Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

25 August - 07 September 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. **Access the data via our website or on HDX.**

Past editions: **August; July. Help support our work by sharing this resource with your networks. Please copy and paste this link: https://bit.ly/25Aug-07SepHealth**

Visit our **website**, join our **mailing list**, follow us on **Twitter**. Get in **touch** to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on.

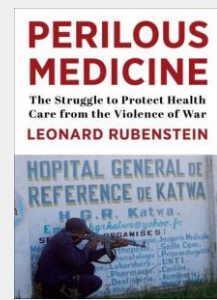****JOB OPPORTUNITY**** Health and Protection Data Specialist. Full time and fixed term. Based in New York, USA. The Health and Protection Data Specialist will be part of a consortium-led project designed to improve compliance with International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in order to increase protection and respect of protected facilities, and ensure access to healthcare. The Specialist will work closely with the project partners, including a Data Manager embedded within OCHA's Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX), as well as Insight Insecurity and Physicians for Human Rights (PHR). **APPLY NOW**

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).

OUT NOW: Perilous Medicine: The Struggle to Protect Health Care from the Violence of War by Leonard Rubenstein.

In a special webinar in honor of the release of **Perilous Medicine**, hear from Rubenstein and others in a panel held on Wednesday, September 15 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. EDT at the Bloomberg School that will cover themes and stories from the book. The panelists will discuss firsthand experience, compelling personal stories, and will offer a path forward. Register **here**.

Africa

Burkina Faso
01 September 2021: In an undisclosed location, a health worker was reportedly abducted or detained. **Source: WHOSSA**[1]

Ethiopia
Around 03 September 2021: In Sekota town, Wag Hamra zone, Amhara region, health centres were reportedly looted by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). Houses, schools, businesses and government institutions were also looted during the attack. **Source: ACLED**[2]

Mali
30 August 2021: In Bazi-Gourma village, Ansongo commune, Gao region, a health worker was abducted and motorcycles from NGO workers looted by suspected Islamic State of West-Africa Province (ISWAP) militants. **Source: Radio Guintan**

Nigeria

25 August 2021: In Borno state, MSF ended its activities, including treatment for malaria and malnutrition in Gwoza and Pulka due to security developments in the area and threats to humanitarian workers. **Source: MSF**

28 August 2021: In Etsako West LGA, Edo state, a male doctor was kidnapped by armed men along the Benin-Asaba expressway. The abductors demanded a ransom of 100 million naira. **Source: The Cable**

Somalia

28 August 2021: In Gedo region, the Bardere Somalia Red Crescent Society clinic and a mobile clinic were destroyed in an arson attack by protestors. Three health workers were also injured. **Source: ICRC**

Sudan

Week beginning 23 August 2021: In El Geneina, West Darfur state, health workers at El Geneina Teaching Hospital were assaulted on two separate occasions by an unidentified armed group. **Source: Sudan Tribune**

25 August 2021: In Morni village, West Darfur state, armed men assaulted several male and female health workers in Morni Rural Hospital. **Source: Sudan Tribune.** Possibly also reported by the **WHOSSA** based on the incidents occurring on the same day.

Asia

Afghanistan

21 August 2021: Across Afghanistan, individual doctors who criticised the Taliban COVID-19 vaccination policy have expressed fear for their safety. **Source: Turkish Medical Association**

26 August 2021: In Kabul, an Islamic State suicide blast at the Hamid Karzai International Airport killed 60 Afghans and 11 US soldiers, including a Navy medic. **Source: AP**

Myanmar

25 August 2021: In Bago city, Bago region, a patient receiving hospital treatment for COVID-19 was arrested by armed State Administration Council (SAC) forces for his alleged involvement in the PDF. **Source: Twitter**

26 August 2021: On Gaingaw Road, near Pindaing township, Sagaing region, a volunteer with the Charitable Youth Association was abducted by SAC forces while retrieving oxygen for COVID-19 patients. He was reportedly beaten during his arrest. **Source: MDHR**

27 August 2021: In Kan Ni village, Kyaikto township, Thaton district, Mon state, two men on a motorbike threw a bomb at the village health clinic. **Source: ACLED**[2]

28 August 2021: In SanChaung township, Yangon division, a 17-year old volunteer with a COVID-19 relief organisation was arrested at home by SAC forces, who accused him of being involved in a bombing. The victim had reportedly been working at the COVID-19 facility since May. He is currently being detained in Shwepyithar Interrogation Centre. **Sources: MDHR and VOA News**

30 August 2021: Along Lower Mingaladone Road, Insein township, Yangon city and division, two explosions occurred at the back of the Insein General Hospital. **Source: Mizzima**

Middle East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

27 August 2021: In an undisclosed location, two health workers were reportedly assaulted. **Source: WHOSSA**[1]

30 August 2021: In Dara'a governorate, the Al Shifa Hospital, the National Hospital and a school were hit by mortars, causing minor structural damage. **Source: OCHA Syria**. Possibly reported by the **WHOSSA** based on the incidents occurring on the same day.[1]

Yemen
01 September 2021: In Jawl ar Raydah town, Mayfaa province, Shabwah governorate, a male doctor was brought outside his private clinic and attacked by Islah-affiliated militants. The attack occurred after the victim refused to let one of the patients skip the queue. **Source: Yemen Press Agency**

The Americas
Haiti
25 August 2021: In Santo, Croix-des-Bouquets arrondissement, Ouest department, a female NGO employee was kidnapped by armed perpetrators whilst on her way to work. The victim worked as a laboratory technician and collaborated with a local hospital and prenatal clinic for over 15 years. As a result of the attack, the NGO closed all of their institutions in Haiti except for a hospital A&E department until the victim was released on 28 August 2021. **Sources: Facebook, Le Nouvelliste, and Mag Haiti**

Honduras
02 September 2021: In Comayaguela, Francisco Morazán department, a male patient being treated at a coronavirus unit was killed by armed perpetrators disguised as doctors. **Source: ACLED**[2]

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.

Asia
India
01 September 2021: In Dumka town, Jharkhand state, a female health care worker was beaten by a man who was waiting in the queue of a COVID-19 vaccination centre. The perpetrator was intoxicated according to witnesses and attacked the nurse after they were instructed to remain patient. He was arrested following the attack. **Source: Asia News International and Yahoo News**

Europe
France
As reported on 11 August 2021: Across the country vandals have attacked more than 20 vaccination centres and other health facilities, daubing some with Nazi-themed slogans in repsosne to the introduction of a health pass showing proof of vaccination or a recent negative COVID-19 test which is now mandatory for entering restaurants, trains and other public places. **Source: Reuters**

[1] WHOSSA accessed 09 September 2021.

[2] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) **database attribution policy**. Accessed 09 September 2021.