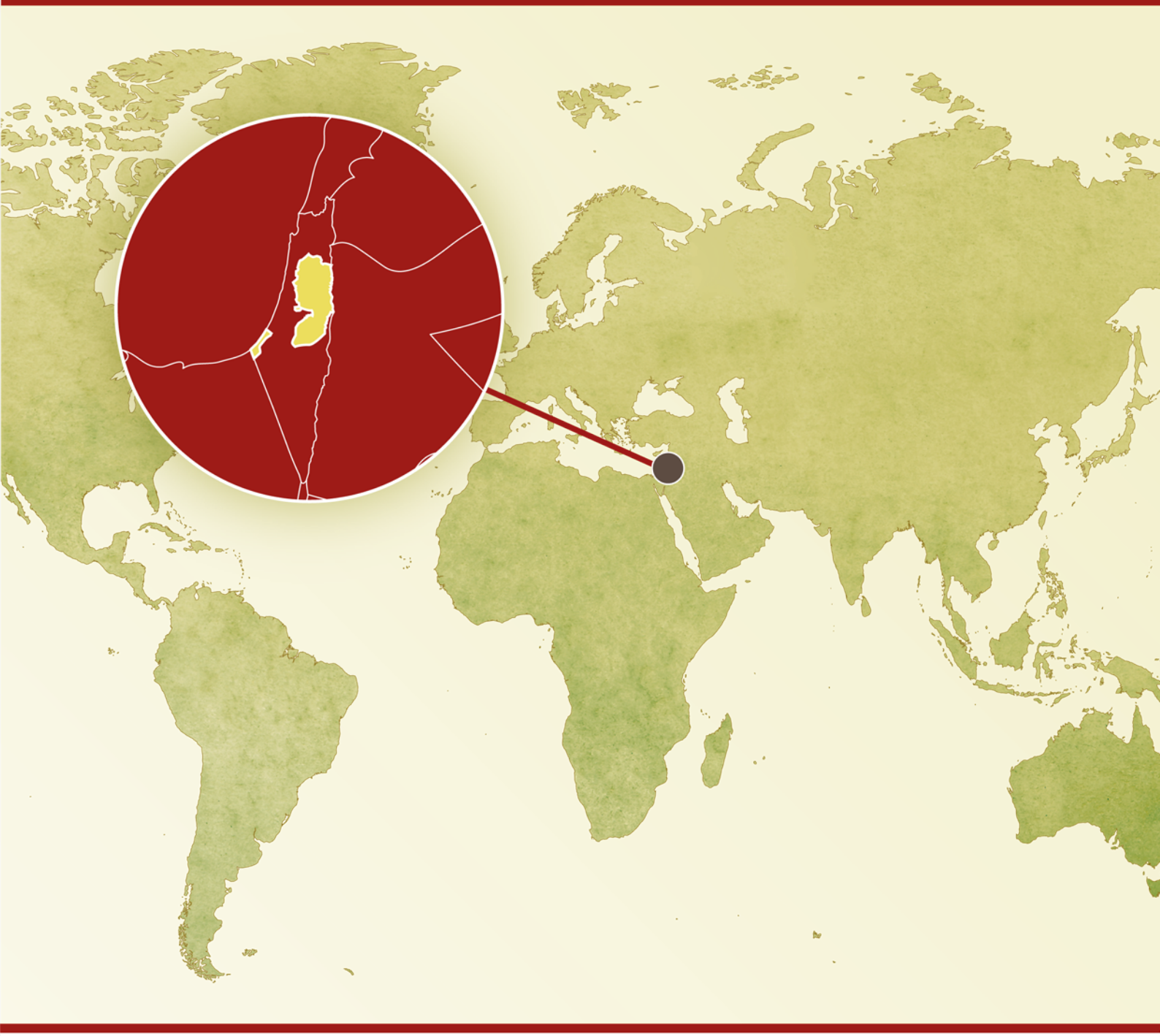
Occupied Palestinian Territory

Violence Against Health Care in Conflict

2024



SAFEGUARDING HEALTH IN CONFLICT

Insecurity Insight

Data on People in Danger

Letter from the Chair



Assaults on health care in conflicts around the world reached new levels of horror in 2024, exceeding 3,600 incidents, 15% more than in 2023. They consisted of air, missile, and drone strikes; shelling; tank fire; shootings; arson; the looting and takeover of health facilities; and the arrest and detention of health workers. As the descriptions in this report show, each incident brings terror, trauma, and - in too many cases - injury, untreated illness, destruction and death.

By far the largest number of attacks on health care – more than 1,300 – took place in Gaza and the West Bank, far more than we have ever reported in one conflict in one year, including more than double the number of health workers killed. Gaza properly drew global attention for the ferocity and relentlessness of assaults on health care. But we must also reckon with the more than 2,300 attacks in other conflicts, including the hundreds in each of Ukraine, Lebanon, Myanmar and Sudan. The cumulative number of attacks over the course of wars that began in the past three years include more than 1,500 in Myanmar since the military coup in 2021; close to 2,000 in Ukraine since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022, and more than 500 since the outbreak of war in Sudan in 2023.

This onslaught of violence has been accompanied by attempts by perpetrators to limit legal protections for health care and civilians in war, driven, as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) puts it, by a desire to have more "leeway to kill and detain." Israel has sought to dilute legal requirements of precaution and proportionality during conflict. The new U.S. secretary of defense has called for "a law of war for winners." Simultaneously, campaigns to delegitimize the International Criminal Court (ICC) are underway. The newly inaugurated U.S. president Donald Trump imposed sanctions on ICC staff and even their families for having charged Israelis with war crimes. In 2023, Russia's Duma passed legislation criminalizing cooperation with the ICC or any foreign court or ad hoc tribunal that seeks to hold Russians to account. Hungary announced its plan to withdraw from the ICC, falsely alleging political bias.

