

Aid in Danger

Bi-Weekly News Brief

Safety, security and access incidents affecting aid workers and aid delivery

26 August -
08 September
2020

Africa

Burkina Faso

21 August 2020: Near Mentao, Pobe-Mengao department, Soum province, Sahel region, presumed JNIM militants reportedly intercepted an MSF vehicle and seized a large amount of medicine. **Source:** [ACLEDD](#)¹

Ethiopia

02 September 2020: The US Government has temporarily halted some aid to Ethiopia due to the lack of progress in the country's talks with Egypt and Sudan over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam that it is building on the River Nile. **Source:** [Middle East Monitor](#)

Mali

04 September 2020: Near Parou village, Bandiagara cercle, Mopti region, presumed JNIM militants reportedly opened fire against an ICRC convoy of two vehicles. One vehicle was damaged by gunfire and the other set alight. No staff were injured. **Source:** [ACLEDD](#)¹

Uganda

02 September 2020: The Ugandan Government suspended operations of 208 aid organisations, including 85 international groups, for alleged non-compliance with operational rules. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

Europe

Greece

20 August 2020: On Lesbos island, anti-migrant protestors attacked and set fire to an MSF-run pediatric and sexual reproductive health clinic run outside Moria refugee camp. During the incident, a small group of protestors gathered outside, shouting at and threatening staff while throwing stones into the clinic where approximately 50 staff were working to treat women and children from Moria camp. No staff were injured. The protestors had gathered in opposition to Greek President Katerina Sakellaropoulou's visit to inaugurate a new government COVID-19 facility, which was also attacked. This incident comes less than a month after MSF was [forced to close](#) its COVID-19 isolation center on the island in response to the local authorities' decision to impose fines with potential criminal charges related to urban planning regulations. MSF have called on the authorities to "take all necessary measures against the growing anti-migrant rhetoric, aggression, and violence circulating on Lesbos, and to take action against those who have harassed and attacked humanitarian actors". **Sources:** [MSF](#) and [The New Humanitarian](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Islamic Republic of Iran

08 September 2020: Branch 15 of the Islamic Revolutionary Court summoned a British-Iranian aid worker - who has been imprisoned since 2016 - to inform her about a new indictment. She was due to face a new trial on 13 September but this has now reportedly been postponed **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [BBC](#)

Iraq

26 August 2020: Near Bartilla, on the Mosul-Erbil road, Ninewa governorate, an IED detonated, impacting a UN vehicle and injuring one Iraqi World Food Programme (WFP) staff member. The attack was claimed by the Awliya Al Dam group. **Sources:** [ACLED](#)¹ and [United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

25 August 2020: In Harem city, Idlib governorate the director of As-Salaam Refugee Camp in Barisha town was shot dead by unidentified gunmen in a car. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

The Americas

United States of America

28 August 2020: In Kenosha city and county, Wisconsin state, law enforcement officers approached a food truck and minivan of the NGO “Riot Kitchen” at a gas station, and arrested nine volunteers who were providing food to Jacob Blake protesters. The arrest took place when the volunteers were observed filling up a number of fuel cans after the police were tipped anonymously about the NGO vehicles having out-of-state plates. The volunteers were released the next day after posting bail. **Sources:** [My North West](#) and [The Griot](#)

This bi-weekly news brief comprises threats and incidents of violence affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It is part of the Aid in Danger project, by Insecurity Insight. It is prepared from information available in local, national and international news outlets and online databases. The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events that affected the provision of aid delivery and have not been independently verified. All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

Each month we release the latest available data on aid workers [killed, kidnapped or arrested \(KKA\)](#). It is continually updated and includes new and historic reports identified in open-sources and verified security incidents submitted by Aid in Danger partner agencies. Data collection is ongoing, and data may change as more information is made available.

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Suggested citation: Insecurity Insight. 2020. Aid in Danger Bi-weekly News Brief, 26 August-08 September 2020. Geneva: Insecurity Insight, Aid in Danger Project.



¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database attribution policy. Accessed 14 September 2020