

Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

20 September-
03 October
2023

Ignoring Red Lines

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition's (SHCC) **annual** report documented 1,989 attacks and threats against health care facilities and personnel across 32 countries and territories in armed conflict and situations of political violence in 2022. Includes 16 factsheets in Arabic, English and French:

Arabic: [oPt](#), [Sudan](#), [Syria](#), [Yemen](#) and [Executive Summary](#)

English: [Afghanistan](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Cameroon](#), [CAR](#), [DRC](#), [Iran](#), [Mali](#), [Myanmar](#), [Nigeria](#), [oPt](#), [Pakistan](#), [South Sudan](#), [Sudan](#), [Syria](#), [Ukraine](#), [Yemen](#) and [Executive Summary](#)

French: [Burkina Faso](#), [Cameroon](#), [DRC](#), [Mali](#) and [Executive Summary](#)

Past News Brief editions: [06-19 September](#); [23 August-05 September](#); [09-22 August](#); [26 July-08 August](#); [All](#).

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. Join our [mailing list](#).

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bit.ly/20Sept-03Oct2023HealthBMNB

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

Cameroon

15 September 2023: In Ouzal, Koza, Mayo-Tsanaga department, Far North region, a health centre and civilian residents were looted by suspected ISWAP or Boko Haram militants. Medical supplies, money, food items and other valuables were taken. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Around 23 September 2023: In Oudjila, Mayo-Sava division, Far North region, a health centre was reportedly looted by an unidentified armed group. Equipment and medicines were taken. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [Chronicles of Lake Chad](#)

Around 26 September 2023: In Kembong village, Mamfe, Manyu division, Southwest region, the District hospital was destroyed by Ambazonian Separatist. **Source:** [Cameroon News Agency](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

As reported on 02 October 2023: In Isale-Vuhovi grouping, North Kivu province, health centres decreased their activities in the area as a result of insecurity. **Source:** [Radio Moto](#)



Ethiopia

17 September 2023: In Kiremu, Kiremu woreda, East Wellega, Oromia region, two health workers were beaten and arrested by regional security forces accusing them of 'disseminating false information about the local authorities'. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

19 September 2023: In Finote Selam town, West Gojam, Amhara region, an ambulance belonging to Ethiopian Red Cross Association was reportedly looted by an unidentified armed group from its branch office. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Kenya

Around 22 September 2023: In Kainuk, Turkana South, Turkana, a health officer based at Loyapat dispensary and a boda boda taxi operator were killed by suspected Pokot militia who attacked the vehicle they were travelling in. The motive of the attack remains unclear and happened in the context of ethnic clashes along the Pokot-Turkana border. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Mali

20 September 2023: In the Salata quarter, Lellehoye-Gourma village, Ansongo cercle, Gao region, a health centre was looted by suspected IS Sahel militants who entered the facility and seized medicine, cash, and cell phones from staff. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Nigeria

03 August 2023: In Juruwa area, Dandume LGA, Katsina state, a health worker and another civilian were kidnapped for ransom by unidentified perpetrators. Despite the victim's family delivering the ransom three times, the perpetrators killed the victims. **Source:** [HumAngle](#)

18 September 2023: In Ogaminana area, Adavi LGA, Kogi state, a male doctor was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen shortly after leaving the Victory Hospital-Annex. In response, on 22 September, the Nigeria Medical Association Kogi State Chapter warned of an indefinite strike starting on 25 September, if security forces fail to rescue the doctor. On 25 September, doctors launched a protest, whilst the kidnappers contacted the family members of the victim demanding a ransom. **Sources:** [Punch](#) and [Sahara Reporters](#)

Somalia

26 September 2023: Near Hamare village, Doolow town, Gedo region, a NGO rented truck carrying medical supplies from Doolow to Luuq was hijacked by al Shabaab militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Sudan

Insecurity Insight has identified at least 195 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Sudan between 01 January-05 September 2023. Access the data on [HDX](#). See where incidents happened on this [interactive map](#). Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.

