

Aid in Danger

Monthly News Brief

January
2020

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

20 January 2020: Near Dere/Kpakaya village, Nana-Grébizi prefecture a national LNGO aid worker was shot and injured in an ambush on their NGO vehicle by unidentified armed perpetrators. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

Democratic Republic of the Congo

13 January 2020: In Bandibwane village, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, local community members, some with machetes, attacked a team of 18 Red Cross volunteers whilst they were performing a burial service of a suspected Ebola victim, injuring four of them. They were attacked after community members heard a rumour that the team had removed organs from the dead body. All staff members were taken to the Nyankunde Hospital, two of them seriously wounded. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹, [IFRC](#) and [VOA](#)

Mali

09 January 2020: In Tessalit commune and cercle, Kidal region, a rocket attack of unidentified origin on a MINUSMA base wounded 20 people, including 18 Chadian peacekeepers. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

13 January 2020: In Débéré village, Douentza cercle, Mpoti region, an unspecified number of aid workers were kidnapped and later released by unidentified gunmen. Their vehicle, phones and other belongings were also seized. It is unclear if they were returned. **Source:** [ACLED](#)²

Nigeria

16 January 2020 (DOA): Update: Three aid workers and other civilians – who had been held hostage by unidentified Islamic State-aligned insurgents since December 22 – were freed. **Sources:** [AFP](#), [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#), [The New Arab](#) and [The New York Times](#)

18 January 2020: In Ngala local government area, Borno state, unidentified non-state armed group operatives launched a violent attack against a humanitarian hub housing five UN staffers. An entire section of the facility along with one of the few vehicles used by the UN for movement and aid delivery were burned down. **Sources:** [Africa News](#), [UN News](#) and [Vanguard](#)

Around 27 January 2020: In northeast Nigeria, insecurity caused by Boko Haram activity continued to put 1.2 million Nigerians beyond the reach of aid workers. **Source:** [VOA](#)

South Sudan

13 January 2020: On the Yirol-Awerial road, near Awachi village, Awerial county, Lakes state, a UN Ugandan male truck driver was assaulted and taken to a local clinic when his convoy was attacked. The convoy of 24 trucks was travelling from Juba to Warrap when unidentified armed men ambushed the trucks. The staff member was beaten and robbed, along with other trucks in the convoy. **Source:** [AWS¹](#)

15 January 2020: Near Seven Days' roundabout, Juba, a national INGO aid worker was injured after criminals attempted to steal their backpack, forcing them off their moving motorbike. According to official reports, the perpetrators are likely associated with the Toronto Boys. **Source:** [AWS¹](#)

17 January 2020: In Kauch village, Guit county, Unity state, a national INGO aid worker was seriously injured when a group of armed men attacked a clinic in a suspected revenge killing attack. The injured staff member was evacuated to Bentiu for treatment. Eight other INGO aid workers were also relocated from the site. **Source:** [AWS¹](#)

29 January 2020: In the Duk Poktap area, Duk county, Jonglei State, a 10-truck INGO convoy was ambushed and fired upon by unidentified armed men. One aid worker was shot in the leg while the other staff members were able to escape on foot. **Source:** [AWS¹](#)

Sudan

24 January 2020: The Sudanese Government called upon international aid organisations, including those expelled during the Al Bashir era, to return and carry out their humanitarian operations across Sudan, including rebel-held areas, without restrictions. **Source:** [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

15 January 2020: In Kaga village, Khogyani district, Nangarhar province, a Red Crescent staff member was arrested and two civilians were killed during a raid by Afghan and US forces. **Source:** [ACLED²](#)

Bangladesh

03 January 2020: In Madhukhali upazila, Faridpur district, Dhaka division, a female NGO aid worker was killed by unidentified perpetrators. Her body was later found in a sugarcane field. **Source:** [Daily Sun](#)

Kyrgyzstan

02 January 2020: At the intersection of Kievskaya and Togolok Moldo streets, Bishkek city, Chuy province, a female national UN staff member was injured when an intoxicated individual at a café hit them on her head. The police subsequently arrested the perpetrator. **Source:** [AWS¹](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq

08 January 2020 (DOA): In three unspecified locations, heightened security concerns, road checkpoints and travel difficulties caused by Iranian missile attacks on US military bases in Iraq in retaliation for the US killing of the Iranian General Suleimani have forced Oxfam to suspend its humanitarian operations. **Source:** [Oxfam](#)

24 January 2020: In Baghdad, four French workers of the Christian NGO SOS Chrétiens d'Orient went missing. **Source:** [RFE RL](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

10 January 2020: Russia used its veto threat to force the UNSC to adopt a resolution that significantly reduces the delivery of cross-border aid to over one million Syrians in northeast Syria. This resolution saw the elimination of the al Ramtha crossing into Jordan and the al Yarubiyah crossing into Iraq, as well as a reduction to the duration of the agreement, from 12 to six months. Consequently, by January 29, some 400,000 medical items planned for delivery remained stuck on trucks in Iraq, and unable to cross. Some estimates suggest it could reduce the pipeline of medical supplies into northeast Syria by 50%.

