






Attacks on Health Care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories

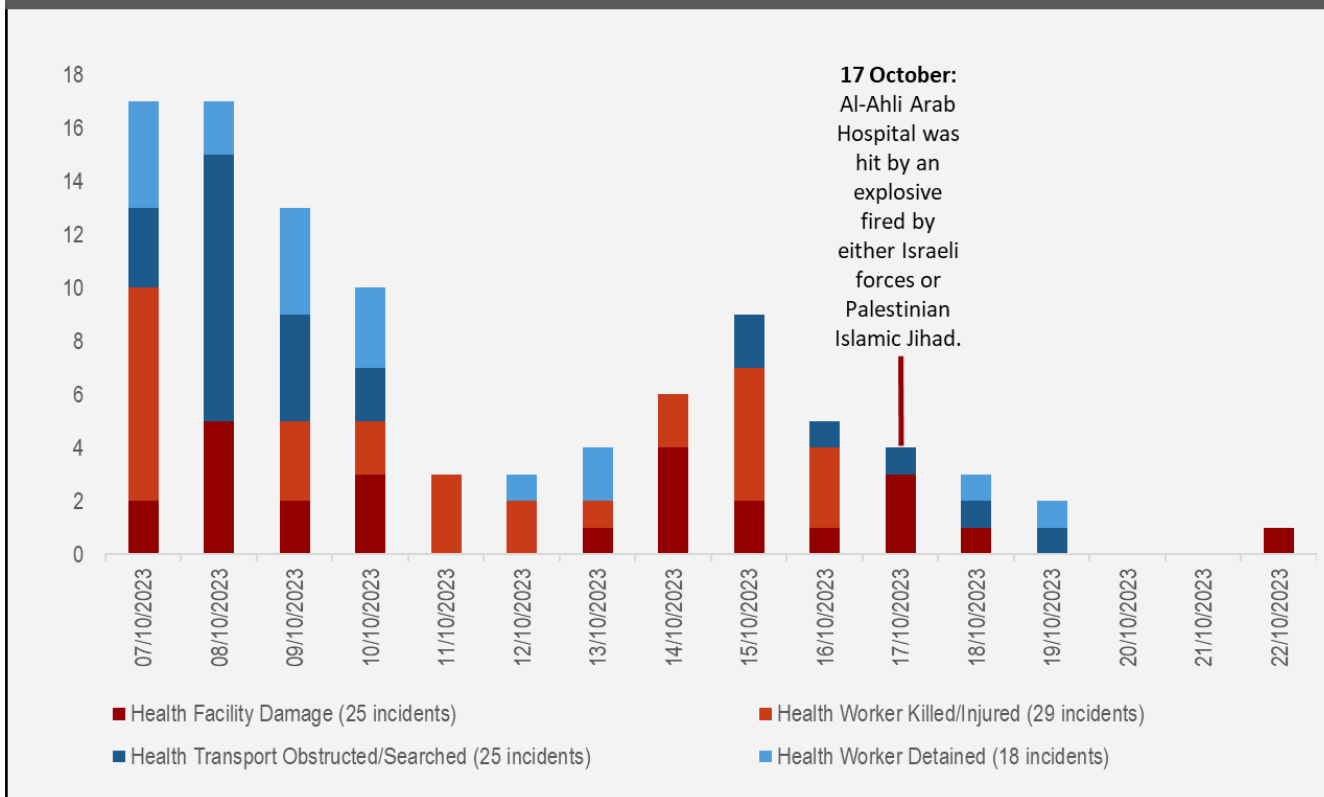
16-22 October 2023



Recorded violence against health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories, 07-22 October 2023

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| 150 | 43 | 37 | 29 | 25 |
| REPORTED INCIDENTS | HEALTH WORKERS KILLED | HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED | HEALTH WORKERS INJURED | INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED ¹ |

Recorded incidents in the oPt where health facilities were damaged, health workers killed, injured or arrested and health transport obstructed from providing care or searched, 07-22 October 2023



This data is available on [HDX](#). Explore the incidents in this [interactive map](#).

Note: In three incidents where health facilities were damaged, health workers were also killed or injured.

Insecurity Insight has identified 150 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories between 07-22 October 2023. Insecurity Insight calls upon all conflict parties to uphold international humanitarian law. Health workers and facilities are protected. Perpetrators must be held accountable.

In Israel where eight incidents were reported, a hospital was hit with rocket fire, three health workers were killed and an Indian nurse severely injured during attacks carried out by Hamas militants. In addition, a medical centre intended to move a department to its emergency underground hospital facility as a safety measure and the entrance to a hospital's emergency room was blocked by protestors over rumours that doctors there were treating a Hamas militant in the facility.

In the oPt where 142 incidents were recorded, 25 incidents reported health facilities being extensively damaged, some facilities were damaged more than once, 40 health workers were killed in 22 incidents and 28 injured in 12 incidents by explosive weapons used by Israeli forces in Gaza. In addition, in the West Bank 37 health workers have been detained in 18 incidents, mostly while responding to health emergencies, and ambulances have frequently been obstructed from reaching patients.

Below are the incidents Insecurity Insight has identified between 16-22 October. 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. There is a delay in reporting incidents due to our verification protocol. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available. If you have additional information on an incident documented here, or a new incident, please get in [touch](#).

Past incident reports: [12-15 October](#); [07-11 October](#). Visit our [oPt](#) page.

