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

07-20 May 2024



| Recorded Violence Against Health Care in Israel and the oPt, 07 October 2023-06 May 2024 | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | REPORTED INCIDENTS | HEALTH WORKERS KILLED | INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED | HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED |
| Israel | 46 | 22 | 4 | 0 |
| oPt | 1124 | 195[1] | 203 | 323 |

**Insecurity Insight has identified 1170 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory between 07 October 2023 and 06 May 2024.** At least 46 incidents were reported in Israel including 22 health workers killed in attacks carried out by Hamas militants. In the oPt where 1124 incidents were recorded, 864 took place in the Gaza Strip and 206 in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.[3] At least 195 health workers have been killed,[1] 323 arrested and health facilities damaged 203 times. Emergency medical teams and ambulances have frequently been obstructed from reaching patients in need of care.

Data source: **Insecurity Insight** on **HDX**. **Contact** us for curated datasets. Explore the incidents on our **interactive map**[2] and on this **data visualisation** by Soha Elghany.

Past incident reports: **23 April-06 May**; **09-22 April**; **02-08 April**; **26 March-01 April**; **19-25 March**; **12-18 March**; **All**

Visit our **oPt** webpage. Join our **mailing** for the latest information. **Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: bit.ly/07-20May2023OPTHealth**

The incidents reported below are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care between 07-20 May 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 Territory

### *Gaza Strip*

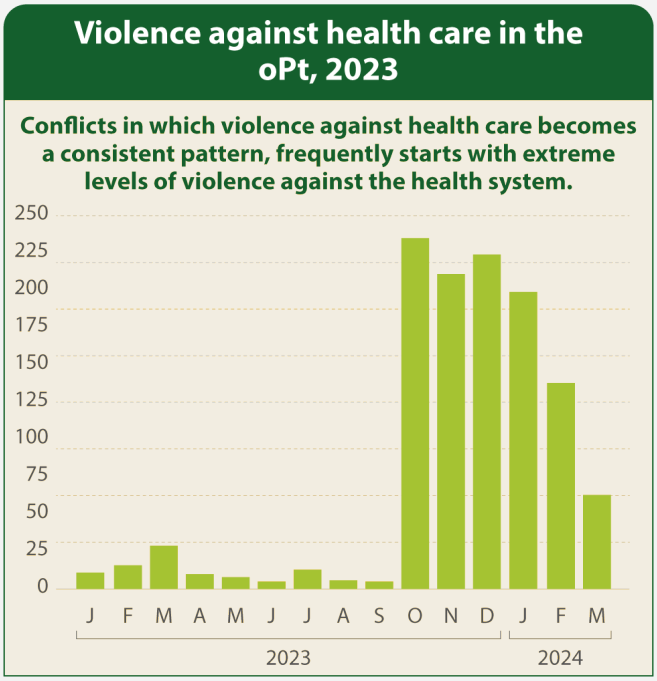
**07 May 2024: Update:** In Rafah city and governorate, Abu Youssef Al-Najjar Hospital was abruptly vacated following an Israeli military operation in the area. The hospital had received evacuation orders the previous day. The dialysis department, which was the only one in Gaza, reportedly remained open for the time being. The hospital's dialysis department was the only one in Gaza. **Sources: BBC**, **Reuters** **and** **OCHA Flash 163**

**07 May 2024:** In Rafah city and governorate, the head of Al Kuwaiti Hospital explained in a video that the situation at the facility was "catastrophic" as the hospital was facing a rising influx of casualties amid dire shortages of beds and medical staff. The doctor appealed to all medical students, trainee doctors and nursing staff in the Rafah governorate, as well as to international organisations and medical teams, to urgently help the overwhelmed facility. **Source:** OCHA Flash 163

## 2023 Attacks on Health Care in War Zones Most Ever Documented

**The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 761 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in 2023.**