These terrible developments threaten to make a mockery of the 10th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 2286 in 2026 and the 50th anniversary of the Additional Protocols of the Geneva Conventions (the law protecting health workers and civilians during armed conflict) in 2027. If this resolution and law are to be more than words, the current approach to protection, amounting to mere admonitions, must be replaced by centering accountability, accompanied by the political will to drive it.

That is the approach long taken by the Coalition, and recently taken by a report *In the Line of Fire*, issued in November 2024 by the World Health Organization and the World Innovation Summit for Health. It called for a new alliance of member states, UN agencies, and NGOs. It recognized that the renewal of long-ignored commitments could not possibly suffice. Instead, UN agencies, international organizations, NGOs, and civil society organizations must rally together to take tough action, including outreach to the International Criminal Court, to impose consequences on the perpetrators of violence. Actions must include states cutting off arms transfers to perpetrators of attacks and employing the power of universal jurisdiction to prosecute. If the laws of humanity are to be upheld and the carnage is to end, governments and all concerned citizens everywhere must find the political courage and will to act.

Len Rubenstein
Chair, Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition

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REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS

REPORTED INCIDENTS	HEALTH WORKERS KILLED	INCIDENTS WHERE HEALTH FACILITIES WERE DAMAGED/ DESTROYED	HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED	ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE OBSTRUCTED
GAZA 2024				
940	218	192	192	157
GAZA 2023				
780	399	150	161	83
WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM 2024				
418	8	13	80	272
WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM 2023				
304	3	6	63	131

Source: 2023–2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data

OVERVIEW

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 1,361 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in 2024, compared to 1,170 in 2023.[1]

In the Gaza Strip, where 940 incidents were recorded, there was a 22% increase from 2023, when 770 incidents were recorded. In these incidents, at least 218 health workers were killed and 192 arrested. Health facilities were damaged or destroyed at least 192 times and raided or occupied multiple times. Using different methods, other sources report far higher numbers of health workers killed. According to Healthcare Workers Watch, 1,200 health workers have been killed since October 2023.[2]

In the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the recorded incidents doubled to 418 incidents in 2024, compared to 208 in 2023. In these incidents, 80 health workers were arrested, 75 injured and eight killed, and health facilities were damaged or destroyed at least 13 times and raided 21 times. Access to health care was blocked or delayed at least 272 times, which left patients without access to medical treatment, proving fatal in some circumstances.

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Information on incidents of violence against health care in the oPt is compiled from open sources, information projects and private sources. See Methodology for further information.

THE CONTEXT

Eighteen months after the Hamas attacks on October 7, 2023 and the Israeli military assault on Gaza that followed, at least 50,000 Palestinians have been killed and over 110,000 injured. The actual numbers are likely to be much higher, with many people, including children, missing or trapped under rubble, while indirect deaths from infectious diseases and destroyed health care facilities, food distribution systems, and other essential infrastructure have not yet been assessed. All 2.1 million people in Gaza face a severe humanitarian crisis, with major barriers to obtaining shelter, water, food, health care services and education. As of March 2025, nearly 70% of all structures in Gaza and over 90% of homes have been destroyed or damaged, while around 90% of Gazans have been forcibly displaced – many multiple times – and are living in makeshift tents. Israeli blockades have severely restricted the transport of vital aid into Gaza, including food, water, fuel and medical supplies. By September 2024, about 96% of the population faced extreme food insecurity.

Throughout the war, Hamas has fired rockets into Israel.

Violence against Palestinians in the West Bank carried out by Israeli forces and Israeli settlers rose by 20% in 2024 compared to the previous year.[3] Since October 2023, Israeli forces have intensified military operations across West Bank towns and refugee camps, conducting raids lasting several hours – sometimes days – that resulted in deaths, mass arrests and detentions, and the destruction of civilian infrastructure. At least 40,000 people have been displaced from Jenin, Tulkarm, Nur Shams and Far'a refugee camps.

Most of the raids have been focused on refugee camps around Jenin, Nablus and Tulkarm. However, they have also affected villages around Ramallah and other areas in the West Bank. Settler violence has also continued to escalate, with settlers conducting violent campaigns under Israeli army protection in villages across the West Bank.

By August 2024, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) had bulldozed nearly 70% of Jenin's streets and 20 km of its water and sewage networks since it had launched its raids. As a result, 80% of the Jenin camp was left without access to water. Soldiers also demolished shops and bulldozed streets, while preventing tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians from accessing humanitarian aid. Israel's minister of defense has publicly stated that Israeli forces are applying lessons learned in Gaza, in what human rights and aid organizations have dubbed the "Gazafication" of the West Bank.

Since October 7, 2023, at least 930 Palestinians, including children, have been killed and over 15,000 detained by Israeli forces. Across the West Bank, strict movement restrictions have severely impeded access to health care. Israeli forces have systematically segregated Palestinian villages and cities across the West Bank by imposing regular checkpoints and road closures. These increased restrictions on movement have obstructed access to hospitals and health care centers for tens of thousands of Palestinians.

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VIOLENCE AGAINST OR OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE IN THE GAZA STRIP IN 2024

In 2024, Israeli military operations across the Gaza Strip impacted health services through repeated and sustained attacks on or the obstruction of health care at an unrelenting pace and have dismantled and destroyed the health care system. All of Gaza's hospitals have been struck by attacks using explosive weapons, many of them multiple times. Primary health care facilities have also been subjected to attack with explosive weapons. Incidents occurred throughout Gaza, often increasing in conjunction with IDF movements and ground operations. For example, attacks on health care increased in Rafah governorate from May after the IDF launched a ground assault, while incidents surged in northern Gaza, especially near Jabalia refugee camp, following a military operation between October and December 2024.

