Attacks on Health Care

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
29 November 2019: In Bossey-Dogabe village, Oudalan province, Sahel region, suspected JNIM and/or ISGS militants executed a male chief nurse and seized his motorbike. Source: Infowakat

Attacks on Health Care in the DRC
Supporting organisations and health care providers with information alerts, analysis and practical recommendations on how to mitigate the impact of attacks on health care to ensure staff safety and better health outcomes.

Trend Analysis: Jan-Nov 2019

Somalia
14 November 2019: In Xawaadleey, Bal’ad district, Middle Shabelle region, an Al Shabaab militant shot a group of civilians transporting a patient to a nearby hospital. One person was killed. Source: ACLED

Sudan
09 November 2019: In Port Sudan, Red Sea state, a doctor was attacked by a soldier at the emergency department of the Port Sudan Hospital. The soldier was arrested and dismissed from the force. Source: ACLED

Asia

Pakistan
Around 07 November 2019: The Pakistani government have been accused of covering up an outbreak of type 2 poliovirus that has so far affected 12 children, as well as planning a covert vaccination programme to contain the disease. Source: The Guardian

08 November 2019: Near Pandaraanwala Phattak, Mian Channu area, Khanewal city, Punjab province, the medical superintendent of the Mian Channu Tehsil Headquarters (THQ) Hospital was shot dead by two unidentified masked persons on a motorcycle while he was traveling on national highway along with his driver. The incident is suspected of being a targeted killing. Sources: Dawn, Samaa, Urdu Point and The Nation

This monthly digest comprises threats and violence as well as protests and other events affecting the delivery of and access to health care.

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

Access data from the Attacks on Health Care Monthly News Brief on HDX Insecurity Insight.

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Get in touch to report an attack on health care or have additional information on an attack we have reported on.


Europe

**Turkey**

11 November 2019: In Beyoglu district, Istanbul city and province, Marmara region, James le Mesurier, the co-founder of the volunteer organisation the Syrian Civil Defense (White Helmets), was discovered dead near his home. He had been previously targeted in disinformation campaigns and was targeted by Russia’s foreign ministry weeks prior to his death. **Sources: BBC, Reuters and The Guardian**

Middle East and North Africa

**Iraq**

02 November 2019: In Baghdad, a female volunteer medic was kidnapped by unidentified perpetrators after treating protesters during anti-corruption demonstrations. She was later released on November 13. **Sources: al-Araby, Frontline Defenders and The National**

05 November 2019: In Karbala city and governorate, a doctor was threatened with being killed by a government representative for donating food and money to anti-government protesters and providing medical treatment on the streets. **Source: Human Rights Watch**

06 November 2019: In in Bahyra Square, Basra city and governorate, four soldiers attacked an ambulance and beat the leader of the medical team for treating wounded demonstrators. They smashed the windows and side mirrors of a second ambulance, and opened fire on a makeshift medical tent run by Health Ministry volunteers, sending them running. One medic got shot in the back and was denied medical treatment along with a wounded protester. **Source: HRW**

09 November 2019: In an unspecified location, unidentified perpetrators abducted a female medic and activist. **Sources: Richard Alam and The National**

09 November 2019: In Baghdad, as clashes between anti-government protesters and police escalated on Sinak Bridge, approximately 40 police officers destroyed a tent belonging to volunteer medics, including medicine and equipment. They subsequently set the tent on fire, and fired a teargas cartridge at an ambulance, where a Health Ministry worker was on board. When the volunteers returned to the scene on November 11 to pick up medication they had in storage, security forces opened fire on them without warning. **Source: HRW**

10 November 2019: In Nasiriyah city and district, Dhi Qar governorate, approximately 600 anti-government protesters gathered near the gate of the Haboby Teaching Hospital, where clashes between them and police escalated. Police threw stones and fired teargas cartridges at the crowd, some of which landed in the hospital and caused breathing problems for two female patients. Protesters responding by throwing rocks back at the police, after which approximately 100 police officers entered the hospital and fired three bullets into the ceiling above a group of medics who had supposedly accused them of supporting the demonstrators. **Source: HRW**

