





# Attacks on Health Care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories

19-25 March 2024



## Recorded Violence Against Health Care in Israel and the oPt, 07 October 2023-02 March 2024

	 REPORTED INCIDENTS	 HEALTH WORKERS KILLED	 INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED	 HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED
Israel	40	22	4	0
oPt	1014	176	184	311

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

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

Insecurity Insight has identified 1054 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories between 07 October 2023 and 02 March 2024. At least 40 incidents were reported in Israel including 22 health workers killed in attacks carried out by Hamas militants. In the oPt where 1014 incidents were recorded, 785 took place in the Gaza Strip and 175 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.<sup>2</sup> At least 176 health workers have been killed,<sup>3</sup> 311 arrested and health facilities damaged 184 times. Emergency medical teams and ambulances have frequently been obstructed from reaching patients in need of care.

### A Disturbing Trend: Over 1000 Attacks on health Care in the oPt since 07 October 2023

Today marks the grim milestone of over 1000 recorded attacks on health care in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt), five months into Israel's assault on Gaza following attacks by Hamas-affiliated militant groups from Gaza into southern Israel on 07 October 2023. This equates to approximately five attacks per day with the vast majority of incidents perpetrated by Israeli Defence Forces (IDF). In the last six months the oPt has become the third conflict to report over 1000 attacks on health care. Last August, 18 months after Russia's full-scale invasion on [Ukraine](#) in February 2022, over 1,000 attacks were recorded. A few months later in November, this horrific milestone was reached in [Myanmar](#), 30 months after the military coup in February 2021. Five months into Israel's assault on Gaza, [1014 attacks](#) on health care have been identified by Insecurity Insight. [Read more](#)

Past incident reports: [12-18 March](#); [05-11 March](#); [27 February-04 March](#); [20-26 February](#); [13-19 February](#); [All](#)

Visit our [oPt](#) webpage. Join our [mailing](#) for the latest information. 2022 Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) factsheets: [Arabic](#) and [English](#). Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: [bit.ly/19-25Mar2024OPTHealth](https://bit.ly/19-25Mar2024OPTHealth)

The incidents reported below are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care between 19-25 March 2024 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](#).

## Israel

*No incidents identified during the reporting period.*

## Occupied Palestinian Territories

### **Gaza Strip**

**19 March 2024:** In Al-Rimal neighbourhood, Gaza city and governorate, Israeli soldiers prevented ambulances from reaching slain and injured civilians following Israeli missiles and artillery shelling in the neighbourhood. **Source:** [WAFA](#)

**20 March 2024:** In Deir al-Balah city and governorate, two Palestinian patients died due to oxygen depletion after the electricity generator in Al Aqsa Martyr Hospital stopped working due to the Israeli blockade preventing fuel and medical equipment into Gaza. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**As reported on 20 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, the Palestinian Civil Defense reported that Israeli forces are refusing to cooperate with international bodies, including the Red Cross, to allow civil defence teams to reach and rescue injured civilians in the vicinity of Al Shifa Medical Complex. **Sources:** [OCHA Flash 144](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

**As reported on 21 March 2024: Update:** In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli soldiers killed 140 people during a raid on the Al-Shifa Medical Complex. **Sources:** [OCHA Flash 144](#), [Quds News Network](#) and [WAFA](#)

**As reported on 21 March 2024: Update:** In Gaza city and governorate, a military checkpoint was set up near Al Shifa Hospital. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 144](#)

**21 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli airstrikes hit the gates of the Al-Amal Orphanage Institute. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**21 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli forces surrounding Al-Shifa Medical Complex threatened Palestinians inside the hospital and surrounding areas that they will be shot if they are seen. The soldiers said they will remain in the area until they have freed Israeli captives. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**22 March 2024: Update:** In Gaza city and governorate, WHO and partners lost contact with health personnel at Al Shifa Hospital. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 145](#)

**22 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, an Israeli military bulldozer severely damaged the yard of Al-Shifa Medical Complex. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**22 March 2024: Update:** In Gaza city and governorate, an unspecified number of health workers were arrested inside Al-Shifa Medical Complex. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**22 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, the vascular surgery department and the medicine stores at Al-Shifa Medical Complex were burnt by Israeli soldiers. **Sources:** [Quds News Network I](#), [Quds News Network II](#) and [WAFA](#)

**22 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli soldiers held around 240 patients along with their caregivers and 10 health workers inside Prince Nayef Center within the Al-Shifa Medical Complex without adequate water, food or health services. **Source:** [WAFA](#)

**22 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, a woman was reportedly raped by Israeli forces inside Al-Shifa Hospital. Her husband and other men were forced to watch the attack. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**22 March 2024: Update:** In Gaza city and governorate, three patients died at Al Shifa Hospital due to a shortage of critical medications and limited power supply. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 145](#)

**23 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli bombing hit Al-Helu Hospital, damaging several rooms and injuring an unspecified number of patients. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**23 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, according to health workers inside Al-Shifa Medical Complex Israeli forces threatened to bomb the hospital with medical staff, patients and displaced people inside. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

**As reported on 23 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, a doctor was shot and killed at Al-Shifa Medical Complex after refusing to leave the hospital in order to continue treating his patients. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**As reported on 23 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, five Palestinian patients at Al-Shifa Medical Complex, under siege for six days, died. Patients and their families issued appeals to be transferred to other hospitals after being left without medical care. **Sources:** [Wafa I](#) and [Wafa II](#)

**23 March 2024: Update:** In Gaza city and governorate, two patients on life support died in Al-Shifa Hospital due to the lack of electricity and some 50 health workers and 143 patients were held in one building with limited food, water and one nonfunctional toilet. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 146](#)

