

# Attacks on Health Care

Monthly News Brief

July  
2021

Insecurity Insight publishes data on incidents where health workers were killed, kidnapped or arrested (KKA) and incidents where health facilities were damaged or destroyed by a perpetrator including state and non-state actor groups, criminals, individuals, students and other staff members. **01 January-31 July 2021 Health Care KKADD is now available for download via our [website](#) or on [HDX](#).**

Past editions: [June 2021](#); [May 2021](#). Help support our work by sharing this resource with your networks. Please copy and paste this link: <https://bit.ly/July2021HealthMNB>

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## 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*

**17 July 2021:** In Kimini village, Niangoloko department, Comoe province, a health centre was vandalised by suspected Katiba Macina (JNIM) militants. Medicine was stolen, along with motorcycles, mobile phones, and money. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**27 July 2021:** In Madjoari village, Kompienga province, health workers' houses, a medicine depot and health supplies were looted by suspected JNIM militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

#### *Burundi*

**27 July 2021:** In Nyabihanga commune, Mwaro province, two male nurses working in a local health centre were abducted in two separate events. The first victim was abducted and taken away in a car by unidentified perpetrators in police clothes, and it was later confirmed that he was taken away for an investigation. The second victim was abducted from his home the following day by suspected agents from the National Intelligence Service (SNR). **Source:** [SOS Medias](#)

#### *Democratic Republic of the Congo*

**10 July 2021:** In Monge village, Irumu territory, Ituri province, a pharmacy and local health centre were set on fire during an attack on the village by the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF). At least seven civilians were killed and at least 30 civilians were abducted. Houses were also set on fire and goods were looted. **Sources:** [Buni Actualité](#) and [Kivu Security Tracker](#)

**Around 14 July 2021:** In the Bapere area, Lubero territory, North Kivu province, health workers of the Mambume health centre were threatened by Union of Patriots for the Liberation of Congo (UPLC) members for treating a victim who was previously stabbed by UPLC members. The health centre was closed for at least 10 days as a direct consequence of the threats. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

**21 July 2021 (DOA):** In Mause town, Lubero territory, North Kivu province, a local health post closed as a result of growing militia activity in the area. **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)

**26 July 2021:** In the Lusangi area, Kabambare territory, Maniema province, a male health worker was shot by armed perpetrators in his residence. He died of his injuries in the hospital in Kindu. The

victim held the head medical position in the Lusangi zone and had moved to the area one month prior. Following the attack, health workers stated they would leave the area if security conditions were not improved. A total of 14 suspects have been arrested for his murder. **Source:** [La Prunelle I](#) and [La Prunelle II](#)

**30 July 2021 (DOA):** In Samboko health zone, Beni territory, North Kivu province, health care activities remain suspended since April 2021 due to growing insecurity in the area in the form of increased ADF activity, including road ambushes, looting, and the killing of civilians. According to reports, 15 health personnel left the health zone seeking safer working conditions in a new area. **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)

### **Mali**

**12 July 2021:** In Karangana, Yorosso circle, Sikasso region, an ambulance and medical equipment were seized by unidentified perpetrators. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

In 2020, a common form of violence against health care in Mali involved [ambulances being shot at and damaged by armed groups](#); these shootings often targeted ambulances of aid volunteer organisations and local health care providers.

**13 July 2021:** In Niono area, Niono circle, Segou region, four INGO employees were abducted by suspected Katiba Macina (JNIM) militants. All four employees were released the same day. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

### **Niger**

**10 July 2021:** On the road between Dyaye and Banguiti, Torodi, Tillaben, a health worker was abducted by suspected JNIM militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

### **Nigeria**

**04 July 2021:** In Zaria city, Kaduna state, a large number of gunmen stormed the residential headquarters of the National Tuberculosis and Leprosy Centre for roughly an hour, kidnapping between six and eight people, including two female nurses, one of whom was with her one-year-old child, as well as a laboratory technician, a security guard and another staff member. **Sources:** [Daily Trust](#), [Eons Intelligence](#), [The New Arab I](#), [The New Arab II](#) and [VOA](#)

**06 July 2021:** In Damboa LGA, Borno state, a hospital in an IDP camp was attacked by Islamic State West African Province (ISWAP) militants. Six civilians were injured. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**10 July 2021: Update:** In Kaduna state, two nurses — who were kidnapped while on duty at the Doka General Hospital, Kajuru, in April 2021 — were released by their captors, who had been paid a ransom of NGN10 million and given two motorcycles. **Source:** [Daily Trust](#).