**Syrian Arab Republic**

02 November 2019: In Tal Abyad city and district, Raqqa governorate, a pharmacist and his brother were killed in a car bomb explosion denotated by unidentified perpetrators. **Source: SNHR**

03 November 2019: In Rashidiyya town, Tell Tamer district, Al-Hasakah governorate, a Burmese medic of the INGO Free Burma Rangers was killed and his Iraqi colleague wounded in an alleged Turkish-backed Syrian militia mortar attack as they attempted to enter the town to provide medical care. **Sources: ABC News and AWSD**
03-05 November 2019: In Anadan city, Mount Simeon district, Aleppo governorate, Syrian regime forces artillery shelled a Syrian Civil Defence (SCD) centre for three days in a row, damaging its building and four associated vehicles. The centre was forced to close. Source: SNHR

04 November 2019: In Jisr al Shoghour city and district, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces shelled a medical dispensary, damaging its building and medical equipment. Source: SNHR

04 November 2019: In Jisr al Shoghour city and district, Idlib governorate, artillery and rocket strikes by Syrian forces targeted a SCD team inspecting the scene of a previous bombardment. The attack reportedly injured three of the SCD volunteers and destroyed an ambulance. Sources: SNHR and The New Arab

04 November 2019: In al Bashiriya village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles near a medical dispensary, damaging its building and medical equipment. Source: SNHR

06 November 2019: In Shnan village, Jabal al Zaweya district, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes shelled al Ikhas Hospital, injuring two health workers and damaging the building and medical equipment. As a result of the bombing, the hospital was put out of service. Source: SNHR

06 November 2019: In Kafr Nabl town and sub-district, Maarrat al-Nu’man district, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes shelled the Kafr Nabl Surgical Hospital, damaging its building and medical equipment and putting it out of service. Sources: SNHR and The New York Times

06 November 2019: In Jisr al Shoghour city and district, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes shelled a SCD building, damaging the building, equipment, and a vehicle. Source: SNHR

06 November 2019: In Jisr al Shoghour city and district, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles near a building belonging to a female division of the SCD, damaging it. Source: SNHR

09 November 2019: In al Bawabiya village, Aleppo governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles near a medical dispensary, partially damaging it. Source: SNHR

12 November 2019: In Ma’aret Harma village, Idlib governorate, Syrian forces shelled a SCD ambulance, killing at least three civilians, including an SCD member. The ambulance was destroyed. Source: SNHR

15 November 2019: In al Bara village, Jabal al Zaweya district, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime artillery shells fell near a SCD ambulance, damaging the vehicle. Source: SNHR

16 November 2019: In Kafr Nabl town, Maarrat al-Nu’man district, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs on Sham Central Hospital, causing damage. The hospital was out of service prior to the attack due to previous bombings and was being used as a garage for ambulances. Source: SNHR

20 November 2019: In Qahh village, Al-Dana sub-district, Harem district, Idlib governorate, two surface-to-surface missiles containing cluster munitions hit the Qah IDP camp, exploding 25 meters from the SAMS-supported Qah Maternity Hospital, killing 16 civilians, and injuring another 63 more, including four SAMS staff. Large parts of the camp were burned, and the hospital was damaged. Health workers evacuated patients to nearby facilities. Sources: SAMS, SNHR and UN News

21 November 2019: In Raqqa city, Raqqa governorate, a male medical engineer was hit by a stray bullet. He died several days later. Source: SNHR
22 November 2019: In Ma’aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Hay’at Tahrir al Sham officers arrested a patient at the Ma’aret al Numan Central Hospital. Source: SNHR

24 November 2019: In Kansafra village, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes fired missiles on the Adnan Kiwan Surgical Hospital for Children and Women, severely damaging its building and medical equipment. Sources: SNHR and Office of the Spokesperson of the UN Secretary-General

26 November 2019: In Sidnaya city, Rif-Dimashq Governorate, a doctor from Dar’a province died under torture after 16 months of detention in a prison suspected to be Saydnaya Military prison. Source: SOHR

