

# Aid in Danger

Monthly News Brief

July  
2019

## Safety, security and access incidents

Insecurity affecting aid workers and aid delivery

### Africa

#### *Central African Republic*

**05 July 2019:** In Ouham prefecture, two national aid workers for an INGO were reportedly assaulted while transporting two patients on motorcycles across Ouham prefecture. The aid workers were ambushed, robbed and assaulted by armed men suspected to be MPC/FPRC. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

#### *Chad*

**08 July 2019:** In Farchana, Ouaddai, two national aid workers for an INGO were reportedly killed after a group of unknown armed perpetrators raided a bar in Farchana, Ouaddai. The perpetrators stole cash and opened fire, wounding two other civilians in the process. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

#### *Democratic Republic of the Congo*

**11 July 2019:** In Lomami Park, Maniema province, an international aid worker of an INGO was reportedly killed by members of a Mai Mai militia. Reports indicate that three other NGO personnel were assaulted but the extent of their injuries is unknown. The perpetrators allegedly burned three NGO motorcycles afterwards and left with stolen belongings. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**14 July 2019:** In North Kivu, two national Ebola health aid workers were reportedly killed in their homes by locals, in what is likely related to severe mistrust over the presence of aid workers across the country. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**23 July 2019:** In Suva, Rewa, a female UN agency international staff member was reportedly killed in a domestic dispute in her home. Her husband is considered the main suspect and an investigation is ongoing. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

#### *Mali*

**06 July 2019:** In Razelma Commune, Timbuktu Region, four national aid workers for a INGO were reportedly injured when their vehicle hit a roadside IED or possible landmine between Ehabak and Zouerat Elhamar. The injured aid workers were evacuated to a hospital for treatment, and the vehicle was severely damaged. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**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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**26 July 2019:** In Tessit, Goa region, an INGO vehicle travelling between Ansongo and Tessit, was ambushed by unidentified armed perpetrators who reportedly stole the INGO rented SUV, robbed the passengers, and abducted the national INGO driver. The driver was released the following day. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

### **Nigeria**

**18 July 2019:** In Kennari, near Damasak town, Mobbar local government area, Borno state, suspected ISWAP insurgents attacked an Action Against Hunger convoy for unspecified reasons, killing one driver and kidnapping one female Action Against Hunger staffer, two other male drivers and three male health workers, all Nigerian. **Sources:** [Action Against Hunger](#), [Aljazeera \(a\)](#), [Al Jazeera \(b\)](#), [BBC](#), [Premium Times \(a\)](#), [Premium Times \(b\)](#), [Reuters \(a\)](#), [Reuters \(b\)](#), [Reuters \(c\)](#), [The Sunday Daily](#) and [Vanguard](#)

**22 July 2019:** In Abuja, heavily armed followers of the leader of the Islamic Movement of Nigeria torched a National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) Response Post amid a protest against the detention of their chief. **Source:** [All Africa](#)

### **Somalia**

**02 July 2019:** In Bula Cadey, Gebo region, a male national aid worker for a LINGO was reportedly killed and three others kidnapped by a group of armed perpetrators. All staff were released unharmed five hours later. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**12 July 2019:** In Kismayo, Lower Juba province, a male international aid worker of an INGO was reportedly shot and killed after a complex attack by Al Shabaab militants on the Assey Hotel. The perpetrators were in the building for more than 14 hours and killed 25 other people in total. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup> and [VOA](#)

**22 July 2019:** In Mogadishu, Banaadir region, a UN national staff member was reportedly injured in a suspected al Shabaab VBIED attack on the Afrik Hotel. Reports indicate the attack targeted a main security checkpoint near the hotel. At least 17 civilians were killed and many injured. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**24 July 2019:** In Mogadishu, an al Shabaab suicide bomber detonated herself inside the office of the Mayor of Mogadishu, killing at least six people, but not her alleged intended target. The target was reportedly the new UN Special Representative for Somalia and head of the UNSOM, an American, who had left the office a few minutes earlier. **Sources:** [AP](#) and [BBC](#)

### **South Sudan**

**Throughout July 2019:** In Duk Padiet county, Jonglei state, due to the ICRC pulling out from the area two and a half months ago health facilities are left short of drug supplies. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

