Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

24 December 2025- 06 January 2026

Social Media Monitoring (SMM) analysis of six edited media posts in response to 05 January 2025 clinic attack in Ukraine

This analysis examines social media comments to six edited media posts published on 05 January 2026 reporting the Russian drone strike on a private medical clinic in Kyiv, focusing on how social media users frame responsibility, civilian harm, and the legitimacy of the clinic (see *Ukraine* section below for more details on the incident). The comments showed high levels of polarisation, but a notable pattern is the effort to undermine the civilian status of the hospital itself. Around 22% of comments explicitly deny or relativise the protected nature of medical facilities, portraying the clinic as a military site, a staging set, or a legitimate target. Claims range from assertions that Ukrainian forces were "hiding among civilians" or storing air-defence systems in hospitals, to outright denial that the building functioned as a clinic at all ("clinics don't work nights"). Others dismiss the strike as staged or "collateral damage",or argue that civilian harm is simply the normal language of war. These narratives directly erode the principle of civilian immunity and mirror long-standing disinformation tropes used to justify attacks on healthcare infrastructure.

Alongside this, the wider thread continues to show dehumanisation from both sides of the conflict. Many comments mock victims, celebrate the strike, or call for further attacks, while others deflect responsibility by comparing the incident to alleged Ukrainian or Western actions in other conflict-settings. Expressions of sympathy or anti-war sentiment are present but marginal, overwhelmed by propaganda slogans, emojis, and aggressive language. Taken together, the reaction illustrates how social media discourse not only polarises opinion but actively reframes civilian harm as acceptable or fabricated reinforcing the normalisation of violence against protected sites and populations.

Table: Comments undermining civilian status of health facility

Comments undermining civilian status of health facility	Pro-Russian comments	Pro-Ukrainian comments	Comments written in English	Comments written in Russian	Number of social media users reached
22%	**34%**	**22%**	**61%**	**11%**	**498,839**

Past editions: **10-23 December**; **26 November-09 December**; **12-25 November**; **29 October-11 November**; **15-28 October**; **01-14 October**; **17-30 September**; **03-16 September**; **20 August-02 September**; **06-19 August**; **All**

SHCC Reports: **2024**; **2023**; **2022**; **2021**; **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

25 December 2025: In Doutche locality, Logone-et-Chari department, Far North region, the roofs of a health centre were stolen by members from the Islamic State- West Africa Province (ISWAP) faction. **Source: Humanity Purpose**

Central African Republic
05 January 2026: In Zémio town and sub-prefecture, Haut-Mbomou prefecture, the Zemio Hospital was attacked by armed men assimilated with Azande militias, reportedly looking for elements of the injured Central African armed forces who were being taken care of in the hospital. **Sources: Network of Journalists for Human Rights and Personal Communication**

Democratic Republic of the Congo
29-30 December 2025: In Makobola village, Nundu health zone, Fizi territory, South Kivu province, Makobola Health Centre was looted and ransacked by FARDC and Wazalendo fighters. **Source: Kivu Morning Post**

29-30 December 2025: In Makobola village, Nundu health zone, Fizi territory, South Kivu province, a recently constructed hospital was looted and ransacked by FARDC and Wazalendo fighters. **Source: Kivu Morning Post**

30 December 2025: In Mikenge area, Itombwe sector, Mwenga territory, South Kivu province, the General Reference Hospital's medicine and medical equipment were looted by Twirwaneho members, who also destroyed some goods. **Source: ACLED**[1]