In total, 98% of the reported attacks on health care in Gaza were attributed to the IDF.

Palestinian armed groups, including the Al-Qassam Brigades, Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, used explosive weapons near health facilities at least five times.[4] Al-Qassam Brigades fighters also shot and killed an aid worker working for a health care INGO after opening fire at her car.[5]

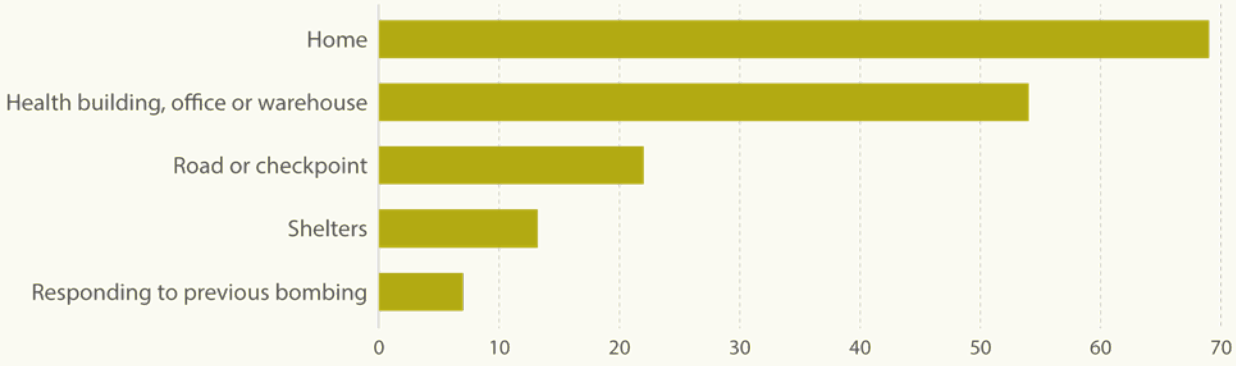
Over two-thirds of incidents affecting health care involved explosive weapons use, mainly drone and aircraft strikes, but also missiles and shelling. In other cases, health facilities were raided, occupied, or besieged, while health workers were killed, arrested, or injured, and faced constant threats to their safety.

Health workers killed

At least 218 health workers were killed in Gaza in 2024, 75% of whom worked for Palestinian-run health services. Over a quarter of the killed health workers were employed by local NGOs or the Palestinian Red Crescent Society (PRCS), with others working for health care INGOs and UN agencies. Information on four Israeli military medics who were killed or injured during active fighting has been publicly reported.

Known locations of health workers killed in 2024

Most were killed at home, while others were killed in Israeli hospital raids, or by Israeli snipers, air and drone strikes, or tank fire. Some were killed during rescue efforts or in "double tap" strikes targeting first responders. Health workers were also killed at checkpoints, during evacuations and in public areas.



Source: Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition

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Individuals in the health sector who were killed included doctors, nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, dentists, administrative staff, hospital directors, medical students, hospital guards, cleaners, ambulance personnel and technicians. The majority were killed at home. Others were killed on duty in health facilities targeted by Israeli snipers, during hospital raids, in drone or aircraft strikes or by tank shelling. In other cases, health workers were killed during recovery and rescue efforts and in "double tap" strikes, which involved striking an area once and then targeting first responders attempting to evacuate injured people in a second attack. Health workers were also killed by Israeli air strikes at checkpoints, while following evacuation orders and in public areas.

After a two-week raid on Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City in March, at least three health workers were found dead in or near the hospital with multiple gunshot injuries.[6] On April 1, shortly after Israeli forces withdrew from the hospital and its vicinity, the bodies of a doctor and her surgeon son were found at a nearby roundabout with firearm injuries.[7] Five days after the November 15, 2023 raid, the hospital's engineering director, who was on duty during the raid and instrumental in restoring its systems after the raid, was found dead with 15 bullet wounds.[8]

Health workers arrested

During 2024, Israeli forces arrested at least 192 health workers, 78% of them during hospital raids. Other staff were detained while attempting to deliver medical supplies to health facilities, at Israeli checkpoints or after evacuation orders were issued. Detained staff included doctors, nurses, paramedics, ambulance drivers, pharmacists and medical students. At least five hospital directors or heads of departments were arrested during three hospital raids on Kamal Adwan Hospital (in December 2024[9]), Al-Shifa Hospital (March 2024[10]) and Al-Amal Hospital (February 2024[11]).

Arrested health workers were sometimes beaten and forced to strip during their arrest. While the fates of most arrested health workers were not recorded, three health workers died while being held captive[12] in Israeli custody.[13] A doctor was shot and killed shortly after his release ten days after a hospital raid.[14]

Health facilities damaged or destroyed

In 2024, health facilities were damaged or destroyed at least 192 times, mostly by the IDF using explosive weapons. Children's hospitals, dental clinics, field hospitals, health clinics, hospitals, medical storage facilities, pharmacies, and rehabilitation clinics were all damaged by aircraft and drone strikes, artillery shelling, missiles, tank fire, or gunfire, or by the military bulldozers that accompanied Israeli forces during their incursions into these facilities and their surrounding areas. Some health facilities were damaged or extensively destroyed during raids. For example, after the conclusion of a 14-day Israeli raid on Al-Shifa Hospital in March 2024, the hospital was extensively damaged by explosives and bulldozers, which left it out of service.[15]

Hospitals like Kamal Adwan Hospital (North Gaza), Al-Amal Hospital (Khan Yunis), and Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital (Deir al-Balah) were damaged multiple times. Most of these hospitals, such as Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza city, had already been attacked several times between October and December 2023.

