground forces struck al Amin Medical Centre, damaging the building, equipment, and supplies. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

23 July 2020: In Abriha village, Deir-ez-Zor governorate, relatives of an injured Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) fighter opened fire inside al Fayhaa Hospital. No casualties were reported. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

27 July 2020: In Deir-ez-Zor governorate, a male nurse was shot dead by IS gunmen while travelling on the road connecting Shiheil and Shafa. **Source:** [Liveuamap](#)

Yemen

05 July 2020: In Al Waht hospital, Tuban district, Lahij governorate, Al Waht Hospital's only ambulance was shot at by a man who stormed the hospital with an automatic weapon. The hospital management and staff protested against general insecurity and demanded the hiring of private security guards. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

16 July 2020: In Ibb City, Al Mashannah district, Ibb governorate, health workers at the Ath Thawra Hospital were attacked and the head of the hospital temporarily detained by Houthi forces allegedly for refusing to provide petrol to a Houthi vehicle transporting a dead soldier. All sections of the hospital apart from the emergency department were closed in protest following this incident. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

19 July 2020: In At Turbah city, Ash Shamayatayn district, Taiz governorate, Khalifah Hospital was hit by artillery shells. **Sources:** [CIMP](#)

25 July 2020: In At Turbah city, Ash Shamayatayn district, Taiz governorate, hospitals were impacted by intermittent clashes taking place during the last weeks. The clashes have ceased following a demonstration on the 25th but the situation remains volatile. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

The Americas

Mexico

16 July 2020: The remains of four nurses abducted from a home in the Kennedy neighbourhood of Parral city in 2018 were discovered. The nurses were recent graduates when they were abducted by an armed group. Three people have reportedly been detained in connection with their disappearance. **Source:** [Borderland Beat](#)

24 July 2020: Near Huamuxtitlan, Guerrero state, the female director of the Huamuxtitlan Community Hospital was shot dead in her car by heavily armed men on the Tlapa de Comonfort and Puebla road. Hospital staff went on strike in response. **Sources:** [El Sol de Acapulco I](#) and [El Sol de Acapulco II](#)

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

08 July 2020: In Bukavu city, South Kivu province, a doctor was injured during a demonstration by health workers when police officers fired rubber bullets at protesters. The protest was part of a wider series of demonstrations by health workers across the DRC. **Sources:** [Actualité I](#) and [Actualité II](#)

10 July 2020: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, local workers employed by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) in the campaign against Ebola virus protested peacefully in the streets, claiming that they have not received their salary for the months April - June 2020. **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)

26 July 2020: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, the interunion association of health workers, Pool de Butembo, claimed that there has been a misuse of funds which were intended for the construction of 150 health structures within Butembo. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

27 July 2020: In Matadi city, Kongo Central province, a demonstration of nearly 100 people contracted by the Programme National de l'hygiène aux Frontières, as well as a number of nurses, were dispersed by the Congolese police with the use of tear gas. The health workers complained that their salaries had not been paid for three months. **Source:** [Actualité](#)

Nigeria

06 July 2020: In Cross River state, doctors declared an indefinite strike over public health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic in the state. **Source:** [EONS Intelligence](#)

15 July 2020: In Sagamo, Ogun state, resident doctors at the Olabisi Onabanjo University City Hospital working at the state COVID-19 treatment and isolation centre joined the indefinite industrial strike. **Sources:** [Punch Nigeria I](#) and [Punch Nigeria II](#)

15 July 2020: In Lagos, doctors issued a warning strike due to wage disparities. The warning strike was suspended three days later. **Sources:** [Vanguard Nigeria I](#) and [Vanguard Nigeria II](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

04 July 2020: In Tungipara upazila, Gopalganj district, Dhaka division, a doctor at the Tungipara Upazila Health Complex was physically assaulted by a man after his uncle died at the hospital. On 06 July, police arrested the perpetrator. **Source:** [New Age](#)

India

20 July 2020: In Guwahati city, Kamrup Metropolitan district, Assam state, a civilian was assaulted and severely injured by an officer of the Home Guard at Guwahati Medical College and Hospitals (GMCH) for recording the Home Guard personnel who was not implementing the necessary protocols required to contain the spread of coronavirus. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

26 July 2020: At Dhekiajuli, Sonitpur district, Assam state, a driver of an ambulance was carrying a coronavirus patient to Tezpur Medical College when he was seriously assaulted and injured by traffic police personnel following his involvement in an accident. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Pakistan

Around 23 July 2020: Doctors accused the government of mismanaging \$130m meant to fight the COVID-19 pandemic, which they claim is resulting in severe medicine shortages. The Government of Pakistan has refuted the accusations. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

Thailand

19 July 2020: In Phra Pradaeng district, Samut Prakan province, rioting young men damaged medical equipment at two hospitals following a brawl between two rival groups that left one man dead and two injured. The fighting began in front of a house in Moo 10 village in tambon Bang Ya Phraek. One male one was stabbed and taken to Vibharam Chaiprakarn Hospital where he died. Around 20 of his friends arrived at the hospital and went on a rampage, damaging equipment, windows, and intimidating staff. Two injured members of the rival gang were taken to Muangsamut Hospital, where the first mob arrived, and again ransacked the hospital, destroying equipment and furniture. The groups fled as police arrived. **Source:** [Bangkok Post](#)

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 the University of Manchester, 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, July 2020. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight, Attacks on Health Care Project.



WHO SSA reported incidents: July 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
Afghanistan	1													
Libya	2			1										1
Nigeria	1					1			1					1
South Sudan	3													3
Syria	2						1	1					1	
Ukraine	1												1	
Total	10			1		1	1	1	1				2	5

Date period: July 2020 **Data accessed:** 10 August 2020

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

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

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 05 August 2020.