

Aid in Danger

Monthly News Brief

May
2019

Safety, security and access incidents

Insecurity affecting aid workers and aid delivery

This monthly digest comprises threats and incidents of violence affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

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Africa

Burkina Faso

23 May 2019: In Soum region, five UN partner national staff members were abducted while working at the Goudoubo Health Centre within Mentao Refugee Camp. Two abductees, both female staff members, were released shortly after the incident. The unidentified perpetrators stole an agency vehicle and fled. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

Central African Republic

14 May 2019 (DOA): In Mingala sub-prefecture, Basse-Kotto prefecture, MSF successfully re-entered Mingala town for the first time in years, following months of negotiations with the armed group that controls the area. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

22 May 2019: In Nola town, Sangha-Mbaéré prefecture, an unidentified armed group killed and beheaded a 77-year-old French-Spanish Catholic missionary aid worker who taught sewing to girls. No further details specified. **Source:** [ACLED](#)²

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Throughout May 2019: In North Kivu and Ituri provinces, heightened insecurity coupled with critical underfunding continued to hamper Ebola containment efforts to the point where the epidemic could spread to urban areas and neighbouring nations. Furthermore, local communities who view the disease as a conspiracy subjected health workers to threats and intimidation, forcing some of them to feel reluctant to wear protective equipment or perform vital infection prevention and control measures. **Sources:** [AFP](#), [AP](#), [Devex](#), [France 24](#), [Reuters](#), [Stat](#), [The Guardian \(a\)](#), [The Guardian \(b\)](#), [TNH \(a\)](#), [TNH \(b\)](#), [TNH \(c\)](#), [TNH \(d\)](#) and [VOA](#)

10 May 2019: In Katwa town, North Kivu province, unspecified perpetrators assaulted an Ebola burial team under unspecified circumstances. **Source:** [VOA](#)

17 May 2019: In Butembo city, North Kivu province, and Bunia city, Ituri province, crowds were reported to be throwing stones at Ebola burial teams. Local distrust of Ebola burial teams and medical professionals in the region continues to be an issue. **Source:** [AFP](#)

23 - 28 May 2019: Across North Kivu province, groups continue to attack and loot Ebola Treatment Centres due to widespread distrust in the processes and motivations of medical staff and aid workers. In Vusahiro village, Mabalako health zone, a health worker was killed, and in Valumba locality and Chianichani village two health centres were attacked. For further details on specific incidents please see the [Attacks on Health Care Monthly News Brief May 2019](#). **Sources:** [Express](#), [France 24](#) and [Reuters](#)

Mali

04 May 2019: In Douentza district, Mopti region, unidentified armed attackers set fire to two vehicles under hire by an aid NGO, forcing the aid workers to flee and return to their base of operations. **Source:** [UN-OCHA](#)

19 May 2019: In Timbuktu city and cercle, Tombouctou region, unidentified gunmen attacked a MINUSMA team, killing one Nigerian peacekeeper and injuring three more. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

19 May 2019: In Tessalit village and cercle, Kidal region, an explosive device of unidentified origin was run over by a MINUSMA vehicle, resulting in the injury of three Chadian peacekeepers. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

30 May 2019: In Gao city and region, unidentified gunmen stole a vehicle belonging to ICRC staff. **Source:** [ACLED²](#)

30 May 2019: In Kidal region, a MINUSMA armoured vehicle was struck by an IED presumed to have been planted by JNIM militants. No casualties or injuries reported. **Source:** [ACLED²](#)

Mozambique

09 May 2019: In Macomia and Meluco districts, Cabo Delgado province, sporadic violence by suspected Islamic extremist militants has interrupted aid deliveries to villages hit by Cyclone Kenneth. **Source:** [TNH](#)

Niger

02 May 2019: In Tillaberi region, unidentified armed men stole two vehicles belonging to MSF under unspecified circumstances, leaving no casualties but leading to MSF suspending its operations in the region. **Source:** [UN-OCHA](#)

07 May 2019: In Tillaberi region, armed raiders entered the Tabareybarey refugee camp and stole two vehicles – an ambulance and an NGO vehicle – forcing humanitarian agencies in the region to temporarily suspend their operations to Tillaberi and Ouallamareas. **Source:** [UN-OCHA](#)

Nigeria

11 May 2019: In Moranti area, Maiduguri city, Borno state, a national NGO worker was killed in an attack by Boko Haram which left 8 dead including the NGO worker. Six people were also killed the day before in a similar attack. **Sources:** [ACLED²](#) and [AWSD¹](#)