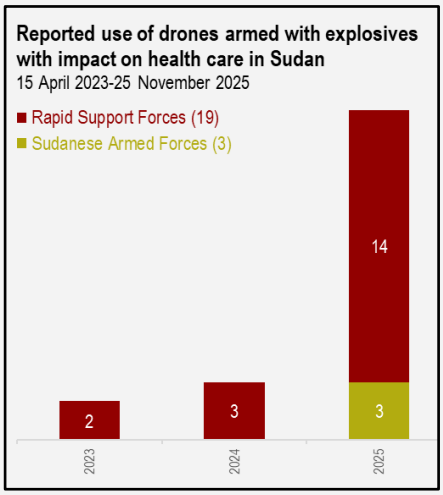
03-04 January 2026: In Swima village, Babungwe Nord group, Tanganyika sector, Fizi territory, South Kivu province, Abeka Hospital was attacked overnight by armed individuals who searched various departments, including the paediatric ward, searched for nurses, and stole patients' belongings. **Sources: Actualite II, Personal Communication and RNA News**

Nigeria
December 2025: In Ladu village, Gubja local government area, Yobe state, a primary health care medical centre was raided by armed men suspected to be ISWAP insurgents who looted medical supplies, consumables, a vehicle and other valuables. **Sources: ACLED**[1] **and Zagazola**

30 December 2025: In Bagudo town, Bagudo local government area, Kebbi state, a section of the nurses' home at the General Hospital was damaged when an IED planted by an unidentified armed group exploded. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Sudan

Insecurity Insight identified at least 691 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in Sudan since fighting started between the Sudan Armed Forces (SAF) and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) in April 2023 and 25 November 2025. On average, there were two to three attacks on health care each day, with most of these attributed to the RSF. At least 173 health workers were killed and 83 arrested, while health facilities were reportedly damaged on 177 occasions. Health facilities were forced to close or reduce services, placing patients' lives at risk as fighting, aircraft and drone strikes, and armed searches disrupted the delivery of care, with profound long-term impacts on the health system and affected communities.



The RSF's use of drones armed with explosives that impacted health care surged in 2025, underscoring the RSF's growing reliance on these weapons with impact on critical infrastructure, including health facilities and ambulances. These drone attacks severely disrupted medical evacuations and the delivery of essential health services, particularly in North Kordofan and North Darfur states.

Incident briefs: **24 December 2025-06 January**; **10-23 December**; **26 November-09 December**; **12-25 November**; **29 October-11 November**; **15-28 October**; **01-14 October**; **17-30 September**; **03-16 September**; **All**

SHCC factsheets (EN): **2023**; **2022**; **2021**. (AR): **2023**; **2022**; **2021**.

Asia

Myanmar

Insecurity Insight identified at least 1829 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Myanmar since the military coup on 01 February 2021 and 03 December 2025. On average, health care was attacked every day, with 70% of incidents attributed to the Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF).

At least 165 health workers were killed and 906 arrested, while health facilities were reportedly damaged on 447 occasions. Health facilities were forced to close or reduce services, placing patients' lives at risk as fighting, aircraft and drone strikes, and medicine blockades disrupted the delivery of care, with profound long-term impacts on the health system and affected communities.

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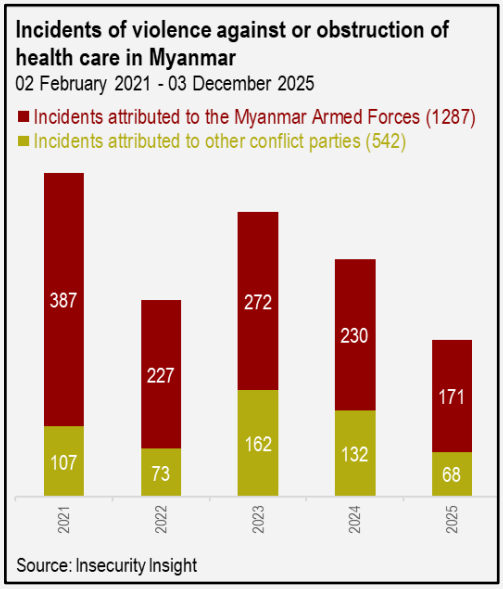
SHCC Factsheets: Burmese: **2024**; **2023**. English: **2024**; **2023**: **2022**; **2021**; **2020**



