

Attacks on Health Care

Bi-Monthly News Brief

08-21
September
2021

Insecurity Insight publishes data on incidents where health workers were killed, injured or kidnapped (KIK) and incidents where health facilities were damaged or destroyed by a perpetrator including state and non-state actor groups, criminals, individuals, students and other staff members. [Explore the data on our interactive global map](#). Now updated to cover incidents between 01 January and 31 August 2021.

Past editions: [25 August-07 September](#). Help support our work by sharing this resource with your networks. Please copy and paste this link: bit.ly/8-21Sept2021HealthBMNB

Visit our [website](#), join our [mailing list](#), follow us on [Twitter](#). Get in [touch](#) to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on.

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

09 September 2021: In Loroni village, Toeni department, Sourou province, a medical centre was vandalised and looted by suspected Katiba Macina militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

11 September 2021: In Loroni village, Toeni department, Sourou province, materials were reportedly seized from a medical centre by suspected Katiba Macina militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

11 September 2021: In Nehorou village, Toeni department, Sourou province, a medical centre was reportedly vandalised and looted by suspected Katiba Macina militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Ethiopia

As reported on 11 September: MSF suspended all activities in Amhara, Gambella and Somali regions, as well as in the west and northwest of Tigray region, to comply with a three-month suspension order from the Ethiopian Agency for Civil Society Organizations (ACSO) received on 30 July. **Source:** [MSF](#)

Around 14 September 2021: In Meket, North Wollo zone, Amhara region, a hospital was reportedly damaged and looted by the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF). **Source:** [Amhara Media Corporation](#)

Mali

09 September 2021: In Diallassagou commune, Bankass circle, Mopti region, an INGO aid worker was abducted by armed perpetrators from their car while it was parked in front of the health centre. **Source:** [Agence Malienne de Presse](#)

Nigeria

04 September 2021: In Wawa town, Borgu LGA, Niger state, a doctor was kidnapped from his home by unidentified perpetrators. **Source:** [Vanguard](#)



15 September 2021: In Akwa Ibom state, gunmen stormed a residential building in the early morning, kidnapped a male doctor and critically wounded his cousin by shooting him in the neck. **Source:** [First Reports](#)

South Sudan

12 September 2021: Along the Juba-Nimule road, Juba county, Central Equatoria state, a nursing student and an ambulance driver working for St. Mary Medical Centre were injured after their ambulance was ambushed and shot at. A third individual who was travelling in the ambulance, a soldier, was also injured. Several travellers on the same road have been ambushed and killed recently. **Source:** [Eye Radio](#)

20 September 2021: In Tambura town, Western Equatoria state, a health facility and a school was raided by three armed men during a wider attack on the town. **Source** [Radio Miraya](#)

Sudan

As reported on 10 September 2021: In Abbasiyya locality, South Kordofan state, gunmen on motorcycles stole solar panels from the El Abbasiya Hospital. **Source:** [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

As reported on 03 September 2021: In Nangarhar province, the birthing unit of a small hospital has been stripped down to its bare basics since the Taliban seized power. According to reports, only female staff have been permitted to attend to female patients and a male doctor was beaten for trying to assist women. In the absence of electricity and fuel, health workers have been forced to deliver babies in darkness, using only mobile phone lights and leaving new mothers often without pain relief, medicine or food. **Source:** [BBC](#)

11 September 2021: In Kandahar province, an Afghan female doctor was beaten alongside her family members and a neighbour by Taliban fighters during a nighttime raid on her home. The Taliban had been in search of her two brothers, who have since remained missing. **Source:** [Khaama Press](#)

19 September 2021: In Mazar Sharif, a 67-year-old male doctor was kidnapped while returning home from Abu Ali Sina Balkhi Hospital by seven gunmen under the pretext of treating a person. He had recently received threatening demands for money. **Source:** [Afghan Voice Agency \(AVA\)](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Indonesia

13 September 2021: In Kiwirok district, Pegunungan Bintang regency, Papua province, a clinic was burned and six health workers attacked by approximately 50 suspected West Papua National Liberation Army (TPNBP) members. A male doctor was beaten with an iron stick, and three female nurses were forced to strip naked and were assaulted with sharp weapons. One nurse was found dead two days later. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [Jakarta Globe](#)

Myanmar

Data release: Our data on incidents of violence against or obstruction of health workers, facilities, and transport in Myanmar is now updated to cover 01 February and 31 August 2021. Access it [here](#).