Somalia

05 May 2019: In Hawo Tako town, Hiraan region, an unspecified INGO building was attacked by unknown armed men. **Source:** [ACLED²](#)

14 May 2019: In Geedweyne town, Gedo region, suspected al Shabaab militants abducted two Somalian aid workers of the NGOs Trocaire and World Vision along with their drivers. **Sources:** [ACLED²](#), [Garowe Online](#) and [Som Tribune](#)

South Sudan

21 May 2019: In Kapoeta state, two UN demining staff members were shot and seriously injured during an ambush by unidentified gunmen while traveling between Kapoeta and Buno before being flown to a hospital in Juba for treatment. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)² and [AWSD](#)¹

Sudan

12 – 13 May 2019: In Buram town, Janub Darfur state, unidentified looters raided the offices of unspecified national and international NGOs. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

14 May 2019: In El-Geneina region, West Darfur, the Sector West Headquarters of UNAMID were raided by looters, including police and military personnel, shortly before it was due to be handed over to local authorities as part of a planned UN draw-down. Equipment was stolen and property vandalised. **Source:** [ACLED](#)²

28 May 2019: In Nyala city, South Darfur state, unidentified perpetrators attacked unspecified humanitarian offices and assets in Kalma IDP Camp and looted aid supplies. **Source:** [Sudan Tribune](#)

Zimbabwe

20 May 2019: In Harare, police arrested five civil society pro-democracy activists at the Robert Gabriel Mugabe Airport and charged four of them with treason over an alleged plot to topple the Zimbabwean Government. **Source:** [The East African](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

05 May 2019: In Surkh Rod district, Nangarhar region, four staff members of an unspecified NGO were left injured after a Magnetic Improvised Explosive Device attached to their vehicle exploded. No further details specified. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

08 May 2019: In Kabul, Taliban militants attacked a compound operated by the USAID-funded contractor Counterpart International for its ties to the USA, killing three CARE employees, namely a security guard, a driver, and an education technical advisor. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [CARE](#), [Counterpart](#), [The New York Times](#) and [The Washington Post](#)

16 May 2019: In Ruyi Dab district, Samangan region, a female midwife working at an NGO clinic was reportedly sexually assaulted by six locals and a security guard of the clinic. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

23 May 2019: In Shib Koh district, Farah province, an NGO compound was destroyed, leaving two national NGO staff members dead, after an international military airstrike or drone attack targeting anti-government troops was conducted nearby. The strike reportedly also killed 8 militants. **Source:** [ACLED](#)² and [AWSD](#)¹

27 May 2019: In Qaysar district, Faryab province, four NGO staff members who were conducting a vaccine survey were abducted by anti-government elements. Two of the staff members, both female, were released shortly after. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

Myanmar

14 May 2019: In Rakhine state, Myanmar authorities turned down requests from an OCHA senior official to meet IDPs in the region, which remains barred to most aid groups since the fighting broke out. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

Singapore

08 May 2019: Unidentified hackers managed to access the website of the Singapore Red Cross and stole personal details, including names, blood types, and contact numbers of 4,297 potential blood donors. **Source:** [Coconuts Singapore](#)

Europe

Italy

18 – 19 May 2019: The Interior Ministry banned the NGO Sea-Watch 3 vessel, which carried 65 rescued refugees from the coast of Libya, from entering Italian territorial waters. Days later, the Italian coastguard flouted the Interior Ministry ruling and authorised the ship to dock and for its occupants to be transferred to Lampedusa, where Italy would take custody of refugee families with children. **Sources:** [AP](#), [Dutch News](#), [DW](#) and [The Local](#)

Kosovo

28 May 2019: In northern Kosovo, police detained and injured two UNMIK staff, one of whom is Russian, in a raid targeting organised crime groups. The authorities accused them of attempting to obstruct the police from carrying out their duties. **Source:** [Naharnet](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Occupied Palestinian Territories

11 May 2019: In Khan Younis city, Gaza strip, a Palestinian Red Crescent paramedic was shot in the face with a rubber bullet by the Israeli military while tending to the wounded. He died from his wounds in hospital one month later, on June 11. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

Syrian Arab Republic

01 May 2019: In Kafr Hamrah village, Huraytan sub-district, Mount Simeon district, Aleppo governorate, Syrian Government artillery shelled near a service car and a tractor of the Syria Civil Defence, partially damaging them. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

