

Attacks on Health Care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories

12-18 December 2023



Recorded Violence Against Health Care in Israel and the oPt, 07 October-11 December 2023

	 REPORTED INCIDENTS	 HEALTH WORKERS KILLED	 INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED	 HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED
Israel	14	9	1	0
oPt	496	115	97	84

Data source: [Insecurity Insight](#) on [HDX](#). [Contact](#) us for curated datasets.

Explore the incidents on our [interactive map](#)¹ and on this [data visualisation](#) by Soha Elghany.

Insecurity Insight has identified 510 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories between 07 October and 11 December 2023.

- Fourteen incidents were reported in Israel including nine health workers killed in attacks carried out by Hamas militants.
- In the oPt where 496 incidents were recorded, 362 took place in the Gaza Strip and 83 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.¹ Of the 97 incidents that reported health facilities being extensively damaged, at least 13 hospitals were damaged more than once. In addition, 115 health workers were killed in 75 incidents mostly by explosive weapons used by Israeli forces in Gaza. We are aware of other sources reporting higher health worker killings. 115 is based on the number of health workers killed where location and date has been identified as we do not report aggregate numbers but compile our numbers based on individually reported cases. We continue to work on collating a complete list from information that has been provided in different formats such as names or professions of health workers who were killed. This cross-checking process is complex to avoid double counting the same individuals based on the fact that different victim information was provided by different information providers. The total number of health workers killed is believed to be higher than the current verified number.
- In the West Bank, at least 45 health workers have been detained in 25 incidents, mostly while responding to health emergencies, and ambulances have frequently been obstructed from reaching patients in need of care. In Gaza, at least 37 health workers have been detained in 21 incidents.

Insecurity Insight calls for independent investigations and for all conflict parties to uphold international humanitarian law. Health workers and facilities are protected.

¹ 52 incidents were recorded by the WHO SSA without specifying the location and no additional source could be identified to determine the location of the reported incident.



Press release by Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP)

The reported number of healthcare workers killed in ten weeks of Israel's assault on Gaza has exceeded the total number killed in all countries in conflict globally in any single year since 2016, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) said earlier this week. Since Israel's military assault began on 7 October, at least **300 healthcare workers have been reported killed**, according to the UN. This is more than the total number of health worker deaths recorded **across all countries in conflict last year, and in any single year since 2016**. Israel's relentless attacks on healthcare personnel and facilities, and total siege, are systematically dismantling Gaza's health system. Less than a quarter of hospitals are functioning due to insecurity, damage and lack of fuel, and the average bed occupancy of those that remain operational is more than 200%. Melanie Ward, MAP's CEO, said: "We are witnessing a whole new scale of attacks on healthcare in Gaza. There is a real danger that, when world leaders return from their Christmas holidays, there will be no health system left in Gaza to serve the 2.2 million people who are in desperate need." **[Read more](#)**

The incidents reported below are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care between 12-18 December 2023 and have not been verified through ground investigations. There is a delay in reporting incidents due to our open source 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](#)**. **Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: bit.ly/12-18Dec2023OPTHealth**

Past incident reports: **[01-11 December](#)**; **[24-30 November](#)**; **[12-23 November](#)**; **[06-11 November](#)**; **[01-05 November](#)**; **[All](#)**

Visit our **[oPt](#)** webpage. Join our **[mailing](#)** for the latest information. 2022 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) factsheets: **[Arabic](#)** and **[English](#)**

Israel

No incidents identified during the reporting period.

Occupied Palestinian Territories

Gaza

12 December 2023: In Beit Lahia city, North Gaza governorate, surgeons of Al-Awda Hospital were forced to do an emergency leg amputation on a five-year-old girl due to lack of medicines. Staff warned that food, medication and fuel will likely run out in two days, meaning they will not be able to operate the generator. The hospital has been under siege for nine days. **Sources:** **[AWDA I](#)** and **[AWDA II](#)**

12 December 2023: In Beit Lahia city, North Gaza governorate, Kamal Adwan Hospital was stormed by Israeli soldiers. 70 staff including the hospital director were forcibly removed from the hospital and taken to an unknown location. The remaining staff were ordered to collect all patients and carers into one building, where they remain without electricity, water, or food, and evacuate the other buildings. The Ministry of Health in Gaza said Israeli forces forced all the 2,500 IDPs taking refuge inside the hospitals to leave **Sources:** **[Al Jazeera](#)**, **[Healthcare Workers Watch I](#)**, **[Healthcare Workers Watch II](#)**, **[Personal Communication](#)**, **[Medical Aid for Palestinians \(MAP\)](#)**, **[OCHA Flash 67](#)**, **[OCHA Flash 69](#)**, **[Quds News Network](#)** and **[WAFA](#)**

Update: 13 December 2023: In Beit Lahia city, North Gaza governorate, Israeli forces released five doctors and all the female staff from Kamal Adwan Hospital from custody, detained the previous day. They reported that they were interrogated, beaten, and exposed to the harsh weather before they eventually returned to the Kamal Adwan hospital. Following their release, Israeli forces allegedly shot and injured five people while they were on their way back to the hospital. WHO expressed its concern for 65 patients including several needing intensive care, and 45 medical staff at the hospital. The facility was already operating at a minimal level due to acute

shortages of fuel, water, food and medical supplies. **Sources:** [OCHA Flash 68](#) and [OCHA Flash 69](#)

