

Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

15-28 May
2024

2023 Attacks on Health Care in War Zones Most Ever Documented

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition identified [2562](#) incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in conflicts in 2023, a 25% increase from 2022, representing 500 more attacks than documented last year, and the highest ever since the Coalition began reporting. During 2023, health facilities were bombed, looted, occupied, raided, and vandalised. Safe staffing levels continued to be severely undermined with the killing, kidnapping, and arrest of health workers. Medical supplies and convoys continued to be looted and hijacked, while patients continued to be obstructed from accessing health care services. Health facilities were increasingly occupied or repurposed for military use, and the areas around health facilities were bombed. Nearly half of the reported incidents were attributed to state forces. Explosive weapons use impacting health care increased in Israel, the oPt, Myanmar, Somalia, Sudan, and Syria and continued in Ukraine in 2023. Drones armed with explosives were more frequently used in attacks on health care in 2023 in both new and long-standing conflicts in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Lebanon, Myanmar, the oPt, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen.

Consistent and systematic monitoring over the past years has shown that conflicts where violence against health care becomes a consistent pattern frequently started with extreme levels of violence against the health system. In 2023, this pattern was apparent in Manipur state (India), the Gaza Strip, and Sudan, similar to what was observed in recent years in Myanmar and Ukraine. Read [more](#)

Past editions: [01-14 May](#); [17-30 April](#); [03-16 April](#); [20 March-02 April](#); [06-19 March](#); [21 February-05 March](#); [All](#)

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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

Cameroon

As reported on 18 May 2024: In Tourou village, Mayo-Tsanaga department, Far North region, the Protestant Private Health Centre was looted by Boko Haram militants. **Source:** [Ardhu](#)

22 May 2024: In Bamenda 3 municipality, Mezam division, North West region, a veterinary doctor was abducted from his home by armed men. His body was found the next day. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

14 May 2024: In Kikongo village, Kwamouth territory, Mai-Ndombe province, the head nurse for the village was shot and killed by Mobondo militiamen. **Source:** [Election-net](#)



Ethiopia

24 May 2024: In Kumer Refugee Camp, North Gondar zone, Amhara region, an ambulance transporting seven patients was attacked by gunmen. The driver was killed. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Mozambique

10 May 2024: In Macomia district, Cabo Delgado province, MSF teams were forced to go into hiding after non-state armed groups attacked the area, forcing the population to flee. **Source:** [MSF](#)

10 May 2024: In Macomia district, Cabo Delgado province, MSF premises were looted. Drugs, medical equipment and cars were stolen, but no casualties were reported. MSF has suspended all activities in Macomia. **Source:** [Club of Mozambique](#)

As reported on 21 May 2024: Update: A strike by 50,000 members of the Association of United Health Professionals of Mozambique, launched three weeks earlier following the collapse of negotiations over working conditions, has resulted in the death of more than 1,000 patients due to a lack of care. **Source:** [BBC](#)

Niger

15 May 2024: In Maine Soroa department, Diffa region, one vehicle and one ambulance belonging to the Regional Directorate of Public Health (DRSP) travelling along the Diffa - Maine Soroa road were attacked by Boko Haram. The ambulance was stolen and an unspecified number of the passengers were injured. **Source:** [Personal Communication](#)

22 May 2024: In Bossou Bangou village, Tillaberi region, a health centre was set on fire by IS Sahel militants during a raid on the village, killing an unspecified number of people. **Sources:** [ActuNiger](#) and [La Plume](#)

Sudan

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified [257](#) incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Sudan in 2023, compared to 54 in 2022. Health worker killings sharply increased in 2023, particularly in Khartoum. Damage to health facilities mainly occurred during fighting between the RSF and SAF in Khartoum, and often involved explosive weapons use. The looting of vital medicines and supplies was more rife in Darfur and often occurred during wider attacks on health facilities that were stormed by conflict parties. Hospital takeovers mostly involved the RSF and were common in Khartoum.

Incident briefs: [15-28 May](#); [01-14 May](#); [17-30 April](#); [03-16 April](#); [20 March-02 April](#); [06-19 March](#); [All](#)

SHCC factsheets (EN): [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#). (AR): 2023 coming soon; [2022](#); [2021](#)

Asia

Myanmar

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified [418](#) incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Myanmar in 2023. Most cases were recorded in the northern central areas surrounding the cities of Sagaing and Mandalay, and where Sagaing, Magway, and Mandalay regions border one another, reflecting the overall concentration of fighting in these areas where opposition groups' resistance to military rule is high. Incidents also occurred in Shan state bordering Sagaing and Mandalay, especially after [Operation 1027](#).

Incident briefs: [15-28 May](#); [01-14 May](#); [17-30 April](#); [03-16 April](#); [20 March-02 April](#); [06-19 March](#); [All](#)

Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) factsheets: [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#); [2020](#)

Europe

Ukraine

Since the onset of Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, there have been [1404 attacks](#) on health care:

- 199 health workers have been killed.
- Hospitals and clinics have been damaged or destroyed 732 times.
- 60 attacks on services provided for women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period.
- 79 attacks on services that provide health care to children
- 90 attacks that impacted a hospital's access to energy or water supply systems.
- 32 occasions where a health facility was repurposed for nonmedical use, such as military bases and weapons storage facilities.