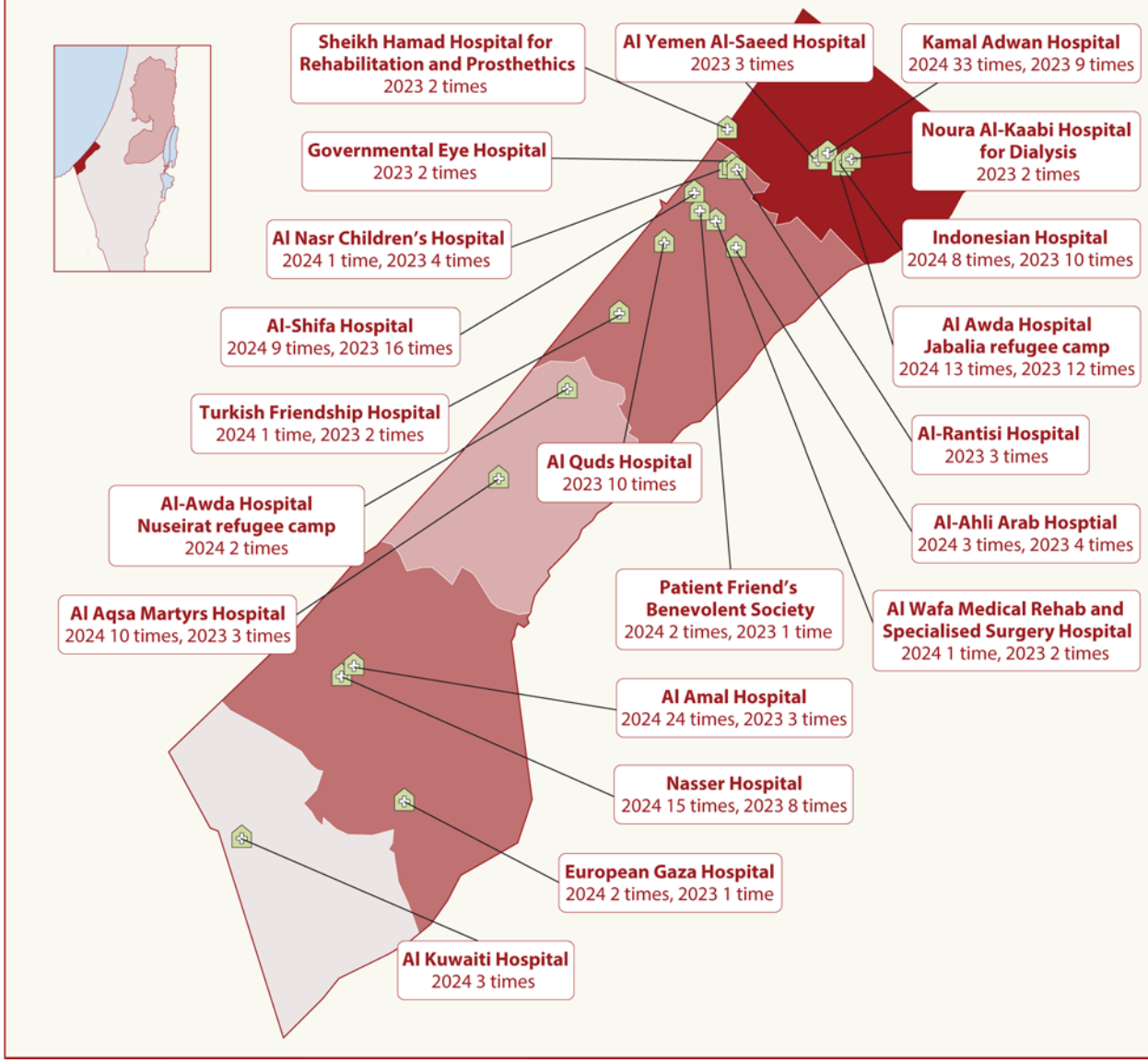
Hospitals and health clinics were shot at by Israeli forces, damaging infrastructure and threatening and injuring staff and patients inside. For example, Israeli snipers shot at the intensive care unit of Kamal Adwan Hospital in North Gaza governorate on December 16, 2024, breaking all the windows and forcing health workers to treat injured patients in corridors.[16] Health facilities were also extensively damaged by Israeli military bulldozers during numerous raids.

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Known hospitals affected by violence in the Gaza Strip multiple times in 2024

Some hospitals had already been damaged by previous bombings or raids that occurred between October and December 2023.



Source: Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition

Israeli forces used explosive weapons over 230 times near health facilities in 2024, with blast waves and shrapnel causing direct damage and further destruction nearby, making it unsafe or difficult for medical teams and patients to reach hospitals.

Health facilities raided and occupied

In 2024, Israeli forces raided health facilities at least 28 times in Gaza, Khan Yunis, and North Gaza governorates during ground assaults on nearby areas. Hospital raids often involved mass arrests of health workers, patients, and displaced people, along with damage to infrastructure and medical equipment.

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Some raids were preceded by sieges, with Israeli forces – troops, snipers, tanks and armed drones – surrounding hospitals, blocking movement and medical supply deliveries, and, in some cases, firing into the facilities, killing and injuring health workers and patients.