08 September 2021: In Kawa township, Bago district and region, unidentified perpetrators driving an ambulance abducted the Deputy Head of the Kawa Township Education Office from his home. An attempt to also kidnap his wife, an education worker, failed. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

08 September 2021: In Hlegu township, Yangon state, two NGO ambulances were confiscated and four aid workers arrested by the Myanmar military forces during a raid on the organisations' office. The organisation is involved in distributing face masks and disinfectants and transporting patients with COVID-19. **Source:** [Myanmar Now](#)

09 September 2021: In Hakha city, Chin state, State Administration Council (SAC) forces arrested a doctor of Hakha General Hospital for alleged links in the Civil Disobedience Movement. He was released on 11 September. **Sources:** [CHRO I](#) and [CHRO II](#)

10 September 2021: In Hlegu township, Yangon, approximately 50 SAC forces raided the offices of the LNGO Lu Nge Metta Association, an ambulance service for alleged links to the People's Defence Force (PDF). **Source:** [Myanmar Now](#)

10 September 2021: In Hlegu township, Yangon, two Lu Nge Metta Association volunteers were arrested at home by SAC forces following a raid on their office. **Source:** [Myanmar Now](#)

11 September 2021: In Mindon township, Magway region, a medical worker was arrested by SAC forces and accused of links to the PDF. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

11 September 2021: In Sanchaung township, Yangon, SAC forces abducted a doctor affiliated with the Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) and two children. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

As reported on 13 September 2021: In Maw-Shae-Gone village, Thayet Chaung township, Dawei district, SAC forces arrested four aid workers volunteering to provide health care while searching door-to-door for PDF sympathizers. **Source:** [HRFoM](#)

15 September 2021: In Pan Ywa village, Pale township, Sagaing Division, SAC forces entered the village and detained approximately 40 civilians, including a doctor affiliated with the CDM. Houses and vehicles were destroyed in the attack. **Source:** [DVB News](#)

16 September 2021: In HteinPan village, Myingyan township, 23 villagers were abducted by SAC forces and detained at YoneHtoe township hospital. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

16 September 2021: In Taunggyi city, Shan state, a makeshift COVID centre housed in a Buddhist monastery was vandalised and volunteers were assaulted by members of the local police force quarantining there at the centre. **Source:** [Sandra Mon](#)

17 September: In Demoso township, Loikaw district, Kayah state, SAC forces fired upon an aid vehicle carrying medical supplies for civilians displaced by fighting in Demoso township. Bullets punctured the windshield, but the driver was uninjured. **Source:** [Kantarawaddy Times](#)

19 September 2021: In Pakoku township, Magway Region, SAC forces raided the home of a medical volunteer and seized medicines, surgical instruments, and food supplies intended for a physician in Mindat. Two male and two female medical volunteers were arrested. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

21 September 2021: In Taunggyi township, Shan state, a nurse affiliated with CDM was arrested by SAC forces. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

22 September 2021: In Kyaukse township, Mandalay region, a car bomb exploded outside the Public Hospital, killing one and injuring two individuals. SAC forces have occupied the hospital for several months. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

23 September 2021: The SAC issued an arrest warrant for a doctor providing medical care to IDPs in Mindat township, Chin State. **Source:** [The Irawaddy](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

As reported on 04 September 2021: In Beita town, Nablus governorate, West Bank, an ambulance was hit by teargas canisters, smashing its front windshields. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Libya

09 September 2021: In an undisclosed location, an unarmed assault on a Ministry of Health building was reported. No further details specified. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)²