Update: 13 December 2023: In Beit Lahia city, North Gaza governorate, Al Awda Hospital remains besieged for the ninth day. 43 patients and 96 health workers are trapped inside. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

13 December 2023: In Jabalia city, North Gaza governorate, an UNRWA-flagged medical centre was hit by an Israeli airstrike. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

13 December 2023: In Khan Younis governorate, the vicinity of Nasser Hospital was repeatedly bombarded, impeding the access of dozens of casualties. This hospital is among ten in the south still partially operational and sheltering thousands of IDPs. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 68](#)

13 December 2023: In an unspecified location in the Gaza Strip, a surgeon was arrested by Israeli forces during a mass detainment campaign across northern Gaza. **Sources:** [Personal Communication](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

13 December 2023: In an unspecified location in the Gaza Strip, a fourth year medical student volunteering at Kamal Adwan Hospital was arrested by Israeli forces during a mass detainment campaign across northern Gaza. **Source:** [War Monitors](#)

Update: 14 December 2023: In Beit Lahiya city, North Gaza governorate, for the third consecutive day, Israeli troops, accompanied by tanks, raided Kamal Adwan Hospital. The pharmacy was burned and parts of the hospital were bulldozed including the laboratory and radiology departments. Hospital vehicles were crushed and staff cars destroyed. Five injured people were arrested. At least seven patients have died due to lack of medical provisions since Israeli forces besieged the hospital. **Sources:** [Personal Communication](#) and [OCHA Flash 69](#)

14 December 2023: In Jabalia city and governorate, the Jabalya Health Centre was reportedly hit, with severe damage caused to the centre and the vicinity. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 69](#)

14 December 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, the vicinity of Al Ahli Hospital was hit by an Israeli airstrike, causing damage. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 70](#)

14 December 2023: In the Gaza Strip, PRCS completely lost contact with their operations room and teams due to the fifth telecommunication blackout. **Source:** [PRCS](#)

14 December 2023: In the Gaza Strip, the Ministry of Health announced it has run out of vaccinations, raising severe concerns of the spread of disease. **Source:** [Medical Aid for Palestinians](#)

Update: 16 December 2023: In Beit Lahiya city, Northern Gaza governorate, the courtyard of Kamal Adwan Hospital was bulldozed by Israeli forces after the hospital was stormed. The courtyard contained many tents set up by persons sheltering inside the hospital and reports suggest that people were not given a chance to escape resulting in an unspecified number of persons, including patients and injured displaced persons, being run over by the bulldozers, buried alive and killed. Following the incident, Israeli forces withdrew from the hospital after four days of besieging the facility. The MoH in Ramallah called for an investigation into the incident. According to the Israeli army, it has detained 90 people, and found weapons and munitions inside the hospital. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [France 24](#), [Medical Aid for Palestinians](#), [OCHA Flash 71](#), [Personal Communication I](#), [Personal Communication II](#), [Quds News Network](#), [The New Arab](#) and [War Monitor](#)

15 December 2023: In Khan Yunis governorate, Israeli forces reportedly opened fire on ambulances that tried to reach an injured Al Jazeera journalist after Israeli forces bombed the area while they were covering a Haifa School airstrike. **Source:** [War Monitors](#)

As reported on 16 December 2023: In Beit Lahia city, North Gaza governorate, the director of Al Awda Hospital stated that medical aid had not reached the facility for the past 67 days, and that oxygen supplies and support for patients had run out. Israeli forces, including tanks, surrounded the hospital, blocking the entrance. Two floors of the hospital were hit in attacks, with the surgical wards destroyed. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 71](#)

17 December 2023: In northern Gaza, a nurse and his baby were killed when Israeli forces shelled a residential block. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

17 December 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, 31 people were killed in Al Shifa Hospital by Israeli soldiers who fired at people inside the hospital compound. At least six people were also shot and injured. **Source:** [International Middle East Media Center](#) and [Personal Communication](#)

17 December 2023: In Jabalia Refugee Camp, Jabalia governorate, Israeli forces took control of Awda Hospital after besieging it for 12 days. 21 health workers, including six MSF staff were detained by Israeli forces. They were stripped naked and interrogated for four hours before being sent back into the hospital and told not to move. The hospital director was taken away and his whereabouts are unclear. The hospital is now out of essentials like general anaesthetic and oxygen. **Sources:** [Middle East Eye](#), [MSF](#) and [Personal Communication](#)

17 December 2023: In Beit Lahia city, North Gaza governorate, a Ministry of Health team held a press conference at the entrance to the partly destroyed Kamal Adwan Hospital to describe the attacks on the hospital in the past few days when Israeli forces opened fire towards them on camera. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [Personal Communication](#), [Quds News Network](#) and [Middle East Eye](#)