**15 July 2019:** In Bentiu, Upper Nile state, three UN contracted staff were reportedly seriously injured during a fight between two groups of IDPs at a humanitarian cafeteria in Bentiu. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**16 July 2019:** In Kladak, Panyikang, Upper Nile, three aid workers of an INGO and their boat driver were reportedly stopped by members of the South Sudan People Defense Forces (SSPDF) while travelling by river from Malakal to Tongo. After a search of their boat resulted in cash being found, the SSPDF reportedly detained the staff members and boat driver after accusations of transporting money to the SPLA-IO. The staff members were interrogated and the boat driver was severely beaten. After support from UNOCHA and state authorities, negotiations resulted in the release of all staff. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**17 July 2019 (DOA):** In Yei River state, hundreds of farmers accused the state Agriculture Ministry and unnamed INGOs of distributing to them stalks of rotten cassava seeds. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

**23 July 2019:** In Doro IDP camp, Maban, Upper Nile state, two national aid workers of an INGO were reportedly assaulted and injured by beneficiaries after a dispute about the distribution of solar lamps. Local and regional authorities reportedly had to intervene when a group of community members would not let six INGO staff leave until they all received solar lamps. A resolution was achieved with those receiving lamps later and all staff were released. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**26 July 2019:** In Likuangleo, Pibor, Jonglei state, two off duty national aid workers of an INGO were reportedly wounded and one was killed during an alleged marital dispute between different age groups of the community. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

### ***Sudan***

**02 July 2019:** A former Sudanese UNAMID employee is being investigated for allegations of sexual abuse of an undisclosed victim. **Source:** [Dabanga Sudan](#)

**03 July 2019:** In Kaironga village, Central Darfur, five national aid workers for an INGO were reportedly kidnapped by unidentified perpetrator(s). All were released the following day after reports a ransom was paid. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**16 July 2019:** In the disputed region of Abyei, unknown gunmen attacked UNISFA troops providing security at the Amiet market, killing one Ethiopian soldier and critically injuring another. **Sources:** [Radio Tamazuj \(a\)](#) and [Radio Tamazuj \(b\)](#)

## **Asia and the Pacific**

### ***Afghanistan***

**06 – 09 July 2019:** In unspecified locations, three separate attacks by unspecified perpetrators resulted in the death of at least five health workers employed by unspecified NGOs. **Source:** [Toby Lanzer](#)

**08 – 09 July 2019:** In Day Mirdad district, Wardak province, Afghan special forces raided a clinic run by the INGO Swedish Committee for Afghanistan, during which they killed a family caregiver, and detained staff and visiting family members, whom they questioned about the whereabouts of the Taliban. They then shot and killed a lab worker, a guard and a family caregiver. The director of the clinic remains missing. In response to the raid, the Taliban forced the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan to close 42 out of its 77 clinics in the region until the agency and the Swedish Government take immediate steps to protect the facilities and their staff, thereby affecting over 5,700 patients on a daily basis. The Taliban reversed such a decision on 19 July. **Sources:** [ACBAR](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [RFE RL](#), [The New Humanitarian \(a\)](#), [The New Humanitarian \(b\)](#) and [VOA](#)

### ***Fiji***

**23 July 2019:** In an unspecified location, an Australian man allegedly murdered his wife and UN aid worker of Australia under unclear circumstances. The husband was admitted to hospital with serious injuries and under police escort. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

### ***Myanmar***

**29 July 2019:** In Mrauk U township, Rakhine state, a male national aid worker of an INGO was reportedly shot by Myanmar military officers while riding his motorcycle through Mrauk U township. Army reports indicate the staff member was carrying a grenade and was charged under a counterterrorism law after being taken to the hospital to receive treatment. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

## ***Nepal***

**09 July 2019:** A court sentenced a Canadian charity worker to nine years imprisonment on charges of sexually abusing two boys. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

## **Europe**

### ***Italy***

**02 July 2019: Update:** In Agrigento city and province, Sicily region, an Italian court found the German captain of the Sea-Watch refugee rescue vessel not guilty of endangering lives, after her ship supposedly struck a patrol boat whilst she tried to dock in Italy despite being denied permission. The vessel contained 53 refugees, many of whom were in desperate life-threatening conditions picked up from the active warzone in Libya. **Sources:** [BBC](#) and [Guardian](#)