Syrian Arab Republic

08 September 2021: In Mar'yan village, Idlib governorate, Syrian or Russian shelling damaged Fi Jabal al Zaweya medical centre and medical equipment. A woman was killed and her son severely injured. As a result, the centre was forced to close. **Source:** [Airwars](#) and [SNHR](#)

As reported on 09 September 2021: In southern Idlib governorate, Russian shelling killed a doctor and co-founder of Idlib University, alongside his 12-year-old son. **Source:** [Dr. Zaher Sahloul](#)

12 September 2021: In an undisclosed location, health care assets were removed from a health facility. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)²

Yemen

16 September 2021: In an undisclosed location, health care assets (e.g. transport, supplies, materials) were either removed from a mobile clinic or a mobile health clinic was seized. **Source:** [WHOSSA](#)²

22 September 2021: In At Tahrir al Asfal area, Al Qahirah district, Ta'izz governorate, a hand grenade was thrown into a pharmacy, killing a civilian and injuring two others. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

No Respite: Violence Against Health Care in Conflict

The 2021 SHCC [report](#) documents 806 incidents of violence against or obstruction of health care in 43 countries and territories in 2020. Health workers were killed, kidnapped, injured and assaulted and health facilities and transport damaged and destroyed.

Access the data via [Attacks on Health Care in Countries in Conflict](#) on HDX.

Factsheets and individual datasets are available for: [Afghanistan](#), [Burkina Faso](#), [Cameroon](#), [CAR](#), [DRC](#), [Libya](#), [Mali](#), [Mexico](#), [Mozambique](#), [Myanmar](#), [Nagorno-Karabakh](#), [Nigeria](#), [oPt](#), [Somalia](#), [South Sudan](#), [Syria](#) and [Yemen](#).

Watch the webinar [here](#).

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

Ghana

As reported on 04 September 2021: In Accra, a doctor was attacked with a fork by a Nigerian singer and his two colleagues after they were quarantined for testing positive for COVID-19. They were deported, fined GHS2,000, and given a three-month entry ban. **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

Asia and Pacific

Australia

28 August 2021: In Saint Marys suburb, Sydney city, New South Wales state, an unidentified perpetrator set fire to a building at a COVID-19 Laverty Pathology Clinic on Forrester Road, and spray-painted a separate building with conspiracy messages. **Source:** [The Australian](#)

India

06-07 September 2021: In Ganjipeth area, Nagpur city and district, Vidarbha region, Maharashtra state, three people assaulted a male doctor of the Indira Gandhi Government Medical College and Hospital in a road rage incident, as the latter was driving home. **Source:** [NDTV](#)

Europe

France

15 September 2021: French authorities suspended without pay some 3,000 employees at public and private health facilities for failing to get vaccinated against COVID-19. **Source:** [New Age](#)

Greece

01 September 2021: Greek authorities suspended some 10,000 health workers for not being vaccinated against COVID-19, sparking protests at hospitals across the country. **Source:** [New Age](#)

North Macedonia

08 September 2021: In Tetovo town and municipality, Polog region, a fire of unknown origin engulfed a COVID-19 clinic, killing 14 people, and injuring 12. **Sources:** [N1](#) and [New Age](#)

The Americas

United States of America

01 September 2021: In Texas state, the Supreme Court allowed a new law that bans abortions once cardiac activity is detected, usually around six weeks, and before some women learn that they are pregnant. Under this law, any private citizen could sue abortion providers, as well as anyone who aids or abets a woman getting the procedure. **Sources:** [AP News I](#) and [AP News II](#)

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 funded and supported by the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK government through the RIAH project at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at the University of Manchester, the European Commission through the 'Ending violence against healthcare in conflict' project and by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Insecurity Insight and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, the U.S. Government, the European Commission, the FCDO or Save the Children Federation, Inc.

Insecurity Insight. 2021. Attacks on Health Care Bi-Monthly News Brief, 08-21 September 2021. Switzerland: Insecurity Insight. bit.ly/8-21Sept2021HealthBMNB



¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 21 September 2021.

² WHOSSA accessed 23 September 2021.