Hospitals and field hospitals were shelled by Israeli artillery and tank fire and subjected to Israeli air and missile strikes. The vicinity of hospitals and health facilities were hit multiple times by airstrikes destroying main roads and surrounding buildings and hindering medical crews ability to reach casualties and wounded Palestinians. Ambulance drivers, doctors, dentists, gynaecologists, hospital staff, janitors, laboratory technicians, medical students, nurses, opticians, orthopedists, paramedics, pharmacists, psychologists, physiotherapists, surgeons, and volunteers from local humanitarian relief groups were killed, injured, and arrested. In several cases, entire families that had multiple members who were medical professionals were killed in single attacks, usually while they were at home. Read more




**07 May 2024:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, Israeli forces cut off access to the European Gaza Hospital where patients were being referred for surgery. As a result, and following the evacuation of the Al-Najjar Hospital, Rafah governorate does not have any substantial medical services. **Source:** BBC

**07 May 2024:** In Rafah city and governorate, MSF started discharging patients able to walk from their clinic inside the Indonesian Field Hospital and were preparing for a potential medical evacuation. **Source:** OCHA Flash 163

**Between 07-09 May 2024:** In the Gaza Strip, medical sources stated that the closure of borders by Israeli forces is preventing many casualties from travelling outside the Gaza Strip for medical treatment. 159 critical patients, including cancer cases, were prevented from leaving to receive treatment. Additionally, it is preventing the entry of medical aid and fuel into the area. **Sources:** IMEC, OCHA Flash 164, **and** WAFA

**08 May 2024:** In Rafah city and governorate, MSF suspended its activities at Al-Shaboura Clinic, where over 8,200 consultations had been provided in April alone. MSF was handing over its activities at Al Emirati Hospital to the Ministry of Health and relocating its staff to Nasser Medical Complex. **Source:** OCHA Flash 164

**08 May 2024:** In Shawa Square, Gaza city and governorate, a dental clinic was hit at about 17:50 killing 13 Palestinians and injuring an unspecified number. **Source:** OCHA Flash 164

**08 May 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, a third mass grave was discovered inside Al Shifa Hospital. 49 bodies have already been recovered. **Source:** OCHA Flash 164

**08 May 2024:** In Jabalia city and governorate, Israeli forces fired shells in the vicinity of the Indonesian Hospital. **Source:** IMEMC

**As reported on 08 May 2024:** Across the Gaza strip, seven mass graves with more than 520 killed Palestinian have been found inside Gaza's hospitals - one in Kamal Adwan Hospital, three in Al Shifa Medical Complex and three in Nasser Medical Centre. **Source:** IMEMC

**09 May 2024:** Near Palestine Stadium, Gaza City, a member of the Civil Defense was killed by an Israeli drone attack. **Source:** WAFA

**As reported on 09 May 2024:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, ambulances were reportedly struggling to reach the European Gaza Hospital as the main road connecting it to Rafah was blocked due to military activity in eastern Rafah. **Source:** OCHA Flash 165

**As reported on 10 May 2024:** In the Gaza Strip, WHO and its partners were forced to stop evacuations of patients from northern to southern Gaza due to shortages of fuel and limited bed capacity at health facilities in the south. **Source:** OCHA Flash 164

**11 May 2024:** In Gaza City and governorate, 80 dead bodies were found at Al Shifa Medical Complex bringing the total number of bodies discovered in seven mass graves to 520. Visual examination of the bodies indicated that the majority were patients who had been prevented from receiving medical care, according to Medical sources. **Source:** WAFA

**As reported on 11 May 2024:** In an undisclosed location, a paediatric surgeon and a dentist, both male, were killed in an Israeli airstrike. **Source:** Personal Communication

**12 May 2024:** In southern Gaza, Israeli artillery hit the vicinity of Al-Zaytoun Clinic. **Source:** WAFA

**12 May 2024:** In Jabalia Refugee Camp, North Gaza governorate, Gaza Strip, suspected Israeli drones opened fire on ambulances near an UNRWA clinic. **Source:** WAFA

**12 May 2024:** In Deir al-Balah city and governorate, a doctor and his doctor son were killed in an Israeli airstrike. **Source:** WAFA

**12 May 2024:** In Bureij Refugee Camp, Deir Al-Balah governorate, the Bisan Medical Center was hit and extensively damaged by Israeli airstrikes. **Source:** IMEMC

