

Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

22 September
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2021

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No Respite: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict

The 2021 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) report '[No Respite](#)' 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](#).

Watch the [webinar](#) on the status of violence against health care in conflict, particularly in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, the current impediments to further action and strategies to address the problem at the global and national levels.

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

04 October 2021: In Yirgou locality, Barsalongho department, Sanmatenga province, Centre-North region, suspected terrorists seized an ambulance as part of a wider assault that left 14 soldiers killed and eight missing. **Source:** [Sahel Security Alerts](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

23 September 2021: In Bogio village, Ituri province, suspected ADF militia kidnapped a health volunteer during an attack on the village and a FARDC military camp. At least five people were killed in the attack and eleven houses were set on fire. **Source:** [Actualité](#)

27 September 2021: In Butembo, North Kivu province, insecurity in the region is disrupting the medication production at the laboratory of the Catholic University of Graben. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

Ethiopia

12 October 2021: EDF launch new offensive against TPLF in Amhara. Read Vigil Insights [Flash Analysis and Prediction](#).



Nigeria

28 September 2021: In Onitsha city, Anambra state, at the Eke Nkpor area, gunmen shot and killed a doctor, alongside his driver and security guard as he was on his way to Umuoji town. **Sources:** [Linda Ikeji's Blog](#) and [This Day Live](#)

29 September 2021: In Babangida town, Tarmuwa LGA, Yobe state, food and medicine at an IDP camp was targeted in an attack on the town by ISWAP insurgents. **Source:** [PR Nigeria](#)

02 October 2021: In Shinkafi LGA, Zamfara state, unidentified perpetrators opened fire on a public vehicle where a 37-year-old male nurse from MSF was aboard, killing him and injuring another person. **Source:** [MSF Western & Central Africa](#). Possibly reported by the [WHOSSA](#)¹ based on the incidents occurring on the same day.

03 October 2021: Violence reported at a health facility. Two deaths were reported; however, it is not clear if they were patients or health workers. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)¹

Asia

Afghanistan

20 September 2021: In Mazar-i-Sharif city and district, Balkh province, seven gunmen in a white car abducted a prominent 66-year-old psychiatrist, as he was on his way home. The victim, who is believed to be the only Pashto-speaking psychiatrist in northern Afghanistan, had received several death threats via messages and calls in the months before his abduction. **Source:** [ACLED](#)² and [The Guardian](#)

12 October 2021: Internal tensions within the senior Taliban leadership team. Read Vigil Insights [Flash Analysis and Prediction](#).

Bangladesh

As reported on 02 October 2021: In Peshawar city and district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, ISIS claimed responsibility for the shooting of a 45-year-old man and member of the minority Sikh community, which took place at his clinic of herbal medicine. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Myanmar

22 September 2021: In Kyaukse township, Mandalay region, a car bomb exploded outside the Public Hospital, killing one person, and injuring two others. State Administrative Council (SAC) forces have occupied the hospital for several months. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

23 September 2021: The SAC issued an arrest warrant for a doctor providing medical care to internally displaced persons in Mindat Township, Chin State. The victim was the intended recipient of the medical supplies seized on 19 September. **Source:** [The Irrawaddy](#)

24 September: In Chan Myawaddy Ward, Monywa city, an ethnic Kachin doctor was arrested by SAC forces while eating at a restaurant. The doctor had been treating injured protesters and civilians displaced by fighting in the Sagaing region since the coup. **Sources:** [DVB News](#) and [Twitter](#)

25 September 2021: Near the Myaynigone bridge, Sanchaung township, Yangon city, a doctor and nurse were dragged from their apartments at approximately 1:30 AM by armed SAC forces where they were tortured and killed. Both victims had volunteered to treat COVID-19 patients and were involved in the Civil Disobedience Movement. The military has portrayed the incident as a firefight between SAC and PDF forces, however footage of the incident captured by a bystander is inconsistent with this story. **Sources:** [The Irrawaddy](#) and [Khit Thit Media](#)

26 September 2021: In Sanchaung township, Yangon city, a doctor was arrested in her home by SAC soldiers. Her husband, also a doctor, was killed by SAC forces the previous day. **Source:** [The Irrawaddy](#)