Sources: [AP](#), [Devex](#), [Reuters](#), [The Washington Post](#), [UN News](#) and [VOA](#)

11 January 2020: In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime military helicopters dropped two barrel bombs on a Syrian Civil Defence (SCD) centre, destroying the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

15 January 2020: In Idlib city and governorate, a male national SCD volunteer was killed by missiles fired by Syrian regime warplanes. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

15 January 2020: In Bazabour village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime warplanes fired missiles on a SCD centre, damaging equipment, including an ambulance, as well as the building itself. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

15 January 2020: In Shnan village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime helicopters dropped a barrel bomb near a SCD centre, damaging the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

15 January 2020: In Al Bara town, Idlib governorate, alleged Russian or Syrian regime warplanes wounded a national SCD volunteer. **Source:** [Shaam](#) and [Justice Organization](#)

23 January 2020: In Ariha city, Idlib governorate, unidentified warplanes bombed a SCD ambulance. The ambulance was rendered out of service. **Source:** [SNHR](#) and [Airwars](#)

25 January 2020: In al Ruwaiha village, Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes fired missiles on an SCD centre, injuring at least three SCD volunteers, destroying the building, and damaging a rescue vehicle. **Source:** [SNHR](#) and [Airwars](#)

27 January 2020: In Al-Zorba, Aleppo governorate, a national SCD volunteer was wounded by missiles fired by Russian or Syrian regime warplanes. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

27 January 2020: In Jabal al-Zawiya, Idlib governorate, a national SCD volunteer and four civilians were killed in bombing by Russian warplanes. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

27-28 January 2020: In Mantaf, Idlib governorate, a national SCD volunteer was killed by alleged Syrian or Russian rockets. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

27-28 January 2020: In Sarja village, Idlib governorate, a national SCD volunteer was killed by missiles fired by Syrian regime warplanes. **Source:** [Airwars](#)

29 January 2020: In Ariha town and district, Idlib governorate, multiple airstrikes by Russian warplanes hit the Islamic Relief-supported Al Shami Surgical Hospital (also known as Ariha Hospital), killing a female aid worker from an unnamed local NGO, and injuring four nurses, the director of the facility and an administrator. The facility director died on 01 February of injuries he sustained in the attack. At least six people were killed as they waited outside the hospital. The hospital was heavily damaged and put out of service, affecting more than 30,000 people. **Sources:** [ABC](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [Islamic Relief](#) and [Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations](#)

Yemen

16 January 2020: In Al Bukhari village, Al Makhadir district, Ibb governorate, two people from a local family were reportedly killed by a pro-Houthi soldier over a dispute regarding aid distribution. **Source:** [ACLED](#)²

28 January 2020: In Hajjah governorate, suspected Houthi militiamen stole 127.5 tons of aid from a WFP warehouse. **Source:** [The Washington Times](#)

30 December 2020: In Al-Hudaydah city, district and governorate, the WFP resumed grain milling activities at the Red Sea Mills following a halt since last December 26 due to shelling damage. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

KKA data January 2020

Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan			1	1	1
CAR				0	
DRC				0	
Iraq		4		4	1
Mali		1		1	1
Nigeria				0	
Somalia				0	
South Sudan				0	
Syria	6			6	5
Yemen				0	
Other countries	1			1	1
Total affected	7	5	1	13	9

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. The classification is based on reported but not independently verified information. The Aid in Danger project makes no independent judgement about the legality of any reported arrest or detention.

About our data

We monitor local, national and international news outlets and online databases for threats facing people living and working in dangerous environments. Each month we release the latest available data on aid workers killed, kidnapped and arrested. The data is continually updated and includes new and historic reports identified in open-sources and verified security incidents submitted by Aid in Danger partner agencies. The dataset and quick charts can be accessed via [HDX Insecurity Insight](#).

Notes

Data collection is ongoing, and data may change as more information is made available. Where the number of aid workers affected is unspecified, one is counted. 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 5 January 2020.

² Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 5 January 2020.

