

Attacks on Health Care

News Brief

**01-15
October
2026**

Damage and destruction to health facilities in Gaza, Lebanon and Syria

In Gaza, 157 attacks on health care were recorded between the 10 October 2025 ceasefire and 30 September 2026. Health facilities including hospitals, health centres and medicine warehouses, were reportedly damaged or destroyed on 17 occasions. Nearly 90% of recorded health facility damage was attributed to Israeli aircraft and drone strikes, artillery fire and gunfire. Two health facilities were deliberately set on fire by Israeli forces while in two other incidents, health facilities were damaged by gunfire from unidentified conflict parties. At least one damaged health facility was located within the so-called “Green Zone”, an area under Israeli control: Kamal Adwan Hospital was hit by an Israeli quadcopter drone strike that reportedly injured three hospital workers in July. Two health facilities were reportedly damaged multiple times since the October 2025 ceasefire: both Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital and Yemen Al-Saeed Hospital were damaged twice.

In Lebanon, 272 attacks on health care were recorded between March and September 2026, with 97% of these incidents attributed to Israeli forces. Health facilities including clinics, hospitals, health centres and pharmacies, were reportedly damaged or destroyed on 80 occasions with 86% of damage recorded between March and May. 85% of recorded health facility damage was attributed to Israeli aircraft strikes, with damage also caused by drone strikes, artillery fire, shelling and gunfire. In total, 12 health facilities were recorded destroyed by Israeli aircraft strikes while a clinic was demolished in a controlled explosion. Two hospitals were deliberately set on fire and another was fired at with sound bombs while Israeli snipers fired at the doors and windows. Seven incidents of violence impeding safe delivery of health care were recorded since the 16 April US-brokered, 10-day cessation of hostilities between Israel and Lebanon, and September 2026. Since the conclusion of the Trilateral Framework between the United States of America, the State of Israel, and the Republic of Lebanon on 26 June and 30 September, a further 25 attacks on health care were recorded. These incidents further strain an already overstretched health system.

In Syria, 43 attacks on health care were recorded between the fall of the previous government in December 2024 and September 2026. Health facilities including health centres, hospitals and pharmacies were reportedly damaged or destroyed on 14 occasions. One hospital in Quneitra was destroyed. Multiple conflict parties were named in incidents where health facilities were damaged or destroyed including Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Deir ez-Zor), Israeli forces (Quneitra), Syrian Democratic Forces (Aleppo), Syrian Interim Government Forces (Aleppo) and Turkish forces' (Al-Hasaka). In other incidents, the conflict party was not identified.

Access our [interactive map](#) on attacks on health since 2016. Data is continuously updated and numbers may change if or when further information is made available. See [here](#) for methodology.

Past editions: [16-30 September](#); [19-31 August](#); [05-18 August](#); [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](#); [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

12-13 October 2026: In Jissa locality, Djugu territory, Ituri province, a health centre was set on fire and looted by suspected CODECO militia, who stole pharmaceutical products and furniture from the facility. The facility supports the care of over 5,000 people. **Sources:** Actualite and UN News

Publicly-reported incidents affecting Ebola response measures in the DRC

01 October 2026: Update: An ambulance driver with the Uganda Red Cross Society, died in Kampala city of Uganda, from injuries sustained in an attack while carrying out humanitarian duties related to Ebola response in Aru town, Ituri province. He had been airlifted to Kampala for specialised medical care after initially showing signs of recovery. **Source:** Pulse

As reported 03 October 2026: In Kigonze Camp, Ituri province, an Ebola transit centre was destroyed by fire during ensuing clashes after security forces stormed the camp looking for weapons. **Source:** Big News Network

08 October 2026: In Biakato village, Mandima health zone, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, an Ebola response team, including doctors, who had arrived to provide health assistance, was threatened and pelted with stones by 12 youths. The youths were arrested following the incident. **Source:** Actualite

Ethiopia

02 October 2026: In Mekelle city, Tigray region, Awash Military Hospital was looted and damaged for at least two days by armed individuals following the withdrawal of TPLF forces from Mekelle. Medical supplies and equipment, electrical cables, patients' mattresses, wheelchairs, stretchers and kitchen materials were taken. **Source:** The Eastleigh Voice

Around October 2026: In Tigray region, the Organisation for Social Services, Health and Development (OSSAD), the Tigray Police Commission and the Tigray Supreme Court were looted by armed individuals following the withdrawal of TPLF forces from Mekelle. **Source:** The Eastleigh Voice