**13 May 2024: Update:** In the Gaza strip, two members of the PRCS ambulance crew were released after being detained for 49 days. They were working in Al Amal hospital when Israeli forces raided the hospital for the second time on 24 March 2024, and detained them. **Source:** PRCS

**Between 12 - 13 May 2024:** In Jabalia Refugee Camp, North Gaza governorate, medical teams were blocked from reaching killed and injured people after an Israeli military raid into the camp. Israeli tanks and armoured vehicles reportedly fired at ambulances **Sources:** IMEMC, IMEMC II **and** Personal Communication

**13 May 2024:** In Rafah governorate, an international WHO staff member and Palestinian driver were injured when Israeli shelling hit the clearly-marked UN vehicle they were travelling in. **Source:** AA, Al Jazeera **and** Palestine Chronicle

**13 May 2024:** In Khirbet al-Adas area, Rafah governorate, Israeli forces shelling hit the PRCS headquarters. **Source:** Quds News Network

**13 May 2024:** In Rafah city and governorate, Israeli forces ordered staff at Kuwaiti Hospital to evacuate. **Source:** Quds News Network **and** The New Arab

**14 May 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli army tanks advanced close to the NGO-supported Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital. **Source:** Quds News Network

**14 May 2024: Update:** In Rafah city and governorate, MSF announced it had withdrawn from the Indonesian Field Hospital, following the advancing offensive in Rafah and the pattern of systematic attacks against medical facilities and civilian infrastructure. The 22 patients left at the facility were referred to other facilities as their safety could no longer be guaranteed. **Source:** MSF **and** OCHA Flash 166

**As reported on 14 May 2024: Update:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, MSF resumed outpatient and inpatient departments and will reopen maternity services at Nasser Hospital. Staff had been forced to flee in mid-February following an Israeli raid on the hospital. **Source:** MSF

**As reported on 15 May 2024: Update:** In Gaza city and governorate, an image published by Israeli soldiers showed doctors, including the head of the orthopaedic department, and several journalists being detained at Al-Shifa Hospital. **Source:** Quds News Network

**15 May 2024:** In Jabalia Refugee Camp, North Gaza governorate, an unspecified number of displaced persons were injured after being hit by Israeli snipers as they were leaving a UNRWA clinic. **Sources:** Quds News Network **and** WAFA

**15 May 2024:** In Jabalia Refugee Camp, Northern Gaza governorate, an ambulance was hit in an Israeli airstrike. **Source:** Quds News Network

**15 May 2024:** In Jabalia city, Northern Gaza governorate, a nurse was killed when an Israeli airstrike hit her home. **Sources:** Personal Communication **and** Quds News Network

**15 May 2024:** In Gaza city and governorate, Israeli forces raided the UNRWA Al-Sabra clinic and forcibly evacuated displaced Palestinians and wounded. The clinic was also hit and damaged by Israeli airstrikes, killing 14 Palestinians and no longer operational. **Source:** IMEMC, Quds News Network **and** Quds News Network II

**15 May 2024:** In Khan Yunis city and governorate, the electricity generators at the European Gaza Hospital stopped working after running out of fuel due to the seizure and closure of the Rafah and Kerem Shalom border crossings by Israeli authorities. As a result, the facility was unable to operate any of its machines, including respiratory machines, surgery wards and emergency wards. **Source:** IMEMC

**17 May 2024:** In Nuseirat Refugee Camp, Deir al Balah governorate, a member of the reception and emergency department staff at PRCS was killed in an attack by Israeli forces on Al- Jaouni School. **Source:** PRCS **and** IMEMC

**As reported on 17 May 2024:** In Al-Zaytoun neighbourhood, Gaza city and governorate, Zaytoun Medical Clinic was damaged during an Israeli ground operation in the area. **Sources:** IMEMC **and** Personal Communication

**18 May 2024:** In Beit Lahia city, Northern Gaza governorate, Israeli quadcopters opened fire in the vicinity of Kamal Adwan Hospital. **Source:** Quds News Network

**18 May 2024:** In Rafah city and governorate, Israeli airstrikes were reported in the vicinity of Emirati Field Hospital, injuring at least three people. **Sources: Quds News Network and IMEMC**

