

Safeguarding Healthcare Monthly News Brief

Attacks on healthcare

October
2018

Threats and violence affecting emergency care

Africa

South Africa

06 October 2018: In Mthatha town, King Sabata Dalindyebo municipality, two unidentified gunmen hijacked an ambulance with a driver still in it parked outside the Libode Clinic. Hours later, the police found the driver tied up in a forest and the ambulance abandoned nearby. **Source:** [Sowetan Live](#)

Asia

The Philippines

02 October 2018: In Polomolok municipality, South Cotabato province, two unidentified gunmen stopped a moving ambulance and shot dead a patient on board after asking for his name. A stray bullet also hit and wounded the driver. **Source:** [Inquirer](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

05 October 2018: In the Gaza Strip, a paramedic was shot and critically injured by the IDF while attending to another victim of IDF shooting. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

27 October 2018: In Jabalia city, Gaza, amid a large-scale aerial attack, Israeli warplanes bombed the Indonesian Hospital with health workers and Medical Emergency Rescue Committee volunteers inside it, damaging several of its rooms, including the intensive care unit, and causing a power shutdown. **Sources:** [Russia Today](#) and [Tempo](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

02 October 2018: In Basira town, Deir ez-Zor governorate, a bomb of unknown origin planted under an ambulance exploded and caused damage to the vehicle. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

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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Editorial team:

Christina Wille, Laurence Gerhardt and Helen Buck Insecurity Insight

Research team:

James Naudi
Insecurity Insight

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Threats and violence affecting general healthcare

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire

28 October 2018: In Odienné town and department, Denguélé district, Kabadougou region, a health worker from the regional hospital centre went missing. Her body was discovered on 31 October, and a soldier is wanted for questioning. **Sources:** [Koaci \(a\)](#) and [Koaci \(b\)](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

02 October 2018: In Butembo city, north Kivu region, two or three local Red Cross workers (accounts vary) were attacked during the burial of Ebola victims, leaving them with serious injuries. No further details specified. **Sources:** [IFRC](#), [Media Congo](#), [AWSO](#), [Reuters](#) and [The Telegraph](#)

12 October 2018 (DoA): In Beni city, North Kivu province, an attack staged by armed militias forced two WHO personnel to remain indoors for two days. **Source:** [VOA News](#)

15 October 2018: In areas hit by the Ebola outbreak, insecurity prompted the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention to pull back its personnel. **Source:** [CNN](#)

17 October 2018 (DoA): In areas hit by the Ebola outbreak, insecurity prevented health workers from reaching affected communities, causing a surge in cases. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

20 October 2018: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, Mai Mai rebels shot and killed two medical workers from the military's rapid intervention medical unit as they were manning a port of entry to try to control the spread of Ebola. **Sources:** [AP](#), [NPR](#), [OCHA](#), [Reuters](#) and [The New York Times](#)

21 October 2018: In Beni city, North Kivu province, rebels attacked an Ebola treatment centre, killed civilians and abducted children, potentially risking the suspension of response efforts in the area. **Source:** [AP](#)

30 October 2018: In areas hit by the Ebola outbreak, assaults by Allied Democratic Forces rebels continued to hamper response efforts in the DRC and neighbouring countries, prompting the UNSC to adopt a resolution demanding an immediate halt to attacks. **Sources:** [CTV News](#) and [Time](#)

Nigeria

15 October 2018: Update: In Borno state, Boko Haram militants shot and killed a Nigerian midwife from the ICRC who had been abducted on 01 March 2018, after the ICRC refused to pay a ransom for her release. A nurse from UNICEF, also kidnapped on the same date, remains held captive. On 16 September 2018, the perpetrators had warned that the ICRC and UNICEF had one month to meet their ransom demand before they killed one of the abductees. The killing sparked protests across the city of Abuja. **Sources:** [BBC \(a\)](#), [BBC \(b\)](#), [ICRC](#), [IRIN](#), [NPR](#), [Reuters \(a\)](#), [Reuters \(b\)](#), [ACLED](#), [The New York Times](#), [Vanguard](#) and [VOA News](#)

Somalia

31 October 2018: In Tulo burwaqo village, Garbahaarey district, an NGO vehicle transporting medical supplies was hijacked by al Shabaab militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

South Africa

11 October 2018: In King William's Town, Eastern Cape province, residents of the Sweetwaters area of the town set fire to an HIV and children's NGO centre in protest over poor quality roads and the need for

a graveyard. Source: [ACLED](#)

Asia

India

01 October 2018: In Hojai district, Assam state, a rumour that a student had died after being administered the Measles Rubella (MR) vaccine led a group of rioters to assault and injure a female health worker and subsequently vandalize school property at the Pharmapar High School near Lanka city. Source: [ACLED](#)

14 October 2018: In Jabalpur town, Madhya Pradesh state, a doctor was attacked by relatives of one of his patients because he was from a lower caste. Source: [ACLED](#)

31 October 2018: In Gurgaon city, Haryana state, a doctor was assaulted at his home by two unidentified perpetrators and left with serious injuries. Reports indicate several incidents of intimidation and assault against doctors in this region. Source: [ACLED](#)

Pakistan

13 October 2018 (DoA): In Kohat city, tehsil and district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Ahlus Sunnah wal Jamaah militants shot and fatally injured a Shia doctor at his clinic at Kohat Atta Khan Garhi area. The motivation for the attack is unknown. Source: [Shiite News](#)

