

# Aid in Danger

## Bi-Weekly News Brief

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

21 October -  
03 November  
2020

Each month we release the latest available data on aid workers killed, kidnapped or arrested (KKA). Our KKA 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. Access the data via our [website](#) or on [HDX](#).

## Africa

### *Burkina Faso*

**23 October 2020:** In the Sahel region, the volatile security situation - including armed groups engaging in targeted attacks on IDPs and civilians - has continued to create access issues for aid workers attempting to reach people in need of assistance. **Source:** [ECHO](#)

### *Central African Republic*

**27 October 2020:** In Batangafo town, Ouham prefecture, violent altercations between two armed groups in and around the IDP camp in Batangafo has led 2,000 IDPs to seek refuge in the local Medecins san Frontieres hospital and another 700 in the MINUSCA compound. An unknown number of IDPs are also hiding in the bush. Humanitarian actors have also temporarily suspended their activities and some evacuated from Batangafo. **Source:** [ECHO](#)

### *Democratic Republic of the Congo*

**30 October 2020:** In Kashasha village, Masisi territory, North Kivu province, one INGO aid worker was abducted by armed men. **Source:** [ACLED](#)<sup>1</sup>

**30 October 2020:** Near Malinde village, Fizi territory, South Kivu province, two Congolese INGO aid workers, one Burundian refugee, and one Congolese contractor were kidnapped when their vehicle was ambushed by armed men dressed in military attire. Reportedly, the abductors demanded a ransom of 50,000 USD. **Sources:** [Actualite](#), [La Prunelle](#) and [SOS Medias](#)

### *Ethiopia*

**03 November 2020:** In western Oromia and other unnamed regions, increased security limitations imposed by Ethiopian authorities continued to prevent humanitarian partners from assessing needs and delivering assistance to communities affected by ethnic violence. **Source:** [ECHO](#)

### *Mozambique*

**26 October 2020:** In Cabo Delgado province, the CIP (Center for Public Integrity) released a report denouncing the sexual abuse of displaced women in exchange for humanitarian aid in the north of the country. In the report, the NGO accused the government and the United Nations of complicity due to their silence in the matter. **Source:** [Club of Mozambique](#)

### *Nigeria*

**25 October 2020:** In Damboa LGA, Borno state, crossfire from an attack by non-state armed groups against a government military camp damaged the water tanks and vehicles of NGO compounds. **Source:** [ECHO](#)

## **Somalia**

**26 October 2020:** In Somaliland region, the regional Ministry of Planning and Development announced that discussions and consultations regarding UN country programmes and work plans are suspended until further notice, without specifying a reason. This announcement coincided with the recent signing of an agreement between the Federal Government of Somalia and the UN that the former would go through all UN programmes, including Somaliland's. **Source:** [Dalsan Radio](#)

**27 October 2020:** In Kahda district, Banadir region, suspected al Shabaab gunmen shot and killed two aid workers carrying out a health awareness campaign as part of an ongoing polio vaccination programme organised by UNICEF, the WHO, and the Federal Ministry of Health. Soon after, an explosives-laden vehicle detonated after district officials visited the scene, killing three people, and wounding at least 13 others. **Sources:** [Garowe Online](#), [Somali Affairs](#) and [UNSOM](#)

**30 October 2020:** In Elasha Biyaha village, Afgooye district, Lower Shabelle region, the Somali head of an LNGO and well-known community elder was reportedly shot and killed by Al Shabaab militants. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>2</sup>

**31 October 2020:** In Quansah-Dheere district, Bay region, a Somali LNGO aid worker was injured after a VBIED exploded as they passed by. The IED was placed on a vehicle carrying the district chief who was the intended target, and killed the official along with his bodyguard. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>2</sup>

## **South Sudan**

**23 October 2020:** In Cueibet county, a South Sudanese driver for an LNGO was fatally shot while travelling on the Cueibet-Rumbek road. Official reports indicate the incident is due to armed intercommunal cattle clashes over the ownership of cattle. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>2</sup>

