Attacks on Health Care
Monthly News Brief

October 2019

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.

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### Africa

#### Cameroon

**31 October 2019:** In Mayo Moskota, Mayo-Sava department, Extreme North region, a hospital was attacked by Boko Haram. One patient was killed, and two others injured. **Source:** ACLED

#### Central African Republic

**26 October 2019:** Near Barawa-Dembia, Mbomou prefecture, four national NGO staff members were reportedly abducted by UPC militia. The team were transporting medical supplies from Bangassou to Djéma, when they were ambushed. The armed perpetrators also looted and burned the NGO vehicles. **Source:** AWSD

**26 October 2019:** In Bria city, Haute-Kotto prefecture, unidentified armed men robbed an MSF base. In response, MSF reduced its activities, providing only vital emergencies in hospitals. **Source:** Garda Crisis 24

**Nigeria**

**30 October 2019:** The Nigerian Government suspended a ban it had imposed on Mercy Corps and Action Against Hunger after accusing them of providing food and medicine to Boko Haram fighters, which the INGOs had denied. Despite suspending the ban, the government announced that all NGOs must be vetted and registered before they can operate, and that all vendors working with aid groups will be screened. **Source:** AP

**South Sudan**

**27 October 2019:** In Isebi, Morobo county, Yei River state, three UN volunteers - two male and one female - were working in Ebola screening points were killed, while two others were wounded in a crossfire incident during clashes between armed groups. A female volunteer and

### 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).

### Attacks on Ebola Response 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. Sign up [here](#) for outputs.

**Information Alerts**


**French:** 1-15 Nov, 15-31 Oct, 1-15 Oct, 15-30 Sept, Juil-16 Sept
the child of one of the slain volunteers were also abducted. Their whereabouts are unknown. On October 30, the agency suspended EVD screening activities at the entry points of Isebi, Bazi, Kirikwa, Lasu and Okaba along the South Sudan-DRC border. Sources: AWSD, IOM I, IOM II, Radio Tamazuj, VOA I and VOA II

Sudan
22 October 2019: In Nyala city, South Darfur state, members of the Rapid Support Forces reportedly assaulted a doctor and a pharmacist. In response, doctors at the Nyala Teaching Hospital began to strike until with plans to continue until at least October 24, demanding that the perpetrators are arrested and brought to justice. Source: ACLED and Dabanga Sudan

Europe
Turkey
15 October 2019 (reported date): In Canakkale, Canakkale province, an elderly Kurdish man was attacked and wounded in a hospital. After speaking Kurdish to his wife, another patient in the room said, "This is the Turkish Republic" and threw a glass bottle at the man. Source: Bold Medya

Middle East and North Africa
Iraq
General: In Baghdad, anti-government protesters in need of medical assistance have refused to enter ambulances or public hospitals for fear of being arrested or killed by Iraqi security forces. Source: TNH

05 October 2019: In Baghdad, roadblocks prevented a volunteer paramedic from reaching Sadr City district via motorcycle to assist an anti-government protester who had been shot by Iraqi security forces. The volunteer paramedic then tried to enter on board an ambulance from a nearby public hospital, but protesters threw rocks at the vehicle, preventing him from reaching the patient. Source: TNH

Libya
Reported on October 12: In Ghadamis, Nalut, West, six doctors were abducted by an armed group from Zintan while in transit. They were released twelve days later. Sources: Libya Observer and Libyan Express

24 October 2019: In Salah Aldeen, Tripoli, suspected LNA forces targeted a field hospital, killing one paramedic and wounding three others. Source: Libya Observer

24 October 2019: In Wadi al-Rabi, Aljofara, suspected LNA forces targeted a field hospital, injuring a nurse. Source: Airwars

Syrian Arab Republic
02 October 2019: In Afrin city, Aleppo governorate, a doctor was assaulted by members of an opposition faction in his clinic after they refused to treat one of the group's members because he tried to skip to the front of the queue during a visit to the clinic. Source: SOHR

03 October 2019: In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib city and governorate, suspected Syrian regime forces shelled a First Aid centre supported by Save the Children and Syria Relief, injuring at least six civilians including a doctor, and damaging the building and equipment. Sources: Diyaruna and SNHR

