**Beat: Health**

# HOSPITAL SUPPORTED BY MSF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO IS ATTACKED

## 12 DEATH IS THE OVERALL TOLL OF CLASHES

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**USPA NEWS -** On Monday 7 June 2021, the city of Boga's General Referral Hospital (GRH), which is supported by Médecins Sans Frontières/Doctors Without Borders (MSF), has been the target of a deliberate attack in the context of ongoing clashes in the city. The overall toll of the clashes so far is estimated at around twelve deaths, including ten civilians, and the hospital has been completely destroyed. Several buildings were burnt down, including the intensive care unit, and the pharmacy and medical reserves were looted. Nine wounded have been admitted to the Gety general hospital, which is also supported by MSF.

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MSF HAD COORDINATED THIS HOSPITAL'S CONSTRUCTION BETWEEN 2017 AND 2020----------Médecins Sans Frontières had coordinated this hospital's construction between 2017 and 2020, as a response to the dire lack of healthcare services in the health zone. Hundreds of children suffering for malnutrition will no longer have access to the therapeutic nutrition programme and thousands of people are left with no access to healthcare. MSF teams are appalled at the extent of the damage that this healthcare facility suffered. "Everything went up in smoke in a matter of hours even as we were tirelessly claiming how vital this facility is for the region's inhabitants", says Frédéric Lai Manantsoa, MSF head of mission in DRC. In the past few months, MSF consistently raised the alarm about rising insecurity, which only adds to a new wave of children suffering from malnutrition and a rise in cases of sexual violence, which prevent women from working in the fields. "Hospitals in conflict zones must remain protected and neutral spaces. Everyone involved in the conflicts in Ituri must respect patients and healthcare workers' humanitarian action", says Frederic Lai Manantsoa. MSF is outraged by this attack, which violates international humanitarian law and will have dire long-term consequences. Source: Médecins sans frontières (MSF).

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