

The Aid in Danger Monthly News Brief

Insecurity affecting the delivery of healthcare

Healthcare

October
2017

Threats and violence

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

26 October: In Beni city, North Kivu province, perpetrators armed with machetes and knives attacked the Evangelical Nyakunde hospital, assaulted a guard, nurses, and several patients, before taking several drugs, and a large sum of money. Source: [Radio Okapi](#)

Nigeria

31 October: In Yamaltu-Deba local government area, Gombe state, around seven armed criminals kidnapped a nurse at Cottage hospital in Dadin-Kowa community from his home, and demanded a ransom. The victim was released on 01 November after intervention by security agencies. Source: [Vanguard](#)

South Africa

10 October: In Alexandra township, Gauteng province, two armed men stopped two paramedics along Second Street, and stole their wallets and mobile phones. Source: [News24](#)

Sudan

24 October: In Saraf Omra locality, North Darfur state, two motorcycle-borne militants opened fire on a child immunisation team from the Health Ministry at Bargo valley in the Birkat Seira area, seriously wounding three team members. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Libya

02 October: In Sabratha city, Zawiya district, Tripolitania region, the Sabrath's university hospital was twice hit during clashes between the Anas al-Dabbashi brigade and the armed group Operations Room. The emergency and surgery units were forced to closure. Source: [Reuters](#)

25 October: In Ubari town, Wadi al Hayaa district, Fezzan region, an unidentified armed group attacked members of the infantry regiment responsible for conflict resolution and ceasefire stationed at the town's hospital. Source: [Alwasat](#)

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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Syrian Arab Republic

Update: A male national paramedic arrested by Syrian forces at a checkpoint in Jibreem, Aleppo in December 2016, reportedly died due to torture at a detention centre the same month. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#).

02 October: In al Mayadeen city, Deir Ez-Zour governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired several missiles at a vaccination warehouse, which caused heavy damage to the building and destroyed vaccines, among them MMRs and over 170,000 polio vaccines. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#).

03 October: In al Badou area, Raqqa, a male national pharmacist was reportedly killed by missiles fired by international coalition forces warplanes. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#).

04 October: In al Ashara city, Deir Ez-Zour governorate, a male national pharmacist was killed in a bombing believed to be carried out by Russian forces that targeted the water-crossing between al Ashara city and Darnej village. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#).

06 October: In Douma city, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, Syria forces warplanes fired a missile near Shefa Medical Institution which housed clinics, medical laboratories, and a pharmacy, partially destroying the building and damaging equipment. The centre was forced to close. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#).

07 October: On the outskirts of Madyara village, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus, Syrian regime forces reportedly fired a mortar shell near an ambulance belonging to SCD-affiliated centre 90 at the time when the ambulance team were responding to victims of a previous shelling. One SCD volunteer was reportedly injured and the ambulance was damaged. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#).

13 October: In Mayadin town and district, Deir ez-Zor governorate, identified perpetrators attacked a vaccine cold room at a health centre, containing over 130,000 measles and polio vaccines. Source: [Reuters](#)

15 October: In Bab Touma neighbourhood, Damascus, a cardiac and vascular diseases specialist doctor was reportedly killed by mortar shells fired by opposition forces. Source: [Syrian Network for Human Rights \(SNHR\)](#).

The Americas

Brazil

10 October: In North zone, Rio de Janeiro state, unidentified perpetrators kidnapped a doctor from an emergency care unit in Maré favela complex, and seized an ambulance. The doctor was forced to provide care to a drug trafficker injured in a shootout with Rio police, first inside the ambulance, and then at a clinic in the Baixada Fluminense region. The perpetrators released him on 15 October, and the ambulance five hours later. Source: [Globo](#)

Colombia

14 October: In San Vicente del Caguán town and municipality, Caquetá department, two hooded armed men stopped an ambulance whilst it was moving, and shot a patient who was being treated inside it. Source: [El Universal](#)

28 October: In La Guajira department, Caribbean region, Colombian authorities seized an ambulance that was carrying approximately 200 kilos of cocaine. Source: [Kienyke](#)

Mexico

15 October: In Guerrero state, a dispute between gangs over control of the production and trafficking of narcotics forced several health centres in Heliodoro Castillo, Chilpancingo, Leonardo Bravo and Eduardo Nerito municipalities to shut. Source: [El Vigia](#)

Peru

15 October: In Rimac district, Lima province, Peruvian police captured two members of the criminal group Los Boticarios responsible for thefts in pharmacies across the region. Source: [La Republica](#)

Insecurity or protest disrupting access to healthcare

Africa

Angola

12 October: In Luanda, around 400 nursing professionals approved a five-day memorandum by the Nurses' Union of Luanda, starting on 16 October, for the Angolan government to pay unpaid salaries, consultation grants, promotion of staff and allowances since 2012, before resorting to strike. Source: [Novo Jornal](#)

Benin

04 October: In Allada commune, Atlantique department, health workers at health centres in Allomey, Togoudo and Attogon towns observed a 72-hour sit-in to protest against unpaid bonuses. Source: [aCotonou](#)

30 October: A bill to outlaw strikes within the health sector is reportedly being drafted. Source: [Notre Benin](#)

Central African Republic

24 October: In Batangafo town, Ouham prefecture, fierce fighting between armed groups prevents the wounded from accessing Batangafo hospital and Kabo health centre. Source: [aBangui](#)