Explore this [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) to see where incidents took place between 24 February 2022 and 21 March 2024. **Now updated with four new categories including attacks on maternal and child care services, military use of health facilities and attacks impacting energy and water supplies.**

Middle East and North Africa

Israel

As reported on 29 May 2024: In Seddi Teiman detention centre, Negev desert, a Palestinian journalist who was a former prisoner in the detention camp reported how he still suffers from wounds and the effect of wounds caused during his detention and the lack of medical attention. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

Lebanon

27 May 2024: In Bint Jbeil town and district, Nabatiye Governorate, an Israeli drone strike hit a motorcycle near the entrance of the Salah Ghandour Hospital, killing one person and injuring 10 others. The hospital is run by the Islamic Health Committee, affiliated with Hezbollah. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territory

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](#). The IDF arrested or detained at least 162 health workers in 35 incidents in the Gaza Strip between October and December 2023. At least 26 health workers were still held captive as of March 15, 2024, while the fates of the remaining detainees were not recorded. Many are still missing and the ICRC has been denied access to them. Arrests and detentions usually occurred during military raids or IDF-enforced evacuations of health at temporary checkpoints, and in some cases during mass civilian arrest campaigns. At least 20 staff were arrested in 14 incidents while travelling on the IDF-designated safe route in northern Gaza. Health workers were reportedly interrogated, tortured, and threatened while being held. When the Indonesian Hospital was raided, the director of the surgery department was arrested and left naked at the Kerem Abu Salem crossing upon his release two months later. Photos of released detained staff often showed signs of malnutrition and possible brutality.

Incident reports: [21 May-03 June](#); [07-20 May](#); [23 April-06 May](#); [09-22 April](#); [02-08 April](#); [All](#)

SHCC factsheets (EN): [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#). (AR): 2023 coming soon; [2022](#); [2021](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

As reported on 10 May 2024: In Al Rukban IDP Camp, Rukban area, along the Syria-Jordan border, Rif Dimashq governorate, the lack of essential items, including infant formula, diabetes and blood pressure medication, as well as food and cleaning supplies, has, for at least one month, impacted the roughly 10,000 residents of the camp, whose appeals remain unanswered by the international community and Jordanian authorities. **Sources:** [SOHR](#) and [The New Arab](#)

14 May 2024: In Deir Ez Zor state, a doctor was shot and wounded by gunmen in a personal dispute. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

As reported on 21 May 2024: Update: In an undisclosed location, a detained American-Syrian male psychotherapist and humanitarian activist died after seven years of presumed torture at the hands of Syrian regime forces. **Sources:** [Personal Communication](#), [SOHR](#) and [The New Arab](#)

Oceania

New Caledonia

15 May 2024: In Nouméa, Territorial Hospital Centre (CHT) Gaston Bourret - Médipôle was targeted during the night around 04:00 by unidentified perpetrators who tried to break into the pharmacy to ransack it. The attempted assault was repelled by security. **Source:** [20 Minutes](#)

16 May 2024: In Nouméa, an orthopaedic surgeon at Territorial Hospital Centre (CHS) Gaston Bourret - Médipôle was injured on his thigh by a concrete block thrown by unidentified perpetrators while on his way to work. **Source:** [BFM TV](#)

As reported on 16 May 2024: Update: In Nouméa, Territorial Hospital Centre (CHS) Gaston Bourret - Médipôle was forced to postpone consultations and only admit patients in emergency situations. Dialysis treatment was postponed. **Source:** [BFM TV](#)

As reported on 16 May 2024: In Nouméa, a blood donation centre was vandalised. In response, the centre closed for security reasons. **Source:** [BFM TV](#)

As reported on 16 May 2024: In Koné, Hospital Centre of the North was forced to reduce activities. Its dialysis units were closed and unable to accommodate patients and caregivers. **Sources:** [BFM TV](#) and [Le Monde](#)

As reported on 17 May 2024: In Nouméa, one of the two medicine storage sites intended for pharmacies in the archipelago was set on fire, as well as an unspecified number of pharmacies. **Source:** [France Info](#)

As reported on 18 May 2024: In Nouméa, Territorial Hospital Centre (CHS) Gaston Bourret - Médipôle entrance hall was used to accommodate patients who could no longer return home due to roadblocks. **Source:** [20 Minutes](#)

As reported on 18 May 2024: In Nouméa, Territorial Hospital Centre (CHT) Gaston Bourret - Médipôle was encircled by barricades hampering the ability of ambulances and emergency vehicles to reach the facility. **Sources:** [20 Minutes](#), [France Info I](#), [France Info II](#) and [Le Parisien](#)

As reported on 25 May 2024: In Nouméa, Territorial Hospital Centre (CHS) Gaston Bourret - Médipôle dialysis centre was forced to close. **Source:** [France Info](#)

The Americas

Haiti

20 May 2024: In Dalman area, Thomazeau commune, Ouest department, a LNGO which houses an orphanage, a school and a hospital was vandalised and looted by 400 Mawozo gang members. Four people were killed and around a dozen houses were set on fire. **Sources:** [Le Nouvelliste](#), [Radio Télé Galaxie](#) and [VantBèf Info](#)

As reported on 22 May 2024: In Port-au-Prince city, Ouest department, MSF faced a shortage of medications and medical supplies due to the closure of ports caused by gang violence. The humanitarian organisation called on customs authorities to simplify procedures and urged armed groups to facilitate the transport of medical supplies to its centres. **Sources:** [AlterPresse](#) and [Radio Télé Galaxie](#)

Mexico

20 May 2024: In Uruapan city, Michoacan de Ocampo state, two armed men opened fire at a nurse inside the San Francisco Hospital, killing one person. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

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, 15-28 May 2024 Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/15-28May2024Health

¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 29 May 2024.