In 2020, at least [18 health workers were kidnapped](#) in Nigeria. [Download dataset](#).

**19 July 2021:** In Ugwolawo, Ofu LGA, Kogi state, a male doctor working at the General Hospital was abducted from the hospital premises by armed perpetrators. He was released the following day. **Sources:** [the Guardian](#) and [Daily Post](#)

**30 July 2021:** In Dansadau, Maru LGA, Zamfara state, a health worker and a visitor were kidnapped from the General Hospital by armed perpetrators. Reports suggest that the perpetrators raided the hospital looking for health workers. Two female hospital staff members were also injured during the attack. **Source:** [Council on Foreign Relations](#), [Daily Post](#) and [Eons Intelligence](#)

### **South Sudan**

**08-12 July 2021:** In Marial-Lou town, Tonj North county, Warrap state, Luanyjang armed youths looted and destroyed the Marial-Lou Hospital, and set fire to houses in the surrounding area. Medical staff were evacuated and no patients were wounded or killed. The attack occurred after fighting broke out between armed youth groups, which continued over several days. A school and other buildings were also burned. **Sources:** [ACLED<sup>1</sup>](#), [Radio Tamazuj](#), [Reliefweb](#) and [Sudan Tribune](#)

**12-18 July 2021:** In Lozho Payam locality, Mudri East county, Western Equatoria state, the military shut down the Buegyi Primary Health Care Unit after a local witch doctor accused the facility's chief of being possessed by evil spirits. As reported on 21 July, local authorities resolved to reopen the facility. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

## Asia

### *Afghanistan*

**A few days before 15 July 2021:** In Kunduz city and province, mortars of unidentified origin hit the main provincial hospital. **Source:** [BBC](#)

**As reported on 27 July 2021:** In Kandahar city, district and province, unidentified perpetrators have looted shops and drugstores, as fighting between Afghan Government forces and the Taliban raged on. **Source:** [The Khaama Press](#)

### *Myanmar*

At least 252 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health workers, facilities, and transport were reported in Myanmar between February 1 and July 31, 2021. Our latest [update](#) includes recent developments, information on the perpetrators of incidents and recommendations for state and non-state actors. Download [dataset](#)

## Middle East and North Africa

### *Occupied Palestinian Territories*

**09 July 2021:** In East Jerusalem city, Jerusalem governorate, West Bank, Israeli forces raided the Makassed Hospital, Mount of Olives, in search of a young Palestinian man they had earlier shot and injured in Silwan neighbourhood. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

**12 July 2021:** In the Zuwaydayn area near Yuta, Hebron, West Bank, a mobile clinic was seized by Israeli soldiers. **Source:** [ACLED<sup>1</sup>](#)

### *Saudi Arabia*

**As reported on 13 July 2021: Update:** A Saudi doctor who has been detained in conditions of enforced disappearance by Saudi authorities since May remains missing. The human rights organisation Al Qst believes that the reason behind her arrest was due to her social media activism. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

### *Syrian Arab Republic*

**08 July 2021:** In Markada town, Al-Hasakah, a doctor was detained because he passed a military vehicle of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) on the road. **Source:** [ACLED<sup>1</sup>](#)

**As reported on 10 July 2021:** In Al Waer neighbourhood, Homs city, sub-district, district and governorate, the Syrian Government has been involved in the killing of 5,210 people in the Abdul Qader Al-Shaqfa Hospital, according to new leaked documents released by the Syrian Opposition Coalition. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

**15 July 2021:** In al-Dana city, Idlib governorate, a doctor was detained in his clinic by Hay'at Tahrir al-Sham (HTS). **Source:** [SOHR](#)

