

Attacks on Health Care in the occupied Palestinian territory

05-18 August 2026



Using data collected by Insecurity Insight, the Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition (SHCC) identified **432 incidents** of violence against or obstruction of health care across Gaza in 2025. Access to health care was affected by the IDF's use of explosives-laden robots – devices capable of causing extensive destruction – which were deployed near health facilities in Gaza City and Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza. The IDF also increased the use of gun drones (unmanned aerial vehicles specifically equipped with kinetic firearms) near health facilities and ambulances in 2025, from three cases between October 7, 2023 and December 2024 to 17 in 2025, with a notable concentration between June and September, particularly in Gaza governorate. Health care workers and civilians, including children, were injured, and hospital patients – some in intensive or neonatal care – were evacuated.



Read the full SHCC chapter in [Arabic](#) and [English](#). See [here](#) for methodology.

Past briefs: [22 July-04 August](#); [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](#).

Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: <https://bit.ly/15-18Aug2026OPTHealth>

Documented incidents

The publicly reported incidents below are not a complete nor a representative list of all incidents that affected the provision of health care between 05-18 August 2026. The incidents below have not been verified through ground investigations. There is a delay in reporting incidents due to our open source verification protocol.

Gaza

12 August 2026: At Kerem Abu Salem crossing, Rafah governorate, medicines and medical supplies were confiscated from returning Palestinians by Israeli occupation forces and associated gangs, without a mechanism being provided for their recovery. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

16 August 2026: Update: A PRCS paramedic who was arrested on 09 June 2026 was released by Israeli forces. **Source:** [Nabd](#) and [Quds News Network](#)

16 August 2026: In Khan Yunis city and governorate, a field hospital inside the campus of Nasser Medical Complex was struck by a bullet fired by Israeli forces. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

West Bank and East Jerusalem

05-06 August 2026: In Qalandia Refugee Camp, Jerusalem governorate, a UNRWA Health Centre was prevented from operating due to an Israeli operation in the camp using military bulldozers and other heavy vehicles, and associated movement restrictions when the camp was

sealed for 48 hours. Health workers also faced restrictions when trying to enter the camp. **Source:** [UN OCHA OPT](#)

06 August 2026: In Turmus Ayya town, Ramallah and al-Bireh governorate, an ambulance was blocked by Israeli forces from reaching an injured elderly man. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

07 August 2026: In Al-Bireh city, Ramallah governorate, a doctor was arrested by Palestinian Authority security services. **Sources:** [Quds News Network](#) and [Quds News Network II](#)

10 August 2026: In Qusra village, Nablus governorate, an ambulance attempting to reach a sick child was besieged by Israeli settlers and prevented from reaching the family's home. Israeli forces subsequently detained an unspecified number of health workers from the ambulance and a journalist documenting the incident and removed them from the town. **Sources:** [Quds News Network](#) and [Quds News Network II](#)

13 August 2026: In Huwara town, Nablus governorate, a health clinic was stormed by Israeli settlers disguised as Israeli forces. **Source:** [Quds News Network](#)

15 August 2026: In Qusra town, Nablus governorate, aid workers and municipal workers were unable to reach three Palestinian families who had been trapped in the area since 11 August 2026, preventing the delivery of food, water, infant formula, medicines and hygiene kits. **Source:** [WAFA](#)

15 August 2026: Near the Ain Shibli checkpoint, southeast of Tubas city, Tubas governorate, an ambulance was obstructed by Israeli forces for more than an hour while responding to a 16-year-old boy who had been assaulted by Israeli settlers. **Sources:** [WAFA](#)

16 August 2026: In the Janata area, Bethlehem governorate, a doctor was injured in an attack by around ten settlers on the area. He sustained a fracture to his hand after the settlers attacked him with stones and sticks and destroyed the glass of his vehicle. **Sources:** [WAFA](#) and [WAFA II](#)

17 August 2026: In Bethlehem city and governorate, the Arab Society of Bethlehem for Rehabilitation Hospital entrance was raided by Israeli police, who detained a Palestinian police vehicle and confiscated a police pistol after arresting two Palestinian officers who were assigned to guard the hospital. They were released later. **Sources:** [Negotiation Affairs Department](#), [Quds News Network](#) and [WAFA](#)

18 August 2026: In Tel Rumeida area, Hebron governorate, a PRCS ambulance was attacked by Israeli settlers while transporting patients. **Sources:** [Quds News Network](#) and [Quds News Network II](#)

18 August 2026: In Tira neighbourhood, Ramallah city and governorate, a specialist doctor in obstetrics and gynaecology was arrested by Israeli forces after they stormed her home, removing the building's two main doors before raiding the family home. **Sources:** [Quds News Network](#) and [WAFA](#)

This document 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 through ground investigations. Visit our **oPt** webpage. Join our **mailing** for the latest information.

Insecurity Insight. 2026. 05-18 August 2026 Attacks on Health Care in the occupied Palestinian territory. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight.
<https://bit.ly/15-18Aug2026OPTHealth>



Other resources

Insecurity Insight launched a **major report** analysing a decade of violence against health care following the adoption of UNSCR 2286 in 2016. Drawing on ten years of systematically collected data, *Still Under Attack: A Decade of Monitoring Attacks on Health Care after the Adoption of UNSCR 2286*, documents the scale, patterns, and consequences of attacks on health care in conflict-affected settings worldwide. Among the report's key findings:

- Over 17,500 attacks on health care were recorded between 2016 and 2025
- Over 3,860 health workers were killed and over 2,500 were arrested or detained
- Local health workers remain particularly vulnerable, accounting for more than 65% of documented health worker killings
- The growing use of armed drones and explosive weapons is contributing to increasing damage to health facilities and health worker killings and injuries

Based exclusively on Insecurity Insight's data collection, it highlights how violence against health care is becoming normalised, with serious consequences for civilians, disease response and health systems. The report provides detailed analysis of perpetrators, methods of attack and emerging risks, including the growing role of new technologies in conflict environments. It also offers recommendations for governments, international organisations, humanitarian actors and the diplomatic community aimed at strengthening the protection of health care and improving accountability for violations.

Health care provision has unique characteristics that shape its specific exposure to security risks in conflict zones. The Security Risk Management for Health Care (SR4H) Handbook – available in **Arabic**, **English**, **French** and **Spanish**– provides guidance on how to implement a range of actions intended to promote respectful and violence-free environments and prepare individuals or organisations to face and respond appropriately to violent incidents, also dealing with the aftermath of such events.

While this handbook is primarily aimed at health programme managers providing frontline services, it is also highly relevant for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working with partners who implement healthcare services. The handbook helps to identify practical activities that local health partners can implement and that NGO partners can include in partnership agreements and budget for.

The SR4H Handbook brings together some of the best practices on security risk management and proposes a framework adapted for health care providers working with limited resources. The objective is to promote an approach that considers the safety and security of health professionals while ensuring patients' access to care.

