

Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

12-25 July
2023

Past News Brief editions: [28 June-11 July](#); [14-27 June](#); [31 May-13 June](#); [17-30 May](#); [03-16 May](#); [19 April-02 May](#); [All](#).

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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

04 July 2023: In Fo town and department, Houet province, Hauts-Bassins region, Jama'at Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM) militants looted a pharmacy. **Source:** [TRAC](#)

Niger

18 July 2023: In Tientienga Foulbe village, Say department, Tillaberi region, a health worker was kidnapped by suspected JNIM militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Nigeria

13 July 2023: In Calabar city, Cross River state, a doctor working at the University of Calabar Teaching Hospital and member of the Nigerian Medical Association was kidnapped from her home by unidentified gunmen disguised as patients. **Source:** [Vanguard](#)

In 2022, at least 37 health workers were kidnapped in Nigeria. Most were abducted by unidentified attackers outside Nigeria's northeast in areas where kidnappings for profit are common and often involved health workers working with the national health structure. Read the full SHCC Nigeria Factsheet [here](#).

Somalia

08 July 2023: In Las Anod city and district, Sool region, Somaliland, the lab department of a hospital was hit amid a wider attack by the Somaliland military. Several people, including medical workers, were wounded. **Sources:** [Garowe I](#) and [Garowe II](#)

11 July 2023: In Las Anod city and district, Sool region, Somaliland, a health facility was attacked by unidentified perpetrators. Dozens of people, including medical workers and patients, were killed or injured. Two ambulances were destroyed. **Sources:** [Garowe](#) and [WHO](#)

South Sudan

As reported on 13 July 2023: In Aweil town, Aweil Centre county, Northern Bahr el Ghazal state, a group of teenagers stormed the Aweil Hospital, where they beat up nurses attending to wounded teenagers, whom they fought earlier, and patients. Four nurses got injured. **Source:** [Eye Radio](#)



Sudan

Attacks on Health Care in Sudan

At least 136 attacks on Sudan's health care system have been documented by Insecurity Insight between 01 January-11 July. Health facilities have been damaged in shelling and arson attacks, vital medical supplies looted, health workers killed, injured and arrested, and patients deliberately obstructed from accessing health care. Explore the incidents on this [interactive map](#). Access the data on [HDX](#). Incident reports: [12-25 July](#); [28 Jun-11 Jul](#); [14-27 Jun](#); [17 May-13 Jun](#); [27 Apr-16 May](#); [All](#) SHCC Sudan Factsheet. Available in [Arabic](#) and [English](#).

Asia

Afghanistan

15 July 2023: In Zabul province, the Taliban have prohibited the activities of an INGO which operates in the healthcare sector due to its refusal to employ individuals designated by the Taliban. This is the second time that this INGO's activities had to be halted after they refused to employ Taliban-designated individuals. **Source:** [Hasht-e-Subh](#)

As reported on 17 July 2023: In Zabul province, the Taliban Ministry of Public Health has ordered an INGO to halt its health care operations. **Source:** [Hasht e Subh](#)

17 July 2023: The Taliban Ministry of Public Health instructed provincial authorities to completely cease the health operations of the INGO Première Urgence Aide Médicale Internationale, without providing specific reasons. **Source:** [Hasht e Subh](#)

18 July 2023: In Khosh Gate area, Herat city, Herat province, a nurse in the Herat Provincial Hospital was beheaded after unnamed individuals broke into her house. It is unclear what the motives behind the attack were however it is the second murder of a female healthcare worker in the past three months. **Source:** [Hasht-e-Subh](#)

Myanmar

Attacks on Health Data in Myanmar

At least 190 attacks on Myanmar's health care system have been documented by Insecurity Insight between 01 January-11 July 2023. Access the dataset on [HDX](#).

Incident reports: [12-25 July](#); [28 Jun-11 Jul](#); [14-27 Jun](#); [31 May-13 Jun](#); [17-30 May](#); [03-16 May](#); [All](#) Safeguarding Health in Conflict Myanmar Factsheet: [2022](#); [2021](#).