**20 July 2021:** In Jisr al al-Shughur city and district, Idlib governorate, Syrian forces fired a Kornet-guided missile at a civilian vehicle, killing a member of the Syria Vaccine Team. **Sources:** [Airwars](#) and [SNHR](#)

**25 July 2021:** In Afrin city, Aleppo governorate, a Syrian Democratic Forces missile launcher shelled the Afrin health directorate building, damaging the building and equipment. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**As reported on 27 July 2021:** In Daraa al-Balad neighbourhood, Daraa city, sub-district, district and governorate, a blockade imposed by the Syrian Government and its Russian ally has completely cut off access for residents, including IDPs and Palestinian refugees, to health care and education. On one occasion, a woman died while she was giving birth because she was prevented from entering the hospital. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

**26 July 2021:** In Shiheil town, Deir ez Zor countryside, Deir ez Zor governorate, SDF forces raided several houses and arrested a male staff member of Shiheil hospital, along with three of his family members, including a child. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

## No Respite: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict

The 2021 SHCC [report](#) documents 806 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in 43 countries and territories in 2020. Health workers were killed, kidnapped, injured and assaulted and health facilities and transport damaged and destroyed.

Access the data via [Attacks on Health Care in Countries in Conflict](#) on HDX.

Factsheets and individual datasets are available for: [Afghanistan](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Cameroon](#), [CAR](#), [DRC](#), [Libya](#), [Mali](#), [Mexico](#), [Mozambique](#), [Myanmar](#), [Nagorno-Karabakh](#), [Nigeria](#), [oPt](#), [Somalia](#), [South Sudan](#), [Syria](#) and [Yemen](#).

## The Americas

### Colombia

**03 July 2021:** In Florencia, Caqueta department, a surgeon was shot and killed whilst travelling in his truck by unidentified perpetrators on a motorcycle. The victim was transported to the hospital but later died of his injuries. **Sources:** [El Espectador](#), [El Tiempo](#) and [Indepaz](#)

### Haiti

**05 July 2021:** In Martissant neighbourhood, Port-au-Prince, Port-au-Prince, Ouest, a nurse travelling in an ambulance was killed after the ambulance was shot at by armed perpetrators, likely gang members. **Source:** [MagHaiti](#)

### Mexico

**02 July 2021:** In Zacatecas city and state, unidentified perpetrators killed two government paramedics transporting a patient to a hospital for treatment. **Source:** [AP](#)

**02 July 2021:** In Tecoman city, Colima state, a patient who was admitted in a clinic for a gunshot wound was shot dead by two armed perpetrators after they stormed the clinic. The victim had been shot previously on the same day in Coahuayana de Hidalgo, Michoacan state. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**14 July 2021:** In Tapachula de Cordova y Ordonez, Chiapas state, the director of a health centre was shot and killed by two unidentified perpetrators. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**11 July 2021:** In San Cristobal de las Casas city, Chiapas state, a 42-year-old Italian man who worked as a volunteer at the community health centre Raiz del Viento was robbed and shot, ultimately dying from his wounds, by two men armed with a pistol in an apparent robbery. **Source:** [ABC](#)

In 2020, at least [seven health workers were shot and killed](#) in Mexico. In some cases, their bodies were left by the roadside. Download [dataset](#).

# 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

### *South Africa*

**As reported on 14 July 2021:** Triggered by the imprisonment of the former President Jacob Zuma, a wave of violence across South Africa has disrupted essential health care services, including the collection of medication by patients living with tuberculosis and HIV, the delivery of oxygen to patients needing it, and vaccination appointments. An unspecified number of clinics have reportedly been looted, while 241 public hospitals under the National Hospital Network are running out of oxygen and medication as they struggle with the third wave of COVID-19. **Sources:** [Reuters](#) and [The Guardian](#)

### *Uganda*

**04 July 2021:** In Kabale, Kabale district, Western region, a male health worker at the Kabale Regional Referral hospital was beaten by three bodyguards of the district commissioner when returning to his home, despite efforts of the victim to state he was a health worker. The security forces were reportedly enforcing Covid-19 curfew directives. **Sources:** [Ekyooto and The Independent](#)

