

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

28 March 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.

- 328 incidents where health facilities were damaged
- 458 health workers killed¹
- 311 health workers arrested

In the Gaza Strip where 785 incidents were reported, most involved airstrikes damaging or destroying hospitals and clinics and killing health workers.² The IDF's unrelenting aerial attack on the strip has had a catastrophic and far-reaching impact on the population and the health care system. Only [12 out of 36 hospitals](#) are still functioning at a limited capacity whilst ambulance teams continuously face obstructions in reaching injured and dead civilians trapped under the rubble due to indiscriminate bombings which have devastated civilian infrastructure. This direct and indirect use of explosive weapon use in populated areas has also caused [massive destruction](#) in almost all of the strip's refugee camps and destroyed bakeries, agricultural land and greenhouses which, along with an ongoing Israeli blockade of food, water, fuel, and essential medicines and supplies, has contributed towards an [imminent risk of famine in Gaza](#).

In the West Bank where 175 incidents were recorded, over a third occurred inside refugee camps where security operations have increased since 07 October. During these operations, Israeli forces surrounded hospitals nearby camps and obstructed ambulance crews from assisting injured civilians, leading to some patients bleeding to death. Patients have been detained from ambulances and health workers arrested and assaulted at military checkpoints or whilst attempting to reach patients. In light of these increasing attacks on health care, Insecurity Insight continues to call for enforcement of UN Security Council Resolution 2286, which protects health care in conflict and for all conflict parties to uphold international humanitarian law.

" The rise in number of attacks on health care perpetrated by state forces is deeply concerning and testifies to the failure among states to respect international humanitarian law,"

Christina Wille, director of Insecurity Insight

Media contact: For more information, interviews or curated datasets, please contact Tim Bishop - tim.bishop@insecurityinsight.org. This data is available on [HDX](#). See where incidents happened on this [interactive map](#).

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.

¹ This is the figure cited by [Healthcare Workers Watch- Palestine](#).

² 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.