

Aid in Danger

Monthly News Brief

September
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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Data on aid workers reportedly [killed, kidnapped or arrested \(KKA\)](#) is available to download on HDX Insecurity Insight.

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Africa

Burkina Faso

08 September 2019: In Sanmatenga province, unidentified perpetrators attacked a humanitarian convoy loaded with food, killing 14 civilians. **Source:** [France 24](#)

Central African Republic

14 September 2019: In Birao city, Vakaga prefecture, clashes between the Popular Front for the Renaissance of the Central African Republic and the Movement of Central African Freedom Fighters for Justice led to the injury of one MINUSCA peacekeeper. **Source:** [The Sun Daily](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

04 September 2019; In South Ubangi province, an unidentified armed group robbed a convoy of the INGO Caritas of \$82,500 which was intended to pay the salary of primary and secondary school teachers. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

Ethiopia

05 September 2019: In Gambella region, unidentified perpetrators killed two Action Against Hunger staffers who were returning from the paediatric Nutrition Stabilisation Centre at the Nguenyiel Refugee Camp. In response, ACF suspended full operations in Gambella, but maintained the provision of emergency assistance. **Sources:** [Reuters](#) and [The New Humanitarian](#)

Mali

06 September 2019: Near Aguelhok village, Kidal region, a MINUSMA vehicle was struck by an IED of unidentified origin, killing one peacekeeper onboard and injuring four more. **Source:** [Rida Lyammouri](#)

17 September 2019: Around Nokara, Haire commune, Douentza cercle, Mopti region, unidentified gunmen reportedly abducted three NGO staffer members. All three were then released the following day. **Source:** [Studio Tamani](#)³

27 September 2019: Near Wally village, Douentza cercle, Mopti region, three national INGO personnel (two staff and a driver) were ambushed by unidentified armed perpetrators riding motorcycles. All three staff were kidnapped, and their vehicle was taken. **Source:** [AWSO](#)^{1,3}

Niger

10 September 2019: Near Tongo Tongo, Tillabery region, two ICRC vehicles were ambushed by armed bandits. No injuries were reported. **Source:** [Xinhuanet](#)

Nigeria

18 September 2019: In Borno and Yobe states, the Nigerian Armed Forces shut down the offices of the INGO Action Against Hunger amid accusations that the organisation was supplying food and drugs to Boko Haram and ISWAP. **Sources:** [Africa News](#), [France 24](#), [Garda](#), [The Guardian](#), [TNH](#) and [Quartz Africa](#)

25 September 2019: In Borno and Yobe states, the Nigerian Armed Forces shut down four offices of Mercy Corps amid accusations of aiding terrorist organisations, forcing it to suspend its operations. **Sources:** [Africa News](#), [France 24](#), [Garda](#), [The Guardian](#), [TNH](#) and [Quartz Africa](#)

25 September 2019: Update: In an unidentified location, suspected ISWAP militants killed one of the six aid workers – a male employee of Action Against Hunger, two drivers and three health ministry personnel – abducted last July. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [France 24](#), [Garda](#) and [OCHA](#)

Somalia

14 September 2019: In Bal'ad district, Middle Shabelle region, Hirshabelle state, one male aid worker was killed when a roadside explosion damaged a convoy carrying government representatives on Jowhar-Bal'ad road. **Source:** [AWSD](#)²

26 September 2019: In Baidoa city, Bay region, Al Shabaab militants reportedly abducted an INGO staff member after stopping a car he was travelling in. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

South Sudan

General: In unspecified locations, opposition forces continued to carry out recruitment of fighters in UNMISS PoC sites. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

04 September 2019 (DOA): The camp management of the Juba PoC site orchestrated a demonstration involving hundreds of women and children in front of the site to prevent UNMISS police from reaching a wanted man who had taken refuge at the site. He later escaped. **Source:** [Radio Tamazuj](#)

04 September 2019: In Juba city, Juba state, two INGO staff members and their driver were reportedly stopped by armed men in partially civilian and military clothes who robbed the staff and assaulted and kidnapped the driver. The driver was driven around for three hours in the trunk before being abandoned in an unspecified location. **Source:** [AWSD](#)²

06 September 2019: In Juba city, Juba state, a national INGO staff member was assaulted and robbed of their cash and mobile phone by three unidentified armed men. **Source:** [AWSD](#)²

08 September 2019: In Buluk suburbs, Juba, Juba state, a national INGO staff member was robbed by five men in civilian clothing while returning to his house. The staff member had his cash and mobile phone taken and suffered severe wounds to his face. **Source:** [AWSD](#)²

15 September 2019: In Juba city, Juba state, an international INGO staff member was injured by two motorcycle-borne men who attempted to steal her bag while she was walking in the Hai Cinema area. The staff member was dragged for several metres and sustained a shoulder injury which left her requiring surgery. **Source:** [AWSD](#)²

19 September 2019: In Juba city, Jubek state, a national INGO staff member had his home broken into by gunmen who held him at gunpoint while they stole cash, mobile phones and laptops, before shooting and injuring him. **Source:** [AWSD²](#)