Some hospitals, including Al-Amal Hospital and Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, were raided multiple times, with some raids lasting several days. Between January 30 and February 9, Israeli forces forcefully entered the PRCS Al-Amal Hospital four times, firing at PRCS vehicles, including ambulances, and the hospital building. Patients, displaced people and health workers were threatened with evacuation.[17] On February 9, Israeli forces raided the hospital for a fourth time, conducting a ten-hour operation and arresting nine PRCS staff members, including four doctors, as well as patients and their family members.[18] The raid extensively damaged the hospital, and keys for ambulances and other vehicles were seized, preventing staff from operating them. The hospital was raided again for the fifth time on March 24.[19]

Six health care facilities were taken over by Israeli forces and repurposed as military barracks or command centers.[20] For example, Noura Rashid Al-Kaabi Dialysis Hospital in Jabalia refugee camp was repurposed into a military base and operational center by Israeli forces in May 2024,[21] and the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital, the only cancer hospital in Gaza, was repurposed into a military base in July 2024.[22]

Israel has repeatedly alleged that Hamas has used hospitals for military purposes. We have not received reports on these claims beyond those supplied by Israel.

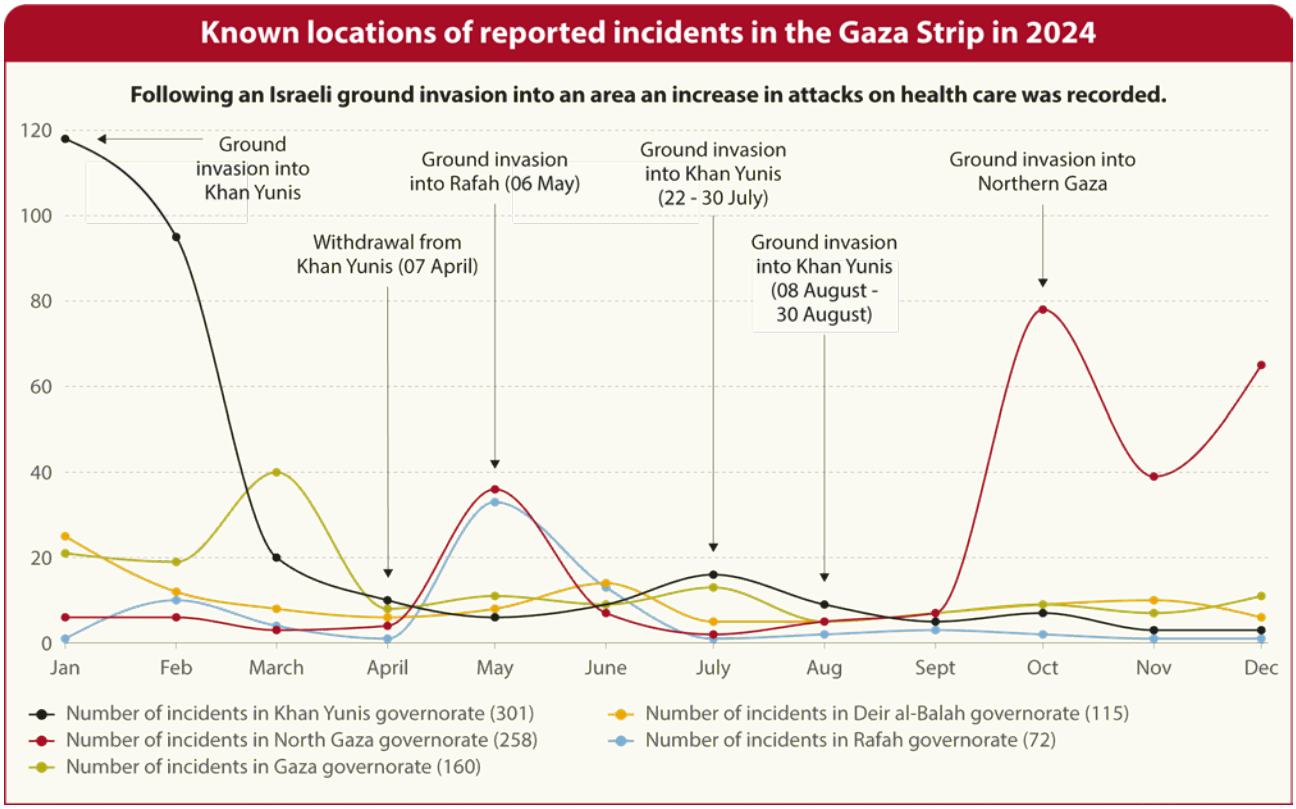
Forced unsafe evacuation of hospitals

Since the start of the Israeli assault on Gaza, almost all the health facilities across the territory have received evacuation orders. In 2024, the IDF issued evacuation orders to at least 34 health facilities in Gaza. Some complied with these orders and suspended health care services. Larger hospitals that provided care to high numbers of patients and displaced populations or could not move severely ill or injured patients were often unable to comply with these evacuation orders. However, most were issued without a viable alternative being available for people to seek health care, especially since extensive evacuation orders affected multiple hospitals and health centers in an area and the remaining health facilities were already barely functioning and struggling to cope. For example, all three major hospitals in Rafah governorate – Abu Youssef al-Najjar Hospital,[23] Al-Kuwaiti Hospital[24] and Al-Hilal Emirate Hospital[25] – were forced to evacuate following an Israeli ground incursion into the governorate on May 6. As a result, by early June, no hospitals were operational.[26]

Ambulances and emergency teams were blocked from reaching the wounded, and both ambulances and UN teams were obstructed during hospital evacuations. In October, WHO and UN teams attempted multiple times to reach Kamal Adwan Hospital in northern Gaza to evacuate patients. On the third attempt, a convoy of seven ambulances and three UN vehicles was halted by Israeli forces for five hours due to nearby fighting. Despite proposing alternative routes, the teams were not permitted to proceed and aborted the mission.[27] Convoys delivering food, fuel and medical supplies were similarly obstructed. In May, a UN mission trying to deliver fuel and ambulances to two hospitals was delayed at an Israeli checkpoint, where soldiers conducted physical searches and demanded biometric checks, forcing the mission to be halted. Additionally, international medical teams were also blocked from being deployed to Gaza to assist with the territory's barely functioning health care system. For example, in October, six medical NGOs were prevented from operating in Gaza, although by the end of the month, the ban had been lifted for at least one of these NGOs.[28]

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Source: Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition

This factsheet is based on 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Download the data here or on the Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX).

THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH CARE ON GAZA'S HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

As a result of the repeated attacks on health care in Gaza, the health care system has been devastated and is barely functioning. By the end of December, only 16 out Gaza's 36 hospitals were partially operational, and most lacked the capacity to treat chronic diseases and complex injuries, because they were overwhelmed by hundreds of casualties from daily bombings. Severe restrictions on the passage of humanitarian aid, including medical supplies and medications, also limited the health system's ability to function. Widespread medical shortages included basics like antibiotics, disinfectants, pain relief medication, and anesthetics, and essential support for war injuries such as prosthetics, wheelchairs, and crutches.

For example, the NGO-support Al-Kuwaiti Hospital was forced to suspend all operations on May 27 after Israeli drone strikes hit the hospital entrance, killing two administrative staff and injuring another.[29] The hospital had been hit ten days before when an Israeli air strike targeted a building opposite it, damaging the hospital's windows, destroying two ambulances and injuring at least five hospital staff.[30] Prior to the Israeli ground operation, Rafah governorate was hosting thousands of displaced Palestinians who had been ordered to evacuate to the area from other places in Gaza, and as a result many INGOs had set up field hospitals in the area, all of which were ordered to evacuate by Israeli forces.[31]

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Nasser Hospital was barely functioning and was being run by many staff who had very little experience of doing so, because so many medical staff had been detained or killed, while some had left when they were able to do so, said Professor Nizam Mamode, a British surgeon who had joined an emergency medical team.

In 2024, health workers in Gaza operated under extreme conditions. They lacked critical supplies and medications, often including anesthetics and antibiotics. They lived in constant fear for their own safety and that of their families, all while seeking to treat complex, life-threatening, traumatic injuries. Since October 2023, most health workers had not stopped working, providing health treatment to the best of their abilities. Like the rest of the population, many have been displaced – often multiple times – with some living in tents or in the hospitals where they work.

The scale of human suffering and limited resources have exposed health workers to traumatic experiences such as having to operate on their own family members or finding the bodies of people they know among the dead. The collapse of the health care system and severe shortages of medical supplies have often left health workers feeling helpless and unable to provide even basic care, further intensifying their psychological strain and trauma.

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THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH CARE ON PALESTINIANS' HEALTH IN THE GAZA STRIP

The few health facilities still functioning In Gaza are overwhelmed by having to treat more than 100,000 injured people, 25% of whom are suffering from major injuries that require ongoing rehabilitation. As of January 2025, the 16 hospitals still partially operating had a collective capacity of just over 1,800 beds. This, together with the Israeli blockades on Gaza that have prevented medical supplies and fuel from entering the territory, as well as the huge number of health workers killed and detained, have dismantled the health care system and left hospitals unable to cope with the overwhelming medical needs. The resulting public health crisis has grown ever larger, disproportionately affecting children, the elderly, pregnant women and those with chronic illnesses. Many patients cannot fully recover in medical facilities and must leave – often to makeshift tents, where they face harsh conditions, including limited hygiene facilities to care for their wounds. As of March 2025, 11,000 to 13,000 people, including over 4,000 children, urgently need medical evacuation from Gaza.

Since the beginning of the aid blockade on Gaza, only a small proportion of patients requiring urgent medical evacuation have been able to leave the territory. It is estimated that up to 12,000 individuals need to be evacuated for life-saving care; however, only 121 patients have been evacuated as of February 24, 2025, including 73 children. Additionally, Human Rights Watch has reported that Israeli authorities have blocked health care workers from entering Gaza, further constraining the capacity of the local health care

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system to respond to escalating medical needs. These restrictions affect international humanitarian deployments and impede the delivery of medical supplies, technical support, and training.

In January 2025, UNICEF estimated that 3,000-4,000 children in Gaza had one or more limbs amputated, often without anesthesia, making it the highest per capita rate of child amputees globally. Save the Children warns of a growing generation of child amputees who are without access to the necessary follow-up care. There has been a rise in communicable diseases, including respiratory infections, diarrhea, and outbreaks like Hepatitis A, with over 40,000 confirmed cases, as well as the first polio case in 25 years being reported in August. While at least three child vaccination campaigns have been conducted, access issues have hindered their effectiveness, with about 7,000 children in northern Gaza missing their vaccinations during the October campaign due to an Israeli ground incursion. This increase in communicable diseases is due to people's increased vulnerability, the degradation of WASH facilities, forced displacement leading to overcrowded shelters, lack of adequate shelter and the interruption of vaccination programming.

Patients with non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, heart conditions and cancer also face significant barriers to care.



Women in Gaza have been severely affected by Israel's bombardment and siege, with sexual and reproductive health increasingly at risk. Many women were forced to give birth in unsafe conditions, and premature births increased due to the destruction of health facilities and lack of medical support. Menstrual hygiene is also a concern. As of April 2024, UNFPA estimated that over 690,000 women and adolescent girls faced severe shortages of hygiene products and lacked access to clean, private facilities, often resorting to

improvised materials that increase the risk of infection. Overcrowded shelters and poor sanitation increase infection risks and expose women to protection threats while seeking water, privacy, and dignity.