Europe

Russian Federation

31 December 2025: In Tuapse town, Tuapsinsky district, Krasnodar krai, a psychiatric hospital and a technological college were damaged by Ukrainian drone strikes. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Ukraine

26 December 2025: In Izmail city, urban hromada and raion, Odesa oblast, the premises of a polyclinic were damaged in a nighttime Russian attack. **Sources: Context-Black Sea Region**, **FREEDOM**, **Odesa Regional State Administration**, **Pivden Syoyo**, **Times Odessa**, **UA Varta** and **Ukrainian Service of Information**

28 December 2025: In Pokrovske rural settlement and settlement hromada, Synelnykove raion, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, a medical facility was damaged in a Russian KAB-1500L (precision guided weapon) and UAVs attack. **Sources: City and River**, **DniproTV**, **Dnipro Regional State Administration**, **Hirchytsya**, **Nikopol News I**, **Nikopol News II** and **UA Varta**

29 December 2025: In Tsentralnyi district, Kherson city, urban hromada, raion and oblast, a medical facility was damaged during a Russian drone attack. **Sources: City of the Sun**, **Kavun City**, **Most**, **National Police of Ukraine**, **UA Varta** and **Vgoru**

02 January 2026: In Kharkiv oblast, a hospital and an educational facility were damaged in an attack by Russian forces. **Sources: 057**, **ArmyInform**, **Donbas News**, **Dumka**, **Gvara Media**, **Head of the Kharkiv Regional State Administration**, **Inkorr**, **MagnoliaTV**, **Novosti-N**, **Status Quo**, **UA Varta**, **UA.NEWS** and **Ukrinform**

04 January 2026: In Kramatorsk city, urban hromada and raion, Donetsk oblast, a medical facility and 14 private households were damaged by Russian forces. **Sources: Donbas News**, **UA Varta** and **V-Variant**

05 January 2026: In Obolonsky district, Kyiv city, the private Medicom Clinic, which includes a multidisciplinary hospital, was hit by a Russian "Shahed" drone strike at around 0230hrs. The second-floor wing of the facility was hit, creating a hole in the wall across the 2nd and 3rd floors. A

30-year-old patient was killed and four others were injured, including two women, aged 77 and 97, who were poisoned by combustion products, and a 42-year-old woman. At the time of the attack, the hospital was home to 26 ICU patients, some of whom were on ventilators, which made evacuation more difficult. In total, 16 patients from the clinic were transported to municipal hospitals. **Sources: Fakty**, **FREEDOM**, **Gazeta**, **Informator**, **Inkorr**, **KYIV24**, **Kyivshchyna 24/7**, **MediaPort**, **Novini.LIVE**, **Novosti-N**, **NV**, **Obozrevatel**, **OGO**, **RayonIN**, **TSN**, **Ukranews I**, **Ukranews II**, **Ukranews III**, **UNN**, **ZN,UA I** and **ZN,UA II**

