Aid in Danger

Bi-Weekly News Brief

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

**18 November-
01 December
2020**

Insecurity Insight continuously updates the data on aid workers killed, kidnapped, or arrested (KKA). Updated data 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**.

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Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

15 November 2020: In Masisi town centre, North Kivu province, a Congolese LNGO aid worker was reportedly shot and killed by unidentified perpetrators. **Source AWSD**[1]

27 November 2020: Between Bwalanda and Nyanzale villages, North Kivu province, gunmen attacked an INGO aid worker and amputated his arm. He was admitted to Rutshuru General Hospital for treatment. In response, the aid organisation temporarily suspended its activities in the area. **Source: Radio Moto**

Ethiopia

October: Four Ethiopian aid workers employed by two separate INGOs were killed in Tigray near the border with Eritrea last month during fighting in the northern region. The circumstances of their deaths were unclear, but they took place in one of four camps for Eritrean refugees. There are unconfirmed reports that a fifth aid worker had also died in Tigray. **Source: Reuters**

16 and 18 November 2020: In Tigray region, the conflict between the Ethiopian Federal Government and the regional ruling Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) has severely hindered the ability of the UN and NGOs to aid people stranded by the fighting, and to reach refugee camps at risk of food and water shortages, prompting the withdrawal of two convoys of non-essential aid workers. Humanitarian access is reportedly only available for the Ethiopian Red Cross Society, the ICRC and MSF. On 23 November, government troops encircled Mekelle in preparation to invade the city, raising grave concerns about the safety of more than 200 aid workers therein. **Sources: ABC, AP, Barrons, ECHO, France 24, Humanitarian Response, The New Humanitarian and The New York Times**

19 November 2020: The Ethiopian National Defence Force chief accused the Director-General of the WHO, Tedros Adhanom - who is of Tigrayan ethnicity - of lobbying for and seeking to arm the TPLF. The Director-General has denied the accusations. **Sources: BBC and The New Arab**

Mali

23 November 2020: On the road between Ansongo and Gao, Gao region, an unspecified number of INGO aid workers were kidnapped by gunmen who fired at the civilian vehicle they were travelling in. All hostages, except one, were released on the same day. The remaining aid worker from the Tuareg community was released the following day. **Source: ACLED**[2]

30 November 2020: In Kidal town and region, Menaka town and region, and Gao city and region, unidentified perpetrators launched corresponding attacks against foreign forces at MINUSMA bases. Indirect fire caused damage to the facility in Kidal. **Source: Al Jazeera**

Mozambique
18 November 2020: IOM announced it was prevented from reaching several northern and coastal districts due to security concerns. **Source: Club of Mozambique**

25 November 2020: In Dombe town, Sussundega district, Manica province, a vehicle belonging to the NGO 'The US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief' (PEPFAR) was attacked by armed men, leaving three employees injured. The governor of Manica blamed the group known as 'Renamo's Military Junta' for the attack. **Source: Club of Mozambique**

Nigeria
30 November 2020: In Wakilti village, Mobbar LGA, Borno state, a male aid worker and two local state officials were kidnapped at a checkpoint set up on the road by Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) between Kareto and Gubio. The group claimed responsibility for the abduction via its propaganda news outlet, Amaq. **Sources: Defense Post and HumAngle**

South Sudan
23-29 November 2020: Ethiopian authorities have repatriated three UNMISS peacekeepers who belong to the Tigray ethnic group without due procedure, in the context of the conflict between the Ethiopian Federal Government and the regional ruling Tigray People's Liberation Front in Tigray region. The human rights division of the peacekeeping mission is reportedly following up on their situation. **Source: Eye Radio**

As reported on 24 November 2020: According to the South Sudan Mine Action Authority, government and opposition forces have killed 10 deminers since January 2020. **Source: Eye Radio**

Asia
Afghanistan
As reported on 18 November 2020: In Kandahar city and province, as the conflict between the Afghan National Security Forces and NSAGs raged on, the presence of IEDs continued to threaten civilian movement and humanitarian response. **Source: Humanitarian Response**

As reported on 18 November 2020: In Uruzgan province, the conflict between the Afghan National Security Forces and NSAGs, as well as the presence of IEDs, forced some humanitarian actors to suspend their activities, and a health facility able to serve 30,000 people remained closed. **Source: Humanitarian Response**

28 November 2020: In Maidan Wardak province, an unidentified armed group stopped and detained an ICRC aid worker on his way back from a family visit in Kabul. He was released and safely returned home. **Source: The Khaama Press News Agency**

Middle East and North Africa
Occupied Palestinian Territories
24 November 2020: At the Tayaseer checkpoint, Tubas governorate, a group of IDF soldiers attacked an ambulance and team from the Palestine Red Crescent Society whilst the staff were providing first aid to a person who had sustained rubber-coated bullet wounds in the abdomen. As stun and teargas grenades were thrown at the ambulance, several soldiers boarded the vehicle and attempted to arrest the patient by force. **Sources: ICRC in Israel and OT and Palestine Red Crescent Society**

Lebanon
05 November 2020: In Beirut, a Syrian refugee set himself ablaze outside the headquarters of the UNHCR because he could not afford medical treatment for his ailing daughter. The man was rescued by UNHCR security personnel and taken to Rafic Hariri Hospital. **Source: The New Arab**

Syrian Arab Republic
21 November 2020: In Al-Hol camp, al-Hasakah governorate, a male IDP who served as a guard with a humanitarian relief organization was shot dead by unknown gunmen in the fifth sector of the camp. **Source: SNHR**

Insecurity Insight – Monitoring incidents around the world affecting aid, health care, education, and protection.

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Yemen

As reported on 18 November 2020: Following reports that the US Government will officially designate the Houthi movement as a terrorist organisation by January 2021, the UN and some unnamed INGOs have pulled out their US staffers from northern Yemen due to unknown implications. The terrorist designation will pose serious obstacles for aid deliveries and likely further exacerbate the humanitarian crisis in Yemen. **Sources: FP, The New Arab I, The New Arab II and The New Humanitarian**

18 November 2020: In Taiz city and governorate, unidentified gunmen attacked an Emirates Red Crescent mobile health clinic and its staff. **Source: The New Arab**

The Americas

Mexico

18 November 2020: In Aldama municipality, Chiapas, a nun from the San Andres Larrainzar parish was shot and wounded by suspected members of the Chenalho Communal Militia while on her way to Tabak as part of a group of activists delivering humanitarian aid to the Aldama communities. **Source: ACLED**[2]

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.

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