

Attacks on Health Care

News Brief

08-21 July
2026

Ten years after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2286, health care continues to come under relentless attack in conflicts around the world. ***Still Under Attack: A Decade of Monitoring Attacks on Health Care after UNSCR 2286*** draws on ten years of data collected by Insecurity Insight to reveal the scale, patterns, and human impact of violence against health workers, facilities, patients, and medical transport. The report highlights the growing normalisation of these attacks, examines emerging threats, and sets out urgent recommendations to strengthen the protection of health care and ensure greater accountability for violations.

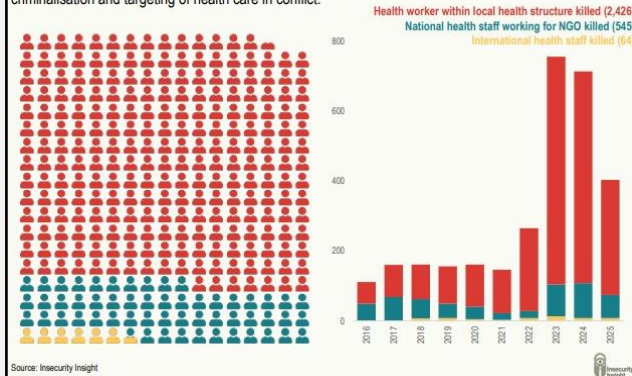
Over the period 2016-2025, more than 3,600 health workers have been reported killed, 1,558 kidnapped and 2,575 arrested amid armed conflict. In total, more than 14,800 incidents have directly affected health workers in addition to the deaths, arrests, and kidnappings, including a wider range of injuries from assaults, sexual violence, and threats. Health workers are highly vulnerable in situations of armed conflict: they are unarmed and dedicated to humanitarian activities, not military ones. Their safety depends largely on conflict parties' respect for their medical mission and on health workers' ability to manage risks associated with their work in areas affected by hostilities.

The largest group of health workers killed during conflict are health workers who come from the communities they serve. Of the 3,618 health workers killed between 2016 and 2025, approximately 68% – over 2,400 people – worked in a local health structure. More than 500 killed health workers were national staff working for INGOs that were running health programmes, accounting for a further 18% of those killed. The 67 international health workers killed during conflict over the past decade account for 2% of the total recorded killings.²¹ These figures indicate not only the enhanced vulnerability of local health workers, but also a clear concentration of lethal risk affecting them.

This pattern reflects the structural features of how health care is delivered in conflict-affected contexts. Local health workers provide the majority of day-to-day care through services embedded within communities. Because of this, they are more likely to be perceived as affiliated with one side involved in the conflict, regardless of their status or impartiality in the provision of care. Ethnicity, language, residence, or prior interactions with armed actors can lead to assumptions about political or military alignment. More broadly, in contexts where health care is criminalised, instrumentalised, or deliberately targeted, providing care to civilians or wounded combatants can be interpreted as a hostile act. These dynamics undermine respect for the medical mission and can increase the risk of attacks. Read the [Full Report](#) | [Executive Summary](#)

Places of work of killed health workers, 2016-2025

Since 2016, local health workers bore the overwhelming burden of lethal violence in conflict settings, accounting for more than two-thirds of the 3,618 health worker killings recorded, highlighting their heightened vulnerability due to their close ties to the communities they serve and the increasing criminalisation and targeting of health care in conflict.



Past editions: [24 June-07 July](#); [10-23 June](#); [27 May-09 June](#); [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](#); [All](#)

SHCC Reports: [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#); [All](#)

Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: <https://bit.ly/08-21Jul2026Health>

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

15-16 July 2026: In Kinshasa city and province, an unspecified number of doctors, including a pregnant doctor, were assaulted by police officers during an overnight sit-in outside the Ministry of Public Health. The officers reportedly beat and pushed the protesters and used water to disperse the demonstration, which had been organised to demand improved working conditions, equal pay, standardised procedures, and promotions. **Source:** Media Congo

Publicly reported incidents affecting Ebola response measures in the DRC

As reported on 09 July 2026: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, Ebola prevention equipment, including water tanks and handwashing stations, installed at the entrances of the central market was stolen or vandalised by unidentified perpetrators. **Source:** Radio Okapi

15 July 2026: In Nyankunde village, Irumu territory, Ituri province, Nyankunde Ebola Treatment Centre was entered by relatives of a pregnant woman - who had died of blood loss at the attached Nyankunde General Hospital while in labour - and a group of young people, several of whom were affiliated with the FPIC. The woman was the wife of an FPIC fighter. The furniture was vandalised and parts of the ETC was damaged after the hospital refused to release the woman's body without following Ebola safe burial protocols. Four patients fled the ETC and humanitarian Ebola-response staff evacuated to Bunia. **Sources:** Actualite, Prokerala, Radio Okapi and Radio Okapi I

Data from Insecurity Insight shows that since the outbreak began on 21 May and 28 July, 29 attacks on Ebola response measures have been reported in the DRC. Ebola treatment centres have been attacked 13 times, including eight cases of facilities being deliberately set on fire, nine response workers injured and another 12 kidnapped. Nearly half of all reported attacks occurred in Djugu and Irumu, (Iruri), and Butembo (North Kivu), reflecting the concentration of Ebola response operations in these areas. Data available on HDX (see dataset *Ebola Bundibugyo Virus Disease Crisis Attacks on Health Incident Data*).