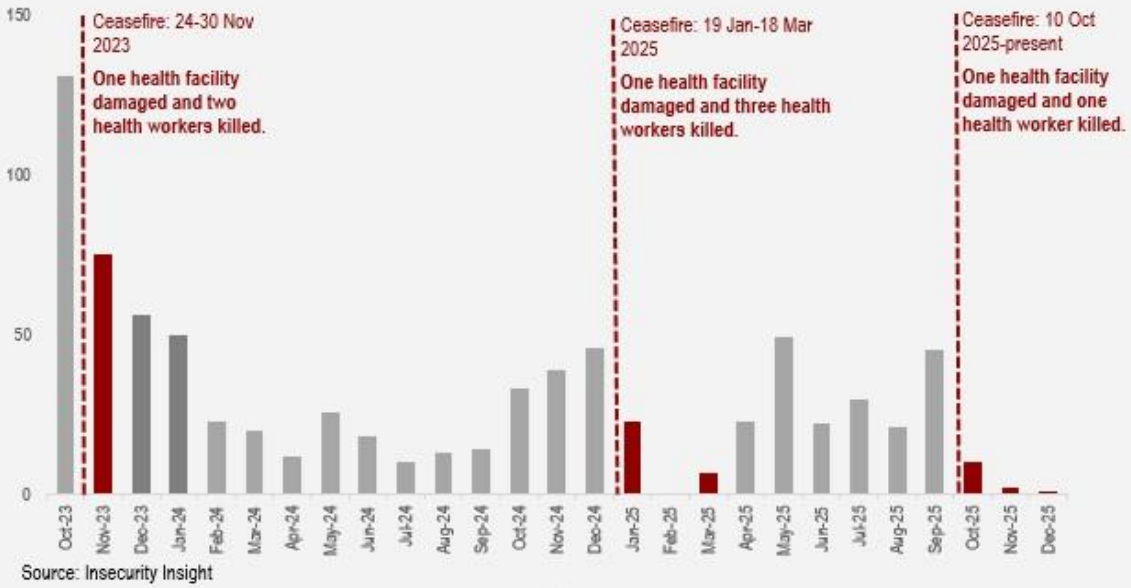
06 January 2026: In Shostka city, urban hromada and raion, Sumy oblast, hospitals were forced to run on generators following attacks by Russian forces on energy facilities in the region. **Source: Sumy Media**

Middle East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Insecurity Insight identified at least 3049 incidents of violence against or obstruction of access to health care in the occupied Palestinian territory between 07 October 2023 and 03 December 2025.[1] Over 95% of these incidents were attributed to Israeli forces. In Gaza, where 2177 incidents were recorded, health facilities were damaged 421 times, 741 health workers were killed and 360 arrested.[2] In the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where 807 attacks on health care were recorded, health facilities were damaged 28 times, 12 health workers were killed and 162 arrested. Over a third of the 2177 reported incidents in Gaza involved IDF airstrikes, including aircraft and armed drone strikes, impacting health care. Children's hospitals, dental clinics, field hospitals, health clinics, hospitals, medical storage facilities, pharmacies, and rehabilitation clinics were struck and damaged, and 382 health workers were killed. IDF airstrikes continued during ceasefires, during which three health facilities were damaged and six health workers were killed.

Reported incidents where IDF aircraft and armed drone strikes impacted health care in Gaza
07 October 2023-03 December 2025



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Syrian Arab Republic

28 December 2025: In Lattakia city and governorate, two ambulances were vandalised by suspected anti-MOC members while health workers were assisting injured people on the sidelines of a demonstration, forcing them to withdraw their ambulances. **Source: ACLED**[1]

The Americas

Brazil

24 December 2025: In Canhotinho city, Pernambuco state, a person in an ambulance, who had been injured after being stabbed, was shot and killed in a drive-by attack by two unidentified armed perpetrators on a motorcycle. **Source: ACLED**[1]

Mexico

03 January 2026: In Culiacán city, Sinaloa state, in front of the General Hospital of Culiacán, two brothers were injured in a drive-by shooting at night. Mexican Army personnel guarding the hospital provided assistance and took them to the emergency room where they were placed under medical care. One of the men died in hospital. **Sources: Extra Oficial and Vivavoz**

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 and the Tides Foundation. The opinions expressed in it do not reflect in any way the position of the UK government or the Tides Foundation who are not responsible for the content expressed in this document.

Please **get in touch** if you are interested in curated datasets, if you have made a public statement that you would like us to include in our Bi Monthly News Brief, to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on. Join our **mailing list**.

Insecurity Insight. 2026. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 24 December 2025-06 January 2026. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. https://bit.ly/24Dec-06Jan2026Healthhttps://bit.ly/10-23Dec2025Health

[1] Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) **database attribution policy**. Accessed 12 January 2026.