

International League Against Epilepsy Statement on Attacks on Health Facilities

In May 2023 the war in Ukraine hit a grim milestone as the World Health Organization (WHO) recorded the one thousandth attack on a health facility since February 2022.

The attacks have continued. Yesterday saw the destruction of the largest children's hospital in Kyiv.

In Gaza, 31 of its 36 hospitals have been destroyed. And in many other wars and areas of instability around the world, health facilities and health workers are often targets. According to the WHO, one in six such incident leads to a patient or health worker's loss of life. The long-term impact from the damage to treatment and care services is immeasurable.

Attacks on health facilities and health personnel are a violation of international law. ILAE calls on all parties to uphold their obligations under the Geneva Conventions, protect health infrastructure, and facilitate safe and unimpeded passage for medical and humanitarian personnel.

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