Tracking Public Narratives During the Ebola Outbreak

Explore Insecurity Insight's Social Media Monitoring series on the 17th Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which provides timely analysis of online narratives shaping public perceptions of the epidemic. Drawing on thousands of social media posts and comments, these reports identify emerging misinformation, public concerns, and reactions to response measures that can influence access to health care and the safety of responders. The series follows key narratives, covering themes such as:

- **"Ebola Business"** - claims that the outbreak was fabricated for financial gain;
- **"There is no Ebola in the Congo"** - denial of the outbreak's existence;
- **"The Coffin is Empty"** - misinformation surrounding burials and fatalities;
- **"Embezzlement in Progress"** - allegations of corruption and misuse of response funds;
- **"Ebola, a Disease Created by White People"** - conspiracy theories blaming foreign actors;
- **"What Evidence That These Statistics Are Not Lies?"** - distrust of official case numbers and public health reporting.

Together, these reports provide humanitarian agencies, health responders, researchers, and risk communication specialists with actionable insights into how online discourse evolves during a public health emergency. By identifying harmful narratives early, the series supports evidence-based community engagement, helps counter misinformation, and contributes to safer and more effective outbreak response strategies.

Mali

08 July 2026: In Boulkessi town, Mopti region, a field hospital used by an unidentified armed group was destroyed by the Malian Armed Forces (FAMA) during military strikes. The facility had been identified through intelligence and was allegedly being used as a staging point to treat injured fighters, including commanders, by members of the Alliance of Sahel States (AES). **Source:** [Mali Jet](#)

Sudan

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified **134 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Sudan in 2025**, compared to 274 in 2024 and 280 in 2023. Among incidents reported in 2025, health facilities were damaged or destroyed 40 times, while 54 health workers were killed and 47 arrested. Over three-quarters of the reported incidents affected local health care providers working for national health care structures.

Incidents more than quadrupled in North, South, and West Kordofan states and persisted in the Darfur region – all areas where fighting between conflict parties was intense. Reported cases decreased in Gezira state in 2025 after the SAF recaptured the state capital, Wad Madani, and surrounding areas in January, pushing RSF forces out. More than 80% of reported incidents were attributed to the RSF. Other named conflict parties linked to attacks on health care in 2025 included Darfur communal militia, JFASM, SAF, SLM, and SPLM/ A-North fighters. In some incidents, the responsible conflict party remained unidentified. Read the full SHCC chapter in [Arabic](#) and [English](#).

Incident briefs: [08-21 July](#); [24 June-07 July](#); [10-23 June](#); [27 May-09 June](#); [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](#); [All](#)

SHCC chapters (EN): [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#). (AR): [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#)

Asia

Myanmar

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified **259 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Myanmar in 2025**, compared to 317 in 2024, 420 in 2023, 290 in 2022 and 490 in 2021. Health care facilities were damaged or destroyed at least 110 times, while 34 health workers were killed and 33 arrested. Most incidents affected health care providers working for a de facto government authority, either health structures set up by the National Unity Government, ethnic health organizations or the General Administration Department of the State Administration Council (SAC).

The proportion of incidents attributed to Myanmar Armed Forces (MAF) soldiers in 2025 increased from around 64% of incidents in 2024 to 75% in 2025, measured against an overall reduction in the total number of incidents attributed to the MAF. Multiple other conflict parties were also implicated in adverse effects on health care in 2025, including the AA, KIA, KNLA, LDFs, MNDAA, PDF and TNLA, but proportionally much less than the MAF.

Read the full SHCC chapter in [Burmese](#) and [English](#).