**18 May 2024:** In Jabalia Refugee Camp, Northern Gaza governorate, an Israeli airstrike hit the vicinity of an UNRWA health clinic, injuring 13 Palestinians. **Source: Quds News Network**

**19 May 2024:** In Beit Lahia city, Northern Gaza governorate, Israeli airstrikes hit the vicinity of Kamal Adwan Hospital, damaging the hospital. **Sources: Quds News Network and IMEMC**

**19 May 2024:** In Jabalia, North Gaza governorate, Al-Awda Hospital was hit with several shells and besieged by Israeli forces, preventing medical teams and civilians from leaving or entering, and disrupting medical services. The areas around the hospital were also reportedly bulldozed. **Sources: IMEMC, Personal Communication and WAFA**

**As reported on 19 May 2024: Update:** Across Gaza, about 690 patients were prevented by Israeli authorities from leaving Gaza to receive medical treatment since the seizure and closure of the Rafah crossing. **Source: Quds News Network**

**20 May 2024:** In Beit Lahia city, Northern Gaza governorate, the vicinity of Kamal Adwan Hospital was hit in an Israeli airstrike. **Source: Quds News Network**

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## *West Bank*

**06 May 2024:** In Tulkarm city and governorate, an ambulance was obstructed from providing emergency care by Israeli soldiers. **Source: Quds News Network**

**06 May 2024:** In Tulkarm Refugee Camp, Tulkarm governorate, Israeli soldiers surrounded a group of PRCS volunteers inside a house and began demolishing its facades. **Sources: OCHA Flash 162 and WAFA**

**06 May 2024:** In Tulkarm Refugee Camp, Tulkarm governorate, a PRCS medical point was destroyed by Israeli explosives, rendering it out of service and destroying medical equipment. **Source: PRCS, IMEMC and WAFA II**

**06 May 2024:** In Tulkarm Refugee Camp, Tulkarm governorate, ambulance crews were prevented from reaching and transporting people injured by Israeli forces during a raid on the camp. **Source: WAFA II**

**06 May 2024:** In Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkarm governorate, ambulance crews were prevented from reaching and transporting injured individuals by Israeli forces during a raid on the camp. **Source: WAFA II**

**06 May 2024:** In Tulkarm city and governorate, Israeli forces surrounded a hospital's entrances during a security operation on the city and neighbouring refugee camps. **Source: Personal Communication**

**06 May 2024:** In Tulkarm Refugee Camp, Tulkarm city and governorate, West Bank, ambulance crews were prevented by the Israeli occupation from entering the camp to transport a Palestinian woman who was injured by shrapnel, before handing her to PRCS crews at Netsani Oz military Checkpoint. **Source: WAFA**

**15 May 2024:** Near the Beit El settlement, Ramallah governorate, Israeli soldiers prevented paramedics from a 20-year-old Palestinian who was shot and injured by Israeli forces, causing him to bleed to death. **Source: Quds News Network**

**17 May 2024:** In Bala'a town, Tulkarm governorate, ambulance crews were prevented from assisting a 23-year-old man who was shot and injured by Israeli soldiers. **Source: IMEMC**

**17 May 2024:** In Qalqilya city and governorate, ambulances were prevented from entering the city during a military operation in the city. **Source: IMEMC**

**As reported on 18 May 2024:** In Nur Shams Refugee Camp, Tulkarm governorate, a paramedic was shot and injured by Israeli sniper fire while attempting to assist a wounded individual. **Source: Quds News Network**

**19 May 2024:** At the Container Checkpoint, near Bethlehem, West Bank, ambulance and medical teams were blocked from reaching a 44 year-old man killed by Israeli forces. His body was later handed over to the PRCS and transported to al Hussein Hospital in Beit Jala. **Sources: WAFA**

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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 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 U.S. Government or the Tides Foundation who are not responsible for the content expressed in this document.

**Insecurity Insight. 2024. 07-20 May 2024 Attacks on Health Care in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. https://bit.ly/07-20May2023OPTHealth**

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.

[1] 187 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.
[2] Zoom in and click on Israel or oPT to see the latest figures. Click on the yellow square to read about the recorded events.
[3] 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.