

Due to the volume of incidents related to COVID-19, this edition of the Attacks on Healthcare Monthly News Brief focuses on incidents of threats and violence that are unrelated to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please visit our special [COVID-19 website](#) or join our [mailing list](#) for the latest information on reported violent or potentially violent events impacting the COVID-19 response.

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).

May
2020

Africa

Burkina Faso

30 May 2020: Near Barsalogo commune, Sanmatenga province, unidentified gunmen ambushed a gendarmerie aid convoy after delivering food to IDPs in the area, killing at least 10 people, including an ambulance driver and a nurse, and injuring about 20 more.

Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [Sahel Security Alerts](#) and [TRT World Now](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

14 May 2020: In Jiba health zone, Djugu town and territory, Ituri province, insecurity linked to the Coalition of Congolese Democrats forced health operators to evacuate from six of 14 areas since early-April, and the Jiba Hospital to shut its doors. Three pregnant women have since lost their lives due to unavailability of treatment. **Source:**

[Radio Okapi](#)

24 May 2020: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, unidentified perpetrators broke into the Kitulu Anglican Hospital before fleeing as police approached. **Source:** [Facebook](#)

25 May 2020: At Karambi village, Rutshuru territory, Nord-Kivu province, a nurse and a patient were attacked and injured by FARDC forces who stormed into the village's health centre looking for injured FDLR rebels. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Mozambique

12 May 2020: In Awasse, Mocimboa da Praia district, Cabo Delgado province, a Catholic hospital under construction and a house for Benedictine monks were burnt down by unidentified perpetrators during an attack in which several buildings around were also targeted. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

28 May 2020: In Cabo Delgado province, several hospitals have been left empty as health workers fled following suspected jihadist militants' attacks in the area. **Source:** [All Africa](#)

28 May 2020: In Macomia, Cabo Delgado province, a health centre was burnt down by suspected jihadist militants during an overrun into the city in which many houses and public buildings were destroyed and IS flags hoisted. **Source:** [BBC](#)

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.

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

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Niger

21 May 2020: In the village of Bani, Simiri Commune, Ouallam department, Tillaberi region, a health worker was killed, and a pharmacy depot looted by suspected ISGS militants. **Sources:** [Urgence Tillabery](#) and [Journal le Gardien](#)

Nigeria

31 May 2020: In Ojobo Community, Burutu LGA, Delta State, a male doctor was abducted from the Central Hospital by eight unidentified gunmen disguised as patients. They were freed on 07 June. **Sources:** [Daily Post](#), [Punch](#) and [The Nation](#)

Somalia

27 May 2020: In Gololey village, Balcad city and district, Middle Shabelle region, unidentified masked perpetrators kidnapped seven Somali aid workers and a civilian from a health facility run by the local NGO Zamzam Foundation, before executing them. The bodies of the victims were found the next day. Some reports point to Somalia Armed Forces as the perpetrator who retaliated following the death of soldiers, other reports blame al-Shabaab. **Sources:** [ABC](#), [ACLED](#)¹ and [AWSD](#)²

South Sudan

16 - 17 May 2020: In and around Pieri town, Jonglei state, inter-communal violence resulted in the death of a local MSF nurse and a local Red Cross nurse. Two other aid workers were injured. MSF subsequently suspended its activities until the safety of its staff and patients is ensured. **Sources:** [AP](#), [Doctors Without Borders](#), [MSF I](#), [MSF II](#) and [TNH](#)

Sudan

14 May 2020: In Rokero town, Central Darfur state, fighting between elements of two different sections of security forces led to a number of armed soldiers from both sides to violently force their way into an MSF-supported health facility. A female Sudanese MSF nurse and a man in uniform were caught and severely injured in the crossfire. **Sources:** [AWSD](#)² and [MSF](#)

Uganda

08 May 2020: In Turutuko village, Napak district, Northern Uganda region, an INGO doctor was killed by gunmen. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Asia

Afghanistan

12 May 2020: In west Kabul, unidentified gunmen wearing police uniforms stormed the MSF-supported maternity ward of the Dasht-e-Barchi Hospital, killing 24 persons, including two infants and 15 mothers, and injuring 20 more. An INGO midwife was also reportedly killed. A battle with security forces ensued, during which at least three perpetrators were killed. Over 100 people, including nurses and foreign aid workers, were evacuated from the facility. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [Global Security](#), [Khaama Press I](#), [Khaama Press II](#), [MSF I](#), [MSF II](#), [NBC I](#), [NBC II](#), [NPR](#), [The Guardian](#), [TNH](#) and [The New York Times](#)