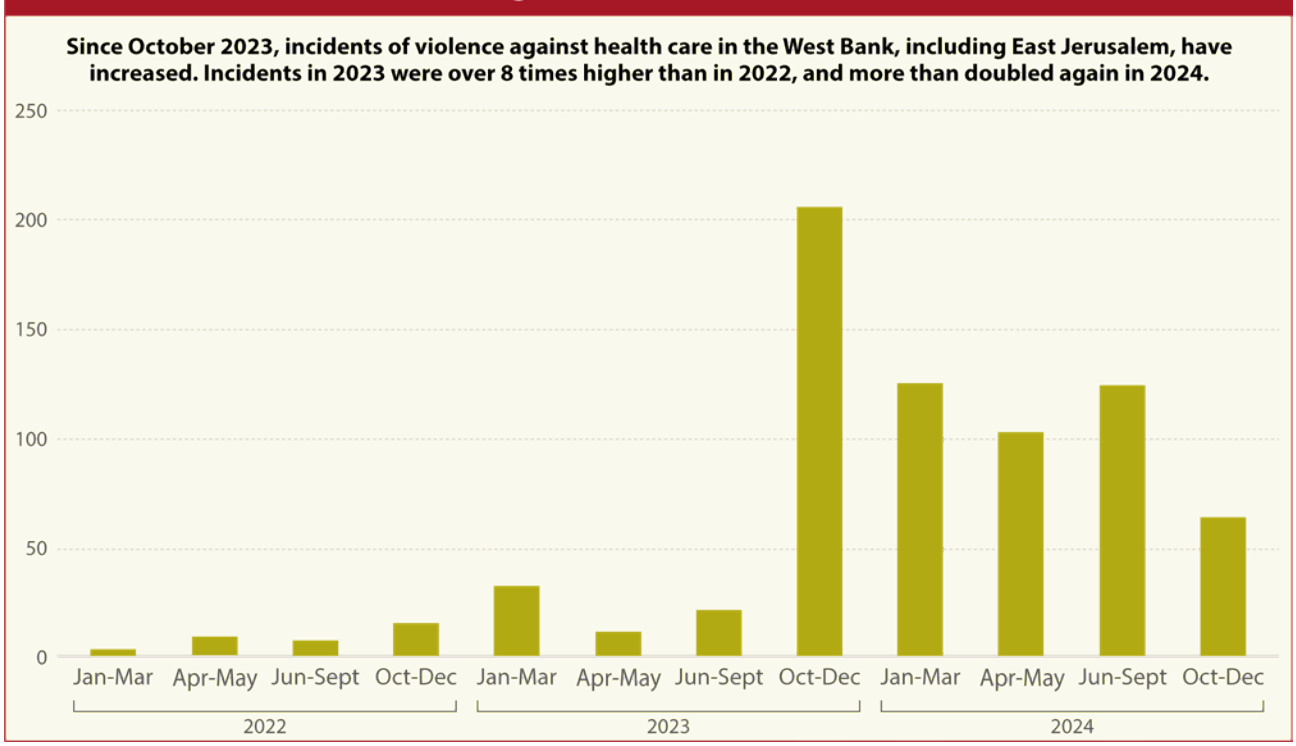
VIOLENCE AGAINST OR OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE IN THE WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM IN 2024

In 2024, incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care more than doubled in the West Bank and East Jerusalem compared to the previous year. Most were attributed to Israeli forces. On seven occasions, Israeli settlers damaged ambulances by firing or throwing rocks at them.[32] In one incident, an ambulance was stopped and attacked by a group of Israeli settlers while transporting a patient to a nearby hospital. The ambulance driver and a doctor were beaten during the attack.[33] In December 2024, Palestinian National Security Forces were implicated in five incidents in Jenin refugee camp during a large-scale operation, damaging health facilities, surrounding and storming hospitals, searching ambulances, and arresting patients.[34]

Incidents were reported right across the West Bank. A third of incidents occurred inside refugee camps during Israeli security operations in these camps, with Balata, Far'a, Jenin, Nur Shams and Tulkarm refugee camps the most affected.

Ambulances and emergency medical teams continued to be obstructed from reaching people in need. Health workers continued to be killed, arrested, and injured, and health facilities were damaged and raided, and access was obstructed.

Reported incidents of violence against healthcare in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, since 2022



Source: Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition

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Obstruction of access to health care

In 2024, there was a significant increase in obstructions to health care in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, with at least 272 incidents identified compared to 131 the previous year. Ambulance teams were obstructed from reaching and assisting patients in the West Bank by Israeli forces at least 257 times in 2024.[35] Ambulances were prevented from reaching the injured, and were frequently held up for several hours at checkpoints, often during broader Israeli security operations in villages, towns, and refugee camps across the West Bank. An ambulance on its way to collect a woman in labor was stopped and detained for an extended period at an Israeli checkpoint. The woman suffered heavy bleeding and lost one of her babies, and was taken to the hospital in critical condition.[36] Patients were detained inside ambulances and paramedics were assaulted, threatened or detained.

