

Safeguarding Healthcare Monthly News Brief

Insecurity affecting the delivery of healthcare

Healthcare

April 2018

Threats and violence affecting emergency care

Africa

South Africa

21 April 2018: In Johannesburg, Gauteng province, unidentified perpetrators shot at an ambulance crew based at the Northview Fire Station whilst they were attending to an assault case in the suburb Sandringham. The victims survived the attack. Source: [Sowetan Live](#)

22 April 2018: In Johannesburg, Gauteng province, members of the community attacked a man who had killed his girlfriend at Freedom Park, injuring paramedics from the Eldorado Park Fire Station who were trying to stop the angry crowd. Source: [Sowetan Live](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

09 April 2018: In Gaza Strip, two patients in need of urgent medical care who had been wounded by Israeli troops amid demonstrations four days earlier were denied transfer to Ramallah city, West Bank, by the Israeli Military's Coordinator of Government Activities in the Territories. Source: [Adalah](#)

Threats and violence affecting general healthcare

Africa

Nigeria

29 April 2018: In Takum local government area, Taraba state, unknown gunmen kidnapped, potentially for ransom, three staff of the Taraba State Primary Healthcare Development Agency. Source: [Guardian](#)

Asia and Pacific

Indonesia

01 April 2018: In Utikini village, Mimika regency, Papua province, the armed group West Papua Liberation Army set fire to an unnamed hospital, along with an unnamed elementary and junior

This monthly digest comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to healthcare.

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

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high school. Source: [Tempo](#)

Pakistan

28 April 2018: Update: In Peshawar city, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Pakistani authorities moved the imprisoned doctor accused of treason for allegedly helping the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) hunt down Osama bin Laden to Adiala prison in Rawalpindi city, Punjab province, for unknown reasons. Source: [VOA News](#)

The Philippines

12 April 2018: In Jolo town, Sulu province, gunmen attacked and killed the human resources management officer of the Integrated Provincial Health Office as he was driving a motorcycle in area San Raymundo, prompting medical workers to urge leaders in Sulu to protect their colleagues in the troubled region. Source: [Phil Star](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Libya

23 April 2018: In Sabha city, Fezzan region, stray mortar shells fell on the stationery store of the nursing unit of an unspecified hospital, causing no casualties. Source: [Libya Now](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

1 April 2018: In Urm al Jouz town, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces allegedly fired a missile near to the Urm al Jouz Health Centre, resulting in an unspecified number of casualties and the partial destruction of the facility fence. Source: [SNHR](#)

6 April 2018: In al Jazarat area, a dentist traveling on the Deir Ez-Zour to Raqqqa road was killed by a landmine planted by ISIS. Source: [SNHR](#)

7 April 2018: In Douma, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, several missiles struck the Rif Dimashq Specialized Hospital shortly before it was then hit by barrel bombs that were likely dropped from Syrian regime helicopters. The initial missile strike is suspected to have originated either from Syrian regime or Russian warplanes but is still under investigation. The hospital building, also known as 'National Hospital', was severely damaged and completely rendered out of commission. Source: [SNHR](#)

7 April 2018: In Kafr Zita city, western Hama governorate, al Gharbi neighbourhood, fixed-wing warplanes believed to be of Russian origin fired six missiles at Kafr Zita Specialized Hospital, destroying the building, its equipment and a nearby Syrian Civil Defence building. The hospital had also been targeted by missiles in previous incidents. Source: [SNHR](#)

15 April 2018: In Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern Idlib governorate, clashes between Hay'at Tahrir al Sham and the Syrian Liberation Front resulted in slight damages to the nearby Ma'aret Nu'man Central Hospital. Source: [SNHR](#)

20 April 2018: In al Yarmouk Camp, south Damascus, a paramedic tending to the wounded from a previous shelling was killed when Syrian regime forces allegedly fired surface-to-surface missiles near Palestine Hospital in the al Yarmouk Camp. The hospital itself was heavily destroyed. Source: [SNHR](#)

29 April 2018: In al Za'farana village, northern Homs, Syrian regime forces warplanes allegedly fired multiple missiles near the al Za'farana Makeshift Hospital, moderately damaging its upper floor and cladding. Source: [SNHR](#)

The Americas

Venezuela

11 April 2018: In Iribarren municipality, Lara state, armed robbers killed a physiotherapist of a Venezuelan football team in the vicinity of the Farmatodo on Eighth Street, east of Barquisimeto city, and stole his belongings. Source: [El Pitazo](#)

Medical education

Middle-East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

9 April 2018: In Wadi al Nasim, southern Idlib governorate, a first-year female medicine student from Idlib University was killed, along with her mother and three of her siblings, in what appeared to be a car bombing attack. Source: [SNHR](#)

Medical Education is #NotATarget!

The latest report by [Safeguarding Healthcare in Conflict \(SHCC\)](#) member [International Federation of Medical Students' Associations \(IFMSA\)](#) presents information on **Attacks on Medical Education**.

The report covers attacks on medical education in seven countries and aims to explore an impact of violence on medical education, with its specific components, such as education facilities, teaching hospitals, libraries, professors, medical students and all other directly related components.

You can view the report [here](#).

Strikes and supply concerns

Africa

South Africa

26 April 2018: In Klerksdorp, members of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union staged a protest at Tshepong Hospital, calling for outsourced cleaners and workers to be hired by the provincial health department. They intimidated staff, denied professors access to the building and denied patients access to medicine. Source: [Sowetan Live](#)

29 April 2018: In Johannesburg, Gauteng province, nurses and porters from various organisations – including members of the National Education and Health and Workers' Union – staged a protest at Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital, where they damaged equipment, leading to a suspension of services and prompting the police to fire rubber bullets at them to disperse them. Source: [News 24](#)

Togo

10 April 2018: Health workers led by the Union of Hospital Practitioners of Togo launched a countrywide, four-day strike at public hospitals with minimum services, demanding hospital equipment. Source: [IciLome](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

09 April 2018: In Dhaka, the reformist group Bangladesh Shadharan Chhatra Odhikar Sangrakkhan Parishad declared an indefinite strike at all public universities and colleges under the National University system, demanding reforms to the public service's quota system. Traffic caused by the chaos prevented ambulances from reaching two major hospitals. Sources: [Dhaka Tribune](#) and [The Daily Star](#)

Nepal

02 April 2018: In Pokhara city, Kaski district, No. 4 province, police clashed with non-teaching staff from Manipal Teaching Hospital, who had been protesting in front of the hospital administration for nine days, causing 12 injuries. 20 protesters were also detained and charged with vandalism. The employees have been demanding the implementation of previously agreed salary increments, holidays and permanent status. Source: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

Pakistan

24 April 2018: In Quetta city, Balochistan province, members of the Young Doctors Association (and paramedical staff belonging to government-run hospitals) staged a sit-in outside the commissioner office, requesting that their demands be met. Source: [Dawn](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Algeria

05 April 2018: In Algiers, resident dentists called an end to strikes due to some guarantees being given by Algerian health and education authorities. Source: [Algerie 360](#)

05 April 2018: In Oran province, resident dentists continued a strike which had been going on for an unspecified number of weeks, requesting more robust guarantees from Algerian health and education authorities. Source: [Algerie 360](#)

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Aid in Danger



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