

# Attacks on Health Care

Monthly News Brief

January  
2021

Insecurity Insight publishes data on incidents where health workers were killed, kidnapped or arrested (KKA) 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. **Access the data via our [website](#) or on [HDX](#).**

Past editions: [December 2020](#); [November 2020](#); [October 2020](#)

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Get in [touch](#) to report an incident or if you have additional information on an incident we have reported on.

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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

### *Burkina Faso*

**04 January 2021:** In Koumbri department, Yatenga province, suspected militants burned down an ambulance alongside other buildings, leaving six people dead. **Source:** [Sahel Security Alerts](#)

### *Democratic Republic of the Congo*

**06 January 2021:** In Nyamilima village, North Kivu province, unidentified perpetrators threatened to kill a nurse of the Nyamilima General Hospital. **Source:** [WikiRumours](#)

### *Ethiopia*

**Between 05 and 08 January 2021:** In Tigray region, unidentified perpetrators burned down a clinic run by the Ethiopian Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs (ARRA), a WFP storage facility, as well as a secondary school run by the Development and Inter-Aid Church Commission, all situated inside the Shimelba Camp for Eritrean refugees. **Sources:** [Bloomberg](#) and [Reuters](#)

### *Mali*

**05 January 2021:** In Deh village, Bandiagara cercle, Mopti region, armed men stopped an MSF ambulance, assaulting passengers inside including a nurse from the Ministry of Health, a caretaker, the driver, and three patients severely wounded at the time of the airstrike in the villages of Bounty and Kikara in Mopti region on 3 January. Following the assault, the victims were tied up and left in the sun. One patient died from their injuries during the event. **Sources:** [Atalayar](#), [MSF I](#), [MSF II](#), [Infowakat](#), [Xinhua](#) and [Studio Tamani](#)

### *Nigeria*

**02 January 2021:** In Tapa community, Ibarapa North LGA, Oyo state, gunmen abducted a male doctor while he was on duty at his hospital. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup> and [HumAngle](#)

**09 January 2021:** In Gujba town and LGA, Yobe state, suspected Boko Haram militants burned down health facilities and looted medicine from a hospital as part of a wider assault in the area. **Sources:** [Eons Intelligence](#) and [Sahara Reporters](#)



## **Sudan**

**01 January 2021:** In Zalingei town, Central Darfur state, several nurses were attacked and injured inside Zalingei Hospital by an armed group who torched a pharmacy and looted surrounding buildings. The incident took place following a quarrel between a member of the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) and a policeman affiliated with the hospital guards. **Sources:** [Dabanga Sudan](#)

## **Asia**

### **Afghanistan**

**17 January 2021:** In the Motor Shoyee area of PD5, Kabul city, a military doctor and a civilian were wounded by gunmen. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**Around 25 January 2021:** In the limits of Ghazni province, two aid volunteers were wounded in an armed attack. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

### **China**

**06 January 2021:** The Chinese Government blocked a WHO team investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic from entering China, claiming that it had not approved the necessary permissions required for their entry. The WHO, however, stated that arrangements had been jointly agreed with Chinese authorities in advance. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [Sahara Reporters](#)

### **India**

**As reported on 30 January 2021:** In New Delhi, between 10 and 15 baton-wielding police officers beat a US doctor and his team while they attempted to provide medical care to people injured in a violent protest against farming reforms. Three doctors reported broken arms, and one volunteer a cracked skull. **Source:** [Daily Mail](#)

### **Pakistan**

**12 January 2021:** In Latambar area, Karak district, Kohat division, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, gunmen riding a motorcycle shot and killed a policeman escorting a team of polio workers. The polio workers were unharmed in the incident. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [US News](#)

### **Singapore**

**14 January 2021:** Singaporean authorities blocked two members of a WHO team investigating the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic from flying to China after testing positive for a Coronavirus IgM antibodies test, despite having previously tested negative for the virus multiple times, delaying their deployment. **Source:** [CNN](#)

### **The Philippines**

**10 January 2021:** In Barangay Alojja, Batuan, Bohol province, Central Visayas, an ambulance driver for the local government unit was shot dead by suspected NPA militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

## **Middle East and North Africa**

### **Occupied Palestinian Territories**

**04 January 2021:** In Tulkarm city and governorate, West Bank, IDF soldiers raided the Thabet Thabet Hospital, fired a sound bomb into the reception and three more in the yard while pursuing a Palestinian youth who had thrown stones at them following a raid by Israeli forces on a nearby Palestinian home. The attack caused extreme distress to the 81 patients at the hospital, including five children, seven patients in ICU, and 13 women in the maternity ward, their companions, and around 39 hospital staff. **Source:** [Medical Aid for Palestinians](#)

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

**24 January 2021:** In Bab Al Salameh camp, Azaz countryside, Aleppo governorate, a pharmacist was shot dead by gunmen who broke into the victim's pharmacy and directly shot him. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