**24 March 2024:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, Israeli forces surrounded the PRCS Al Amal Hospital, closed its gates with dirt barriers and fired smoke bombs towards its building to force medical staff, patients and displaced people to leave the hospital naked. A PRCS emergency operations staff member and a patient being treated at the hospital were killed by Israeli gunfire during the raid. As a result, all displaced people and patients who could be moved were evacuated from the hospital without only special PRCS crews, nine patients and 10 of their companions, a family with children with special conditions remaining. **Sources:** [Middle East Monitor](#), [Wafa](#), [Wafa II](#), [Wafa III](#), [Personal Communication](#) and [PRCS](#)

**24 March 2024:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, PRCS lost contact with its staff in PRCS Al Amal Hospital due to the VHF radio wave service being out of service. Early in the day the hospital had been surrounded by Israeli forces. **Sources:** [PRCS](#) and [Wafa](#)

**24 March 2024:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, Israeli forces forced PRCS staff and patients inside PRCS Al-Amal Hospital to evacuate. PRCS crews faced difficulties moving through the military checkpoint due to extensive bulldozing and destruction of infrastructure in the area. When crews tried to remove rubble, Israeli soldiers opened fire, injuring two staff members. One staff member was evacuated whilst they were unable to reach the second injured staff member. The teams were then forced to return to the hospital again by Israel soldiers, however found the gates of the hospital closed and were unable to enter the hospital leaving the crews in the street. **Sources:** [OCHA Flash 146](#), [PRCS](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

**24 March 2024:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, Israeli military vehicles surrounded Al-Nasser Hospital amidst heavy gunfire and shelling. **Source:** [PRCS](#)

**24 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, clashes between unnamed Palestinian armed groups and Israeli forces were reported near Al-Shifa Hospital. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**As reported on 24 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli forces reportedly used displaced civilians and patients inside Al-Shifa Medical Complex as human shields. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**As of 24 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, five patients died at Al-Shifa Hospital due to the lack of water, food and medical services. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 146](#)

**25 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli tank fire hit the upper floor of the main building of the Al Shifa Medical Complex, damaging it. **Sources:** [Middle East Monitor](#) and [Wafa](#)

**As reported on 25 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli forces ordered everyone at Al-Shifa Medical Complex housing about 7,000 displaced people and patients to leave using loudspeakers and sent warning to civilians in the hospital's vicinity to evacuate to southern Gaza during its continued raid on the facility. An unspecified number of men and health have been arrested since the start of the raid. **Sources:** [Wafa](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

**25 March 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, an unspecified number of Palestinian civilians were killed when Israeli airstrikes hit the vicinity of Al-Shifa Hospital. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**25 March 2024:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, Israeli soldiers arrested an unspecified number of displaced people sheltering inside Nasser Hospital. An unspecified number of women were also forced to evacuate the hospital to the Al-Mawasi area. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

**As reported on 25 March 2024:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, intense Israeli bombardment and ground operations as well as heavy fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups were reported in the vicinity of Nasser Hospital. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 146](#)

**As reported on 25 March 2024:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, intense Israeli bombardment and ground operations as well as heavy fighting between Israeli forces and Palestinian armed groups were reported in the vicinity of Al Amal Hospital. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 146](#)

**As reported on 25 March 2024:** In Rafah governorate, PRCS staff and wounded patients arrived after being trapped inside ambulances outside Al Amal Hospital for 20 hours. **Source:** [OCHA Flash 146](#)

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### **West Bank**

**19 March 2024:** In Beit Fajjar town, Bethlehem governorate, a 31- year-old man was shot and killed by Israeli forces who left him to bleed to death without medical care. Israeli forces also withheld his body. **Source:** [Wafa](#)

**As reported on 21 March 2024:** In Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkarm governorate, PRCS were prevented from entering the camp to assist two men who had been shot and injured by Israeli soldiers during a raid on the camp. The men were left to bleed for over an hour and a half leading to their death. **Source:** [Wafa](#)

**21 March 2024:** In Al-Khader town, Bethlehem governorate, PRCS ambulance crews were unable to approach or transport the body of a Palestinian man who was shot and killed by Israeli soldiers. His body was transferred by an Israeli ambulance. **Source:** [PRCS](#)

**24 March 2024:** In Beit Furik town, Nablus governorate, ambulances crews were prevented from reaching Palestinians injured by Israeli soldiers. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

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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. 2024. 19-25 March 2024. Attacks on Health Care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. [bit.ly/19-25Mar2024OPTHealth](https://bit.ly/19-25Mar2024OPTHealth)**

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.

In accordance with the WHO's definition, incidents of violence against health care can include bombings, explosions, looting, robberies, hijackings, shootings, gunfire, the forced closure of health facilities, the violent searching of health facilities, fire, arson, the military use of health facilities, the military takeover of health facilities, chemical attacks, cyber attacks, the abduction of health workers, the denial or delay of health services, assaults, forcing staff to act against their ethical principles, executions, torture, violent demonstrations, administrative harassment, obstruction, sexual violence, psychological violence, and threats of violence.

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

<sup>2</sup> 54 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.

<sup>3</sup> 176 is based on the number of health workers killed where location and date has been identified. Other sources have reported 458 health workers killed. Insecurity Insight carries out cross-checking of individual events and names and does not re-report aggregate figures. The work of collating a complete list of health workers killed based on information provided in different formats by different organisations is ongoing. This cross-checking process is complex to avoid double counting the same individuals in cases when sources report different victim information about the same individual. The lack of a consistent standard in transcribing Arab names into Latin script based languages complicates the matching process. The total number of health workers killed is believed to be higher than the current verified number and we continue to backdate information.

