

Aid in Danger

Monthly News Brief

October
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

Central African Republic

08 October 2019: In Kaga-Bandoro town, Nana-Grébizi prefecture, on two separate occasions, aid workers were robbed by unidentified armed men. **Source:** [OCHA Weekly Humanitarian Snapshot](#)

26 October 2019: Near Barawa-Dembia, Mbomou prefecture, four national NGO staff members were kidnapped by armed UPC militiamen who ambushed them while they were transporting health supplies from Bangassou to Djéma. An unspecified number of NGO vehicles were looted and set on fire. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹ and [OCHA Weekly Humanitarian Snapshot](#)

26 October 2019: In Bria city, Haute-Kotto prefecture, unidentified armed men robbed an MSF base. In response, MSF reduced its activities in the area, responding only to vital emergencies. **Source:** [Garda Crisis 24](#) and [Africanews](#)

Kenya

10 October 2019 (DOA): The Kenyan NGOs Coordination Board has raised a red flag over community-based organisations identified as Foundation Missionaire Kenya, Union of World Theocratic Missions, FMI Africa Zone 1 and Missionary Foundation Kenya, which, according to the said board, is soliciting money from members of the public while promising them various undisclosed benefits in return. **Source:** [The Nation](#)

Mali

07 October 2019: On the road between Menaka and Inekar, Menaka region, unidentified gunmen robbed two vehicles belonging to the ICRC. One vehicle was reportedly taken. **Source:** [ACLED](#)²

12 October 2019: Near Sevare town, Mopti commune, cercle and region, approximately 1,000 people protested outside the MINUSMA camp against the deployment of Malian troops. Protesters eventually began to ransack UN supply containers, including provisions and other items meant for the base. **Source:** [VOA](#)

13 October 2019: In Daifarabe village, Mopti region, three male and one female NGO staff members were kidnapped by a group of armed individuals suspected to be JNIM and Katiba Macina militants. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹ and [Mail Net](#)

21 October 2019: In Batangafo town, Ouham prefecture, four INGO staff members were assaulted during a robbery of the INGO base by a group of armed men. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

Nigeria

07 October 2019: In Abuja, the civil rights group Coalition for Civil Rights and Good Governance accused various unnamed local and international NGOs of supporting Boko Haram and ISWAP insurgencies. **Source:** [Vanguard](#)

24 October 2019: In Abuja, the UN reopened its building after its closure in 2011 following a Boko Haram suicide attack. **Source:** [VOA News](#)

30 October 2019: The Nigerian Government suspended a ban imposed on Mercy Corps and Action Against Hunger after accusing them of providing food and medicine to Boko Haram fighters. The government also announced that all NGOs must be vetted and registered before they can operate, and all contractors working with aid groups must be screened. **Source:** [AP](#)

Somalia

13 October 2019: In Mogadishu, mortar rounds landed inside the compounds of the UNSOM and African Union, wounding several people. Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the attack. **Source:** [AP](#)

South Sudan

04 October 2019: In Juba, two male national staff members from two different INGOs were stopped outside an UN agency by eight armed men in military uniforms after they left a nearby bank. The staff were detained and driven to the John Garang Mausoleum where they were stripped naked and physically abused. Money and cell phones were also taken from them. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

07 October 2019: In Pagil town, Jonglei state, seven male INGO national staff members were kidnapped and held for over 24 hours by armed perpetrators believed to be SPLA/M-IO members. Six were released after the intervention of an INGO program officer, and the seventh two weeks later. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

15 October 2019: Along the Rumbek-Cueibet road, Makakot, Lakes state, one male INGO national staff member was shot and injured when the vehicle he was traveling in was ambushed by armed robbers. Personal items were taken. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

27 October 2019: In Isebi, Morobo county, Yei River state, two male and one female UN volunteers working in Ebola screening points were killed and two others wounded in a crossfire incident during clashes between armed groups. A female volunteer and the child of one of the slain volunteers were also abducted. Their whereabouts are unknown. On October 30, the International Organization for Migration suspended EVD screening activities at the entry points of Isebi, Bazi, Kirikwa, Lasu and Okaba along the South Sudan-Democratic Republic of the Congo border. **Sources:** [AWSD](#)¹, [IOM I](#), [IOM II](#), [Radio Tamazuj](#), [VOA I](#) and [VOA II](#)

Sudan

18 October 2019: The Sudanese Government renewed a ceasefire pact with major rebel groups and agreed to allow aid into conflict-ridden Darfur, Nuba Mountains and Blue Nile, which have been long cut off from humanitarian organisations during former President Omar al-Bashir's rule. **Source:** [News Central](#)

Tanzania

15 October 2019 (DOA): As the Tanzanian Government seeks to return Burundian refugees' home, local authorities have restricted access for NGOs to refugee camps, hindering their ability to provide services that would encourage refugees to stay in Tanzania. **Source:** [TNH](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

24 October 2019: In Pai Kamar village, Chaghcharan town, Ghor province, an NGO vehicle was attacked by Taliban militants. No staff members were harmed in the event; however, one civilian was killed, another wounded. **Source:** [ACLED](#)²

Middle East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

03 October 2019: In Ma'arat al-Nu'man city, sub-district and district, Idlib governorate, an artillery attack of unidentified origin hit the southern wing of a Save the Children-supported health facility, putting it out of service and wounding seven people, including a doctor. **Source:** [Diyaruna](#)

11 October 2019: In Kurdish-controlled areas of northeast Syria, the Turkish-led offensive Operation Peace Spring has forced several unnamed aid organisations to scale down their operations or relocate their staff. The ability of those who remained to provide relief has been severely restricted by the hostilities. **Sources:** [The Guardian](#), [TNH](#) and [VOA](#)

14 October 2019: Near the northern Syria border town of Tell Abyad, Raqqa governorate, a male national doctor for the Kurdish Red Crescent was killed during a Turkish airstrike. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

15 October 2019: In northeast Syria, the Turkish-led offensive Operation Peace Spring has forced Mercy Corps and MSF to suspend most of their activities and evacuate all international staff. **Sources:** [Devex](#) and [Reuters](#)

17 October 2019 (DOA): In northeast Syria, security concerns forced the evacuation of nearly all international aid workers. Meanwhile, local staff could face reprisals, either at the hands of Turkish-led forces pushing in from the north, or as a result of the SDF-Syrian Government alliance, at the hands of Syrian troops regaining control across territory previously held only by the SDF. **Source:** [AP](#)

Yemen

23 October 2019: Update: The Saudi and Emirati-led coalition has acknowledged its responsibility for a deadly strike on the MSF-supported Shiara Hospital back on 10 January 2016, blaming it on a projectile malfunction. **Source:** [MSF](#)

The Americas

Haiti

General: Across Haiti, widespread anti-government protests continued to limit the ability of the UN and other humanitarian actors to deliver assistance for thousands of the most vulnerable people in the country. **Sources:** [TNH](#) and [Xinhua](#)

KKA data January-October 2019

Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan	12	10	0	22	6
CAR	5	12	0	17	8
DRC	7	7	0	14	9
Iraq	0	0	3	3	3
Mali	0	22	0	22	9
Nigeria	3	6	1	10	4
Somalia	6	18	1	25	11
South Sudan	5	9	4	18	8
Syria	24	4	6	34	23
Yemen	11	1	5	17	11
Other countries	27	25	8	60	40
Total affected	100	114	28	242	132

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 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 11 November 2019.

² Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 11 November 2019.