19 May 2020: In Chardara district, Kunduz province, security forces bombed an unnamed clinic in an effort to thwart a coordinated assault on the area by the Taliban, injuring an unspecified number of staff and patients. Several parts of the facility, as well as its ambulances, were destroyed. **Source:** [The New York Times](#)

Health Workers at Risk: Added challenges of COVID-19

In this installment of the GISF Blog, Christina Wille, Director of Insecurity Insight, exposes some of the threats health workers are facing around the world and the added challenges brought about by COVID-19. Read your copy [here](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

19 May 2020: In Tripoli, an emergency doctor at the Dar al Shifaa Hospital was attacked by Lebanese soldiers after he insisted that the two patients the soldiers had brought, who were allegedly involved in a clash between two families, be treated before they are interrogated. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Libya

08 May 2020: In Gasr Al-Hajj, Tripolitania region, a suspected Turkish airstrike allegedly hit a building containing a medical team responsible for combatting COVID-19, resulting in several civilian casualties. **Source:** [Air Wars](#)

10 May 2020: In Benghazi city and district, Cyrenaica region, an unidentified armed group assaulted doctors and nurses, and opened fire in an indiscriminate manner inside the ICU of the Al-Jalla Hospital, assaulting doctors and nurses, and damaging equipment, including seven respirators, monitors and an ultrasound machine. **Sources:** [IRC](#), [WHO I](#) and [WHO II](#)

11 May 2020: Near Bani Walid city and district, Tripolitania region, a suspected Turkish army drone allegedly targeted an ambulance, reportedly resulting in the injury of a female patient. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

13 May 2020: In Tripoli city, Tripolitania region, suspected Libyan National Army artillery allegedly targeted Tripoli Central Hospital and the surrounding residential area with rockets, reportedly resulting in fourteen injured civilians. **Source:** [Air Wars](#)

14 May 2020: In Tripoli, Tripolitania region, indirect shelling attributed to the LNA hit the dermatology and ENT departments of the Central Tripoli Hospital, injuring at least 14 people, and causing infrastructural damage. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [Garda](#), [IRC](#), [WHO I](#) and [WHO II](#)

22 May 2020: In Ajdabiya town, Al Wahat district, Cyrenaica region, a clash between two unidentified armed groups reportedly erupted inside the Albrayga Hospital, injuring one staffer and two patients. The hospital director was assaulted. Two ambulances were damaged, and another was stolen. **Source:** [WHO](#)

28 May 2020: In Tajoura town and district, Tripolitania region, shelling of unidentified origin killed a doctor of the Tajoura Field Hospital. **Sources:** [Air Wars](#) and [WHO](#)

Yemen

06 May 2020: In Taizz al Thawrah, Salh, Taizz province, the staff of the emergency department of al Thawrah Hospital were attacked by unidentified gunmen. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

16 May 2020: In Qaniyah, Radman al Awad district, a field clinic was hit by artillery shells. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

The Americas

Colombia

21 May 2020: In Corinto municipality, Cauca department, two indigenous traditional doctors were abducted from their houses by unidentified heavily armed men. Their bodies were found eight days later with gunshot wounds in the Pueblo Nuevo community in Rio Negro. **Source:** [El Tiempo](#)

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

11 May 2020: In Mbandaka city, Equateur province, health professionals, including nurses and administrative staff, vandalised the building of the inspector of the provincial health division to denounce

the non-payment of their Risk Premiums for 16 months. Several windows were broken by stones and sticks, and the central door of the building was torched. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

The Americas

Colombia

08 May 2020: On the Frontera-Villahermosa federal road, Tabasco state, a nurse from a local children’s hospital was shot and killed by an armed man who emerged from a vehicle. **Source:** [Tabasco Hoy](#)

08 May 2020: In Torreon city, Coahuila state, two female nurses from the Mexican Social Security Institute and one female hospital administrator were found strangled to death inside a house in Torreon city. According to initial reports, there was no immediate evidence the attack was related to their work. **Source:** [Global News](#)

Mexico

09 May 2020: In Huitzuco, Guerrero state, an unnamed hospital was broken into by four armed men who shot dead a wounded patient recovering from a previous attack. **Source:** [Riodoce](#)

WHO SSA reported incidents: May 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													1
Libya	4												2	2
oPt	1						1							
Somalia	1	1	1					1						1
South Sudan	1		1											
Syria	2	1	1				1	1						1
Total	10	2	3	0	0	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	2	5

Date period: May 2020 **Data accessed:** 15 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, May 2020. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight, Attacks on Health Care Project.

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