26 September 2021: In Hmantaw village, Khin-U township, Sagaing region, SAC forces shot and killed three individuals, including one doctor affiliated with the CDM. **Sources:** [AAPP](#) and [Khit Thit News](#)

26 September 2021: In Mindat town, Chin state, SAC forces attempted to rape a 16-year-old girl and female health worker. It is reported that more sexual assaults have occurred in the town since the internet was cut down. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

27 September 2021: In Taunggyi township, Shan state, a doctor was arrested and detained by SAC security forces. The victim was a CDM supporter. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

30 September 2021: In Mandalay, SAC security forces raided a house and arrested a nurse and three university students. The victims are reportedly being tortured in detention. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

01 October 2021: In Thapankine village, Madaya township, SAC forces set fire to a charity clinic and nine houses. Two civilians were abducted in the attack. **Source:** [DVB News](#)

02 October 2021: In Monywa township, Sagaing region, SAC forces raided a hospital. This occurred during an attack on the civilian population of the town, leading to the destruction of housing and arrests of civilians. **Sources:** [Twitter](#) and [Khit Thit News](#)

02 October 2021: In Chauk township, Magway district, a medical student was abducted from her home by SAC forces. **Source:** [MDHR](#) and [Twitter](#)

03 October 2021: In Kamayut township, Yangon, armed SAC forces raided the private clinic of a doctor killed on September 25th. During the raid, a civilian was abducted. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

03 October 2021: In Min village, Yesagyo township, Magway region, SAC forces raided a charity clinic, destroying staff property and supplies and seizing medication. **Sources:** [MDHR](#) and [Twitter](#)

Indonesia

13-14 September 2021: In Kiwirok locality, Pegunungan Bintang regency, Papua province, separatist militants from the West Papua National Liberation Army attacked several public venues, including a health centre, a state-owned bank, a district hall, and several schools. **Source:** [Garda World](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

22 September 2021: In Beita, a Palestinian Red Cross volunteer was shot with rubber-coated steel bullets causing injuries to the chest and shoulder and another volunteer was beaten while they were responding to wounded people at a demonstration. **Source:** [MAP](#)

Yemen

25 September 2021: At Marib City, Marib province, Kara hospital was damaged when missiles hit the city. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

04 October 2021: In Dhi As Sufal, Lahij governorate, a male MSF nurse was ambushed, robbed of his personal belongings and killed in the late evening by armed individuals during a private trip with friends to Aden. **Source:** [AWSD](#)³ and [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.

Africa

Cameroon

As reported on 28 September 2021: In Yaounde, two medical doctors were assaulted by patients' family members. An investigation has since been launched. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo](#)

As reported on 29 September 2021: In Yaounde, the family of a patient who died at the central hospital realised that the belly of the deceased had been opened and stuffed with plastic in a suspected case of organ trafficking. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo](#)

Nigeria

28 September 2021: In Ogbomosho city, Oyo state, a chieftain of the People's Democratic Party arrived at the Ladoke Akintola University Teaching Hospital and commanded a doctor to place his relative on oxygen and move him from the Accident and Emergency Ward to the ICU. His aides thought that a doctor was filming the politician so they attacked the doctor, reportedly upon the order of the politician. This incident prompted hospital staff to embark on an indefinite strike until the politician offers an apology to the victim and the hospital. **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

Asia

India

27 September 2021: In Vasant Nagar town, Yavatmal district, Maharashtra state, a 32-year-old male attacked a doctor with an axe at a COVID vaccination centre. The perpetrator demanded he be vaccinated ahead of the queue and on refusal resorted to violence. The doctor was unhurt but pressed charges against the perpetrator in Digras police station. **Source:** [Times of India](#)

This Bi-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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Insecurity Insight. 2021. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 22 September-05 October 2021. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/22Sep-052021OctHealthBMNB



¹ [WHOSSA](#) accessed 11 October 2021. Two incidents reported for the period 22 September to 05 October 2021.

² Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 04 October 2021.

³ The [Aid Worker Security Database](#) (AWSDB) 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 published in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available. Accessed 08 October 2021.