

Attacks on Health Care

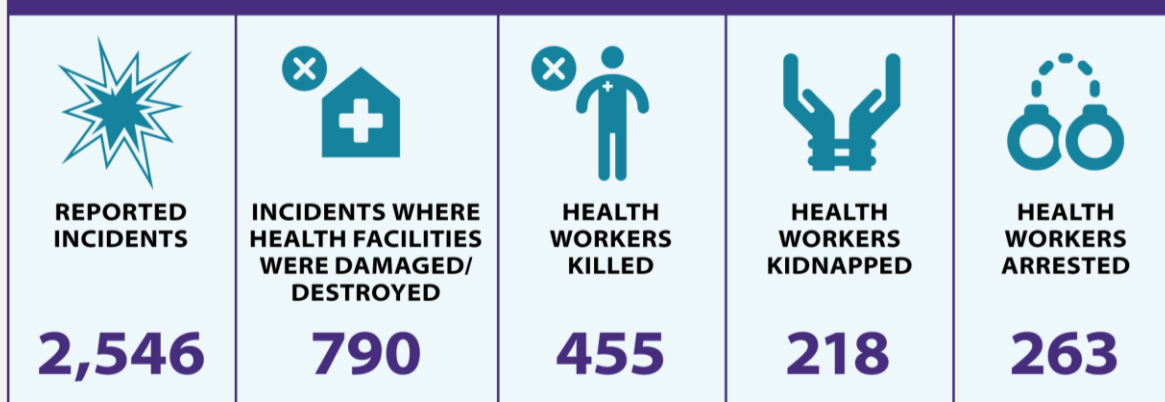
News Brief

13-26 May
2026

Health Care Under Attack: Drone Strikes Amidst High Levels of Violence by State Forces In 2025, New Report Finds
Care in the Crosshairs: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict in 2025 by the **Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition** (SHCC) using data by Insecurity Insight, documents 2,546 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care across 33 countries in 2025, including 790 incidents where hospitals were damaged or destroyed and 455 health workers killed. International humanitarian law prohibits attacks on health care, a commitment all 15 UN Security Council members reaffirmed when they unanimously adopted Resolution 2286 ten years ago. Yet perpetrators are rarely held to account, even as some hospitals and health workers continue to be strategically targeted.

"In 2025, reported violence on health care rose in 13 countries. Today, as we release our 2025 findings, at least 18 first responders have been killed in Lebanon in sequential strikes targeting rescue workers responding to an initial air strike, while health facilities treating Ebola patients in eastern Congo are being set on fire as conspiracy theories about the origin of the virus spread online," said Christina Wille, Executive Director of SHCC member Insecurity Insight, which oversaw data collection and analysis processes for the report.

REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS



Source: Insecurity Insight for the SHCC.

Past editions: [29 April-12 May](#); [15-28 April](#); [01-14 April](#); [18-31 March](#); [04-17 March](#); [18 February-03 March](#); [04-17 February](#); [21 January-03 February](#); [07-20 January](#); [24 December-06 January](#); [10-23 December](#); [All](#)

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SHCC Attacks on Health Care

The section aligns with the **definition** of attacks on health care used by the **Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition** (SHCC).

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

17 May 2026: In Mambasa territory, Ituri province, a pharmacy was looted by the ADF. **Source:** **Bunia Actualite**



Insecurity Insight – Monitoring incidents around the world affecting aid, health care, education, and protection.

20 May 2026: In Mikenge town, Itombwe sector, Mwenga territory, South Kivu province, the General hospital was destroyed after being hit by several drones belonging to the RDF/AFC/M23 coalition. An unspecified number of people and medical staff were injured and killed. **Source:** [Tazama RDC](#)

21 May 2026: In Rwanpara village, Bunia city, Ituri province, two tents ran by the NGO ALIMA used as Ebola isolation wards at Rwampara General Hospital were attacked by projectiles from protesters, setting fire to the facility, after family members of a deceased patient were prevented from removing his body for burial. A health worker was struck by stones and injured. **Sources:** [ALIMA](#) and [BBC](#)

22-23 May 2026: In Mongbwalu town, Djugu territory, Ituri province, a tent set up by MSF to treat Ebola patients at Mongbwalu Referral Hospital was attacked and burned by residents of the area overnight. 18 people with suspected Ebola infections reportedly fled the facility during the fire and were unaccounted for. **Sources:** [AP News](#) and [The Independent](#)

24 May 2026: In Mongbwalu town, Djugu territory, Ituri province, Mongbwalu General Hospital treating Ebola patients was stormed by youth with firearms, forcing medical staff and patients to evacuate amid gunfire. The attackers reportedly demanded that two bodies of their kin be handed over to them. **Source:** [AP News](#)

“There is no Ebola in the Congo”: Insecurity Insight has released a new social media monitoring brief analysing public narratives surrounding the 17th Ebola epidemic in the DRC. The brief covers the period from 11:00 CET on 18 May to 10:00 CET on 24 May 2026.