26 September 2019: Between Abiriu to Cuibet counties, Gok state, a national LNGO staff member travelling on a motorbike was assaulted and robbed at gunpoint by two armed men, who beat him before fleeing. **Source:** [AWSD²](#)

Sudan

14 September 2019: Sudanese authorities invited INGOs expelled from Sudan by the former Sudanese Government in March 2009 to return and work in three war-affected areas, in line with the Juba Declaration signed on 11 September. **Source:** [Sudan Tribune](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

02 September 2019: In Kabul, a Taliban car bomb exploded near the Green Village, a large compound that houses aid agencies and international organisations. **Sources:** [RFE RL](#) and [The New York Times](#)

15 September 2019: In Taliban-controlled areas, the Afghan Taliban revoked their April 2019 ban on the ICRC and restored its guarantee for the security of ICRC staff carrying out humanitarian work across Afghanistan. ICRC operations resumed on the same day. **Sources:** [NPR](#) and [RFE RL](#)

14 September 2019: In Baghlan province, five national LNGO staff members were reportedly kidnapped by unidentified non-state actors, along the Kunduz-Baghlan road. **Source:** [AWSD²](#)

25 September 2019: In Taliban-controlled areas, the Afghan Taliban revoked their April 2019 ban on the WHO and restored its guarantee for the security of WHO staff under the conditions that the WHO conduct only health-related work, get Taliban permission before hiring staff, and carry out vaccine campaigns only in health centres. **Sources:** [News Week Pakistan](#) and [RFE RL](#)

Bangladesh

20 September 2019: In Ukhiya, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, a former employee of Bangladesh-based NGO BRAC was stabbed to death by unidentified criminals on Pachshim Morichya-Gurairardweep road. **Sources:** [The Daily Star](#) and [Daily Sun](#)

Democratic People's Republic of Korea

August/September 2019: The North Korean Government announced that it wants the number of international staff of the UNDP to be cut from six to one or two, the WHO from six down to four, and UNICEF to cut its 13 staff by one or two. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

Pakistan

06 September 2019: In Peshawar city, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a female NGO immunisation aid worker was shot and killed by unidentified perpetrator(s) while travelling on the cities ring road near the Madina CHG Station on her way to work. **Source:** [AWSD²](#)

Sri Lanka

25 September 2019 (DOA): The appointment of a war veteran accused of serious human rights violations as army chief last August prompted the UN Department of Peace Operations to suspend the deployment of Sri Lankan troops to its peacekeeping missions. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

Europe

The Netherlands

24 September 2019: In an attempt to reduce the risk of Dutch citizens traveling to terrorist-controlled areas to join militias or armed groups, the Dutch Parliament passed a new law that criminalises the presence without government permission of Dutch citizens, including aid workers and journalists, in those areas. In response, political parties Groen Links and D66 presented a motion in parliament to grant exceptions to humanitarian actors and journalists. **Source:** [Donor Tracker](#) and [TNH](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Lebanon

05 September 2019: In Beirut, Palestinian refugees rallied in front of the Canadian Embassy, requesting Canada to grant them international protection, and accusing the UNRWA of widespread corruption. **Source:** [Times of Israel](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

01 September 2019: In Darkoush town, western Idlib governorate, a male national INGO staff member was reportedly kidnapped by unidentified gunmen. **Source:** [AWSD](#)²

12 September 2019: In Sfuhun village, Idlib governorate, suspected Syrian regime warplanes reportedly fired a missile near a Syrian Civil Defense (SCD) centre, damaging its building as well as an ambulance. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Yemen

04 September 2019: The Group of Eminent Experts on Yemen of the UN put out its latest report, detailing possible war crimes committed by all warring parties, including the denial of humanitarian aid. **Source:** [TNH](#)

18 September 2019: In Marit city and governorate, unidentified tribesmen reportedly looted 10 vehicles belonging to the ICRC. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

26 September 2019: In Ad Durayhimi city, pro-Houthi forces reportedly forbade the WFP from entering the city to provide humanitarian aid, refusing to open the road and to reveal the location of landmines. The WFP and Houthis had previously been in negotiations over access to people in need of food aid, and had earlier in the month reached a deal to facilitate more direct food delivery. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

The Americas

United States of America

19 September 2019: The US Government has restricted travel for all members of the Cuban mission to the UN in Manhattan for alleged attempts to conduct influence operations against the US. **Source:** [The Hill](#)

KKA data January-September 2019

Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan	12	10	0	22	6
CAR	5	8	0	13	7
DRC	7	7	0	14	9
Iraq	0	0	3	3	3
Mali	0	14	0	14	7
Nigeria	3	6	1	10	4
Somalia	6	18	1	25	11
South Sudan	2	2	3	7	5
Syria	23	4	6	33	22
Yemen	11	1	5	17	11
Other countries	27	24	8	59	39
Total affected	96	94	27	217	124

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](#).

All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

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¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 6 October 2019.

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. Accessed 2 October 2019.

³ It is possible that these two events are the same and that there is a reporting error on the date. They have been recorded as one event affecting three aid workers on the above KKA table and HDX dataset.