07 October 2019: In al Sheikh Maskin city, Daara governorate, an internal disease specialist doctor was arrested by suspected Syrian regime forces in a raid on his house. Source: SNHR

10 October 2019: In Ras al-Ayn town and district, al-Hasakah governorate, members of a Turkish-led offensive attacked a water pumping station, putting it out of service. Source: VOA
11 October 2019: In Tell Abyad town and district, Raqqa governorate, the Turkish-led offensive forced the closure of an unspecified number of private and public hospitals. Source: Reuters

11 October 2019: In Ras al-Ayn town and district, al-Hasakah governorate, the Turkish-led offensive forced the closure of an unspecified number of private and public hospitals. Source: Reuters

12 October 2019: In Mahmoudiya neighbourhood, Afrin city, Aleppo governorate, an IED exploded near al Mahmoudiya clinic, partially damaging the building. Source: SNHR

13 October 2019 (DOA): Near Ras al-Ayn town, sub-district and district, al-Hasakah governorate, unidentified perpetrators attacked a trauma stabilisation centre. Source: Reuters

14 October 2019: Near Tell Abyad town, Raqqa governorate, a male national Kurdish Red Crescent doctor was killed during a Turkish airstrike. Source: AWSD

15 October 2019: In northeast Syria, the Turkish-led offensive forced Mercy Corps and MSF to suspend most activities and evacuate all international staff. Sources: Devex and Reuters

16 October 2019: In Jasim, Izra’, Dara’a, governorate, a doctor and member of the “Reconciliation Committee” aimed at reconciliation with the regime was fatally shot in his clinic by unidentified gunmen. Source: SOHR

24 October 2019: In the Suluk area, Tell Abiad, Ar-Raqqa governorate, three health workers, including two nurses, were executed by pro-Turkish Islamist faction fighters operating as part of Operation Peace Spring. Source: SOHR

Yemen
18 October 2019: In Salh district, Taizz city and governorate, a male nurse was injured inside Ath Thawra hospital by gunmen believed to be affiliated with Islah Militias. Sources: Althawra News, Civilian Impact Monitoring Project (CIMP) Daily Alert and Yemen Press

23 October 2019: Update: The Saudi and Emirate-led coalition finally acknowledged its responsibility for an airstrike on the MSF-supported Shiara Hospital on 10 January 2016, blaming it on a projectile malfunction. Source: MSF

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
Chad
30 October 2019: Between Ngouboua and Tchoukoualia, Mamdi, Lac region, a doctor, a nurse and their driver were abducted by suspected ISWAP/Boko Haram militants while travelling. Source: Punch

Zimbabwe
07 – 13 October 2019: In Harare, nurses of two unnamed hospitals launched a strike over pay and work conditions. Source: VOA News
14 October 2019: Across Zimbabwe, Zimbabwean doctors led by the Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association continued to strike for the 43rd consecutive day, calling upon the government to increase their salaries and provide essential services at state hospitals. **Source: VOA News**

**Asia**

**India**

28 October 2019: At Udai nagar Square, Nagpur city, Maharashtra State, a hospital worker was stabbed to death over a dispute about a poster of a politician torn down during the assembly election campaign. **Source: Times of India**

**Nepal**

24 October 2019: In Bharatpur city, Chitwan district, Narayani, two health workers at Bharatpur Hospital were beaten by police. **Source: ACLED**

**Turkmenistan**

08 October 2019: In Turkmenabat, Lebap, police officers forced doctors to deny medical treatment to a man who had been detained and tortured into confessing to a theft. Doctors were told not to report his injuries as a result of torture. **Source: Hronika Turkmenistana**
## WHO SSA reported incidents: October 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.

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<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>Syria</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>Militarization of civilian health facility</td>
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<td>Psychological violence of victims/intimidation</td>
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<td>Removal of health care assets (e.g. transport, supplies, materials)</td>
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**Source:** WHO SSA  
**Date period:** October 2019  
**Data accessed:** 20 November 2019  
**Note:** See [SHCC Methodology](#) 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](#). Accessed 11 November 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 11 November 2019.