

# Attacks on Health Care

## Bi-Monthly News Brief

10-23  
January  
2024

Past editions: [27 December-09 January](#); [13-26 December](#); [29 November 12 December](#); [15-28 November](#); [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](#). Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: [bit.ly/12-23Jan2024HealthBMNB](https://bit.ly/12-23Jan2024HealthBMNB)

## 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

#### Ethiopia

**12 January 2024:** In the Tigray region, an ambulance driver from Ethiopia Red Cross was shot while on duty in a vehicle clearly marked with the Red Cross emblem. He was severely injured and died before reaching hospital. **Source:** [IFRC](#)

#### Mali

**17 January 2024:** In Saye area. Macina, Segou region, three health workers and their driver were kidnapped by JNIM militants. All were released along with their vehicle on 19 January. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

#### South Sudan

**19 January 2024:** In Turalei payam, Twic county, Warrap state, gunmen vandalised a Primary Healthcare Unit with six buildings, a school, and government buildings. **Source:** [Eye Radio](#)

### Sudan

#### 🚨 Insecurity Insight identified at least 254 attacks on Sudan's health care system in 2023

At least 54 health workers were killed in 41 incidents, compared to thirteen in six incidents in [2022](#). Health worker killings were spread across nine states, with most taking place in Khartoum. Doctors, dentists, gynaecologists, medical students, pharmacists, nurses, ophthalmologists, and a laboratory technician were killed inside their homes, while travelling to and from work and at hospitals' and clinics during working hours. Most of those killed were hit by stray bullets or during indiscriminate shelling, and on one occasion an armed drone strike. This violence against health workers impacts health providers' ability to maintain staffing levels that can fulfil patient needs and affects staff well-being. Explore this [interactive map](#) to see where incidents happened. Access the data on [HDX](#). Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested in curated datasets. Numbers may change if or when further information is made available.

Past incident reports: [27 December-09 January](#); [13-26 December](#); [All](#)  
2022 SHCC Factsheets: [Arabic](#) and [English](#)



# Asia

## Myanmar

### Press Release: Third Anniversary of the Myanmar Coup - Over 1,000 Attacks on Health Care

Since the armed forces seized control of Myanmar on 1 February 2021 following a general election that the National League for Democracy party won by a landslide, Insecurity Insight has identified 1,127 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the country.

Starting in late 2022, armed violence has escalated, with the Myanmar military increasingly using aircraft-delivered explosive weapons against communities that strongly resisted the military's rule. At least 49 incidents were recorded in which Myanmar military aircraft dropped explosive weapons that damaged clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, and rural health centres, and killed or injured health workers. Most of these incidents occurred in Kayah state.

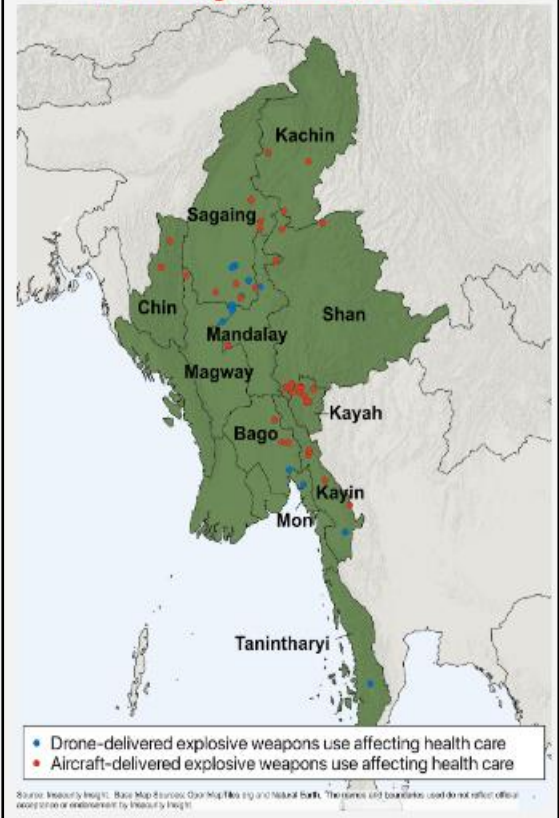
**“The biggest challenge for me is when ... the patient should be taking medicine but I have no medicine to prescribe. That really hits me and upsets me.”**  
**Volunteer nurse in Kayah state**

Since April 2023 opposition groups have increasingly been using drones armed with explosive weapons to carry out attacks on Myanmar military forces occupying hospitals and health centres. In at least 25 incidents drone-delivered explosive weapons damaged health facilities taken over by the Myanmar military. Most of these incidents occurred in Sagaing.

Air-dropped explosive weapons usually have a wide-area effect and cause death and destruction beyond the intended target, thus having reverberating adverse effects on the health sector. In addition, the use of air-dropped explosive weapons has had devastating mental health impacts on health workers with increasing evidence that high levels of stress resulting from their use has caused many health workers to flee or stop providing health care. Over time, such violence has a devastating impact on the quality of care provided by a health care system. [Read more](#)

Past incident reports: [27 December-09 January](#); [13-26 December](#); [29 November-12 December](#); [All SHCC Factsheets: 2022; 2021; 2020](#)

### Aircraft- and drone-delivered explosive weapons use affecting health care, 2022-2023



## Pakistan

**19 January 2024:** In Bajaur district, Malakand division, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a senior health official was killed and a police guard injured by gunmen during an anti-polio campaign. **Source:** [VOA](#)

## Papua New Guinea

**01 January 2024:** In Baiyer River, Western Highlands province, a community health centre, a primary school and houses were torched in a retaliation attack by relatives of a Kompiam man beheaded in a drunken brawl by a group of Maken men. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

## Europe

### Ukraine

#### Coercion and Control: The Misuse of Health Facilities for Nonmedical Purposes

This [case study](#) offers a rare window into how Russian authorities use the health care system as a way to coerce and control Ukraine's civilian population living in territories under occupation. The use of Ukrainian hospitals by Russian forces for military purposes is a violation of their protected status under international law. It has also exposed patients and health care workers to a greater risk of violence. The repurposing of facilities for military medical care has severely limited civilian access to health care. The seizure of health infrastructure, including medical equipment, which often occurs during (or immediately after) occupation, further disrupts the provision of health care and likely violates the law of occupation as well.