Key findings:

- Two arson attacks on Ebola response facilities - at Rwampara (21 May) and Mongbwalu (22–23 May) - resulted in the flight of confirmed and suspected Ebola patients into the community and generated significant social media coverage. Coverage by posts was largely factual; comment sections revealed denial narratives, at least one direct threat to burn further health facilities, and endorsement of unsafe burial practices.
- A new narrative cluster unique to this period links the outbreak to the Trump administration's travel ban and DRC's participation in the FIFA World Cup, connecting epidemic denial to mainstream popular sentiment.
- Corruption and funding-diversion narratives remain the most structurally embedded harmful narrative, reinforced by the public disclosure that the INRB receives no operational state funding.

The primary risk remains a trust and acceptance risk, but the facility attacks indicate this trust deficit is now translating into physical obstruction of the response. [Read the briefing](#)

Nigeria

12 May 2026: On the Maru–Talata Mafara highway, Zamfara state, two staff members of the Usman Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH) were abducted by a Zamfara militia while travelling from Abuja to Sokoto after attending a union meeting. The militia demanded 20 million naira for their release. **Source:** [Vanguard Nigeria](#)

14 May 2026: In Uyo town, Akwa Ibom state, the University of Uyo Teaching Hospital was stormed by masked Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) operatives while investigating a fraud case involving a suspect receiving treatment at the facility. One cardiac surgeon was beaten and the Chairman of the Akwa Ibom State chapter of the Nigerian Medical Association was shoved and tear-gassed while attempting to seek clarification from the EFCC operatives. An additional unspecified number of doctors and hospital workers were also tear-gassed, assaulted and handcuffed during the operation. **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

21 May 2026: In Okebukun area, Iluke community, Bunu district, Kabba-Bunu local government area, Kogi state, a doctor and his wife were kidnapped by gunmen on motorcycles at around 0100hrs and taken to an undisclosed location after they stormed the community and shot sporadically. **Source:** [Daily Trust](#)

Sudan

Data from Insecurity Insight shows that since fighting started in Sudan between the SAF and RSF in April 2023 and 12 May 2026:

- **755 attacks** on health care recorded
- Over two-thirds of these 755 attacks were attributed to the RSF.
- 207 health workers killed, 15 kidnapped and 127 arrested
- Health facilities attacked 214 times
- 61 attacks where **armed drones** affected health care
- 51 attacks on **maternal health** care services

Incident briefs: [13-26 May](#); [29 April-12 May](#); [15-28 April](#); [01-14 April](#); [18-31 March](#); [04-17 March](#); [18 February-03 March](#); [04-17 February](#); [21 January-03 February](#); [07-20 January](#); [24 December 2025-06 January](#); [All](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

15 May 2026: In Herat city and province, a doctor was stopped in his vehicle by three unidentified armed men. He was subjected to a body search, after which his car was stolen. **Source:** [Hasht e Subh Daily](#)

18 May 2026: In Bamyam city, district and province, Baran Health Sciences Institute was shut down for the second time during a raid by the Taliban. One of the institute's founders, seven teachers, the administrative director, the academic director and several administrative officials were detained. The instructors and the head of the institute were released a few hours later after providing guarantees. However, the whereabouts of the other detainees remain unknown. The institute is one of the few educational centres still providing health sciences training for girls in the province. **Source:** [The Khaama Press News Agency](#)

Myanmar

Data collected by Insecurity Insight shows the devastating and sustained impact of violence on health care in Myanmar since the military coup on 1 February 2021. Between 1 February 2021 and 12 May 2026, Insecurity Insight recorded more than 1,929 incidents of violence against health care - equivalent to over 30 attacks on health care every month for more than five years.

Key findings include:

- **1929 attacks** on health care recorded across Myanmar
- **66%** of these attacks were attributed to the Myanmar Armed Forces.
- At least 173 health workers killed and 930 arrested
- Health facilities damaged on at least 503 occasions

These figures illustrate the extent to which violence against health care has become a persistent feature of the conflict. Attacks on health workers, facilities, and services continue to undermine access to essential care, weaken disease surveillance and response, and erode the resilience of Myanmar's health system.

The impact on specific health services is particularly concerning. At least **53** maternal health services have been damaged, disrupted, or otherwise affected by violence and coercive measures, reducing access to care for pregnant women, mothers, and newborns. The growing use of drones has also emerged as a threat to health care delivery in Myanmar, with more than **80** recorded incidents affecting health workers, facilities, transport, and service provision.

