

# Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

31 May-13  
June 2023

## At least 790 attacks on health care documented in the first five months of 2023

Explore our [Attacked and Threatened: Health Care at Risk](#) interactive global map to see incidents where health workers were killed, kidnapped or injured and incidents where health facilities were damaged or destroyed since 2016. Includes details on who the perpetrators were and the weapons used. Access the 2020-2023 dataset on [HDX](#). The dataset does not yet include incidents reported in this News Brief.

## Petition to Pass a New Central Law to Protect Our Health Workers in India

Every week, if not every day, some health worker in some part of India is threatened, harassed, abused or attacked. While some stories manage to reach us, many go unseen. Data is severely under-reported. This cannot continue. It must not continue. Lives of health workers matter! Sign [the petition](#) to ask the Indian government to pass a new law that will protect Indian health workers.

## “There is a Law of War, and That is Very Clear, that Health Care Should be Protected”

Insecurity Insight Director Christina Wille spoke with Democracy Now! about violence against health care in Sudan and around the world. Watch the 2-minute video [here](#).

## Retraumatized: The Impact of the February Earthquake on Northern Syria's Humanitarian Crisis

The Syrian conflict and mass displacement have had a severe psychological impact on civilians, resulting in high levels of mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Join MedGlobal and The Middle East Institute (MEI) on Wednesday, June 28 at 10:00 a.m. EDT. Register [here](#)

Past News Brief editions: [17-30 May](#); [03-16 May](#); [19 April-02 May](#); [05-18 April](#); [22 March-04 April](#); [08-21 March](#); [All](#).

Help support the protection of health care by sharing this resource. Please copy and paste this link: [bit.ly/31May-13Jun2023HealthBMNB](https://bit.ly/31May-13Jun2023HealthBMNB)

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 Bi Monthly News Brief, to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on. Visit our [website](#), join our [mailing list](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## 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

#### *Burkina Faso*

**04 June 2023:** Between Namounou and Diapaga, Tapoa province, Est region, the head nurse at Namounou health centre was killed when suspected JNIM militants fired gunshots at a vehicle.

**Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

#### *Democratic Republic of the Congo*

**09 June 2023:** In Bambu, Rutshuru territory, North Kivu province, the managing administrator of the Bambo health zone was shot and killed during the night by unidentified gunmen at his home. **Source:**

[Radio Okapi](#)



**10 June 2023:** In PopoKabaka territory, Kwango province, a doctor belonging to the Teke ethnic group was tied up and taken hostage in an attack on the Boko health zone office by Mobondo militiamen who demanded 1,000,000 FC and animals to free him.. **Source:** [Actualite](#)

### **Ethiopia**

**09 June 2023:** Around Inango town, Oromia region, a health worker at Dambi Dollo University, Public Health Science Institute was killed after the ambulance they were travelling in was shot at by an unidentified armed group. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**Around 21 June 2023:** In Agemsa town, Oromia region, a doctor was shot and killed by Ethiopian security forces after being accused of travelling to the location to treat Fano militia members. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

### **Mali**

**31 May 2023:** In Tassiga village, Ansongo cercle, Gao region, a health centre manager was killed by IS Sahel militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

### **Nigeria**

**12 June 2023:** In Jangebe (Talata Mafara, Zamfara state, a doctor was shot and killed by bandits who broke into his home. Ten other residents including his family members were kidnapped. **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

### **Somalia**

**06 June 2023:** On the road between Farlibah village and Belet Weyne, Hiiraan region, five health workers working at the Wardi organisation and a civilian man were kidnapped by al Shabaab militants. The victims were released on 19 June after their families and relatives paid a ransom. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**09 June 2023:** In Mogadishu, al Shabaab militants attacked the Pearl Beach Hotel and Restaurant, killing 10 people, including a WHO national female staff member and a peacekeeper. 10 others were wounded. **Sources:** [New Age](#), [The New Arab I](#), [The New Arab II](#), [UN](#) and [WHO Director-General](#)

### **South Sudan**

**11 May 2023:** Between Nyium area and Pochalla town and country, Greater Pibor Administrative Area, a vehicle carrying medical supplies was ambushed by perpetrators from Pibor county. Three aid workers on board were injured. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