Incident briefs: [08-21 May](#); [24 June-07 July](#); [10-23 June](#); [27 May-09 June](#); [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](#); [All](#)

SHCC chapters: Burmese: [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#). English: [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#)

Pakistan

15 July 2026: In Multan city, Punjab province, 13 Afghan doctors and an Afghan medical student were arrested by Pakistani police at a government hospital and transferred to a detention centre in Attock, where they faced possible deportation despite having pending visa or visa extension applications. **Source:** [Shourouk News](#)

15 July 2026: Near Teen Talwar area, Saddar town, Karachi district and division, Sindh province, a 28-year-old Hindu doctor of Jinnah Postgraduate Medical Centre (JPMC) was shot and killed by gunmen during a daylight robbery when he was travelling with his father and cousin after withdrawing cash from a bank. Their vehicle was intercepted, and despite handing over the money, the gunmen opened fire, hitting the doctor in the chest. **Source:** [Republic World](#)

Europe

Russian Federation

18 July 2026: In Noginsk city, Bogorodsky district, Moscow oblast, a maternity hospital was evacuated after falling debris from a Ukrainian drone intercepted by Russian air defences sparked a fire at a nearby oil depot. **Sources:** [France Info](#), [L'Independant](#) and [20 Minutes](#)

Ukraine

08 July 2026: In Kyiv city, a paramedic and an emergency medical technician were injured by a Russian drone attack. **Source:** [Ukrinform](#)

10 July 2026: In Konotop city and raion, Sumy oblast, a hospital and a school were damaged by two Russian jet-powered Shahed drones in the morning. **Source:** [RBC](#)

13 July 2026: In Tsentralnyi district, Kherson city, urban hromada, raion and oblast, a central clinic was struck by a Russian drone strike at 1745hrs, injuring a health worker and an 85-year-old female patient who had earlier arrived at the facility by ambulance. **Sources:** [Mezha](#)

13-14 July 2026: In Yampil rural settlement, Lyman urban hromada, Kramatorsk raion, Donetsk oblast, a health facility was damaged by Russian shelling. **Source:** [UA Varta](#)

15 July 2026: In Sumy city, urban hromada, raion and oblast, a health facility was damaged by a Russian guided aerial bomb during an attack with six KABs. **Sources:** [UA Varta](#) and [United24 Media](#)

19 July 2026: In Vilniansk city and urban hromada, Zaporizhzhia raion and oblast, a Red Cross ambulance was destroyed by a sequential Russian drone strike while responding to a Russian FPV drone strike on a residential building. **Sources:** [UA Varta](#), [Ukrainian Red Cross](#) and [UN News](#)

20 July 2026: In Kramatorsk city, urban hromada and raion, Donetsk oblast, five healthcare facilities were damaged when Russian forces fired ten FAB-250s at the city. **Sources:** [Kramatorsk City Military Administration](#), [NovostiDN](#) and [UA Varta](#)

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified 613 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in Ukraine in 2025, compared to 569 in 2024, 483 in 2023 and 969 in 2022. Hospitals, including maternity and children's facilities, pharmacies, and warehouses, were damaged or destroyed by explosive weapons use on 382 separate occasions in 2025, an increase from 367 in 2024. Most of these incidents impacted children's and maternity hospitals, clinics, and pharmacies in Khersonska oblast, with the second-highest number of incidents occurring in Donetsk oblast. Hospital bombings took place during broader assaults on villages and towns in which civilians were killed or injured, and civilian infrastructure, including energy supplies, was hit. Read the full SHCC chapter in [English](#) and [Ukrainian](#).

Middle East and North Africa

Iran

08 July 2026: In Chabahar city, Central district, Chabahar county, Sistan and Baluchestan province, Imam Ali Hospital was damaged by shrapnel from US airstrikes on the surrounding area. **Source:** [El Marada](#)

15 July 2026: In Ahvaz city, Central district, Ahvaz county, Khuzestan province, the vicinity of Shahid Baqaei Hospital, a paediatric cancer treatment centre, was hit by US airstrikes, causing explosions

and severe shaking near the facility. The incident forced the emergency evacuation of 211 patients, including children undergoing chemotherapy, while only the most critically ill patients remained in the hospital. **Sources:** [Huff Post](#), [Iranian RCS](#), [Personal Communication](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

Lebanon

11 July 2026: In Barashit village, Bint Jbeil district, South governorate, a clinic was damaged by nearby Israeli airstrikes. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

As reported on 11 July 2026: In South governorate, an unspecified number of health facilities, including Mays al-Jabal Hospital, were occupied by Israeli forces. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

21 July 2026: In Zawtar Al Sharqiyah municipality, Nabatieh district and governorate, two Lebanese Red Cross paramedics were injured when a landmine planted by an unidentified armed group exploded during a search mission for a missing person. The explosion heavily damaged a Lebanese Red Cross ambulance, and the area was found to be contaminated with landmines and unexploded ordnance. **Source:** [A News](#)

Occupied Palestinian territory

Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified **625 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt) in 2025, compared to 1,463 in 2024 and 1,188 in 2023.** Despite the two ceasefires, incidents continued in Gaza throughout 2025, often increasing in conjunction with IDF military movements and ground operations. On average, 2.8 attacks were reported each week during the January 2025 ceasefire, and 1.9 attacks per week from the start of the October ceasefire through December 31, 2025. During both ceasefires, four health workers were killed and two others injured, and the IDF shelled a clinic in Jabalia IDP camp, injuring multiple people, including a pregnant woman. The IDF repeatedly fired at and bombed ambulances responding to emergencies. Read the full SHCC chapter in [Arabic](#) and [English](#).