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Pakistan

18 May 2026: In Tabbai village, Salarzai tehsil, Bajaur district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a polio vaccination team was attacked by an unspecified number of people. At least one police officer who was escorting the team was killed. **Source:** [Geo News](#)

18 May 2026: In Dag Qila village, Salarzai tehsil, Bajaur district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a polio vaccination team was attacked by an unspecified number of people. At least one police officer who was escorting the team was killed. **Source:** [Geo News](#)

24 May 2026: Near Ishaqzai Qila area, Chaman district, Balochistan province, a polio vaccination team was attacked by unidentified gunmen, injuring a police officer who was guarding the team. The polio team were taken to a safe location after the attack and additional police personnel were deployed in the area and efforts are being made to find the gunmen. **Source:** [Prokerala](#)

Europe

Ukraine

15 May 2026: In Marhanets city and urban hromada, Nikopol raion, Dnipropetrovsk oblast, two ambulances were struck by a Russian drone. Medics were then struck by a sequential strike. **Sources:** [Dnipro News](#) and [UA Varta](#)

16 May 2026: In Dnipropetrovsk oblast, an ambulance and other civilian infrastructure were damaged in an attack by Russian forces. **Source:** [UA Varta](#)

19 May 2026: In Pryluky city, urban hromada, and raion, Chernihiv oblast, an unspecified number of pharmacies and educational institutions, a kindergarten, 17 shops, and other civilian infrastructure were damaged in a Russian missile attack. **Sources:** [UA Varta](#) and [Zmina](#)

20 May 2026: In Konotop city, urban hromada and raion, Sumy oblast, a hospital and other civilian infrastructure were damaged in a Russian attack using UAVs. The hospital's windows were broken. **Sources:** [Glavcom](#), [LB](#), [Mayor City Konotop](#), [News Online](#) and [UA Varta](#)

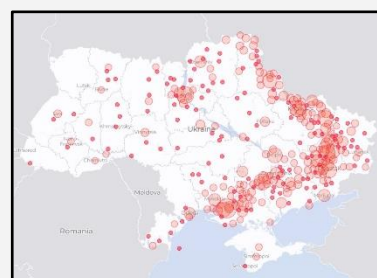
22 May 2026: In Kramatorsk city, urban hromada and raion, Donetsk oblast, an ambulance station and an educational facility were damaged by Russian drone and artillery strikes on the area. **Source:** [Kramatorsk Post](#)

23-24 May 2026: In Bilopillia city and urban hromada, Sumy raion and oblast, an ambulance, a home, outbuildings, a non-residential premises and cars were damaged during a Russian aerial attack. **Source:** [UA Varta](#)

3,000 Attacks on Ukraine's Health Care System Since February 2022

Insecurity Insight has documented **3,000 attacks** on Ukraine's health facilities, health workers and infrastructure since the start of Russia's full-scale invasion on 24 February 2022 to 25 April 2026, averaging nearly two attacks per day.

- Hospitals and clinics have been damaged or destroyed **1570** times
- **458** health workers have been killed
- **111** attacks on services provided for women during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period
- **138** attacks on services that provide health care to children
- **269** attacks that impacted a hospital's access to energy or water supply systems
- **32** occasions where a health facility was repurposed for nonmedical use, such as military bases and weapons storage facilities



Explore this [interactive map](#) - a joint undertaking among Insecurity Insight, eyeWitness to Atrocities (eyeWitness), Media Initiative for Human Rights (MIHR), Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), Truth Hounds, and the Ukrainian Healthcare Center (UHC) - to see where incidents took place. Available in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#).

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

14 May 2026: In Al-Qasiba municipality, Nabatieh governorate, an ambulance belonging to the Islamic Risala Scout Association in the courtyard of the Civil Defense Centre was bombed by Israeli forces. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

15 May 2026: In Tyre city and district, South governorate, a primary health care centre run by the Popular Relief and supervised by the Ministry of Public Health was hit and destroyed by an Israeli airstrike. **Sources:** [Arabic RT](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

16 May 2026: In Harouf municipality, Nabatieh district and governorate, a Civil Defense centre was hit by an Israeli airstrike, killing six people, including three paramedics, and injuring 22 others, including a paramedic. **Sources:** [Anadolu Ajansi](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

16 May 2026: In Debaal municipality, Tyre district, South governorate, a medical centre was hit by an Israeli airstrike, killing three paramedics. **Sources:** [Quds News Network](#) and [Quds News Network II](#)

17 May 2026: In Tebnine municipality, Tyre district, South governorate, the vicinity of the government hospital was hit by an Israeli airstrike. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

21 May 2026: In Tebnine municipality, Tyre district, South governorate, Tibnin Governmental Hospital was damaged by Israeli airstrikes on its vicinity, shattering windows and blowing-out ceiling panels, and injuring nine people, including seven health workers. **Sources:** [Free Malaysia Today](#), [Megaphone News](#), [Megaphone News II](#) and [UN News](#)