26 November 2019: In Kafr Nabl town, Maarrat al-Nu’man district, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb in front of al Rawda Children and Women Hospital, severely damaging its building and medical equipment. The hospital was already out of service at the time after suffering severe damage during a previous attack. Source: SNHR

27 November 2019: In Bkafla village, Idlib governorate, four SCD members were injured by a Russian or Syrian fired surface-to-surface missile. An ambulance and two vehicles were also damaged. Source: SNHR

30 November 2019: In Izaz city, Aleppo governorate, Syrian Democratic Forces artillery fired shells near the National Hospital, damaging it. Source: SNHR

Yemen
06 November 2019: In Al Makha city and district, Taiz governorate, an aerial attack of unidentified origin on a military site severely damaged a nearby MSF-supported hospital, including its pharmacy and office buildings. The facility was subsequently shut and medical activities suspended, and some staff were relocated. Sources: Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP), MSF, SF Gate and OCHA

26 November 2019: In Sana’a, after three years of closure to non-UN and humanitarian flights, the Saudi-led coalition announced that it would now allow civilians to fly out of the Sana’a International Airport, with the aid of the WHO, for medical treatment in other countries. Sources: Saudi Press Agency and TNH

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
Kenya
12 November 2019 (DOA): Data collected by the Kenya Medical Research Institute and US researchers have revealed how implementers of an anti-HIV circumcision project, predominantly NGOs, had recruited boys for circumcision through coercion and bribery and at times without the consent of their parents, in order to boost the number of their clients, and in turn, increase the level of funding they receive from the US President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief. Source: Standard
Zimbabwe

**November 2019:** Across Zimbabwe, Zimbabwean junior doctors continued their strike calling upon the government to increase their salaries and provide essential services at state hospitals. There are no official figures about how many people have been turned away from hospitals or who have lost their lives since early September when junior doctors stopped going to work. **Source:** BBC

Europe

**Germany**

**9 November 2019:** In Charlottenburg, Berlin, the chief physician of the Department of Internal Medicine I was fatally stabbed during a free lecture at Schlosspark clinic by an attendee who was arrested by police and taken to psychiatric hospital. **Source:** SZ

**Malta**

**01 November 2019:** In an unspecified location, a patient's relative assaulted a nurse attending an ambulance call. In response, the Malta Union For Midwives and Nurses warned that, if by 08 November the union does not receive official documents of the insurance policy for nurses working within the Emergency and Accident Department it would launch an industrial action. **Source:** Malta Today
# WHO SSA reported incidents: November 2019

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attack type</th>
<th>Afghanistan</th>
<th>Burkina Faso</th>
<th>Cameroon</th>
<th>CAR</th>
<th>DRC</th>
<th>Ethiopia</th>
<th>Indonesia</th>
<th>Iraq</th>
<th>Libya</th>
<th>Mali</th>
<th>Myanmar</th>
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<th>Pakistan</th>
<th>Somalia</th>
<th>South Sudan</th>
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<th>Yemen</th>
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<td>Abduction, arrest, detention of health personnel or patients</td>
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<td>Armed or violent search of health care personnel, facility or transport</td>
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<td>Assault (without weapon)</td>
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<td>Militarization of civilian health facility</td>
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<td>Obstruction to health care delivery</td>
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<td>Psychological violence of health care personnel</td>
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<td>Removal of health care assets (e.g. transport, supplies, materials)</td>
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<td>Violence with individual weapons</td>
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**Source:** [WHO SSA](https://www.who.int/).  
**Date period:** November 2019  
**Data accessed:** 10 December 2019

**Note:** See [SHCC Methodology](https://www.shccproject.org/) for information on how the SHCC uses this data.  
**Caveats and comments:** This information may change as the WHO SSA is updated.

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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.

1 Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](https://www.armedconflitedata.org/). Accessed 6 December 2019.

2 The AWSD database does not include the names of individual victims or the agencies affected by an incident. This is done in consideration of the victims and their families who may not wish to have the names publicised in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available. Accessed 6 December 2019.