

Safeguarding Healthcare Monthly News Brief

Attacks on education

August
2018

Threats and violence affecting emergency care

Africa

Cameroon

10 August 2018: In Bamenda city, Mezam department, Northwest province, an ambulance belonging to the Bamenda Regional Hospital was shot at by either national military personnel or Ambazonian fighters, seriously wounding a nurse, and slightly injuring the driver. Source: [Cameroon-Info](#)

Côte d'Ivoire

24-25 August 2018: In Siébly village, Kouibly department, Guémon region, Montagnes district, unspecified assailants set an ambulance on fire amid a clash involving football players and spectators. Source: [Koaci](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

03 August 2018 (Date of article): In the Israel-occupied Golan Heights, Israeli authorities shut down an unnamed field hospital that had been set up to treat Syrians wounded in the conflict. No reason was given. Source: [The New Arab](#)

14 August 2018: In Sarmin city, northern Idlib governorate, an IED planted inside a car exploded next to an ambulance belonging to Sarmin Makeshift Hospital, slightly damaging the vehicle. The hospital was not close enough to receive any damage. Source: [SNHR](#)

Threats and violence affecting general healthcare

Africa

Cameroon

06 August 2018: In Mbengwi town, Northwest region, Cameroonian national forces allegedly killed a medical doctor and his wife. No further details specified. Source: [ACLED](#)

11 August 2018: In Darak town and commune, Logone-et-Chari division, Far North province, Boko Haram militants abducted the head of the Naga Health Centre. Their motivations are currently unknown. Source: [L'Oeil du Sahel](#)

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.

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11 August 2018: In Mbengwi town, Momo division, Northwest province, members of the Cameroonian Armed Forces pulled over a couple riding on a motorcycle before tying them up, blindfolding them, and executing them. The couple were the head nurses in charge of both the Kob and Nja Etu Health Centres. Sources: [Cameroon-Info](#) and [Modern Ghana](#)

Central African Republic

06 August 2018: In Liya village, Ouham-Pendé prefecture, unknown gunmen ambushed a group of 12 health centre directors whilst they were en-route to Bozoum town to submit their monthly health activities report. The assailants robbed them and cut all the tyres of their motorcycles, as well as those of a vehicle belonging to the nearby Paoua Hospital. Source: [aBangui](#)

07 August 2018: In Ouham prefecture, a medical team was robbed by a group of unidentified armed men about 45km from Paoua town. Source: [ACLED](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

26 August 2018: In Rutshuru town, North Kivu province, unknown assailants abducted a journalist and a nurse from the Rutshuru Reference General Hospital on Bunagana road. The next day an unspecified number of journalists and nurses held a march to protest his abduction, before having teargas fired at them by police attempting to disperse them. Source: [Actualite](#)

Nigeria

13 August 2018: In Imuahia city, Abia state, unidentified gunmen kidnapped a doctor, leading to protests by the Nigeria Medical Association to demand his return. Source: [ACLED](#)

Sudan

27 August 2018: In North Kordofan state, a paramilitary soldier attacked and injured two female doctors at the El Obeid hospital, resulting in the hospital's doctors beginning a three-day strike to call for his arrest. Source: [ACLED](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

06 August 2018 (Date of article): In various unspecified areas, the ongoing insurgency by the Taliban and Islamic State in Afghanistan prevented health workers from administering polio vaccines to 1.2 million children. Source: [Xinhua](#)

India

05 August 2018: In Hemtabad city, North dianjpur district, West Bengal state, relatives of a patient who had just been declared dead attacked the on-call doctor and vandalised hospital property, claiming the patient's death was due to a delay in treatment. Source: [ACLED](#)

07 August 2018: In Patna city, Bihar state, a group of family and friends of a 70-year-old woman physically attacked attending doctors after they declared the woman dead. The group then went on to vandalise hospital property. Source: [ACLED](#)

12 August 2018: In Angul city, Odisha state, a doctor was beaten, injured, and hospitalised, after being pulled over by police for a routine helmet check. Source: [ACLED](#)

29 August 2018: In Kolkota city, West Bengal state, a police official attacked and injured a junior doctor who was on duty at the Calcutta Medical Research Institute (CMRI) after a discussion about his ongoing

treatment. Source: [ACLED](#)

Myanmar

05 August 2018: In Lashio town and district, Shan state, members of the Shan State Army North allegedly demanded 'tax' payments from an unnamed medical clinic in Ward Three. Source: [BNI Multimedia Group](#)

Nepal

13 August 2018: In Musikot municipality, Western Rukum district, Karnali province, relatives and family members of a patient who died while undergoing treatment attacked the Rapti Community Hospital by throwing stones at the building, after claiming that the doctors had been negligent in their duty of care. Source: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

Pakistan

04 August 2018: In Rawalpindi city and division, Punjab region, the Pakistani physician who had helped the US track down Osama Bin Laden remains incarcerated in Adiala facility for treason. An influential group of British Pakistanis has placed pressure on Islamabad to arrange a prisoner swap involving the doctor and another jailed in the US. Source: [The Guardian](#)

16 August 2018: In Lahore city, Punjab state, family members of a woman who died while under the care of doctors at Lady Willingdon Hospital held a violent protest over the alleged negligence of the doctors, smashing hospital windows and attacking hospital staff. Source: [ACLED](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Libya

