

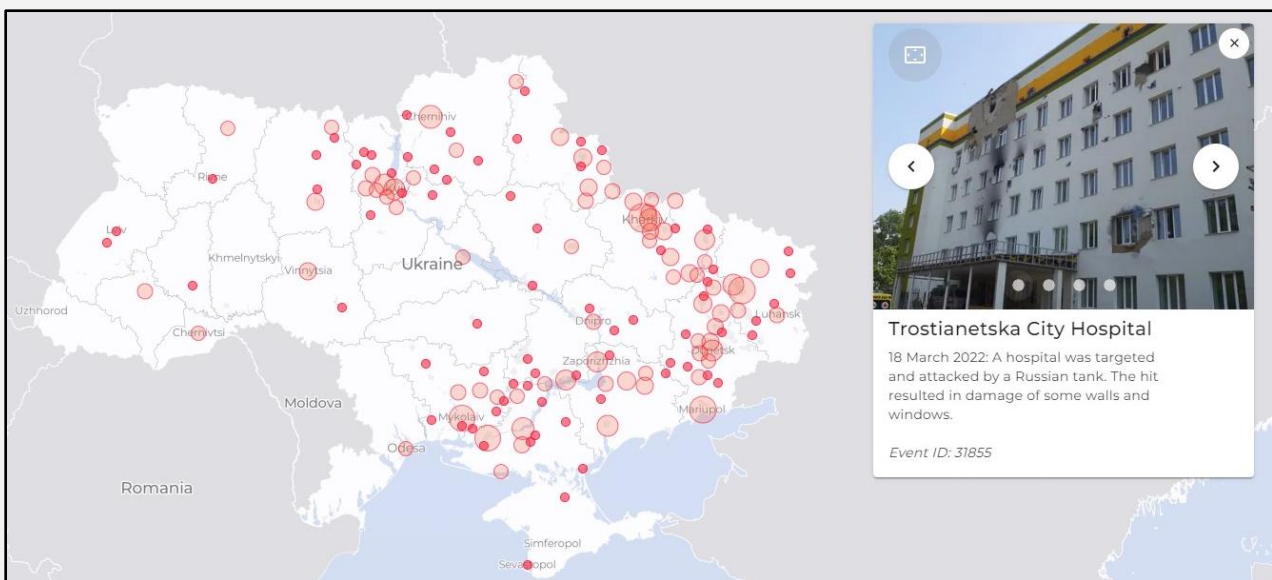
Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

08-21
March 2023

789 Attacks on Health Care in Ukraine Since the Russian Invasion

A total of 789 attacks on Ukraine's health care system have been documented between **24 February 2022** and **04 March 2023**. Explore this [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) to see incidents where health facilities were damaged or destroyed in Ukraine since February 2022. Access the [dataset](#) on HDX. This map is a joint undertaking among eyeWitness to Atrocities, Insecurity Insight, Media Initiative for Human Rights, Physicians for Human Rights, and the Ukrainian Healthcare Center. Together, our coalition of organisations has been monitoring and documenting attacks against Ukraine's health care system and its infrastructure since the onset of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.



There is a reasonable basis to believe that attacks on Ukraine's health care system constitute **war crimes** and comprise a course of conduct that could potentially constitute crimes against humanity as well.

Past News Brief editions: [22 February-07 March](#); [08-21 February](#); [25 January-07 February](#); [11-24 January](#); [All](#). Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: bit.ly/08-21Mar2023HealthBMNB

Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in curated datasets, if you have made a public statement that you would like us to include in our Bi Monthly News Brief, to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on. Visit our [website](#), join our [mailing list](#), follow us on [Twitter](#).

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

Central African Republic

16 March 2023: In an undisclosed location, five health workers were injured while working at a mobile health clinic. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)¹

Democratic Republic of the Congo

08 March 2023: In Bunia, Ituri province, a hand grenade was planted at a health centre by an unidentified armed group. It was diffused the following day by police. **Source:** [ACLED](#)²

12 March 2023: In Kirindera village, Beni territory, North Kivu province, a hospital was looted and set on fire alongside a hotel and homes by suspected ADF militants. At least 19 people were killed and an unspecified number kidnapped. **Sources:** [New Age](#), [The New Arab](#) and [VOA](#)

Mali

19 March 2023: Update: Two ICRC employees who were kidnapped by unidentified perpetrators on 04 March have been released. **Sources:** [Le Figaro](#), [Punch](#) and [VOA](#)

South Sudan

09 March 2023: In Old Fangak community, Fangak county, Jonglei state, the MSF-run Old Fangak Hospital was forcefully entered by an armed individual firing two bullets at an on-duty health worker inside the Emergency Room who managed to escape unharmed. A female caregiver was wounded by a bullet. **Source:** [MSF South Sudan](#)

Sudan

08 March 2023: In El Fasher city, North Darfur state, state authorities suspended the works of an LNGO providing support to victims of sexual violence, including IDPs. **Source:** [Radio Dabanga](#)

Asia

Myanmar

Attacks on Health Care in Myanmar

For details on reported incidents between 08-March 2023, please see this [document](#).

Past incident reports: [22 February-07 March](#); [08-21 February](#); [11-24 January](#); [All](#).

