

Safeguarding Healthcare Monthly News Brief

Attacks on healthcare

November
2018

Threats and violence affecting emergency care

Africa

South Africa

15 November 2018: In Randfontein city, West Rand district, Gauteng province, emergency workers staged a sit-in at the premises of the West Rand District Municipality over serious financial woes, putting a fleet of emergency vehicles, several fire engines and community safety vehicles under lockdown. Source:

Source: [News 24](#)

Asia

India

12 November 2018: In Kolkota city, West Bengal state, a hospital emergency ward was vandalized, and a doctor almost attacked when a man and his two sons violently reacted to the death of their relative under the hospital's care. Source: [ACLED](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

26 November 2018: In the West Bank, a paramedic and resident of the Dheisheh refugee camp was killed by Israeli soldiers when his car struck an Israeli checkpoint. Israeli forces claim the attack was intentional, while camp residents claim he was not a violent person and must have lost control of his vehicle. Protests erupted across the camp following his death. Source: [Electronic Intifada](#) and [Ma'an News](#)

The Americas

Mexico

17 November 2018: In San Juan Tenería town, Taxco de Alarcón municipality, Guerrero state, around 20 armed men aboard vans shot at a Mexican Red Cross humanitarian convoy, killing a Red Cross paramedic and three police officers and injuring nine others, four of whom were paramedics. Sources: [Animal Politico](#), [Arsenal](#), [El Universal](#) and [Mexican Red Cross IAP](#)

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

24 November 2018: In Gbama village, Haute-Kotto prefecture, two local staff from an INGO were abducted and tortured allegedly by anti-Balaka fighters while providing vaccinations to children in the village. **Source:** [AWS¹](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

07 November 2018: In Matembo village, between the towns of Beni and Butembo, North Kivu province, Mai-Mai militiamen kidnapped a team of three civil protection officers and one epidemiologist as they were preparing a safe burial of an Ebola victim. The victims were later safely released after intervention by the police. **Sources:** [Centre of Infectious Disease Research and Policy](#) and [Media Congo](#)

16 November 2018: In Uvira city, South Kivu province, unidentified gunmen ambushed two MSF vehicles that were en route to Baraka Hospital, stealing two cartons of medicine and the phones of the drivers. **Sources:** [Actualite \(a\)](#) and [Actualite \(b\)](#)

16 November 2018: In Beni city, North Kivu province, a shell from a nearby rebel attack on the MONUSCO base hit a villa occupied by 16 WHO staff but did not explode, prompting the organisation to provisionally evacuate its workers to Goma city. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [Daily Mail](#), [RTBF](#) and [Stat](#)

16 November 2018: In Beni city, North Kivu province, ADF militiamen launched an attack on MONUSCO personnel in close proximity to the Ebola Emergency Operations Centre as well as hotels where many Ebola health workers were staying, killing one Tanzanian and seven Malawian peacekeepers. This incident prompted the suspension of Ebola response activities between 17 and 18 November 2018. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [CNN](#), [RTBF](#) and [VOA News](#)

18 November 2018: In unspecified locations, fighting between government forces and militant groups continued to hamper Ebola response efforts. **Source:** [CNN](#)

20 November 2018: In Lulimba town, South Kivu province, unidentified perpetrators broke into an MSF compound and stole unspecified valuable goods. **Source:** [Actualite](#)

21 November 2018 (DOA): In Tushunguti village, Kalehe territory, South Kivu province, violent clashes between two Mai-Mai factions forced MSF to temporarily relocate its staff to Numbi village until calm returned. **Source:** [Actualite](#)

Ghana

28 November 2018: In Dodowa town, Greater Accra region, a personal dispute turned into gunfight between land guards (private security hired to secure land ownership) and landowners at the Dodowa District Hospital, causing several injuries, and leaving the facility in chaos. **Source:** [Ghana Web](#)

Mali

05 November 2018: In Goundam town and cercle, Timbuktu region, three unidentified armed individuals hijacked the liaison vehicle of the Goundam Reference Health Centre and threatened the driver. **Source:** [Bamada](#)

Nigeria

01 November 2018: In Bagan-Gwari village, Toto local government area, Nasarawa state, unidentified

perpetrators kidnapped three medical officials from the Nasarawa State Primary Health Care Development Agency while they were driving along the Nasarawa-Toto road. **Sources:** [Punch](#) and [Vanguard](#)

South Africa

17 November 2018: In Ramokokastad town, Moses Kotane municipality, Bojanala Platinum district, North West province, unidentified perpetrators set fire to five buildings: the Kwenatlase High School, the Baphalane Primary School, the administration block at Ramokoka Primary school and an unnamed clinic. These arson attacks appear to be part of a wider pattern of civil unrest in the region. **Source:** [IOL](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Libya

03 November 2018: In Tripoli, militiamen stormed the El Galaa Maternity Hospital and shot a consultant for making an unspecified medical error. **Sources:** [ACLED](#), [Libya Channel Event \(a\)](#) and [Libya Channel Event \(b\)](#)

06 November 2018: In Tripoli, a doctor was seriously wounded when militiamen shot him following the death of a woman giving birth on his watch. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

14 November 2018 (DOA): In Benghazi city and district, Cyrenaica region, unidentified gunmen entered the Department of Specialised Surgery, where they shot and wounded two nurses and three guards before stealing from other workers and beneficiaries. After their departure the facility responded by suspending its medical activities for an unspecified period of time. **Source:** [Alwasat](#)

