Violence Against Health Care in Myanmar
11 February to 12 April 2021

Around 1 p.m. on 28 March 2021 Myanmar security forces began shooting at protesters in Sanchaung township, Yangon city. As protesters fled the attack and some sought refuge in the Asia Royal Hospital, soldiers and police chased them inside, opening fire with rubber bullets and injuring at least one male hospital staff member who was exiting the hospital

The security forces occupied the ground floor of the hospital and surrounded the building for approximately thirty minutes following the incident. The shooting took place near the hospital's outpatient treatment centre for patients suffering from heart-related health issues.

Mass Civil Disobedience Movement (CDM) protests have been taking place across Myanmar after the Myanmar armed forces (known as the Tatmadaw) seized control of the country on 1 February following a general election that the National League for Democracy party won by a landslide.

The military have since declared a state of emergency to last for at least a year, and numerous countries have condemned the takeover and subsequent violent crackdown on protesters. Hundreds of people, including children, have been killed and many injured during the protests. The violence has impacted health workers, hospitals and ambulances.

On 9 April 2021 the military junta announced during a televised press conference that all health workers participating in CDM protests would be considered to be committing genocide.

This document is the result of collaboration between **Insecurity Insight** and **Physicians for Human Rights** (PHR) and **Johns Hopkins Center for Public Health and Human Rights** (CPHHR) as part of the **Safeguarding Health in Conflict Coalition** (SHCC). It highlights reported incidents of violence against health workers, facilities and transport in Myanmar between 11 February and 12 April 2021. It does not include information on violence against patients.

The incidents referred to are based on the dataset **11 February - 12 April 2021 Violence Against Health Care in Myanmar Data**, which is available on the **Humanitarian Data Exchange** (HDX).
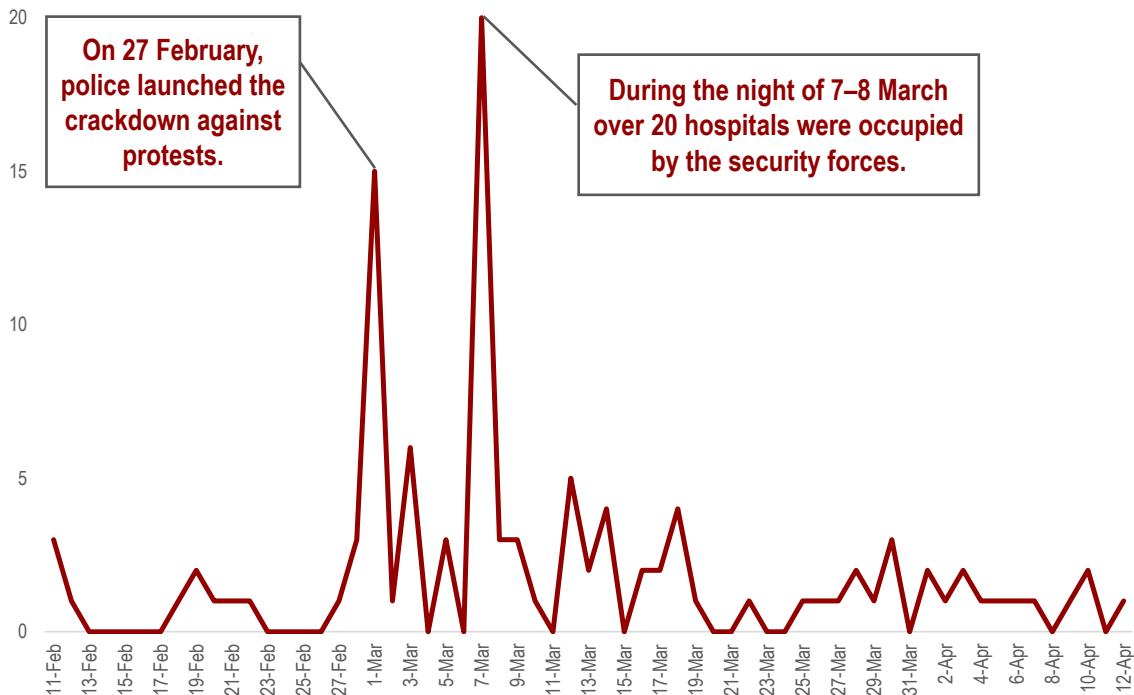
REPORTED INCIDENTS AND MOST COMMONLY REPORTED CONCERNS