The study follows a February 2023 [report](#) that documented extensive attacks against Ukraine's hospitals, health workers, and other medical infrastructure since February 2022. Explore this [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) to see where incidents took place.



## Middle East and North Africa

### Lebanon

**11 January 2024:** In Hanine, Bint Jbeil, Al Nabatieh governorate, the building of the Islamic Health Society was hit by Israeli fighter jets, killing two health workers. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**11 January 2024:** In Mays el Jabal, Marjayoun, Al Nabatieh governorate, the vicinity of a government hospital was hit by Israeli artillery. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

### Occupied Palestinian Territories

#### Insecurity Insight Data Featured by Al Jazeera

A recent article by Al Jazeera uses Insecurity Insight data to visualise the tragic impact of attacks on health care in Gaza since 7 October 2023. Through the testimonies of health workers, it also provides insights into the horrific human stories which have resulted for the individuals behind the figures in the attacks that we have documented. Read [more](#).

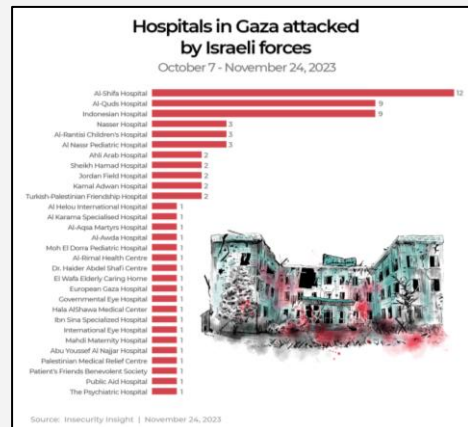
Insecurity Insight has identified 815 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories between 07 October 2023 and 29 January 2024. Sixteen incidents were reported in Israel including ten health workers killed in attacks carried out by Hamas militants.

In the oPt where 799 incidents were recorded, 589 took place in the Gaza Strip and 157 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. At least 145 health workers have been killed, 218 arrested and health facilities damaged 148 times. Emergency medical teams and ambulances have frequently been obstructed from reaching patients in need of care. Insecurity Insight calls for independent investigations and for all conflict parties to uphold international humanitarian law. Health workers and facilities are protected.

Explore this [interactive map](#) to see where incidents happened. Access the data on [HDX](#).

Past incident reports: [23-29 January](#); [16-22 January](#); [09-15 January](#); [02-08 January](#); [All](#)

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



## **Syrian Arab Republic**

**15 January 2024:** In Suez Canal neighbourhood, Quamishli city, Al Hasakah governorate, three Turkish forces drone strikes hit the vicinity of Children's Hospital during a targeted strike on nearby power station and SadCop company. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**15 January 2024:** Near Taltita village, Idlib governorate, a non-operational health centre was hit by three IRGS launched rockets, suspected to be ballistic missiles, injuring two civilians. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**17 January 2024:** In Azaz city, Aleppo governorate, regime forces supported by YPG shelled Turkish military bases in the vicinity of the national hospital. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

## **The Americas**

### **Colombia**

**Around 12 January 2024:** Near Hobo municipality Huila department, unidentified perpetrators set fire to a Ruta al Sur concession ambulance after intimidating the driver and a nurse, forcing them to get out of the vehicle. FARC dissident groups are present in the area. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**14 January 2024:** In rural Tame municipality, Arauca department, an ICRC convoy with an unspecified number of staff on board and an injured patient was intercepted and held for two hours by ELN members. The group issued a statement confirming the incident, arguing that such actions are taken for verification and security reasons. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

### **Haiti**

**11 January 2024:** In Rue de la Réunion, Port-au-Prince city, Ouest department, a doctor was kidnapped by unidentified armed individuals. They were released on 14 January following a ransom payment. **Sources:** [Haiti24](#), [Radio Télé Galaxie](#) and [Radio Télé Métronome](#)

**11 January 2024:** Throughout the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, Ouest department, various services and activities at GHESKIO centres, with the exception of medication services for patients undergoing treatment and emergency services, are paralyzed in protest to demand the release of the chief physician who has been abducted and held captive by armed bandits since 28 November 2023. **Source:** [Le Nouvelliste](#)

### **Mexico**

**19 January 2024:** In Iguala de la Independencia, Guerrero state, a paramedic was shot and injured when the ambulance they were in was ambushed by armed perpetrators. The paramedics were attending a call which was false. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

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## **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.

## **The Americas**

### **Ecuador**

**21 January 2024:** In Yaguachi town, Guayas province, at least 68 people tried to take over a hospital amidst fighting between drug gangs and security forces. **Source:** [Le Monde](#)

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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. This document is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It 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. 2024. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 10-23 January 2024 Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. [bit.ly/12-23Jan2024HealthBMNB](https://bit.ly/12-23Jan2024HealthBMNB)**

<sup>1</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 25 January 2024.