17 November 2018: In Tripoli, members of the General Investigations Department arrested the Director of the Department of Health Services for unspecified reasons and released him 24 hours later. **Sources:** [218](#) and [Africagate News](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

31 October 2018: In Idlib city, district and governorate, unidentified perpetrators kidnapped a pharmacist, asking for a ransom of USD 1 million (approximately EUR 878,500). His captors warned the family that they should hand over the money within one week. No further updates available. **Source:** [The National](#)

02 November 2018: In Jarjnaz village, Maarrat al-Nu`man district, Idlib governorate, artillery shelling from an unidentified source killed a pharmacist. **Source:** [Mohamad Katoub \(SAMS\)](#)

15 November 2018: In al-Sahharah town, Aleppo governorate, a doctor employed by an NGO was hit by a stray bullet and killed when small arms fire was discharged during wedding celebrations. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

29 November 2018: In al Sh'afa city, Deir Ez-Zour governorate, missiles allegedly fired by international coalition forces struck the al Yarmouk women's hospital, destroying the building and resulting in an unspecified number of casualties described as a massacre. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Yemen

07 November 2018: In Ad Dhale governorate, repeated attacks and threats of violence against MSF employees, MSF-supported medical facilities and MSF's residence forced the organisation to suspend all medical and humanitarian activities in the entire province, affecting Al Nasr Hospital in Ad Dhale town

and district, Al Salaam Primary Healthcare Centre in Qa'tabah town and district, Thee Jalal Primary Healthcare Centre in Al Azariq town and district, and Damt Primary Healthcare Centre in Damt town and district. **Source:** [MSF](#)

07 November 2018: In Hodeidah city, district and governorate, intense fighting between the Saudi-led coalition and Houthi rebels drew close to the Al-Thawra Hospital, inhibiting access to and from the facility and exposing it to possible bombing and shelling. **Source:** [Independent](#)

07 November 2018: In Hodeidah city, district and governorate, artillery fire from an unspecified source hit an unnamed Save the Children-supported hospital, damaging one of its pharmacies and the stored supplies of medicine within it. **Sources:** [Independent](#), [Save the Children](#) and [UNICEF](#)

07 November 2018: In Hodeidah city, district and governorate, Houthi snipers stormed a hospital in the 22 May district of the city and took up position on its roof, placing patients and medical workers inside the building in grave danger. **Sources:** [Amnesty International](#) and [Independent](#)

11 November 2018: In Hodeidah city, district and governorate, Saudi-led coalition warplanes and helicopters bombarded Houthi positions in close proximity to the Hodeidah University, Al-Thawra Hospital and 22 May Hospital, placing hundreds of patients and medical workers in danger. Meanwhile, as warplanes flew overhead, reports emerged of smoke billowing from the Dentistry Faculty of the aforementioned university, where Houthi fighters were allegedly stationed. **Sources:** [Amnesty International](#) and [UN News](#)

The Americas

Brazil

25 November 2018 (DOA): In Manaus city, Amazonas state, North region, a group of gunmen stormed the Hospital 28 de Agosto Pronto Socorro and scoured the hospital for a specific patient who had been previously admitted to the hospital for gunshot wounds, only to shoot him again. Police successfully arrested three of the perpetrators, and the patient survived the shooting again; however, the incident caused panic amongst patients and staff inside the hospital. **Source:** [Globo](#)

Dominican Republic

10 November 2018: In Pedernales province, near Bahia de las Aguilas, a mob of around 100 Haitians armed with machetes and axes surrounded and attacked a Dominican cardiologist and his friends, robbing them of their mobile phones, wallets and motorcycles. **Source:** [Diario Libre](#)

Mexico

24 November 2018 (DOA): In Tuxtla Gutiérrez city, Chiapas state, state police fired teargas at protesting members of the National Trade Union of Workers of the Ministry of Health, resulting in the injury of six, and the arrest of two more. **Source:** [El Universal](#)

Medical education

Africa

Cameroon

16 November 2018: In Buea city, Fako division, Southwest region, unidentified perpetrators abducted a senior official of the Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Buea for unascertained reasons. **Source:** [Xinhua](#)

Strikes and supply concerns

Africa

Burundi

05 November 2018: The Burundian government announced that 25 INGOs who had their registration suspended on 16 September 2018 for not complying with Burundian law, are now re-registered. Meanwhile, the registration of 11 others are still not registered for action. **Source:** [Radio Télévision Nationale du Burundi](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

06 November 2018: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, health workers held a peaceful demonstration to denounce the multiple attacks their colleagues had experienced since the eruption of the Ebola virus last August. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

Côte d'Ivoire

08 November 2018: In Abidjan, Ivorian police arrested two health officials after a coalition of 12 trade unions, known as the Coordisanté, launched a medical workers strike. Two days later, on 10 November 2018, the Coordisanté suspended the strike and the two health officials were released. **Source:** [Koaci](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

29 November 2018: In Gaza, the vast number of patients treated for gunshot wounds from months of violent border protests continued to overwhelm the enclave's health care system. **Source:** [AP](#)

The Americas

Bolivia

19 November 2018: In Santa Cruz department, doctors led by the Medical College of Santa Cruz observed a 24-hour strike affecting outpatient services to protest the implementation of the Unified Health System, and in support of a surgeon accused of alleged negligence. **Source:** [La Razón](#)

¹ The AWSD database does not include the names of individual victims or the agencies affected by an incident. This is done in consideration of the victims and their families who may not wish to have the names publicised in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available.

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Aid in Danger



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DANGER & DEATH**

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HEALTH
IN CONFLICT**

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