

Safeguarding Healthcare Monthly News Brief

Attacks on healthcare

July
2018

Threats and violence affecting emergency care

Middle-East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

19 July 2018: In Manjib city and district, Aleppo governorate, a mine exploded near an ambulance carrying patients, slightly injuring the driver and damaging the vehicle. Another mine was later found 25 metres away from the spot. Source: [Manbijmc](#)

The Americas

Mexico

06 July 2018: In Zacatecas city and state, armed individuals hijacked an ambulance, whilst it was en route from Nochistlán de Mejía town to the General Hospital of Zacatecas, including its occupants, two of whom were paramedics. Source: [NTR](#)

20 July 2018: In Palenque city and municipality, Chiapas state, unknown assailants intercepted an ambulance carrying Red Cross paramedics whilst it was travelling along Palenque-Benemérito de las Américas roads and beat its occupants, before fleeing with the vehicle. Source: [Tabasco Hoy](#)

Threats and violence affecting general healthcare

Africa

Burkina Faso

27 July 2018: In Gomde-Fulbe town, Sahel area, a nurse was abducted but released the following day. The perpetrators were assumed to be from the militant group Ansaroul Islam. Source: [ACLED](#)

Cameroon

23-24 July 2018: In Moungo department, Littoral province, six motorcycle-borne bandits armed with clubs, machetes and nail pullers raided Nkongsamba Regional Hospital and Ndoungue Hospital, stealing an unknown amount of cash. Source: [Camer](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

12 July 2018: In Walungu territory, South Kivu province, armed men in plain clothes entered a health centre in and raped two women, one of whom was a nurse, before also physically beating some of the centre's patients. They then attempted to rape a second nurse,

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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but she successfully fought them off. Before leaving, they stole several unspecified items. Source: [Media Congo](#)

Ethiopia

15 July 2018: In Moyale town, Marsabi county, Somali region, members of the National Youth Movement for Freedom and Democracy and the Oromo Liberation Front burned health posts in Chamuq, Maleb and Lag Fure, three villages surrounding Moyale, amid a spate of attacks on Somali civilians. Source: [Jigjiga Herald](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

24 July 2018: In Chaghcharan town, Ghor province, unidentified gunmen kidnapped six civilians, including a doctor, his driver, and four university students. Source: [ACLED](#)

28 July 2018: In Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province, three unidentified gunmen attacked a midwife training centre after letting off several explosions nearby. Afghan special forces arrived on the scene to confront them in a battle that lasted approximately six hours, leaving two innocent victims dead and eight others injured. The gunmen's motivations are unspecified. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [The New Arab](#) and [Tolo News](#)

Myanmar

11 July 2018: In Nam Kham township, Shan state, the Myanmar Army detained six female medics of the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), who had accused the military of killing prisoners of war. The bodies of the victims, who appeared to have been killed and dumped in a forested area outside the village, were later found on 16 July. Source: [Irrawaddy](#)

Pakistan

09 July 2018: In Gulberg area, Punjab region, unidentified assailants attacked an anti-quackery team, damaging their vehicle but leaving no casualties. Source: [ACLED](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Libya

21 July 2018 (Date of article): In Tripoli, unspecified assailants attacked the child feeding station of a kidney hospital and stole unspecified items. Source: [Alwasat](#)

Morocco

26 July 2018: In Tiznit town and province, Souss-Massa region, a paediatric surgeon was tried at the Tiznit Elementary School for alleged libel and defamation of the director of an unnamed general hospital. Source: [Lakome 2](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

06 July 2018: In Jarablos city, eastern Aleppo governorate, the last active medical dispensary serving the surrounding area was rendered out of commission when an IED planted inside a car was detonated 15m away from the dispensary. The perpetrator was not identified. Source: [SNHR](#)

17 July 2018: In Nawa city, northern Daraa governorate, a hospital was struck by both a barrel bomb and a number of missiles suspected to be from either Russian or Syrian regime warplanes, heavily damaging the building and rendering the hospital out of commission. Source: [SNHR](#)

Yemen

05 July 2018: In Al-Hudaydah city and governorate, attacks by the Saudi-led coalition have forced seven health facilities to temporarily shut. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)

26, 27 and 28 July 2018: In Al-Hudaydah city and governorate, Saudi-led coalition warplanes dropped missiles near a reproductive health centre and public laboratory. Source: [UN OCHA](#)

26, 27 and 28 July 2018: In Zabid town, Al-Hudaydah governorate, Saudi-led coalition warplanes hit and damaged a sanitation facility, and a water station, which supplies the majority of the water to Al-Hudaydah city. Source: [UN OCHA](#)

The Americas

29 July 2018: In La Trinidad municipality, Estelí department, Nicaraguan authorities dismissed at least 16 health workers from La Trinidad Hospital, including eight medical specialists, over allegations that they had financed criminal groups. The accused had treated the wounded during the civilian protests for the past three months. Sources: [El Nuevo Diario \(a\)](#) and [El Nuevo Diario \(b\)](#)

Venezuela

01 July 2018: In Ciudad Caribia, Libertador municipality, eight armed men broke into a warehouse where a delegation of Cuban doctors had stayed overnight and threatened to rob and kill the health workers. Source: [Efecto Cocuyo](#)

Medical education

Asia

India

03 July 2018: In Kerala state, Kerala Students Union (KSU) clashed with police whilst marching to demand a reduction in fees at the Pariyaram Medical College, prompting the KSU to call for an education strike across the entire region on 04 July. Source: [Zee News](#)

16 July 2018: In Amritsar city, contractual staff from the Government Medical College began a three-day strike to demand job security. Source: [ACLED](#)

