

Safeguarding Healthcare Monthly News Brief

Insecurity affecting the delivery of healthcare

Healthcare

December
2017

Threats and violence affecting emergency care

Africa

Central African Republic

04 December 2017: In Bria Haute-Kotto prefecture, unspecified armed men stopped and pointed their weapons at a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) ambulance, whilst it was transporting an injured person from PK3 IDP. They objected to the wounded being taken to hospital. Source: [aBangui](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Libya

12 December 2017: In Sirte, Tripolitania region, unspecified men stole an Ibn Sina Hospital ambulance. The vehicle was found by security forces in Harawah area on 18 December. Source: [Alwasat](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

02 December 2017: In Harasta, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, fixed-wing Syrian regime forces warplanes reportedly fired a missile near an ambulance belonging to the SCD centre 90 as volunteers were responding to a previous incident. The missile landed 25 meters away from the ambulance, and caused the driver to lose control and to collide with a Syrian Arab Red Crescent ambulance. Both ambulances structures were damaged. Source: [SNHR](#)

11 December 2017: In Douma, Eastern Ghouta, one NGO volunteer was killed when the area he was performing humanitarian services in was shelled. Source: [AWSD](#)¹

28 December 2017: In Bdama, Idlib governorate, a national SCD volunteer was reportedly killed by Syrian rocket launcher shells as he was responding to a previous incident. Source: [SNHR](#)

30 December 2017: In Harasta, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, a male national nurse was reportedly killed by a missile fired by Syrian regime forces warplanes as he was responding to a previous incident. Source: [SNHR](#)

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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Threats and violence affecting general healthcare

Africa

Central African Republic

04 December 2017: In Masisi territory, North Kivu province, unspecified armed men attacked MSF's base in Mweso area, subjecting staff to violence and kidnapping threats, and robbing the compound of money and equipment. Sources: [Congo Actuel](#) and [MSF](#)

Nigeria

11 December 2017: In Pulka town, Gwoza local government area, Borno state, a mortar shell took off at an IDP camp, where a Spanish team from MSF were providing healthcare, killing three or five people. Source: [Vanguard](#)

Asia

Pakistan

07 December 2017: In Sukkur city and district, Sindh province, Pakistani authorities raided Taluka Hospital Mehar, and arrested six doctors and paramedical staff for unspecified reasons. Source: [Dawn](#)

11 December 2017: In Qilla Shahbag area, Charsadda city and district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, unidentified perpetrators stabbed to death an eye specialist from Hayatabad Medical Complex, Peshawar city, for no ascertained reasons. Source: [Dawn](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Libya

27 December 2017: Update: Two Belarusian doctors, who had been subject to detention at the hands of unknown gunmen since last 25 October, were released. Source: [Alwasat](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

02 December 2017: In Um al Amd village, Aleppo governorate, suspected fixed-wing Russian forces warplanes fired a missile at the medical point, destroying the building and equipment. Source: [SNHR](#)

07 December 2017: In al Atareb city, Aleppo governorate, a female national nurse was reportedly killed by missiles suspected to have been fired by Russian warplanes at a local market. Source: [SNHR](#)

23 November 2017: In Hasrat village, Deir Ez-Zour governorate, a male national otolaryngologist was reportedly killed by missiles suspected to have been fired by Russian warplanes at a water crossing. Source: [SNHR](#)

26 December 2017: In Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib governorate, two Syrian regime forces helicopters reportedly dropped several barrel bombs and gas cylinders in front of al Rahma Cave Hospital, causing damage. The Source: [SNHR](#)

26 December 2017: In Khan Sheikhoun, Idlib governorate, a national SCD volunteer was reportedly killed by a missile fired by Syrian warplanes near al Rahma Cave Hospital and the SCD office as he was responding to a previous incident (above). The Source: [SNHR](#)

26 December 2017: In Taldao city, Homs governorate, a male national nurse at Taldao Makeshift Hospital was reportedly killed by shrapnel following an artillery shelling by Syrian forces. Source: [SNHR](#)

28 December 2017: In Kafr Zita city, Hama governorate, Syrian regime forces warplanes reportedly fired

two missiles at the SAMS-supported Martyr Hasan al A'raj (known as al Maghara Hospital). A second strike on the same facility by suspected Russian forces warplanes was also reported. The two airstrikes resulted in damages to the hospital and an ambulance. Source: [SNHR](#)

31 December 2017: In Idlib governorate, an airstrike hit and damaged an unspecified local hospital. Source: [UN News Centre](#)

