

Violence Against or Obstruction of Health Care in Ukraine

24 February-02 March 2022



Russian troops invaded Ukrainian territory on 24 February. The initial strategy is believed to have been rapid capture of large populated areas, notably the capital Kyiv and Kharkiv, a city of around 1.4 million inhabitants. These however largely remain in Ukrainian hands and, likely in consequence, Russian forces have started to resort to much more extensive use of explosive weapons in these populated areas.

Insecurity Insight's monitoring for the period 24 February-02 March 2022 has identified reports of 24 incidents where explosive weapons damaged hospitals. A doctor, ambulance driver and medical student have been reportedly killed in attacks. The armed violence has also hindered access to health care or forced health care providers to change how they were able to provide services. The conflict has also affected supply of drugs and other key medical supplies with crucial shortages for patients with long-term care needs.

As the violence has impacted health workers, hospitals, ambulances and patients, a number of medical organisations have released statements of concern: [The International Council of Nurses](#) and [Physicians for Human Rights](#) and the [European Federation of Nurses Associations](#)

Reported incidents have been included in this list, when careful examination of sources did not give any reason to doubt that the event happened where and when it was reported to have occurred. However, none of these reported incidents could be independently verified.

If you have additional information on an incident documented here, or a new incident, please do not hesitate to get in [touch](#). Join our [Ukraine mailing list](#) for future updates. Visit our [website](#). Follow us on [Twitter](#).

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24 February-02 March 2022: 24 documented incidents

24 February 2022: In Vuhledar town, Donetsk oblast, an alleged Russian ballistic missile carrying a cluster munition struck just outside a hospital, damaging the hospital and an ambulance. Six doctors were injured and four civilians killed. **Sources:** [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#) and [NBC News](#)

24 February 2022: In Dnipro city, raion and oblast, nurses at a neonatal ICU were forced to move newborn babies into a makeshift bomb shelter, as Russian missiles struck the area. **Sources:** [Daily Mail](#) and [NDTV](#)

25 February 2022: In Kharkiv city and oblast, the Kharkiv Regional Blood Service Centre was hit by shelling, Three blood donors were wounded, and one died. After the shelling, staff moved all the equipment into the basement which serves as the centre's main unit and bomb shelter. Some blood donors had to spend the night inside to shelter from the shelling. **Sources:** [Brussel Standard](#) and [Euronews](#)

25 February 2022: In Melitopol city, Zaporizhzhia oblast, Russian forces reportedly damaged a clearly-marked Oncology Centre. It is suspected that the damage was caused by shelling. **Source:** [The Mirror](#)

25 February 2022: In Zaporizhzhia oblast, the Minister of Health reports that emergency medical teams came under fire by Russian forces. **Source:** [Ukrinform](#)

25 February 2022: In Kyiv oblast, the Minister of Health reports that emergency medical teams came under fire by Russian forces. **Source:** [Ukrinform](#)

25 February 2022: In Chernihiv oblast, the Minister of Health reports that Russian forces opened fire in a psychiatric hospital. **Source:** [Ukrinform](#)

26 February 2022: In Kyiv, shelling hit near the Okhmadyt Children's Hospital, forcing staff and cancer patients to seek shelter in the basements of the facility. Chemotherapy for children has been interrupted, raising concerns that the patients could relapse, not achieve remission, grow sicker, or even die. Patients with non-life-threatening conditions have been evacuated. **Sources:** [Daily Mail](#), [NBC](#), [Pravda](#), [Time](#) and [The Guardian](#)

26 February 2022: Near Kherson city and oblast, Russian forces reportedly shot at and blew up an ambulance. The ambulance driver died and a paramedic suffered burn injuries. Unconfirmed reports the ambulance was transporting an injured Ukrainian soldier **Sources:** [Kyiv Independent](#), [Segodnya](#), [Twitter](#), [Twitter II](#), and [Ukrinform](#)

27 February 2022: In Okytyrka district, Sumy oblast, Russian forces reportedly prevented ambulances from reaching and providing medical assistance to civilians who were shot whilst travelling on a bus. **Source:** [Kyiv Independent](#)

27 February 2022: In Volnovakha city, Volnovakha raion, Donetsk oblast, a hospital was struck and damaged by shelling from Russian forces. **Sources:** [Twitter](#) and [Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine](#)

27 February 2022: In hospitals around the country, including in Kyiv city, oxygen reserves are running low as trucks are unable to transport oxygen supplies from plants to hospitals placing thousands of lives at risk. **Source:** [WHO](#)

27 February: In Kyiv, guidance sensors for cruise missiles were found at the Okhmatdet Children's Hospital by hospital staff. According to reports, sensors were found on all four sides of the building and were reportedly installed on January 18, according to surveillance camera metadata. **Source:** [Gordonua](#)

28 February 2022: In Buzova village, Kyiv oblast, a private maternity hospital was reportedly hit by shelling fired by Russian forces, causing significant damage to the hospital. Everyone was evacuated from the hospital and no injuries were reported. **Sources:** [CNN](#), [NBC News](#) and [Ukrainska Pravda](#)

01 March 2022: In Kukhari village, Kyiv oblast, an anesthesiologist was reportedly killed after her car was shot at whilst taking her injured nephew to hospital. **Sources:** [Facebook](#), [Kyiv Independent](#) and [Twitter](#)

01 March 2022: In Borodyanka village, Kyiv oblast, the rehabilitation centre of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine was reportedly shelled by Russian forces as they moved through the town. **Source:** [Pravda](#)

01 March 2022: In Vasylivka city, Zaporizhzhia oblast, the Vasylivka Multidisciplinary Intensive Care Hospital was struck and damaged by artillery shells fired by Russian forces. Patients and staff were hiding in a bomb shelter at the time of the attack and were not injured. **Source:** [Zaporizhia Regional Civil-Military Administration](#)

01 March 2022: In Kharkiv city and oblast, the Kharkiv Maternity Hospital reportedly moved to a basement to safeguard staff and patients from missile strikes. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

As reported on 01 March 2022: In Chernihiv city, raion and oblast, a Russian grad rocket landed 200 metres away from a hospital. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

02 March 2022: In Zhytomyr city and oblast, a hospital was reportedly damaged after being hit by an aerial bomb. All the windows and doors of the hospital were broken. The bombs also hit a residential building close to the hospital. **Source:** [Ukrinform](#)

02 March 2022: In Chernihiv city and oblast, the Chernihiv District Hospital was struck and damaged by artillery fire from Russian forces. Patients were reportedly in a bomb shelter at the time of the attack and uninjured. At least one civilian has died in the attack and five more were injured. **Sources:** [Ukrinform](#), [Suspilne Chernihiv I](#) and [II](#), and [Operational Command “North”](#)

02 March 2022: In Mariupol city, Donetsk oblast, a maternity hospital was struck by artillery fired by Russian forces. It is unclear if there were injuries or fatalities. **Sources:** [Ukrinform](#) and [Pavlo Kyrylenko](#)

02 March 2022: In Kharkiv city and oblast, Russian paratroopers reportedly attacked a military hospital, leading to a battle within the hospital between Russian and Ukrainian forces. **Sources:** [Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine](#) and [Al Jazeera](#)

02 March 2022: In Kharkiv city and oblast, an Indian medical student at Kharkiv National Medical University was killed in Russian shelling when he left a bunker to buy food. **Sources:** [BBC I](#) and [BBC II](#)

This document 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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