### ***Ukraine***

**17 July 2019:** In Donetsk Oblast region, an UN agency staff member was reportedly assaulted in the parking lot of the Krasnohorivka hospital by a recipient of UN agency assistance. Another UN staff member intervened, stopping the assault. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

## **Middle East and North Africa**

### ***Egypt***

**15 July 2019:** The Parliament of Egypt approved a new law regulating NGOs that would maintain many of the existing restrictions on their operations, including the prohibition of conducting polls and disclosing results without government approval. The Law on Regulating the Work of Civil Associations also allows the Egyptian Government to dissolve NGOs for a wide range of so-called violations, and impose huge fines for operating without a licence or receiving funds without government approval. **Sources:** [Human Rights Watch](#) and [Reuters](#)

### ***Iran***

**16 July 2019:** In Tehran, a British-Iranian aid worker serving a five-year prison term in Iran on treason charges that she denies has been moved from Evin Prison to the psychiatric ward of Imam Khomeini Hospital under the control of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps. **Source:** [RFE RL](#)

### ***Libya***

**21 July 2019:** MSF announced the resumption of its refugee search and rescue operations in the Central Mediterranean in partnership with SOS Méditerranée by late-July. **Source:** [MSF](#)

### ***Occupied Palestinian Territories***

**22 July 2019:** In Al-Issawiya neighbourhood, East Jerusalem, a Palestinian Red Cross reportedly paramedic was shot in the stomach by Israeli forces after a reported raid on the neighbourhood. Reports suggest civilians and Red Cross staff were attacked with rubber bullets to prevent them from transporting civilian patients to the hospital. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

### ***Syrian Arab Republic***

**10 July 2019:** In Maarrat al-Nu'man city, sub-district and district, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles on houses of IDPs supported by the al Huda Charitable Association, causing severe damage to the buildings and an unspecified number of casualties. **Sources:** [SNHR \(a\)](#) and [SNHR \(b\)](#)

**10 July 2019:** In Maara Hrema, Aleppo governorate, a national volunteer of an LNGO was reportedly killed in his home inside an IDP camp during Russian-Syrian military airstrikes. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**10 July 2019:** In Kafrouma village, Idlib governorate Syrian regime forces helicopters reportedly dropped barrel bombs near a Syria Relief and Development (SRD)-supported dispensary, partially damaging its building and equipment. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**10 July 2019:** In Jisr ash-Shugur city and district, Idlib governorate, an airstrike of unspecified origin hit a UOSMM ambulance centre, causing material damage to the ambulances and facility, as well as the Al Kelawai Hospital, causing material damage. The attack killed six civilians, and wounded one anaesthesiologist, three cleaning staff and one warehouse assistant. **Source:** [TNH](#)

**10 July 2019:** In al Jam'iyā neighbourhood, Jisr al Shoghur city, Idlib district and governorate, Syrian warplanes reportedly fired missiles in front of Jirs al Shoghour Surgical Hospital (Kalwai Hospital) which is supported by Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA), partially destroying its building, damaging its equipment and burning its electricity generators. As a result, the hospital went out of service, on July 10, 2019. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**10 July 2019:** In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Syrian warplanes fired reportedly missiles near SAMS-supported Ma'aret al Numan Central Hospital (National Hospital), partially damaging its building and equipment. Subsequently, medical personnel started to evacuate patients to other nearby hospitals, and further reduced functionality. **Source:** [SNHR](#) and [The National](#)

**10 July 2019:** In Saraqeb city, Idlib governorate, Syrian warplanes reportedly fired missiles near a Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS)-supported Dispensary, partially damaging its building, furniture and equipment. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**11 July 2019:** In Khan Sheikhoun town, Maarrat al-Nu'man city, sub-district and district, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles on an SCD centre, severely destroying its building, damaging its equipment and four vehicles, namely an ambulance, a fire truck, and two service cars. A Sham Emergency System vehicle was also stopped in front of the centre, putting the facility out of service. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**12 July 2019:** In al Jam'iyā neighbourhood, Jisr al Shoghur city, Idlib district and governorate, Syrian regime forces reportedly bombed the Syrian Expatriate Medical Association (SEMA)-supported Jisr al Surgical Shoghur Hospital (Kalwai Hospital). The hospital was bombed two days previously and was not functioning at the time. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**13 July 2019:** In Morek town, Suran sub-district, Hama district and governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles on a building used as a garage for vehicles belonging to the SCD, partially damaging a fire truck, a tractor and a backhoe loader. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**16 July 2019:** In Al Hawash town and sub-district, Talkalakh district, Hama governorate, Syrian Government warplanes fired a missile near an SCD centre, as rescue workers were heading to the site of a previous bombing by the same perpetrators, partially damaging a service car of the team. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**18 July 2019:** In Jisr al Shoghur city, Idlib city and governorate, suspected Russian warplanes reportedly fired missiles near Women's centre of Civil Defence specialized in providing health and emergency services for women and children, partially destroying the building and damaging its furniture. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**19 July 2019:** In Khan Sheikhoun city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces helicopters reportedly dropped a barrel bomb near an SCD ambulance, partially damaging it. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**22 July 2019:** In al Sharqi neighbourhood, Maaret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, suspected Russian