21 July 2018: In Abohar city, Punjab region, students of the Homeopathic Medical College held a protest over the college merging with another institution. The students enclosed the office of college officials and sealed them inside until the police intervened. Source: [ACLED](#)

24 July 2018: In Abohar city, Punjab region, students from the Homeopathic Medical College held a candlelit march to demonstrate their objection to the college merging with another institution. Source: [ACLED](#)

Pakistan

07 July 2018: In Balochistan area, students of Bolan Medical College held a protest about the school principal's alleged favouritism in only passing a small number of students. Source: [ACLED](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Iran

03 July 2018: In Tehran, students protested outside the Health Ministry over the increase in affirmative action quotas in postgraduate entry exams for the families of fallen soldiers and war veterans. Source:

ACLED

05 July 2018: In Shiraz city, Fars region, a group of students at Shiraz University of Medical Sciences held a demonstration over the Iranian judiciary's decision to impose harsh sentences on their fellow students. Source: [ACLED](#)

The Americas

Nicaragua

24 July 2018 (Date of article): In Managua, in the midst of unrest that has rocked Nicaragua for over three months, armed pro-government civilians killed a Brazilian medical student of the American University when they shot at his car. Source: [Voice of America \(VOA\) News](#)

Strikes and supply concerns

Africa

South Africa

02 July 2018: In Uitenhage town, Eastern Cape region, health workers went on strike at Laetitia Bam Health Centre, resulting in patients allegedly being left untreated. The workers were on strike to demand better safety measures be implemented at the health centre. Source: [ACLED](#)

18 July 2018: In Cape Town, Western Cape area, members of the organisation known as Treatment Action Campaign (TAC) occupied the trauma ward of Khayelitsha Day Hospital, after entering the hospital by posing as visitors. No further information on how long the action lasted. Source: [ACLED](#)

Asia

India

03 July 2018: In Srinagar city, Jammu and Kashmir region, doctors across the city went on strike and held a protest at the General Medical College where they called for wage parity with their counterparts at the SKIMS college. Source: [ACLED](#)

07 – 08 July 2018: Across the Punjab region, Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) workers held protests to demand more secure employment and greater benefits. Source: [ACLED](#)

10 July 2018: In Bathinda city, Punjab region, members of the Medical Practitioner's Association of Punjab held a protest over drug abuse. Source: [ACLED](#)

11 July 2018: In Jalandhar city, Punjab region, employees of the 108 Ambulance Driver Employees Association held a protest at the Civil Hospital to demand the reinstatement of their terminated co-workers and for greater employment protections. Source: [ACLED](#)

15 July 2018: In Karnal city, Haryana region, health workers held a state-wide protest demanding equalisation of pay between male and female health workers. Source: [ACLED](#)

17 July 2018: In Patiala city, Punjab region, contract nurses and ancillary staff from the Government Ranjindra Hospital held a protest march in Patiala city to demand a salary raise. Source: [ACLED](#)

18 July 2018: In Bengaluru city, Karnataka region, general health service staff held a mass hunger strike in protest over unspecified institutional policies. Source: [ACLED](#)

18 July 2018: In Amritsar city, Punjab region, contractual nurses and paramedics from Guru Nanak Dev Hospital intensified their four-day protest over employment regulations by blocking traffic on a major

road. Source: [ACLED](#)

19 July 2018: In Patiala city, Punjab region, nurses who had not been paid their salary increment since 2015 climbed atop the city college building amidst a multiple-day protest. Source: [ACLED](#)

23 July 2018: In Tarn Taran city, Punjab region, members of the Medical Practitioners' Association held a protest rally over alleged harassment by officials during an anti-drug drive. Source: [ACLED](#)

Nepal

6 - 26 July 2018: Across Kathmandu and other Nepali cities, large groups of nurses, doctors, medical students, and civil society members participated in mass sit-in protests and demonstrations, launched by the Solidarity for Doctor Govinda KC Alliance, in support of medical education reforms. The demonstrators were supporting Dr. KC's demand for medical education reforms. Source: [My Republica](#)

19 July 2018: In Jumla city, Mid-Western region, students and doctors from the Karnali Academy of Health Sciences protested the arrival of state officials on their campus, who had come to visit Doctor Govinda KC, a doctor who had been on hunger strike for the past 20 days to demand education reforms. Source: [ACLED](#)

Sri Lanka

19 July 2018: In Maskeliya city, Central district, members of the Hospital Development Committee protested against the prevailing shortage of doctors. Source: [ACLED](#)

Europe

Turkey

19 July 2018: In locations across Turkey, including the cities of Iskenderun, Konya, Samsun and Ankara, health workers gathered in front of public buildings to protest a severe attack on a doctor by a patient. Source: [ACLED](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Iran

03 July 2018: In Tehran, a group of obstetrician-gynaecologists held a rally outside the Iranian parliament to protest a directive by the health ministry that sought to promote natural birth. Source: [ACLED](#)

13 July 2018: In Tehran, 300 nurses gathered outside the Nursing Organization Co-operative Fund Credit Union, demanding either the loans they were promised or to be paid back their deposits. Source: [ACLED](#)

24 July 2018: In Karaj city, Alborz region, health workers at Imam Khomeini Hospital held protests over seven months of unpaid salaries. Source: [ACLED](#)

Morocco

17 July 2018 (Date of article): The independent union of public service physicians announced a 48-hour walkout from 18 till 19 July in protest over poor working conditions at hospitals, amongst other complaints. Source: [Le 360](#)

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Aid in Danger



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