## Yemen

**17 January 2021:** In Al Mukha city, Al Mukha, Taizz, five doctors were kidnapped by members of the Guardians of the Republic who stormed their doctors' residence. The doctors were allegedly taken to Al Khawkhah and forced to work for the group. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**22 January 2020:** In Al Jawf city, Al Hazm district, Al Jawf governorate, Al Jawf General Hospital was stormed by armed Houthi forces. One civilian was killed. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup> and [CIMP](#)

**25 January 2021:** In Dhamar city, district and governorate, three health workers at the city's public hospital were assaulted and beaten by Houthi forces, allegedly in an attempt to coerce state workers to participate in upcoming demonstrations. The victims suffered minor fractures. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**28 January 2021:** In Al Hawtah district, Lahij governorate, a nurse was killed when an unidentified perpetrator opened fire near the Ibn Khaldun Hospital. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

## The Americas

### Mexico

**20 January 2021:** In Bustamante town, Nuevo Leon state, an ambulance was stopped by three armed men. A female patient was kidnapped, and the ambulance driver and the patients' companion were shot and injured. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

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## 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.

## Global

**As reported on 05 January 2021:** A cybersecurity firm warned of an increase in cyberattacks against health care service providers across the world over the coming months. **Source:** [ZD Net](#)

## Africa

### Cameroon

**As reported on 27 January 2021:** In Doualacity, Littoral region, three people posing as Laquintini Hospital staff carried out fake COVID-19 tests in the streets, collecting large amounts of money from civilians ranging from 10,000frs to 60,000frs. All three were arrested. **Source:** [Mimi Mefo Info](#)

### Mozambique

**15 January 2021:** In Maputo, a patient at the Infulene Psychiatric Hospital was reportedly beaten and tortured by two male nurses for refusing to take medicine. The two hospital workers were suspended from work pending an investigation. **Source:** [Club of Mozambique](#)

## Asia

### Pakistan

**28 January 2021:** In Karachi city and division, Sindh province, staff at the Sobhraj Maternity Hospital assaulted a Christian Head Nurse over false accusations of blasphemy, after she challenged a colleague for accepting money from a patient. She was tied up, beaten, and locked inside a room before being taken to a police station. **Source:** [Express](#)

## Europe

### The Netherlands

**24 January 2021:** In Urk town, Flevoland province, a group of youths stormed and set on fire a COVID-19 testing centre during a protest against a nationwide curfew. **Sources:** [AP](#), [BBC](#) and [DW](#)

### UK

**Between 18 and 24 January 2021:** In Redhill town, Reigate and Banstead borough, Surrey county, South East region, England, a group of people claiming COVID-19 was a hoax entered the East

Surrey Hospital and, as one of them filmed staff, told a consultant that a seriously ill patient should be sent home. Security guards ejected them from the hospital. The footage was shared on social media, garnering hateful comments towards NHS staff, describing them as murderers. Police have since started an investigation. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

## The Americas

### Mexico

**28 January 2021:** In Ocosingo city and municipality, Chiapas state, unidentified perpetrators strangled to death a surgeon at a clinic and student at the National Autonomous University of Chiapas in her home, weeks after reporting a history of sexual abuse and requesting the university to transfer her to another medical facility. **Sources:** [Knewz](#) and [The Sun](#)

### USA

**22 January 2021:** In Knoxville city and county, Tennessee state, a perpetrator armed with a shotgun attacked the Planned Parenthood Clinic and damaged the building on the anniversary of a 1973 Supreme Court decision establishing the framework for legal abortions in the US. **Source:** [Sputnik News](#)

**25 January 2021:** In Polk county, Florida state, a fire rescue paramedic stole three doses of COVID-19 vaccines by falsifying vaccine screening and consent forms with false names, leading to his arrest and resignation. **Source:** [The New York Times](#)

**As reported on 27 January 2021: Update:** In Grafton village, Ozaukee county, Wisconsin state, a pharmacist at the Aurora Medical Centre pleaded guilty to tampering with more than 500 doses of COVID-19 vaccine last December because he believed that the vaccine could harm people. **Sources:** [CNN](#) and [Global News](#)

## WHO SSA reported incidents in January 2021

This table shows the number of incidents reported by the WHO Surveillance System for Attacks on Health Care (SSA) in countries monitored by the Safeguarding Health Care in Conflict Coalition (SHCC). Incidents are broken down by attack type.

	# of reported incidents	Abduction, arrest, detention of health personnel or patients	Armed or violent search of health care personnel, facility or transport	Assault (without weapon)	Chemical agent	Militarization of civilian health facility	Obstruction to health care delivery	Psychological violence/ of violence/intimidation	Removal of health care assets	Setting fire	Sexual assault	Unknown	Violence with heavy weapons	Violence with individual weapons
Afghanistan	3	1											1	1
CAR	1					1								1
Mali	4	1	3				1	3	2					1
Nigeria	2	1							1	1				2
oPt	1					1	1	1						1
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>			<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

Date period: January 2021. Data accessed: 08 February 2021.

See [SHCC Methodology](#) for information on how the SHCC uses this data. This information may change as the WHO SSA is updated.

**This 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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<sup>1</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 05 February 2021.