**06 June 2023:** In Baggari Payam, Wau county, Western Bahr el Ghazal state, four aid workers of the humanitarian group Women Training and Promotion were arrested by the opposition SPLM-IO forces as they were travelling to Ugali Boma, where they are building a health facility. They were subsequently freed after paying SSP250,000. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

### **Sudan**

#### **Attacks on Health Data in Sudan**

**At least 93 attacks on Sudan's health care system have been documented by Insecurity Insight between 01 January-13 June.** Health facilities have been damaged in shelling and arson attacks, vital medical supplies looted, health workers killed, injured and arrested, and patients deliberately obstructed from accessing health care. Explore the incidents on this [interactive map](#). Access the data on [HDX](#).

Incident reports: [17 May and 13 June](#); [27 April-16 May](#); [19-26 April](#); [15-19 April](#).

## **Asia**

### **Afghanistan**

**As reported on 30 May 2023:** In Qalat city, Zabul province, 28 NGO-funded and private health centres were raided and equipment destroyed by Taliban forces. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**As reported on 01 June 2023:** In Herat city and province, a doctor at Herat Provincial Hospital was severely beaten by Taliban forces. In response, doctors at the facility went on a strike. This is the second Taliban attack on doctors in the hospital in the past two weeks. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

## Myanmar

### Attacks on Health Data in Myanmar

At least 163 attacks on Myanmar's health care system have been documented by Insecurity Insight between 01 January-11 June 2023. Access the dataset on [HDX](#).

Incidents: [31 May-13 June](#); [17-30 May](#); [03-16 May](#); [19 April-02 May](#); [05-18 April](#); [All](#).

Analysis: [April and September 2022](#); [1 February 2021 to 10 January 2022](#); [1 January to 31 March 2022](#).

## Europe

### Ukraine

#### Attacks on Health Data in Ukraine

At least 822 attacks on Ukraine's health care system have been documented between 24 February 2022 and 21 March 2023. Explore this [interactive map](#) (available in English and Ukrainian) to see incidents where health facilities were damaged or destroyed in Ukraine since February 2022.

## Middle East and North Africa

### Yemen

**18 June 2023:** In Ibb city, the director of Al Badr International Hospital was kidnapped by Houthi forces as he was leaving the hospital. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**16 June 2023:** In Dhamar village and governorate, a Sudanese doctor was severely assaulted by a Houthi gunman after he refused to pay Houthi taxes. The Houthi gunman also killed his brother after he criticised him for assaulting the doctor. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**24 May 2023:** In Yarim district, Ibb governorate, a doctor was assaulted by a Houthi official inside a clinic. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

## The Americas

### Colombia

**As reported on 05 June 2023:** In the rural area of La Pedrera, Amazonas department, a health worker and health promoter for the Indigenous community Curare was killed. His body was found floating in a river. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

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## Global Health Insecurity

These events affect the provision of health care but are not directly conflict related. These include events perpetrated by patients, relatives of patients, private individuals and criminals as well as significant strike action or protests by health care personnel.

## Africa

### Mozambique

**12 June 2023:** Gilé district, Zambézia province, a crowd invaded a health centre, removed a patient and beat him to death on suspicion of murdering his ex-wife. **Source:** [Club of Mozambique](#)

## Asia

### Bangladesh

**09 June 2023:** In Natore town and district, Rajshahi division, police rescued a three-day-old baby girl, a day after she was stolen from Natore Sadar Adhunik Hospital. **Source:** [New Age](#)

**13 June 2023:** In Dhaka, several hundred post-graduate trainee physicians of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University staged a demonstration in front of Block C building on campus, as they suspended their duty at hospitals. **Source:** [New Age](#)

### India

**04 June 2023:** In Manipur state, an ambulance carrying a seven-year-old injured child and two women was ambushed by a mob and set ablaze, as they believed that those on board were militants of a rival ethnic group being evacuated. The child and the women were burned alive. Police vehicles escorting the ambulance were also attacked. **Source:** [Scroll](#)

<sup>1</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 20 June 2023.

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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.

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