

Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories: Insecurity Insight calls for all conflict parties to uphold international humanitarian law and protect health care

11 October 2023

Recorded violence against health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories			
46	11	17	21
Reported incidents	incidents where health facilities were damaged	health worker killed	health workers injured

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

Since violence seriously escalated in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories on 07 October, Insecurity Insight has identified at least **46** incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care. 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. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available. Join our [mailing](#) for the latest information or visit our [global](#) map¹.

*“In 2022, we documented the highest number of attacks on health care in a decade with more than **1,900** attacks reported. These have continued into 2023 with high numbers reported in [Sudan](#), [Myanmar](#) and [Ukraine](#). The assaults on health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories mark the latest episode in this wider pattern. Their horrific consequences for patients and health workers will not only be immediate but will reverberate into the long-term at a time when access to health care could not be more crucial,”* commented Insecurity Insight Director, Christina Wille.

In Israel where three incidents were reported, a hospital was hit with rocket fire, a paramedic was shot and killed and an Indian nurse severely injured during attacks carried out by Hamas militants.

In the oPt where 43 incidents were recorded, at least 10 incidents reported hospitals, including a Ministry of Health Building, eye hospital, and children’s department being extensively damaged, 16 health workers killed and 20 injured by explosive weapons used by Israeli forces. Gaza's 13 hospitals and other health facilities are only partially functioning due to shortages of medical supplies and fuel to operate backup electricity generators. The siege imposed by Israel on Gaza and cuts to electricity severely hamper the continuation of medical treatments. Israeli airstrikes on the Rafah border crossing, the only exit and entry point not controlled by Israel, further undermine the ability of medical supplies to be transported into Gaza. In the West Bank, health providers face challenges in reaching casualties and preventing their transfer to and from the city of Nablus following the Israeli forces closure of all entrances and exits to the city.

Health care in the oPt had already suffered severe levels of violence prior to the latest hostilities. Insecurity Insight documented 171 reported attacks on health care in the oPt in 2022 for the [Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition](#), mainly involving injuries to health staff while they were providing care during protests or as a result of violence from Israeli security forces and settlers. Ambulances were repeatedly blocked at checkpoints and hospital entrances were obstructed. The factsheet is available in [Arabic](#) and [English](#).

¹Zoom in and click on Israel or oPT to see the latest figures. Click on the yellow square to read about the recorded events.

Some hospitals affected in the oPt had already suffered attacks in recent years. In one incident on 09 October, the children's section of Shifa Hospital, the largest hospital in Gaza, was damaged by Israeli forces shelling, causing parts of the ceiling to collapse and fall. During the 11-day military operation in Gaza in May 2021, Israeli forces' bombardment damaged roads leading to the hospital, **hindering** the ability of ambulances to access the area. Aerial bombing by Israeli forces during this period impacted hospitals, clinics, and health workers at least 53 times.

Insecurity Insight calls upon all conflict parties to uphold international humanitarian law. Health workers and facilities are protected. Perpetrators must be held accountable.

Media contact

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As an H2H (humanitarian to humanitarian) association, **Insecurity Insight** supports the work of aid agencies, providers of healthcare, education, and protection services, and other civil society organisations by providing publicly available information for evidence-based policies. We collect and analyse data about violence against civilians and damage and destruction of vital civilian infrastructure in order to strengthen civilian protection and the delivery of aid in armed conflict.