Past analysis reports: [April-September 2022](#); [1 February 2021-10 January 2022](#); [1 January to 31 March 2022](#).

Explore our [Attacked and Threatened: Health Care at Risk](#) interactive global map to see documented incidents in Myanmar since 2016. Includes details on who the perpetrators were and the weapons used. Access the dataset on [HDX](#). The dataset does not yet include incidents reported in this report. Registered HDX user? Follow [us](#) for the latest dataset updates. Join our [Myanmar](#) mailing list for regular updates.

Middle East North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

As reported on 09 March 2023: Israel has falsely accused Palestinian armed groups of using ambulances belonging to the Palestinian Red Crescent Society, who, in response, warned that such accusations directly incite and invite settlers and armed forces to target its medical teams and ambulances. **Source:** [Middle East Monitor](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

07 March 2023: In Homs city, subdistrict, district governorate, unidentified gunmen abducted a male doctor of internal medicine in front of the al-Razi Hospital, taking him to an undisclosed location. **Source:** [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

11 March 2023: Between Daraa and al-Sanamayn districts, Daraa governorate, unidentified gunmen kidnapped a 51-year-old male surgeon as he was travelling from Daraa to al-Sanamayn city, and took him to an undisclosed location. **Source:** [Syrian Network for Human Rights](#)

Yemen

13 March 2023: At Al Maryah locality, Hajar village, Ad Dali governorate, a hospital was damaged and health workers injured by an armed Houthi drone dropped on the facility. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

The Americas

Haiti

08 March 2023: In Cité Soleil neighbourhood, Port-au-Prince, gang violence reached the surroundings of an MSF hospital. A 70-year-old man was shot as he crossed the street to access the hospital. In response, MSF temporarily closed the hospital, and reduced activities at another.

Sources: [BBC](#) and [Doctors Without Borders](#)

Global Health Insecurity

These events affect the provision of health care but are not directly conflict related. These include events perpetrated by patients, relatives of patients, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by health care personnel.

Africa

South Africa

06-10 March 2023: Across all South African provinces, a strike by members of the Education, Health, and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU), including nurses, cleaners, and support staff, affected health services. Striking workers blocked entrances at various hospitals, preventing patients from accessing health care. **Sources:** [Daily Maverick](#) and [New Age](#)

As reported on 10 March 2023: In Bushbuckridge town, Ehlanzeni district, Mpumalanga province, striking NEHAWU members manhandled a female doctor at the Buffelshoek Clinic, as she was doing outreach work. **Source:** [Daily Maverick](#)

Uganda

06 February 2023: In Mbale city and district, Eastern region, unidentified perpetrators kidnapped a male doctor and former Manafwa District Health Officer whilst leaving home, taking him to Kenya. Following a ransom request, the victim's family went to the police, who got in touch with their Kenyan counterparts, leading to several arrests. In the interim, the victim was killed, and his remains were found in Kenya's Malava sub-county, Kakamega county. **Source:** [Nairobi News](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

18 March 2023: In Sonargaon city, Narayanganj district, Dhaka division, a male pharmacy owner was shot and wounded during a Rapid Action Battalion raid targeting an alleged murder suspect. A 65-year-old man was shot dead. **Source:** [New Age](#)

India

04 March 2023: In Kozhikode city and district, Kerala state, a senior cardiologist at the private Fatima Hospital was attacked by a group of people accompanying a pregnant woman. A long delay in the arrest of the perpetrators prompted the Kerala-chapter Indian Medical Association to call a statewide strike on 17 March, disrupting the normal functioning of clinics and hospitals, both public and private, except emergency services. **Source:** [The News Minute](#)

Sri Lanka

15 March 2023: In Colombo, an indefinite general strike involving more than 40 trade unions forced hospitals to shut outpatient departments, and schools to cancel term tests. **Source:** [New Age](#)

Europe

Germany

10 March 2023: In Karlsruhe city and administrative region, Baden-Württemberg state, 11 people, including customers and employees, were held hostage inside a pharmacy by a 20-year-old perpetrator. Police closed off part of the city centre where the incident happened, and stormed the pharmacy, freeing all hostages, and detaining the perpetrator. One of the hostages, aged 32, is also suspected to be an accomplice. **Sources:** [Novyny](#), [Radio Svoboda](#), [RBC](#), [Telegraf](#), [TSN](#) and [UNN](#)

Portugal

18 March 2023: In Lisbon, thousands of people participated in a march led by the General Confederation of Portuguese Workers, affecting hospitals, schools, and other public services.

Source: [New Age](#)

The Americas

United States of America

As reported on 20 February 2023: In Allentown city, Lehigh county, Pennsylvania state, Russia-associated BlackCat hackers targeted the Lehigh Valley Health Network (LVHN) with a cybersecurity attack, releasing on the dark web three clinical images of cancer patients under radiation oncology treatment at the LVHN Delta Medix facility, and seven documents containing patient information. BlackCat asked for a ransom payment, but the LVHN refused. **Source:** [The Lancet](#)

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. 2023. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 08-21 March 2023. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/08-21Mar2023HealthBMNB

¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 26 March 2023.

² [WHOSSA](#) Accessed 26 March 2023.