Access to health facilities was frequently obstructed when hospitals were surrounded by Israeli forces, health clinics were forcibly closed, and medical services were suspended due to increased insecurity and threats to health workers. In one incident, a barbed wire barrier was installed near an INGO health clinic in Hebron that blocked access to the clinic, which was the only medical facility in the area.[37]

Health workers arrested, detained and killed

At least 80 health workers were arrested and detained by Israeli forces in 2024, compared to 63 in 2023. Health workers were arrested in their homes, hospitals and clinics, while trying to reach patients, inside refugee camps, and at Israeli checkpoints. While the fates of most arrested health workers were not recorded, one health worker was killed after he was detained by Israeli forces at a checkpoint during an IDF security operation.[38]

Eight health workers were reported killed in the West Bank in 2024, compared to three in 2023. Victims included ambulance drivers, paramedics, doctors and medical students who were killed in armed drone strikes or at Israeli checkpoints. In one case, a surgeon was shot and killed by an Israeli sniper in a hospital car park as he was walking toward the hospital.[39]

Health facilities raided

In 2024, health facilities across the West Bank were raided by either Israeli or Palestinian forces on at least 21 occasions. During these raids, the forces in question arrested patients and health workers, searched ambulances, and fired inside the facilities.

On at least three occasions, Israeli forces entered three hospitals in Jenin, Nablus and Hebron governorates disguised as medical staff or dressed in civilian clothing. During these incidents, they arrested patients and beat some of the doctors and nurses at the hospital.[40] For example, in January 2024, Israeli forces dressed as doctors and female civilians raided the Ibn Sina Hospital and shot and killed three male patients, assaulted a nurse, and beat the hospital's security guard. The patients were killed in their hospital beds, and the Israeli military claimed they were planning attacks in Israel and hiding in the hospital.[41]

Health facilities damaged

Health facilities were damaged or destroyed at least 13 times in the West Bank in 2024, compared to six times in 2023. Hospitals, clinics, and mobile health units were mostly damaged or destroyed during raids by Israeli forces, who fired into buildings, destroyed medical equipment, and used bulldozers to severely damage facility infrastructure.[42] In at least three incidents, explosive weapons damaged health facilities' infrastructure. Two of these incidents involved raids on facilities in the Nablus and Tulkarm governorates.[43]

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In another incident, Palestinian Authority Security Forces launched a rocket-propelled grenade that damaged the laboratory room of an UNRWA clinic in Jenin refugee camp.[44]

THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE AGAINST HEALTH CARE IN THE WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM

Increased violence, obstructions of and attacks on health care in the West Bank and East Jerusalem put the health care system under immense pressure. Israeli curfews have also had a detrimental impact on patients' access to health care. Patients with chronic conditions that require regular out-patient treatment are often unable to access facilities for treatment or have to spend a considerable amount of time trying to reach these facilities. Pregnant women face limited access to antenatal, postnatal and delivery care as a result of these movement restrictions, resulting in an increase of childbirths at home. The destruction caused to refugee camps in the West Bank, especially in Tulkarm and Nur Shams camps, has left elderly people, children and especially those with disabilities in an even more precarious situation. The destruction of streets and infrastructure has made it extremely difficult to access essential health care services, and the mixing of the contents of sewage and water networks due to infrastructure damage has posed severe health hazards. The repeated Israeli military incursions have had a profound impact on children with disabilities, particularly those with autism and Down syndrome. These children require daily care, but the ongoing incursions and constant threats of violence prevent them from reaching health centers.

In sum, although health care services and a highly skilled medical workforce are available and physically close to most populated areas, they are rendered inaccessible to those who need them most as a result of repeated attacks on and obstructions of the health care system.

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1 In 2024, three incidents were recorded without specifying the location and no additional source could be identified to determine the location of the reported incident. In 2023, 86 such incidents were reported.
2 Insecurity Insight recorded 617 health workers killings, which was carried out by the cross-checking of individual events and names and did 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 organizations is ongoing. This cross-checking process is complex, and aims 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. Other sources have cited higher numbers, e.g. Health Workers Watch - Palestine – an independent initiative – cited 1,200 health workers killed.
3 Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED) database attribution policy, https://acleddata.com/privacy-policy/ (accessed March 2025).
4 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 45620; 45629; 45628; 53682; 87123.
5 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 84477.
6 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 45438.
7 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 45657.
8 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 46272.
9 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 87238.
10 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 45438.
11 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 44124.
12 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 87238; 45438; 44380.
13 This figure refers to health workers arrested and killed while in detention in 2024. In 2023, at least another two health workers were killed while in Israeli detention.
14 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 85623.
15 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 45438.
16 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 87028.
17 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 43866; 44031; 44016; 44287.
18 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 44287.
19 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 87351.
20 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 45635; 49854; 44380; 47224; 60670; 85643.
21 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 47224.
22 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 60670.
23 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 46404.
24 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 46816.
25 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 85293.



26 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 85293; 46404.
27 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 84877.
28 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Cara Data. Incident number 85255.
29 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 47157.
30 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 85296.
31 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 49996; 46959; 46660.
32 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 87765; 85186; 91720; 54123; 50327; 87529; 46295.
33 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 85186.
34 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 88062; 87272; 87274; 87273; 88320.
35 It is likely that the exact number of times ambulances and medical teams were obstructed or delayed from carrying out their work is much higher due to reporting differences, and it is likely that not all incidents were reported as they became more and more frequent and routine.
36 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 87776.
37 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 87336.
38 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 70548.
39 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 48202.
40 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 86976 84478; 43863.
41 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 43863.
42 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 78510.
43 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident numbers 64649; 46871.
44 Insecurity Insight. Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition 2024 Report Dataset: 2023-2024 PSE SHCC Health Care Data. Incident number 88062.

SAFEGUARDING
HEALTH
IN CONFLICT

The Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition is a group of more than 40 organizations working to protect health workers and services threatened by war or civil unrest. We have raised awareness of global attacks on health and pressed United Nations agencies for greater global action to protect the security of health care. We monitor attacks, strengthen universal norms of respect for the right to health, and demand accountability for perpetrators.
https://safeguarding-health.com

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