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS	NUMBER OF HEALTH WORKERS ARRESTED	NUMBER OF RAIDS ON HOSPITALS	NUMBER OF OCCUPATIONS OF HOSPITALS	NUMBER OF HEALTH WORKERS INJURED	NUMBER OF HEALTH WORKERS KILLED
109	97[1]	49	36[2]	32[3]	10[4]

Source: 11 February - 12 April 2021 Violence Against Health Care in Myanmar Data

ACCESS THE DATA ON HDX

Reported incidents of violence against health care in Myanmar between 11 February and 12 April 2021

On 27 February, police launched the crackdown against protests.

During the night of 7–8 March over 20 hospitals were occupied by the security forces.

- Between 11 February and 12 April 2021, 109 incidents of violence against health care were documented in Myanmar.

- Incidents were frequently reported from Mandalay and Yangon city, where the protests originated. There were also reports of incidents in Ayeyarwady, Chin, Kayah, Mon, Sagaing, Shan and Tanintharyi states, and Naypyitaw Union Territory.

- Tatmadaw soldiers or associated police forces were the reported perpetrators in all incidents.

- Hospitals were raided and occupied and ambulances shot at. Health workers were arrested, injured, and in some cases killed in close-range shootings.

- Emergency medical teams were shot at with live rounds while trying to retrieve or treat injured civilians at protests.

- Health workers were intimidated, arrested and evicted from government housing on suspicion of participating in the CDM.

- Aid offices and organisations' storerooms containing medical equipment were raided after the organisations had provided medical care to protesters.

- Private clinics and hospitals across the country were issued with official directives mandating that injured civilians could not be seen or treated without first notifying the military.

- Teargas was fired inside hospitals while health workers were trapped inside, staff were beaten and patients' rooms searched. In some cases CCTV records were erased and medical supplies destroyed.

- On the night of 7 March over 20 hospitals were occupied throughout the country.[567] Myanmar military forces used live rounds, stun grenades and rubber bullets during these forced entries.

- The icons on the previous page highlight the most commonly reported concerns. Other issues reported include ambulances being damaged, destroyed or seized.

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Over the past five years members of the international community have made many commitments to carrying out the requirements of UN Security Council Resolution 2286, which strongly condemns attacks on medical personnel in conflict situations and was adopted in May 2016. Many states have formally reiterated their commitments, including in the July 2019 Call for Action to strengthen respect for international humanitarian law and principled humanitarian action, which was signed by more than 40 states.

ALL UN MEMBER STATES SHOULD:

- adhere to the provisions of international humanitarian and human rights law regarding respect for and the protection of health services and the wounded and sick, and regarding the ability of health workers to adhere to their ethical responsibilities of providing impartial care to all in need;

- ensure the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 2286 and adopt measures to enhance the protection of and access to health care in situations of armed conflict, as set out in the Secretary-General's recommendations to the Security Council in 2016; and

- strengthen national mechanisms for thorough, impartial, and independent investigations into alleged violations of obligations to respect and protect health care in situations of armed conflict and for the prosecution of the alleged perpetrators of such violations.

DATA COLLECTION

- The documentation and verification of the kinds of incidents described in this document are important.

- See our **global map** for reported incidents. Select 'Myanmar' by clicking on it on the map and selecting the timeframe '11 February to 12 April 2021' for reported incidents.

- To share further incidents or report additional information or corrections, please contact **info@insecurityinsight.org**.

[1] The WHO Surveillance System of Attacks on Healthcare (**SSA**) documented 266 health worker arrests or detentions. On 28 February the WHO SSA documented 200 arrests among a protest group (accessed 12 April 2021).
[2] The **WHO SSA** documented 33 incidents of the militarisation of health facilities (accessed 12 April 2021).
[3] Nine health worker injuries were documented by the **WHO SSA** (accessed 12 April 2021).
[4] Six health worker deaths were documented by the **WHO SSA** (accessed 12 April 2021).
[5] The UN has reported 26 hospitals being occupied.
[6] The **WHO SSA** documented 28 incidents in which health facilities were occupied on 8 March 2021 (accessed 12 April 2021).
[7] Only incidents with location information are included in the dataset.