Past incident reports: [20 September-03 October](#); [06-19 September](#); [23 August-05 September](#); [All 2022 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition \(SHCC\) Factsheets](#): [Arabic](#) and [English](#)

Asia

Myanmar

Insecurity Insight has identified at least 275 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Myanmar between 01 January-05 September 2023. Access the data on [HDX](#). See where incidents happened on this [interactive map](#). Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.

Past incident reports: [20 September-03 October](#); [06-19 September](#); [23 August-05 September](#); [All Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition \(SHCC\) Factsheets](#): [2022](#); [2021](#); [2020](#)

Europe

Ukraine

At least 1157 attacks on Ukraine's health care system have been documented between 24 February 2022 and 09 September 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

Insecurity Insight has identified over 90 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories between 07-15 October 2023. Access the data on [HDX](#). See where incidents happened on this [interactive map](#). Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.

Past incident reports: [12 -15 October](#); [07-11 October](#)
2022 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) factsheets: [Arabic](#) and [English](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

Between 29 August and 05 September 2023: In al-Khabour al-Sharqi and al-Khabour al-Gharbi villages, northern rural Deir ez-Zor governorate, in the midst of renewed clashes between the SDF and the Deir ez-Zor Military Council, backed by Arab tribes, the SDF seized control of 18 schools, in addition to a medical facility and two other civilian facilities elsewhere, and converted them into military barracks. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

10 September 2023: In Hajin town, Deir ez-Zor governorate, SDF arrested a male security guard at Hajin Hospital, apparently as a way of putting pressure on his brother to give himself up to the militia. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

15 September 2023: In Daraa governorate, a medical student was released from their captives in exchange for 75,000 USD. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

24 September 2023: In Inkhil City, Northern Daraa governorate, a female health worker was accidentally shot and killed by a family member. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

As reported on 30 September 2023: In Horat Amarin village, Hama countryside and governorate, an armed man opened fire on the General Director of the Al-Sakilbiya National Hospital, his wife, and their daughter killing them, and severely injured other family members, before fleeing. The perpetrator is the ex-husband of the doctor's daughter. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

Yemen

24 September 2023: In Dhamar city and governorate, a medical student who was working at Al Wahda University Teaching Hospital in Dhamar University was shot and killed by a Houthi gunman. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [WHOSSA](#)²

24 September 2023: In Al Musayniah, As Said district, Shabwah governorate, a military ambulance of the STC Shabwani Defense forces was targeted by AQAP militants with an IED, killing four SDF fighters and injuring three others. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [WHOSSA](#)²

The Americas

Colombia

20 September 2023: In Timba town, Cauca department, a medical centre was damaged when a car bomb detonated in close proximity to a police station. **Source:** [Publicidad](#)

Haiti

16 September 2023: In Lizon, Neighbourhood of Bonrepos, Port-au-Prince, Ouest department, a doctor was kidnapped from his house by heavily armed men who demanded a 50 000 USD ransom for his release. **Source:** [RezoNòdwès](#)

26 September 2023: In Mirebalais commune, Centre department, armed men invaded and opened fire at the University Hospital of Mirebalais, leaving windows broken and walls riddled with bullet holes. **Sources:** [AlterPresse](#), [Radio Télé Galaxie](#) and [Reuters](#)

26 September 2023: In Port-au-Prince, Ouest department, the leader of a G9 alliance gang was killed by other alliance members near the Fontaine Hospital, prompting staff to fear counter-attacks. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

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.

Europe

The Netherlands

28 September 2023: In Rotterdam city, South Holland province, a 32-year-old student and lone gunman wearing a bulletproof vest opened fire in a classroom at the Erasmus Medical Centre, killing a 43-year old male teacher, whilst forcing patients and medics to flee, before police arrested him. Earlier, the perpetrator invaded a private apartment, where he shot and killed a 39-year-old woman, and seriously wounded her 14-year-old daughter. **Sources:** [AP](#), [Crisis 24](#) and [New Age](#)

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, 20 September-03 October 2023. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/20Sept-03Oct2023HealthBMNB

¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 03 October 2023.

² [WHOSSA](#) 03 October 2023. Two incidents reported for the period 20 September-03 October 2023.