14 October 2026: In Juraysis Mender, Dangur woreda, Metekel zone, Benishangul-Gumuz region, an Ethiopian Red Cross Society ambulance was attacked by an armed group at around 1320hrs while carrying out its humanitarian mission. The ambulance driver was killed, and the ambulance was severely damaged and rendered inoperable. **Source:** Ethiopian Red Cross Society

As reported on 15 October 2026: In Mekelle city, Tigray region, the Ayder Hospital was affected by fighting in the area and has suffered from medical supplies shortages, affecting treatments. The hospital is now resuming operations. **Source:** UN News

South Sudan

As reported 08 October 2026: In Juba, Juba Military Hospital reported that blood was a critical resource in the trauma unit; the hospital may have about 15 units available, with capacity sometimes reaching 20, and a single severely wounded patient can require half of that supply. Medical teams and hospital management had to look for blood donors, sometimes relying on

patients' relatives and the national blood bank in Juba. As fighting intensified, the facility prepared to receive weapon-wounded victims at any time, meaning that staff had to work longer shifts than usual. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

As reported 08 October 2026: In Juba, Giada Military Hospital was operating at more than 160% of its bed capacity during the most recent peak in fighting. Staff had to add overflow beds and recruit more physiotherapy staff, though demand was growing faster than the capacity of trauma services. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

Europe

Ukraine

01 October 2026: In Sloviansk city and urban hromada, Kramatorsk raion, Donetsk oblast, a hospital, four ambulances, and other civilian infrastructure were damaged by six Russian strikes, including Russian Smerch MLRS. **Sources:** [Free Radio](#), [National Police of Ukraine](#), [Tehnopolis](#), [UA Varta](#), [Ukrinform](#) and [ZI News Portal](#)

06 October 2026: In Korabelnyi district, Kherson city, urban hromada, raion and oblast, a nurse was injured by a Russian drone strike as she was walking to work. She sustained a blast injury and shrapnel wounds to her leg. **Sources:** [Chrome News](#), [Grivna](#), [Kakhovka News](#), [Kherson Regional Administrative District](#), [Khersontsi](#), [UA Varta](#) and [Ukrainian South](#)

07 October 2026: In Kyiv city, the Borshchagov Chemical and Pharmaceutical Plant, one of the largest Ukrainian manufacturers of medicines, was struck by Russian shelling. **Sources:** [Business Story](#), [Delo](#), [DSNews](#) and [Economic Truth](#)

11 October 2026: In Yampil rural settlement and settlement hromada, Shostka raion, Sumy oblast, an emergency medical vehicle on its way to respond to a call was hit by a Russian drone. The driver and a paramedic who were in the ambulance were injured. **Sources:** [Channel 5](#), [DSNews](#), [Head of the Sumy OVA](#), [Shelter](#), [Slovo i Dilo](#), [TSN](#), [UA Varta I](#) and [UA Varta II](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Saudi Arabia

08 October 2026: In Riyadh city, province and governorate, a medical complex was damaged from falling missile fragments following the interception of a Houthi ballistic missile. **Sources:** [BBC](#) and [Sene Web](#)

Yemen

As reported 02 October 2026: In Al-Turba city, Al-Shamaytain district, Taiz governorate, the main medical referral hub serving the southern districts was disrupted after the city was shelled by ballistic missiles. **Source:** [Al Bilad Press](#)

03 October 2026: In Sana'a city and governorate, Al-Sabeen Maternal and Child Hospital was damaged by Saudi airstrikes during a wave of 26 airstrikes on the capital in the afternoon. The strikes damaged the hospital's infrastructure, internal wards and medical equipment, and caused unspecified injuries and widespread panic among patients, visitors and health workers. **Sources:** [26 September](#) and [Yemen Press Agency](#)

Between 12 to 13 October 2026: In Taiz city and governorate, Al-Safwa Hospital was damaged by Houthi artillery shelling in its vicinity, causing material damage to the hospital's bedrooms. **Sources:** [Al Montasaf](#) and [Al Montasaf I](#)

The Americas

Colombia

04 October 2026: In Padilla municipality, Cauca department, four health care workers were attacked physically and verbally during a medical mission from the Punto de Atención Padilla (Padilla Care Point). **Source:** Cauca News

Mexico

05 October 2026: In Cuauhtémoc city, Chihuahua state, a medical centre was attacked and damaged when three homemade handheld explosives were thrown inside by unidentified perpetrators. **Sources:** Entrelineas and La Gaceta

This 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.

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**.

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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*** by Insecurity Insight 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. Read the **full report**; **executive summary**.