18 October 2018: In Faisalabad city, Punjab state, family members of a pregnant woman who died in doctors' care at the Allied Hospital angrily damaged hospital property and accused the attending doctors of negligence. Source: [ACLED](#)

19 October 2018: In Khiali area, Gujranwala city, Punjab province, two men attacked and injured two measles vaccination health workers when the women knocked on their door to vaccinate them. Source: [Dawn](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Libya

31 October 2018: In Sabha city and district, Fezzan region, unidentified gunmen driving a pickup truck kidnapped the financial controller of the Sabha Medical Centre, likely for ransom. Source: [218TV](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

07 October 2018: In Shiheil village, Deir-ez-Zour governorate, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device exploded near to a hospital, killing one civilian and injuring others. Source: [ACLED](#)

29 October 2018: In Batbo village, Aleppo city and governorate, the militant group Ahrar al-Sham seized an unnamed clinic and turned it into a military headquarters. Source: [Violations of Al Nusra Front](#)

Turkey

03 October 2018: In Kırklareli city, health workers and doctors of the Kırklareli Public Hospital went on strike to protest the killing of a doctor by the relative of one of his patients in Istanbul, as well as an alleged increase in attacks on health workers. Source: [ACLED](#)

Yemen

01 October 2018: In Dhale city, Dhale governorate, MSF suspended all activities after unidentified

perpetrators threw a grenade at a residence for MSF doctors in the region. This incident forced the organisation to withdraw its staff from the district and to suspend its medical programmes until further notice. **Sources:** [Adenghd](#), [MSF](#) and [ACLED](#)

11 October 2018: In al Durayhimi city, al Hodeidah governorate, the general hospital and an ambulance were destroyed by airstrikes and naval shelling reportedly by the Saudi-led coalition. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

13 October 2018: In Ja'ar town, Abyan governorate, a group of unidentified armed men attempted to enter a hospital without leaving their weapons at the entrance, leading to clashes with guards and the arrest of one gunman. No casualties or damages reported. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

15 October 2018: In Taizz city, an exchange of fire between a guard of the deputy governor and a soldier of the 170th Brigade was reported at the General Revolution Hospital, though no casualties or damages reported. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

The Americas

Colombia

08 October 2018 (DoA): In La Macarena town and municipality, Meta department, alleged threats by unspecified perpetrators forced three rural doctors from the municipal authority to resign. **Source:** [El Tiempo](#)

Peru

22 October 2018: Update: In Lima province, two criminals responsible for 28 robberies from several pharmacies in Santa Anita, La Molina, Pueblo Libre and Cercado de Lima and other districts were captured by the police. **Source:** [El Comercio](#)

Strikes and supply concerns

Africa

Burundi

01 October 2018: Burundian authorities placed a three-month ban on almost all international NGOs operating in Burundi, including MSF and Catholic Relief Services, on the basis that some organisations have violated the 2017 'General Framework for Cooperation between the Republic of Burundi and Foreign NGOs', an amendment for ethnicity quotas in the hiring of national staff. Only INGOs running hospitals and schools are exempt. **Sources:** [Amnesty International](#), [Devex](#) and [VOA News](#)

Tanzania

14 October 2018: The NGO Marie Stopes Tanzania announced the closure of its 10 Dar es Salaam health centres across Tanzania. No reason was specified. **Source:** [The Citizen](#)

Asia

India

29 October 2018: In Gurgaon city, Haryana state, doctors associated with the Indian Medical Association went on strike over an incident at the Pushpanjali Hospital in which someone was shot over a protection money issue. The doctors demanded better security for medical workers. **Source:** [ACLED](#)

Nauru

05 October 2018: The Nauruan government ordered the international NGO MSF to cease its provision of mental health care to detained asylum seekers, claiming that its services are no longer needed. On 06

October 2018, the same government denounced MSF's allegedly 'political agenda' of opposing Australia's offshore processing policy for asylum seekers. **Sources:** [Devex](#), [MSF](#), [Pedestrian](#) and [Reuters](#)

Pakistan

26 October 2018: In Nazimabad district, Karachi city, Sindh province, doctors, nurses and other staff from the Sindh Government Children's Hospital went on strike over 3 months of unpaid salaries.

Source: [ACLED](#)

Middle-East and North Africa

Algeria

02 October 2018: In Bouïra city, district and province, doctors and nurses held a protest in front of the Public Institution of Local Health to denounce violence against health personnel. **Source:** [Elwatan](#)

Jordan

11 October 2018: In Mafraq governorate, the Syrian army has cut all supply routes toward the Syrian refugee camp in Rukban area, whilst Jordanian authorities continued to block aid deliveries towards it, leaving 50,000 people without consistent access to food and health aid. UNICEF warned that with winter approaching, thousands of children trapped in the camp without access to food and medicine could die.

Source: [Reuters](#)

Libya

14 October 2018: In Ubari town, Wadi al Hayaa district, Fezzan region, Ubari Medical Complex medical staff held a demonstration in front of the health facility to protest the shortage of doctors and unpaid salaries. **Source:** [SabhaJournalist](#)

Yemen

22 October 2018: Extensive paperwork required by Yemeni authorities continued to restrict humanitarian access, preventing aid organisations, such as MSF, from accurately assessing the famine situation in the country. **Source:** [Devex](#)

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