warplanes fired missiles near the SAMS-supported al Salam Hospital, partially damaging the hospital's equipment and furniture. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**22 July 2019:** In Maarrat al-Nu'man city, sub-district and district, Idlib governorate, an aerial attack by Russian forces struck a male national SCD member, as he was aiding victims of a previous bombing by the same perpetrators, killing him. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**22 July 2019:** In Akhtarín town, unknown sub-district and district, Idlib governorate, an explosion of a motorbike-bomb of unknown origin killed a Humanitarian Relief Foundation employee. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**27 July 2019:** In Kafr Zita, Hama governorate, two national paramedics and one national ambulance driver were reportedly killed in an airstrike of unknown origin. The INGO supported ambulance was travelling to Kafr Zita to assist victims of an airstrike that hit the town earlier. The ambulance was destroyed. **Source:** [AWS<sup>1</sup>](#)

**28 July 2019:** In Ariha town, sub-district and district, Idlib, Syrian Government warplanes fired missiles near the Ehsan Organisation's Child's Friend Centre in al Gharbi neighbourhood, damaging its building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**29 July 2019:** In Kafr Zita town and sub-district, Mahardah district, Hama governorate, Russian forces killed a male national SCD member under unspecified circumstances. **Sources:** [Liveuamap](#) and [SNHR](#)

**28 July 2019:** In Ariha, Idlib, Syrian Government warplanes fired missiles near the Ehsan Organisation's Child's Friend Centre in al Gharbi neighbourhood, damaging its building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

## **Yemen**

**17 July 2019:** The failure of Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates to pay up a funding pledge of 500 million USD is exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in the country, causing Yemenis to die from cholera, hunger and other ills. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [The New Humanitarian](#)

**18 July 2019:** The World Food Programme announced that it had reached agreement in principle with Houthi rebel leaders to end a suspension of food aid in rebel-controlled areas across Yemen. **Sources:** [France 24](#) and [VOA](#)

**19 July 2019:** In Marib province, a Palestinian aid worker was reportedly killed after being abducted and tortured at a checkpoint by Emirati intelligence personnel. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

**21 July 2019:** In Aden-Jawlat al Ziraah, Khur Maksar district, local security forces reportedly opened fire on the UNICEF building located 400m northeast of Al-Zira'ah roundabout, allegedly because the flag of the Republic of Yemen was standing next to the UN flag. Neither fatalities nor injuries were reported but the staff fled during and after the shooting. **Source:** [ACLED<sup>2</sup>](#)

## **The Americas**

### **Mexico**

**22 July 2019:** In Zihuatanejo, Guerrero state, a male national member of the Red Cross board of directors was reportedly shot and killed while travelling through Zihuatanejo in a vehicle, by two motorcycle-borne criminals. The staff member was travelling with his wife who was taken to the hospital in critical condition. **Source:** [AWS<sup>1</sup>](#)



## KKA data

Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

### Total aid workers reportedly affected, January-July 2019

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan	12	5	0	17	5
CAR	5	8	0	13	7
DRC	7	7	0	14	9
Iraq	0	0	3	3	3
Mali	0	9	0	9	5
Nigeria	3	6	1	10	4
Somalia	5	17	1	23	9
South Sudan	2	0	3	5	3
Syria	19	3	2	24	18
Yemen	11	1	5	17	11
Other countries	19	24	8	51	33
<b>Total affected</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>107</b>

### 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](#).

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#).