"Increasing unrest in several cities in Libya has led to mass displacement, civilian casualties and a breakdown of basic services, including health services. In November 2018 alone an average of two attacks per week were reported in the country. As of 18 December, 28 attacks on health care had been reported this year, with 2 patients killed and 13 health workers and patients injured.

"Health workers in Libya are assaulted, kidnapped, and threatened with physical and psychological violence. Health facilities are used for armed confrontations, and ambulances and medical equipment are looted and stolen.

"In a country where more than 1 million people need urgent health care services, including vulnerable migrants and refugees, and where more than 17% of hospitals and 20% of primary health care facilities are damaged or destroyed, every doctor, nurse, paramedic and health volunteer is a valuable resource. We cannot afford for one more hospital to be attacked, or for one more health worker to disappear.

 "We call on all parties to the conflict in Libya to respect the sanctity of health care and the basic principles of international humanitarian law.

"As the violence in Libya increases, greater numbers of injured civilians will require life-saving care. It is imperative that doctors and other health staff are protected so that they can work without obstruction, and without risk to their personal safety."

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