22 May 2026: In Deir Qanoun En Nahr municipality, Tyre district, South governorate, three paramedics from the Al-Risala Association, were killed in a third sequential Israeli airstrike. The initial strike hit nearby people on a motorcycle, followed by a second strike at the same location and a third strike that hit the rescue teams as they arrived to provide assistance. **Sources:** [Legal Agenda](#), [Megaphone News](#) and [Megaphone News II](#)

24 May 2026: In Arab Salim municipality, Nabatieh district and governorate, Islamic Health Authority paramedics were hit by an Israeli airstrike, killing one medic and injuring six others. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#), [Megaphone News](#), [Quds News Network](#) and [Quds News Network II](#)

Insecurity Insight has released a [report](#) examining how the conflict between Iran, Israel, Lebanon and the United States has impacted emergency medical services across the Greater Middle East region.

Key findings

- The highest number of incidents affecting emergency medical services were recorded in Lebanon
- Nearly three quarters of incidents were attributed to Israeli forces
- Sequential strikes on emergency responders were documented in Iran, Iraq and Lebanon.
- Emergency responders in southern Lebanon reported delays and heightened risks during rescue operations

Key take aways

- Medical care is protected in conflict
- Emergency responders are particularly vulnerable in conflict
- Attacks on emergency responses undermine the capacity of the health system to support the injured

Read the [full report](#)

Occupied Palestinian territory

Data collected by Insecurity Insight shows that since 08 April 2026 and 12 May 2026, violence against health care across the occupied Palestinian territory has continued. This includes:

- At least **27** attacks on health care recorded during this period.
- Continued exposure of health facilities, health workers, and medical transport to violence despite reported efforts to reduce hostilities.

These figures highlight the ongoing vulnerability of health care in contexts where international humanitarian law protections are not consistently upheld. Since 07 October 2023, at least **3,291** attacks on health care have been recorded across Gaza and the West Bank. The growing use of drones has emerged as a threat to health care delivery in the occupied Palestinian territory, with more than **154** recorded incidents affecting health workers, facilities, transport, and service provision. The impact on specific health services is also particularly concerning. At least **61** maternal health services have been damaged, disrupted, or otherwise affected by violence and coercive measures, limiting access to care for pregnant women, mothers, and newborns.

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The Americas

Haiti

26 May 2026: In Bourdon area, Port-au-Prince city, West department, a doctor was killed by armed men during an attempted kidnapping while travelling in an armoured vehicle. The men opened fire after the doctor reportedly resisted the abduction attempt. The doctor sustained multiple gunshot wounds and died inside the vehicle. **Sources:** [TedActu](#) and [Vant Bèf Enfo](#)

Mexico

18 May 2026: In Tres Ríos sector, Culiacán city, Sinaloa state, a doctor was shot and killed by unidentified gunmen in his car while at a traffic light. He was a general practitioner and owner of private clinics in Culiacán. **Source:** [Luz Noticias](#) and [Mega Noticias](#)

Global Health Insecurity

These events go beyond the definition used by the SHCC to cover a wider range of events that affect the provision of health care including events perpetrated by patients or relatives of patients, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by health care personnel.

Africa

Madagascar

13 May 2026: In Andranolava area, Mampikony district, Sofia region, the head of the basic health centre was physically assaulted and robbed by bandits. **Source:** [News Mada](#)

Nigeria

As reported on 24 May 2026: In Umuadara village, Umulogho autonomous community, Obowo local government area, Imo state, a student nurse was raped and killed with a knife inside her room in the College of Nursing Science after a tyre technician and an accomplice forcefully entered her dorm. The attack reportedly followed the nurse's rejection of romantic advances from the technician. The technician was arrested by police and confessed that both men raped the nurse. **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

Asia

India

18 May 2026: In Bakshi Ka Talab area, Lucknow district, Uttar Pradesh state, a female student was drugged and raped by a doctor at Tejas Hospital, leading to his arrest and the suspension of his medical license. **Source:** [The Times of India](#)

The Americas

Bolivia

22 May 2026: In Huayllani, Cochabamba city and department, medical supplies, including oxygen and fuel for ambulances, were reportedly running scarce due to continuous roadblocks by a coalition of groups protesting for the resignation of the president. **Source:** [Red Uno](#) and [La Patria](#)

Ecuador

17 May 2026: In La Libertad city, Santa Elena province, a doctor was killed by unidentified gunmen, on his break from work at night. **Source:** [Peninsular Gazette](#)

This Bi-Monthly News Brief comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care. It is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases. The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of health care and have not been independently verified. All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations. This document is part of the Attacks on Health Care project by Insecurity Insight. It is funded and supported by the Tides Foundation. The opinions expressed in it do not reflect in any way the position of the Tides Foundation who is not responsible for the content expressed in this document.

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