Pakistan

06 May 2023: On Khadim Ali Road, Sialkot district, Punjab province, an unidentified person dressed in black shalwar kameez (a traditional dress worn by women) abducted a female doctor after forcibly pulling her into a car. **Source:** [Dunya](#)

Tajikistan

As reported on 21 July 2023: In Khorog city, Gorno-Badakhshan region, facilities belonging to the Aga Khan Foundation, including a medical centre and the Aga Khan Lyceum, have been forcibly nationalised by the Tajik Government, as hundreds of NGOs across the region were forced to shut or liquidate by means of a court order. **Source:** [New Age](#)

Europe

Ukraine

Attacks on Health Data in Ukraine

At least 996 attacks on Ukraine's health care system have been documented between 24 February 2022 and 25 June 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.

Middle East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

18 July 2023: In the West Bank, the Medical Aid for Palestinians announced that it would donate 20 bulletproof vests and helmets to the PRCS, whose health workers reported 193 separate violations in the first six months of 2023. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

24 July 2023: In the Askar Refugee Camp, Nablus city and governorate, West Bank, Israeli soldiers targeted a 24-year-old PRCS medic on duty with two bullets in both feet. **Sources:** [PRCS](#), [The New Arab I](#) and [The New Arab II](#)

24 July 2023: In the Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkarm city and governorate, West Bank, Israeli soldiers prevented PRCS ambulances from reaching four Palestinians who were wounded during a raid. Another ambulance was blocked from reaching a woman in labour. The crew was detained for half an hour, and forced to take off bulletproof vests and clothes. **Sources:** [PRCS](#) and [The New Arab](#)

25 July 2023: On Mount Jerezim, Nablus city and governorate, West Bank, Israeli forces shot and killed three young Palestinians, whose bodies were taken away to an unknown location by Israeli ambulances, and blocked access to the scene for PRCS medical crews. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

Around 13 July 2023: In the Za'rora area, Dara'a governorate, the body of a young man who worked in a medical laboratory was found tied and shot, killed by gunmen. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

18 July 2023: In Al Mayadin city, Deir ez Zor governorate, the Al Shafa Iranian Hospital was fired at by gunmen on a motorbike using automatic weapons. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Yemen

16 July 2023: In Barh (Maqbanah, Ta'izz governorate, Maqbanah Rural Hospital and ambulances were damaged when anti-Houthi forces used a drone armed with shells that were dropped on the facility. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [CIMP](#)

17 July 2023: In Al Hazm city, Al Jawf governorate, two patients were kidnapped from Al Hazm Hospital by Houthi forces after one of the patients had been injured in clashes with Houthi forces the day before. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

The Americas

Brazil

15 July 2023: In Vamos Ver o Sol neighbourhood, Teresina city and municipality, Piaui state, two emergency health workers were shot and injured by two armed individuals while responding to a victim of a previous shooting. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

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.

Asia

Bangladesh

12 July 2023: On Lakshmipur-Ramgati Road, Lakshmipur city and district, Chittagong division, fighting broke out between Bangladesh Nationalist Party protesters versus police and Awami League activists in front of the Diabetic Hospital. A 22-year-old was killed, whilst 50 more were injured. **Source:** [New Age](#)

15 July 2023: The Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh, supported by all doctor associations, announced a nationwide abstention from private practices and surgeries for 17-18 July

to protest the arrest of two physicians over alleged negligence and wrong treatment at the Dhaka Central Hospital last month. During the strike, doctors neither treated patients nor performed surgeries in private hospitals and clinics. Hundreds of scheduled surgeries were cancelled. On 18 July, the strike was called off upon the release of the two physicians on bail. **Sources:** [New Age I](#), [New Age II](#) and [New Age III](#)

Europe

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

13-18 July 2023: In London, junior doctors held a five-day strike, leading to the cancellation of nearly 30,000 appointments. **Source:** [NHS](#)

20-23 July 2023: Across England, National Health Service consultant doctors and hospital-based dentists held a 48-hour strike, where they would not see patients or supervise other medics as part of a planned industrial action. **Sources:** [New Age](#) and [NHS](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Israel

18 July 2023: The Israel Medical Association announced a two-hour warning strike 19 July to protest the proposed legislation by the Israeli Government prohibiting courts from using the Reasonableness Standard to review decisions made by government officials. **Source:** [Times of Israel](#)

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, 12-25 July 2023. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/12-25Jul2023HealthBMNB

¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 27 July 2023.