17 December 2023: In Khan Yunis city and governorate, the Nasser Medical Complex was hit by an Israeli tank shell overnight, damaging the maternity ward. A 13-year-old girl, who was a patient at the hospital, was killed during the attack. An unspecified number of people were also injured. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [AA](#), [Personal Communication I](#), [Personal Communication II](#), [Quds News Network I](#), [Quds News Network II](#), [Quds News Network III](#) and [The Guardian](#)

17 December 2023: In an unspecified location in the Gaza Strip, husband and wife doctors and their five children were killed, likely by Israeli bombing. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

18 December 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, the Al Ahli Baptist Hospital was stormed and taken over by Israeli forces who ordered everyone, including medical staff to gather outside. At least two doctors were arrested and other people were forced to leave the facility. The hospital is out of service. **Sources:** [Personal Communication](#) and [TRT World](#)

18 December 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, Al Shifa Hospital was raided in the early morning and taken over by Israeli forces who cleared the hospital. Israeli tank shelling hit the entrance gate and the courtyard of the hospital. The surgery building was also hit by an Israeli airstrike, killing five people including children. **Sources:** [AA](#), [Personal Communication I](#), [Personal Communication II](#) and [International Middle East Media Center](#)

18 December 2023: In Gaza city and governorate, the Al Shifa Hospital was struck again at about 10:30 am by Israeli artillery shelling and gunfire. At least 26 Palestinians who were sheltering inside the hospital were killed and an unspecified number of others injured. The head of the emergency department was killed during the attack, along with his wife who was also a doctor and their five children. **Sources:** [Anadolu Ajansi II](#) and [International Middle East Media Center](#)

West Bank

12 December 2023: In Jenin city and governorate, an injured person with gunshot injuries to his thigh died after PRCS teams were prevented from transporting him to hospital for half an hour by Israeli forces. **Source:** [PRCS](#)

12 December 2023: In Jenin Refugee Camp, Jenin governorate, Israeli forces prevented PRCS teams from providing medical assistance to people injured during their on-going military raid on the camp. **Source:** [PRCS](#)

13 December 2023: In Jenin city and governorate, an ambulance was obstructed by Israeli forces from providing medical assistance to people injured during their on-going military raid on the camp. A paramedic said that Israeli soldiers were preventing them from evacuating wounded individuals without an ID number, ID copy or ID card. A man suffering from multiple gunshot wounds was prevented from being evacuated by Israeli soldiers, as result he died inside the ambulance. A 13-year-old boy also died as a result of Israeli soldiers preventing him from reaching a hospital. **Sources:** [France 24](#), [Middle East Eye](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

14 December 2023: In Jenin city and governorate,, a 17-year-old Palestinian boy was shot and killed inside Khalil Suleiman Hospital compound by Israeli forces. **Sources:** [AA](#), [Middle East Eye](#), [MSF](#) and [OCHA Flash 69](#)

14 December 2023: In Jenin city and governorate, ambulances carrying patients outside Khalil Suleiman Hospital were stopped by Israeli forces. The paramedics and ambulance drivers were forced out of the ambulance, stripped and forced to kneel in the street. **Sources:** [AA](#), [OCHA Flash 69](#), [MSF](#) and [Middle East Eye](#)

14 December 2023: In Jenin city and governorate, Jenin Governmental Hospital was raided by Israeli forces. All patients and companions were arrested, and forced to remove their clothes. Tear gas was fired inside the hospital courtyard. A number of premature babies were moved from their ward as there was a risk of them inhaling the gas. **Sources:** [Middle East Eye](#) and [Personal Communication](#)

17 December 2023: In Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkarem governorate, an injured person died after Israeli forces prevented PRCS ambulance crews from entering the camp to transfer the critically injured individual with a head injury, despite coordination through the ICRC. **Sources:** [PRCS](#), [Personal Communication](#) and [WAFA](#)

17 December 2023: In Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkarem governorate, a PRCS volunteer was arrested by Israeli forces from an ambulance while heading to transport a medical case from the camp after obtaining coordination. **Source:** [PRCS](#) and [WAFA](#)

17 December 2023: In Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkarem governorate, Israeli forces arrested a 16-year-old injured individual who PRCS emergency teams had transported from a shelling site within the camp. The child was detained briefly before being released back to the medical teams. **Sources:** [PRCS](#) and [WAFA](#)

17 December 2023: In Beita town, Nablus governorate, the Nablus Emergency Centre was raided by Israeli forces and medical crews were prevented from entering the centre. **Source:** [WAFA](#)

18 December 2023: In Jayyus village, Qalqilya governorate, a PRCS team was prevented from reaching a man who was shot and injured. The man was detained by the soldiers. **Source:** [IMEMC](#)

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 verified through ground investigations. This report 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, by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and by the Tides Foundation. The opinions expressed in it do not reflect in any way the position of the UK government, USAID, the U.S. Government or the Tides Foundation who are not responsible for the content expressed in this document. **Insecurity Insight. 2023. 12-18 December 2023. Attacks on Health Care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/12-18Dec2023OPTHealth**

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.

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