Tunisia

Date unclear: In Chott Meriem city and municipality, Sousse governorate, a young criminal broke into Chott Meriem clinic, and stole a computer, and an unspecified amount of money. He also stole a heart rate machine from an unspecified location. He was later arrested. Source: [Al Chourouk](#)

Date unclear: In an unclear location, four masked individuals stormed the private house of a surgeon and stole valuable objects. Source: [Al-Sawriq Online Tunisia](#)

The Americas

Bolivia

19 December 2017: In La Paz city, Pedro Domingo Murillo province, La Paz state, clashes between protesting doctors and police officers led to the injury of four physicians. In addition, police arrested a paediatrician and a medical student for possessing marbles, stones and a police baton. Source: [La Razón](#)

Medical education

Middle-East and North Africa

Libya

24 December 2017: In Benghazi city, Cyrenaica region, four plainclothes gunmen driving a military vehicle attacked the guards of the Arab Medical University, and fired bullets, causing panic and fear amongst students and faculty members. The university was partially evacuated. Source: [Alwasat](#)

Strikes and supply concerns

Africa

Angola

13 December 2017: In Luanda, the Syndicate of Nursing Technicians of Luanda announced a week-long strike, with effect from 18 December, halting all nursing activities in the hospital units. Source: [Journal de Angola](#)

18 December 2017: In Benguela city and province, a group of 42 doctors announced a demonstration for 18 December to protest the lack of professional careers in the public service. Source: [Perola das Acacias](#)

Chad

11 December 2017: In N'Djamena, the staff of the Mother and Child Hospital (MCH) went on strike to claim the payment of child care premiums, which had remained unpaid for one year. Source: [Tchad Pages](#)

Ghana

19 December 2017: In Cape Coast city, Central region, staff at Ankaful Psychiatric Hospital agreed to halt

their month-long sit-down strike in protest against mismanagement and maltreatment of employees. Source: [Ghana Web](#)

Togo

Undated: In Lomo, health workers led by the Union of Health Professionals announced a three-hour sit-in for coming 03 January to express their dissatisfaction at the lack of government action to address their demands. Source: [iciLome](#)

Uganda

05 December 2017: Nurses and midwives led by the Uganda Nurses and Midwives Union (UNMU) called off a planned strike, following a meeting with the Ugandan president who reportedly agreed to fulfil their demands, including a 400 percent salary increment. Source: [Observer](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

03 December 2017: In Chittagong city, district and division, a mobile court fined nine pharmacies in Chandgaon area a total of Tk 7.5 lakh (approximately 7352 euro) for allegedly selling expired and unauthorised medicines. Source: [The Daily Star News](#)

05 December 2017: In Chittagong city, district and division, pharmacy owners in Hazari Goli and Bahaddarhat areas held a strike to protest against a mobile court drive in pharmacies on 03 December. Source: [The Daily Star News](#)

Cambodia

07 December 2017: In Kampong Speu province, the provincial committee for the elimination of counterfeit drugs and products temporarily closed three pharmacies after spot checks revealed they were unlicensed. Source: [Khmer Times](#)

India

16 December 2017: In Rajasthan state, government doctors started an indefinite, regional strike in response to the failure of the Indian government to implement promised demands, affecting health services in the region. As many as 86 doctors have been arrested by 19 December. Source: [The Hindu](#)

Pakistan

12|12: In Sukkur city and district, Sindh province, doctors, paramedics and other employees of the Civil Hospital, led by Pakistan Medical Association and the Paramedical Staff Union, participated in a demonstration and a sit-in to protest against the arrest of six doctors and paramedical staff on 07 December. The boycott was also observed in Johi, KN Shah, and Mehar hospitals, as well as in the hospitals of Sehwan, Sann, Bhan Syedabad, Manjhand and Kotri in Jamshoro district. Source: [Dawn](#)

14 December 2017: The Interior Ministry informed 29 organisations, including Marie Stopes, ActionAid, Plan International and Open Society Foundation that their applications to continue working in the country have been rejected, without specifying the reason. They have been told to leave within 60 days. International civil society organisations have described this decision as part of a growing trend of shrinking space for civil society and repression of human rights across South Asia. Sources: [ANI](#), [NPR](#) and [The Financial Times](#)

14 December 2017: In Punjab province, a faction of the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) has acquired army uniforms, and is currently undergoing training in Afghanistan to carry out terrorist attacks, and

planning to target administrative areas, convoys, schools and hospitals. Source: [Pakistan Today](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Morocco