Join our [mailing](#) for the latest information. Visit our [global](#) map.² Download the data on [HDX](#)

Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: bit.ly/16-22Oct2023OPTHealth

2022 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) factsheets: [Arabic](#) and [English](#)

Israel

No incidents identified during the reporting period.

Occupied Palestinian Territories

As reported on 16 October 2023: In an unspecified location, a doctor was injured and pulled from under the rubble of her home after it was bombed in Israeli airstrikes. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

As reported on 16 October 2023: In an unspecified location, two dentists who were husband and wife, were killed in Israeli airstrikes. **Sources:** [Personal Communication](#) and [Personal Communication II](#)

16 October 2023: In Jabalia city, North Gaza governorate, the head of the search and rescue team, three paramedics and three civil defence members were killed while evacuating people after their headquarters was hit by Israeli airstrikes. **Sources:** [Personal Communication I](#), [Personal Communication II](#) and [PBS](#)

16 October 2023: In an undisclosed location, health transport was obstructed from delivering health care. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)¹

As reported on 17 October 2023: In Gaza governorate, several departments at the Turkish Friendship Hospital - the only specialised oncology hospital in Gaza - have shut down due to fuel

shortages which have impacted their ability to provide care to their patients. **Sources:** [Personal Communication](#), [Sky News](#) and [The Guardian](#)

17 October 2023: In North Gaza governorate, Al Karama Specialised Hospital was forced to close down after sustaining extensive damage caused by Israeli airstrikes. **Sources:** [LiveUAMap](#) and [Personal Communication](#)

17 October 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, at least 471 people were killed in a bombing of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital by either Israeli forces or Palestinian Islamic Jihad. The hospital housed both patients and Palestinian IDPs. This is the second time that this hospital was hit after receiving evacuation orders over the weekend. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [New York Times](#), [Personal Communication](#) and [The Guardian](#)

17 October 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, injured civilians arriving from Al-Ahli Arab Hospital are being treated without anaesthesia in Al-Shifa hospital after medical supplies ran out due to the ongoing siege by Israeli forces. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [Business Insider](#)

17 October 2023: In Deir al Balah governorate, Israeli forces reportedly threatened to bomb the Al Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

17 October 2023: In Beit Lahia city, Northern Gaza governorate, the Hala Shawa Centre for Maternal and Child Health services was hit in an Israeli forces airstrike. Multiple rooms were hit and the power generator was destroyed, leaving the health centre out of service. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

17 October 2023: In an undisclosed location, health transport was obstructed from delivering health care. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)³

18 October 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, Gaza strip, heavy bombing in areas around Al-Quds Hospital leading to shrapnel and damage to the hospital. **Sources:** [Personal Communication I](#) and [Personal Communication II](#)

18 October 2023: In Khan Younis city and governorate, heavy bombing was reported in the vicinity of the European Hospital. No reports of damage to the hospital infrastructure. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

18 October 2023: In an undisclosed location, health transport was obstructed from delivering health care. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)³

18 October 2023: In an undisclosed location, two health workers were detained possibly while transporting patients. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)³

19 October 2023: In an undisclosed location, two health workers were detained possibly while transporting patients. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)³

19 October 2023: In an undisclosed location, a patient was detained while being transported. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)³

19 October 2023 In an undisclosed location, health transport was obstructed from delivering health care. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)³

Between 20-21 October: In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli forces threatened to bomb the Al-Quds Hospital in the Gaza Strip, which is sheltering thousands of displaced women and children. The hospital is still facing continued demands for the evacuation of 12,000 citizens who

are seeking refuge inside the hospital. Sources: [Personal Communication I](#), [Personal Communication II](#) and [Middle East Monitor](#)

22 October 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, Al Quds Hospital was hit by Israeli shelling. Source: [PRCS](#)

Further resources

The Rules of War and Human Rights in the Israel-Hamas War: In this [Q&A](#), legal and human rights expert Len Rubenstein discusses the rules of war and how they apply to the events in Israel and Gaza, and what can and should be done to support health and human rights.

Why Gaza health care facilities and workers have suffered so much violence: A [commentary](#) by Len Rubenstein about the history of Israel's breach of obligations to protect health care in past wars and implications for now

This document 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. This document is funded and supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK government through the RIAH project at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester, the European Commission through the 'Ending violence against healthcare in conflict' project and through the project 'Ending violence against healthcare in conflict: documentation, tools, and data-informed advocacy to stop and prevent attacks' funded by the European Union. The contents are the responsibility of Insecurity Insight. **Insecurity Insight. 2023. 16-22 October 2023. Attacks on Health Care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/16-22Oct2023OPTHealth**

¹ Health facility: Refers to any facility that provides direct health-related support to patients, including clinics, hospitals, laboratories, makeshift hospitals, medical education facilities, mobile clinics, pharmacies, warehouses, or any other health facility not named here.

Health worker: Refers to any person working in a professional or voluntary capacity in the provision of health services or who provides direct support to patients, including administrators, ambulance personnel, community health workers, dentists, doctors, government health officials, hospital staff, medical education staff, nurses, midwives, paramedics, physiotherapists, surgeons, vaccination workers, volunteers, or any other health-related personnel not named here.

² Zoom in and click on Israel or oPT to see the latest figures. Click on the yellow square to read about the recorded events.

³ [WHOSSA](#) Access 23 October 2023. Reports from WHOSSA do not specify whether an incident took place in Gaza or the West Bank, and so the totals in the chart don't contain a Gaza/West Bank breakdown of incidents.