Incident briefs: [08-21 July](#); [24 June-07 July](#); [10-23 June](#); [27 May-09 June](#); [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](#); [All](#)

SHCC Factsheets (EN): [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#). (AR): [2025](#); [2024](#); [2023](#); [2022](#); [2021](#).

Yemen

14 July 2026: In Sana'a city and province, a consultant physician was detained by Houthi forces after responding to an official summons at the North Sana'a Prosecution Office. The doctor was interrogated and ordered imprisoned despite providing the required bail and was prevented from returning to work. His detention disrupted six scheduled surgical procedures, including a joint replacement for an 80-year-old patient, spinal surgery for a 65-year-old woman, and four other operations that had already completed medical preparations, delaying patients' access to essential treatment. The doctor, who reportedly requires regular medical monitoring following a previous cardiac catheterisation, remained in detention despite appeals for his temporary release to perform the urgent surgeries. **Source:** [Al Montasaf](#)

16 July 2026: In Sana'a city and governorate, a doctor at Al-Thawra Hospital was assaulted by Houthi security guards after being prevented from entering the hospital through a gate designated for patients. The doctor was reportedly beaten while attempting to access the workplace, following the introduction of separate entrances for hospital staff and patients. **Sources:** [Al Montasaf](#) and [Khabar Agency](#)

The Americas

Haiti

As reported on 10 July 2026: In Port-au-Prince city and arrondissement West department, nearly 70% of health facilities were forced to close amid armed violence, while the few still operating were under immense strain. **Source:** [International Committee of the Red Cross](#)

Mexico

10 July 2026: In Emiliano Zapata neighbourhood, Mazatlán city, Sinaloa state, one female health worker was killed and another was injured when a gunman entered a private clinic and opened fire at night. One died in hospital during surgery the same night. Members of the Mexican Army, the National Guard, and the Municipal Police temporarily secured and cordoned off the perimeter of the clinic. **Sources:** [Parriva](#) and [Debate](#)

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.

Asia

India

06 July 2026: In Dombivli city, Thane district, Maharashtra state, two doctors were assaulted by a local politician and his supporters at the Thane District Civil Hospital after they told a family to move a newborn baby to another facility due to a lack of available beds. Both doctors consequently resigned from their jobs. Police arrested the politician and three associates, though the main attacker was later admitted to the hospital claiming chest pain. The incident sparked mass health workers protests outside the intensive care unit at the hospital, demanding the resignation of the politician and better security for health workers. **Source:** [Times of India](#)

07 July 2026: In Tuem area, Pernem town, North Goa district, Goa state, a nurse was stabbed at least four times and seriously injured at a hospital while leaving work in the evening by a local resident. The knife-man was subdued by bystanders who handed him to police when they arrived. **Source:** [Times of India](#)

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.

Please **get in touch** if you are interested in curated datasets, if you have made a public statement that you would like us to include in our News Brief, to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on. Join our [mailing list](#).

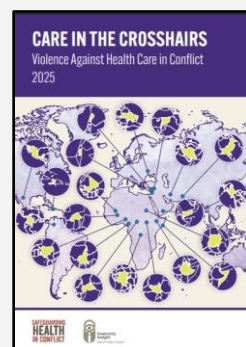
Insecurity Insight. 2026. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 08-21 July 2026. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. <https://bit.ly/08-21Jul2026Health>



Attacks on health care were relentless in 2025. Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) recorded **2,546 incidents in 33 countries** in which damage to or the destruction of health care facilities was reported on at least 790 occasions, 455 health workers were killed, 218 kidnapped and 263 arrested.

Key findings in 2025

- Violence rose in 13 countries and recorded incidents remained far above the ten-year annual average.
- Continued high levels of violence by state forces alongside rising levels of violence by non-state armed actors.
- The expansion of remotely piloted aerial systems (drones) increasingly affected health care in conflict settings.
- Kidnapping of health workers increased, particularly in the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Pakistan and Syria.



The report includes detailed profiles of 21 countries and territories where many acts of violence against health care by state parties and non-state armed groups, including organized criminal groups, took place. These include:

Africa: Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the CAR, the DRC, Ethiopia, Mali, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan

Asia: Myanmar and Pakistan

The Middle East and Europe: Lebanon, Iran, the occupied Palestinian territory, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen

The Americas: Colombia, Haiti and Mexico

Year in Review: 2025; 2024; 2023