Ivory Coast

04 October: In Abidjan, the Syndicat National des ex-Agents Déflatés de la Santé (SYNADES) threatened to block activities in public hospitals and health centres, if Ivorian authorities fail to pay outstanding salary arrears by 06 October. Source: [Koaci](#)

Nigeria

13 October: In Bayelsa state, unions of health workers agreed to suspend a three-month strike in protest of unpaid salaries. This decision was taken after reviewing the efforts of Bayelsa authorities to facilitate regular payment of salaries. Source: [Punch](#)

Sudan

12 October: In River Nile state, specialist doctors at Atbara Hospital threatened to hold a strike to protest against poor conditions in the hospital, lack of proper work environment, and inadequate medical equipment. The doctors accused the hospital director of breaking the locks of their offices, and of transferring the equipment of their offices for use elsewhere. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Swaziland

12 October: The Swaziland Democratic Nurses Union announced a nationwide nurse strike, starting 18 October, which will last until the Swaziland government stops the ongoing commission of inquiry into an

incident that took place on 25 December 2015 at Mkhuzweni Health Centre, where a child died during birth. Source: [Times of Swaziland](#)

31 October: The Swaziland Nurses Association threatened to launch a strike and minimise the effort nurses put in their work, if the Swaziland government refuses to reverse controversial salary grades reviews of public officials, which were done in secret. Source: [Swazi Observer](#)

Uganda

09 October: In Kampala, doctors under the umbrella body Uganda Medical Association (UMA) voted at Mulago hospital to go on strike at all public hospitals coming November, unless the Ugandan government responds to their demands, including enhanced allowances, including for overtime, housing, transport, medical risk, and retention. Source: [Daily Monitor](#)

Asia and Pacific

Afghanistan

26 October: Violent clashes continues to limit access to vital healthcare for hundreds of thousands of Afghans. This heightens the risk that treatable diseases, such as tuberculosis, turn deadly. A range of armed groups, including a resurgent Taliban, have targeted medical workers targeted, and have taken over or shut down health clinics. Source: [Integrated Regional Information Networks](#)

India

16 October: In Maharashtra state, social activists decided to hold state-wide demonstrations at different hospitals on 02 December to protest the lack of facilities and medical staff in state-run hospitals. Source: [DNA India](#)

26 October: In New Delhi, about 2,000 resident doctors of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences announced that they will go on a hunger strike while working, starting on 27 October, in protest of the improper implementation of the seventh central pay commission's recommendations. Source: [Indian Express](#)

Nepal

06 October: In Kathmandu, doctors staged a rally to protest against the four-point agreement reached between the Nepalese government and Nepal Medical Association last 29 September. Source: [The Himalayan Times](#)

Pakistan

31 October: In Gujrat district, Punjab province, scores of activists from the sectarian outfit Tehreek Labaik Ya Rasool Allah staged a sit-in on the premises of the district administration complex to register a blasphemy case against a senior doctor from a paramedical school at a public hospital. Source: [Dawn](#)

31 October: In Sindh province, the Pakistan Medical Association (PMA) organised a demonstration against the longstanding issues of doctors, which, it warned, could spark closures of hospital across the region if not seriously considered by the provincial government. Source: [Dawn](#)

Europe

Bulgaria

17 October: In Burgas province, the hospital in Pomorie town stopped taking patients, and cancelled all planned operations after doctors vacated the premises to protest against unpaid salaries since last April. Some doctors stayed in front of the hospital, demonstrating. Source: [Novinite](#)

Poland

09 October: In Warsaw, a group of around 20 resident doctors occupied the foyer of a major paediatric hospital, and launched a hunger strike, demanding a pay raise, increased funding for public health care, better working conditions, less red tape, and shorter waiting lists. On 11 October, the same doctors announced that they were renewing the strike, claiming that talks with the Polish government have failed to produce an agreement. Source: [Radio Poland](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Algeria

17 October: The Syndicat National des Professeurs d'Enseignement Paramédical addressed a letter to the Health Minister, threatened to start a three-day strike on 23 October, if the Algerian authorities fail to fulfil their demands. Source: [Liberte](#)

23 October: The Syndicat Algérien des Paramédicaux (SAP) decided to postpone a three-day national strike planned for 23 October, until December, when the SAP national council is expected to meet. Source: [Liberte](#)

23|October: In Bouira city and province, dozens of hemodialysis patients demonstrated at the hemodialysis center of Mohammed Boudiaf hospital to protest outdated conditions, and demand improvement in their care. Source: [La Depeche de Kabylie](#)

Libya

17 October: Doctors and medical professionals are considering strike action over pay. Source: [Libya Herald](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

29 September: In Idlib and Hama governorates, an unspecified number of health facilities were forced to shut down, either because they were struck or for fear of being targeted since Syrian and Russian airstrikes intensified since last 19 September. Source: [The New Arab](#)

05 October: Throughout Syria, as a result of violence, at least 10 hospitals were damaged during October, cutting hundreds of thousands of people from access to basic healthcare. Current fighting around Deir ez-Zor city is also endangering water supplies. Source: [ICRC](#)

29 October: Along the northeast Syria-Iraq border, clashes between Iraqi forces and Kurdish fighters limit to use of Fishkhabur, the only cross-border supply route open to Médecins Sans Frontières, leaving millions of vulnerable people without access to critical medical care. Source: [VOA News](#)

The Americas

Mexico

27 October: In Veracruz state, a neurosurgeon of the Mexican Social Security Institute was found dead three days after his disappearance. On 29 October, doctors from the Veracruz-Boca del Río conurbation marched through the main streets of the area to demand justice for his murder. Source: [La Jornada](#)

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