**19 July 2021:** In Jinja, Jinja district, Eastern region, three medical workers of the Jinja Regional Referral Hospital were beaten by police officers when they were on their way to work. The victims were assaulted despite showing their identification. **Sources:** [All Africa](#) and [Daily Monitor](#)

## Asia

### *Bangladesh*

**06 July 2021:** In Muktagacha upazila, Mymensingh district and division, a politician and some eight to ten associates beat up a male physician at the upazila health complex, after the former was informed via the complex hotline that the collection of COVID-19 swabs from private homes had been postponed. Police subsequently arrested the main perpetrator. On 07 July, in response to the attack, physicians at the facility launched a strike in the morning. **Source:** [New Age](#)

**07 July 2021:** In Rajshahi city, district and division, police arrested a ring of three people — an office assistant at the Rajshahi Civil Surgeon Office, an ambulance driver at the Rajshahi Chest Disease Hospital, and his wife — reportedly for selling fake negative COVID-19 test results to patients who want to travel abroad. **Source:** [New Age](#)

### *India*

**24 July 2021:** In Sonarpur town, Greater Kolkata region, South 24 Paraganas district, West Bengal state, police arrested a pharmacist and coordinator of a vaccine centre on the charge of operating unauthorised COVID-19 vaccination camps across the region. The health worker would steal legitimate COVID-19 vaccine vials from the vaccine centre and administer them elsewhere in exchange for 300 or 400 rupees. **Source:** [NDTV](#) and [Sangbadpratinidhi](#)

## Europe

### *France*

**16 July 2021:** In Lans-en-Vercors, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes, unidentified perpetrators vandalised and flooded a COVID-19 vaccination centre with fire hoses, amid protests over new vaccination rules. **Sources:** [BBC](#) and [France 3](#)

**17 July 2021:** In the southwest, an arson attack of unidentified origin partially destroyed a COVID-19 vaccination centre, amid protests over new vaccination rules. **Source:** [BBC](#)

## Middle East and North Africa

### *Iraq*

**12 July 2021:** In Nasiriyah city and district, Dhi Qar governorate, a fire of unidentified origin broke out at the COVID-19 Unit of the Al-Hussein Hospital, killing at least 60 people. **Sources:** [The New Arab I](#), [The New Arab II](#), [The New Arab III](#) and [The New Arab IV](#)

**17 July 2021:** In Nasiriyah city and district, Dhi Qar governorate, a small fire of unidentified origin broke out at the Al-Haboubi Hospital, no fatalities recorded. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

**Around 17 July 2021:** In al-Rusafa district, Baghdad, staff members of the Al Kindi Hospital were attacked by approximately 10 armed men in a revenge attack for the death of four COVID-19 patients who died after their oxygen was cut following a power cut. The perpetrators were later arrested and identified as the relatives of one of the four patients. **Sources:** [Al Araby](#) and [Gulfnews](#)

### *Jordan*

**25 July 2021:** In Amman, two patients at the private Gardens Hospital, which is being rented by the Jordanian Government to treat COVID-19 patients, died after a short circuit led to a power outage at the facility's ICU. In response, angry people gathered outside the hospital, prompting security forces to seal off the building and prevent relatives of patients from entering. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

### *Syrian Arab Republic*

**11 July 2021:** In Atmah town, Idleb governorate, a local charity hospital was stormed by the family of a patient who had surgery in the hospital and died. The men assaulted medical staff and vandalised hospital equipment. Operations in the hospital were suspended until further notice to protect medical staff. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

## The Americas

### *United States of America*

**03 July 2021:** In Spokane Valley city, Washington state, a vandal smashed 14 windows and the main entrance of the Planned Parenthood clinic with rocks. **Source:** [AP](#)

## WHO SSA reported incidents in July 2021

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	# of reported incidents impacting health facilities	# of reported incidents impacting health workers	# of reported incidents impacting health transport
CAR	7	1	3	2
Myanmar	12	1	8	1
Nigeria	4		4	
South Sudan	2	2	1	
Sudan	1	1		
Syria	4	3	1	1
Total	<b>30</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>4</b>

Date period: July 2021. Data accessed: 19 August 2021

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

**This Monthly News Brief comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care.** It is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases.

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 5th August 2021.