**23 October 2020:** In Renk county, Upper Nile state, a group of youth broke into a humanitarian aid store belonging to a medical INGO, vandalised two vehicles, and set the facility on fire. The fire burnt down the humanitarian aid store but was extinguished by rainfall before causing further damage to another humanitarian store next-door. This incident comes as locals have been demanding employment opportunities from INGOs who operate in the area. **Sources:** [Eye Radio I](#) and [Eye Radio II](#)

**29 October 2020:** In Pibor town, county and state, unidentified armed men attacked a team of Plan International aid workers, killing one and seriously wounding another, as they were returning to Pibor on foot after delivering critical nutrition services to children and new mothers affected by violence and flooding in the area. The nutrition programme, funded by the South Sudan Humanitarian Fund, is temporarily suspended following the incident. **Sources:** [OCHA](#) and [Plan International](#)

**30 October 2020:** In Canal/Pigi county, Jonglei state, armed youth shot and killed a community mobiliser working for the NGO Nile Hope, as he was on his way from the NGO's base to a facility providing supplementary feeding and outpatient therapeutic care to malnourished children and new mothers. His colleague escaped with minor injuries. All humanitarian services in the area have subsequently been temporarily suspended. **Source:** [OCHA](#)

## **Sudan**

**As reported on 22 October 2020:** In Khartoum, two former female staff members of Catholic Relief Services reported two separate incidents of sexual harassment by an expatriate CRS staffer, who was their supervisor. They attempted to file a report with their boss. One of the women was informed that she risked losing her job if she officially reported the incident. She was then moved to another department and her contract was not extended. The other woman did not receive a

response following her report, she also filed a complaint against her boss accusing him of bullying, favouritism and racism. Her employment was also discontinued following the complaint. **Source:** [The New Humanitarian](#)

## Asia and Pacific

### *Myanmar*

**21 October 2020:** At Nga La Pyar port, between Rathedaung town and Yae Paik Son village, Rathedaung Township, Rathedaung District, Rakhine State, two Rathedaung town elders were abducted by an unidentified armed group when transporting rice supplies meant for IDPs at Yae Paik Son camp. They were travelling with a contingent from the township-level COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee and officials from the Department of Disaster Management. The other members of the group, about seven people, arrived safely at the camp and delivered the supplies. The whereabouts of the elders is unknown. **Source:** [Development Media Group](#)

## Europe

**Update:** The last [Bi-Weekly News Brief](#) reported that police in Paris had raided the home of the founder of the Muslim NGO BarakaCity, mishandled and violently arrested him. We have received information from a regular reader that the article writer was biased. Further examination of the source (Anadolu Agency) confirmed that, while being a Turkish state news agency, it is widely considered politically biased, has a reputation for poor sourcing, and may distort facts. The details of the cited report may therefore not be correct. On 28 October, a French cabinet meeting decreed to dissolve BarakaCity, France's largest Muslim charity, for alleged links with radical Islamist movements. The organisation has denied all charges. Using Twitter, the founder requested asylum from Turkey. Turkey, Iran and Pakistan have condemned France for the defence of the offending Mohamed cartoons and there have been attacks on French websites. **Sources:** [FR24News](#) and [MediaBiasFactCheck](#).

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank the reader for sharing this information with us and encourage others to [contact us](#) with new/updated information on incidents impacting aid delivery.**

## Middle East and North Africa

### *Syrian Arab Republic*

**27 October 2020:** In Ariha city, Idlib governorate, artillery shells fired by the Syrian military hit and damaged two ambulances belonging to the Syrian Civil Defence. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**04 November 2020:** In Ariha city, Idlib governorate, a male psychological support worker for the LNGO Ihsan Relief and Development Organization, and a male driver, were killed by Syrian regime forces artillery shelling that struck the car they were travelling in. **Source:** [MedGlobal](#) and [SNHR](#)

**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 Insecurity. 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. Data collection is ongoing, and data may change as more information is made available. This document is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Insecurity Insight and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID or the U.S. Government.

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<sup>1</sup> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database attribution policy. Accessed 05 November 2020

<sup>2</sup> The Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD) 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 published in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available. Accessed 05 November 2020.