01 May 2019: In Kafr Nabudah town, Qalaat al-Madiq sub-district, Al-Suqaylabiyah district, Hama governorate, Syrian Government missiles shelled the '33103 Syria Civil Defence Centre' twice in a row, partially destroying the building and damaging its equipment, an ambulance and a service car. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

04 May 2019: In al Rakaya village, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at a Syrian Civil Defence ambulance, killing its passenger, a male national SCD volunteer, and damaging the ambulance beyond repair. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

04 May 2019: In Zayzoun village, Sahl al Ghab area, Hama governorate, Russian warplanes fired missiles at a complex of three vital facilities – a Civil Defence centre, a medical dispensary and a town hall – leaving each of them partially damaged. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

08 May 2019: In Idlib governorate, at least 16 aid organisations, including the WFP, ceased their operations in areas impacted by Syrian Government and Russian bombardments, citing concerns over the safety of staff. Cease of operations in this region deprived at least 47,000 beneficiaries from assistance. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

13 May 2019: In Kafr Nabl town and sub-district, Maarrat al-Nu'man district, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles at the Syria Civil Defence centre, causing serious damage to vehicles and equipment. **Sources:** [SNHR](#) and [The White Helmets](#)

22 May 2019: In Jisr ash-Shugur region, Idlib governorate, two national male Syria Civil Defence workers were wounded in a double-tap strike while attending to victims of a previous airstrike which killed one civilian and wounded seven others. **Sources:** [The White Helmets](#)

28 May 2019: In Kafr Nabl town and sub-district, Maarrat al-Nu'man district, Idlib governorate, a Syrian Government missile hit near the office of the Molham Volunteering Team, severely damaging it and its furniture. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

30 May 2019: In Saham El-Golan village, Daraa governorate, Syrian Arab Red Crescent members were shot at by an unidentified armed former opposition group while they were distributing meals to civilians. The group allegedly demanded food, and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent refused to provide it to them. However, no fatalities or injuries were reported. **Source:** [ACLED](#)²

31 May 2019: In Kafr Aweed village, Idlib governorate, two Syrian Civil Defence volunteers were injured in a double-tap strike while aiding the injured of a previous bombing. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Tunisia

21 May 2019: In Tunis, a Tunisian-German member of a UN panel of experts who was detained by the Tunisian government on 26 March 2019 has been released on bail. He had previously been detained for the unofficial collection of information related to terrorism, after investigating allegations of violations of an arms embargo and other sanctions imposed on Libya. **Sources:** [AP \(a\)](#), [AP \(b\)](#) and [The New Arab](#)

Yemen

05 May 2019: In Hodeida city and governorate, a WFP technical team managed to enter the city of Hodeida through Yemeni Government-controlled areas, allowing them to begin cleaning and servicing equipment in preparation for milling grain that had been cut off for eight months by Houthi rebels. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

09 May 2019: In Hodeida city and governorate, gunfire of unspecified origin hit the WFP-managed grain stores under unspecified circumstances. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

20 May 2019: As Houthi rebels continued to restrict the ability of WFP to deliver aid to intended beneficiaries, the UN agency warned of a possible phased suspension of activities in rebel-held areas unless they abide by accords aimed at ensuring that supplies are not diverted. **Source:** [WFP](#)

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#).

² The AWSD database does not include the names of individual victims or the agencies affected by an incident. This is done in consideration of the victims and their families who may not wish to have the names publicised in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available.

KKA data

Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

Total aid workers reportedly affected, January-May 2019

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan	5	4	0	9	3
CAR	5	8	0	13	7
DRC	1	0	0	1	1
Iraq	0	0	1	1	1
Mali	0	7	0	7	3
Nigeria	2	0	0	2	2
Somalia	3	13	0	16	5
South Sudan	0	0	0	0	0
Syria	5	2	0	7	7
Yemen	11	1	1	13	6
Other countries	13	11	1	25	16
Total affected	45	46	3	94	51

Key definitions

Aid worker: An individual employed by or attached to a humanitarian, UN, international, national, or government aid agency.

Killed: Refers to a staff member being killed. Aid worker(s) killed while in captivity are coded as 'kidnapped'.

Kidnapped: Refers to a staff member being kidnapped, missing or taken hostage.

Arrested: Refers to a staff member being arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned.

Notes

Data collection is ongoing, and data may change as more information is made available. KKA dataset and quick charts available on the [Humanitarian Data Exchange](#) (HDX). The countries have been selected by [Reliefweb](#).