12 December 2017: Throughout Morocco, doctors led by the Independent Union of Doctors declared two national strikes at all health institutions, excluding rehabilitation departments, to protest against the lack of human and technical resources in hospitals. Source: [Hespress](#)

13 December 2017: In Guelmin city and province, Guelmim-Oued Noun region, nurses and doctors led by the Regional Office of the Democratic Organisation for Health held a protest at the Regional Commissariat for Health, denouncing the failure of the regional representative to call for dialogue to solve several problems faced on the ground. Source: [Hespress](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

06 December 2017: The Russian government is blocking the proposed renewal of a UN measure, authorised by a Security Council resolution, that expires in January 2018, that allows aid deliveries to pass through Syria's borders into rebel-held areas of the country, without permission from the Syrian authorities, claiming that such deliveries impinge on Syria's sovereignty. Source: [The New York Times](#)

17 December 2017: In Eastern Ghouta region, access for humanitarian purposes remains impeded. Source: [Mercy Corps](#)

19 December 2017: The Syrian government continued to ignore UN pleas for permission to evacuate some 500 civilians from the besieged Eastern Ghouta region on medical grounds, as a result of which 12 patients died. Source: [Integrated Regional Information Networks \(IRIN\)](#)

Yemen

December: The Saudi-imposed blockade on Yemen's Red Sea ports and Sana'a airport continued to push the country into a humanitarian catastrophe, delaying relief supplies entering the country, and hindering the availability of essential commercial goods, such as food and fuel needed to run generators in hospitals and water treatment plants. Sources: [IRIN](#), [OCHA](#), [The Express Tribune](#), [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#) and [VOA News](#)

03 December 2017: In Sana'a, fighting prevents Red Cross staff from moving. Source: [Alexandre Faite](#)

03 December 2017: Throughout Yemen, a Saudi-led coalition blockade has cut off fuel for hospitals, water pumps and vital aid supplies for starving children, possibly leading to another wave of cholera outbreak. Source: [IRIN](#)

14 December 2017: In Al Hudaydah city and governorate, a possible battle between a coalition of anti-Houthi forces and rebels in urban areas could see the sea port destroyed, making it impossible to import relief supplies and essential commercial goods. Source: [IRIN](#)

The Americas

Bolivia

December: Throughout Bolivia, public and private sector doctors led by the Medical College of Bolivia continued marches and blockades as part of a national strike, demanding the repeal of Article 205 of the Law of the Penal Code System, which seeks to penalise medical professionals who cause health or bodily

harm through negligence or malpractice. This strike has affected more than 40,000 people, since 4,837 major and minor surgeries have been eliminated, as well as 542,138 consultations. On 05 December, the Ministry of Labour declared this strike illegal, warning that participants may be subject to unspecified types of sanctions within the framework of the General Labour Law. Sources: [Eldeber \(a\)](#), [Eldeber \(b\)](#), [La Razón \(a\)](#), [La Razón \(b\)](#), [La Razón \(c\)](#), [La Razón \(d\)](#), [La Razón \(e\)](#) and [Pensa Latina](#)

18 December 2017: Unspecified social media users warned that pharmacies would suspend their services, a claim rejected by the president of the College of Biochemists and Pharmacists of Santa Cruz. Source: [La Razón](#)

27 December 2017: In Santa Cruz de la Sierra city and municipality, Andrés Ibáñez province, Santa Cruz department, Bolivian police fired chemical gas on a group of demonstrating doctors and health sector employees in order to disperse them, after the latter blockaded Pailas Bridge, on the road that joins Santa Cruz with Trinidad city, Cercado province, Beni department. This incident also led to the arrest of an unspecified number of protesters. Source: [La Razón](#)

Mexico

18 December 2017: In Bachíniva town and municipality, Chihuahua state, insecurity prompted the Bachiniva Health Centre to close its doors, affecting more than 5,000 people. Source: [Milenio](#)

19 December 2017: In Gómez Farías municipality, Tamaulipas state, a bloody confrontation between armed groups prompted the Regional Hospital to shut, so as to prevent health staff from being attacked. Source: [El Diario](#)

26 December 2017: In La Paz city and municipality, Baja California Sur state, two armed individuals entered Juan Maria de Salvatierra Hospital, and wounded two intensive therapy staff, as they were looking for a specific patient, and then fled. Dozens of patients were subsequently evicted from the waiting areas of the emergency room. Source: [El Universal](#)

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Aid in Danger



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