25 August 2018 (Date of article): In Tobruk city, Butnan district, Cyrenaica region, a group of unidentified armed individuals attacked the Physiotherapy Department at Tobruk Medical Centre and vandalised its equipment and furniture. Their motivation is unknown. Source: [Libya Observer](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

07 August 2018: In an unknown location, in the days prior to this date an anaesthetist who had been imprisoned by Syrian regime forces for nearly six years died, allegedly from the extended torture enacted upon him in a detention centre. Source: [SNHR](#)

07 August 2018: In Latakia city, district and governorate, unidentified gunmen driving a van entered the Sahel Hospital, attacked security guards, and seized a hospital vehicle. In the process they abducted the director of Sahel Free Health, prompting health authorities to suspend medical activities across rural Latakia. The victim was later released on 13 August. Sources: [SMART News Agency \(a\)](#) and [SMART News Agency \(b\)](#)

08 August 2018: In al Susa town, part of al Boukamal city, eastern Deir Ez-Zour governorate, a medical dispensary was slightly damaged when a series of missiles believed to be of International Coalition Forces origin struck the building. Source: [SNHR](#)

10 August 2018: In Ma'aret al Nu'man city, southern Idlib governorate, a rapid series of small missiles were fired from an aircraft believed to be of Syrian regime forces origin at the front of al Watani Hospital. The missiles narrowly missed the hospital, leaving no damage, but starting a small fire in the garden. Source: [SNHR](#)

13 August 2018: In Khan Shaykhun town, Maarrat al-Nu'man district, Idlib governorate, members of the

rebel group Sham Liberation Army arrested and detained a doctor, who was also the director of an unnamed hospital, after raiding his private property for no known reason. They released him four hours later. Sources: [SMART News Agency \(a\)](#) and [SMART News Agency \(b\)](#)

31 August 2018: In Idlib city, Idlib governorate, an unidentified armed group kidnapped and tortured the director of a specialist hospital in the city. He was subsequently released later the same day, but the reason for the kidnapping remains unknown. Source: [ACLED](#)

Tunisia

05 August 2018: In Kelibia town, Nabeul governorate, unspecified perpetrators attacked the medical staff of an unnamed hospital after a newborn died at the facility. On 06 August, health workers from the same hospital launched a strike to protest the violent attack. Source: [Jawhara FM](#)

Yemen

02 August 2018: In Al-Hudaydah city and governorate, airstrikes from an unspecified source hit the Al-Thawra Hospital, causing multiple deaths and injuries. Sources: [Saba Net](#) and [UN Humanitarian Coordinator in Yemen](#)

The Americas

Brazil

11 August 2018: In Niterói municipality, Rio de Janeiro state, at Santa Martha Hospital in the Santa Rosa neighbourhood, a stray bullet struck a patient in the eye, injuring them. Source: [Globo](#)

Mexico

08 August 2018 (Date of article): In Tehuacán, Cañada Morelos and Izúcar de Matamoros cities, and several other unnamed municipalities, Puebla state, unspecified assailants continue to kidnap, threaten, extort and physical assault doctors and nurses, leading hundreds of members of the National Trade Union of Workers of the Ministry of Health to hold a march in Puebla de Zaragoza city to demand action by the provincial authorities. Source: [El Universal](#)

Medical education

Asia

India

26 August 2018: In Kolkota city, West Bengal state, a mob attacked and injured junior doctors at the NRS Medical College and Hospital after the death of a 37-year-old man allegedly caused by negligence. Source: [ACLED](#)

Strikes and supply concerns

Africa

Chad

04 August 2018: The Chadian government declared that a sit-in of doctors and pharmacists scheduled for 07 August by the union of doctors Syndicats Nationaux des Médecins du Tchad (SNMT) was to be officially prohibited. Source: [Le Pays](#)

Asia

India

01 August 2018: In Sangrur city, Punjab state, nurses held a protest at the Civil Hospital over the behaviour of a specific doctor at the institution. Source: [ACLED](#)

14 August 2018: In Angul city, Odisha state, demonstrators took to the streets and blocked the government Health Minister's car from moving to protest a citywide lack of doctors and poor hospital infrastructure. Source: [ACLED](#)

16-18 August 2018: In Dehradun city, Uttarakhand state, students from the National institute for the Visually Handicapped began a three-day protest over a teacher who had been molesting students. Source: [ACLED](#)

21 August 2018: In Agwanpur village, Mawana Meerut district, Uttar Pradesh state, students and parents held a sit-in at the Government Senior Secondary School over the poor infrastructure and facilities at the school. The protest led to the school being locked down and classes cut off. Source: [ACLED](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Israel

06 August 2018: In response to the continued nine month-long failure of the Israeli authorities to implement the recommendations of the Committee for the Elimination of Violence in the Health System, an unnamed union of nurses announced an indefinite strike of nurses at hospitals and in the community, with effect from 07 August. Source: [Y Net News](#)

Jordan

07 August 2018: In response to the continued failure of the Jordanian authorities to meet the demands of the Jordan Medical Association, the union announced a two-hour strike of doctors at all public health facilities for 08 and 12 August. Source: [Saraya News](#)

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