

Aid in Danger

Bi-Weekly News Brief

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

30 December
2020-
12 January 2021

Past editions: [16-29 December 2020](#), [02-15 December 2020](#) and [18 November-01 December 2020](#)

Insecurity Insight continuously updates 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](#).

Visit our [website](#), join our [mailing list](#), follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)

Africa

Central African Republic

Throughout December 2020: According to an OCHA report, there were 59 registered incidents of attacks on humanitarian workers across the country in December, resulting in three deaths, 29 injuries and at least 35 robberies. **Sources:** [HumAngle](#), [OCHA](#) and [NRC](#)

13 January 2021: Near Bangui, unidentified armed combatants attacked members of the MINUSCA, as well as national defence and security forces, killing one Rwandan peacekeeper and injuring one more. **Source:** [UN Peacekeeping](#)

Ethiopia

Between 05 and 08 January 2021: In Tigray region, unidentified perpetrators burned down a WFP storage facility and a clinic run by the Ethiopian Agency for Refugees and Returnees Affairs near the WFP compound, as well as a secondary school run by the Development and Inter-Aid Church Commission, all inside the Shimelba Camp for Eritrean refugees. **Sources:** [Bloomberg](#) and [Reuters](#)

As reported on 07 January 2021: In Lachi area, Mekelle city and special zone, Tigray region, unidentified perpetrators have looted humanitarian supplies and equipment amid an ongoing conflict between the Ethiopian Federal Government and the regional ruling TPLF. **Source:** [OCHA](#)

Mali

05 January 2021: In Deh, Bandiagara, Mopti commune, armed men attacked an MSF ambulance, assaulted and detained a nurse from the Ministry of Health, as well as a caretaker, the driver, and three patients severely wounded from an airstrike. One patient succumbed to wounds while under detention. **Sources:** [MSF I](#), [MSF II](#), [Infowakat](#), [Xinhua](#) and [Studio Tamani](#)

Nigeria

02 January 2021: Near Matari village, Maiduguri LGA, Borno state, Boko Haram militants stormed the Damaturu-Maiduguri Road in military uniforms and mounted a roadblock with three Hilux vans and motorcycles. The militants abducted between 20 and 50 motorists and passengers, including a Senior Protection Assistant of the UNHCR and the Secretary General of the National Union of Yobe State Students. **Sources:** [ACLED¹](#), [Eons Intelligence](#), [Nkiruka Nistroran](#), [Sahel Standard I](#) and [Sahel Standard II](#)

08 January 2021: The Director General of the Centre for Justice on Religion and Ethnicity has blamed two NGOs for the continued detention of a clergyman by Boko Haram since 19 October 2020. He alleged that the NGOs want the negotiations for the release of the victim to go through

them, and therefore, he claims there is a link between the NGOs and Boko Haram. **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

As reported on 31 December 2020: On Bhasan Char island, Hatiya upazila, Noakhali district, Chittagong division, the Government of Bangladesh continued to deny entry for the UNHCR to perform a technical and protection assessment of the recently-formed silt island to determine its habitability for refugees. The government has relocated nearly 3,500 Rohingya refugees there so far, with the intention to ultimately relocate up to 100,000 in total. Reports suggest some refugees are being forcibly relocated to the island against their will. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#) and [RFA](#)

Indonesia

06 January 2021: In Pagamba village, Biandoga district, Intan Jaya regency, Papua province, unknown gunmen reportedly attacked an aircraft belonging to an INGO after it landed at an airstrip. The unidentified perpetrators then ordered the American pilot and passengers off the plane before setting the aircraft on fire. **Source:** [Crisis 24](#)

Uzbekistan

As reported on 07 January 2021: According to Human Rights Watch, the Uzbeki Government has made some human rights reforms in recent years but continues to hinder the work of independent NGOs with excessive and burdensome registration requirements. **Source:** [RFE RL](#)

Europe

Cyprus

14 December 2020: Cypriot authorities reportedly removed the NGO Kisa for Migrants from a register of associations and foundations on the alleged grounds that it did not submit audited accounts and did not convene a general assembly within the timeframe set by the Interior Ministry, effectively rendering it unlawful. **Source:** [Cyprus Mail](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Yemen

31 December 2020: In Khur Maksar district, Aden governorate, a hand grenade of unidentified origin was thrown into the premises of an unnamed INGO, near Lotus Hotel, damaging its gate. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

As reported on 11 January 2021: The imminent US designation of the Houthi movement as a terrorist organisation is expected to pose serious challenges to INGOs, who claim that the move threatens to further shrink the space and access they need to deliver humanitarian assistance, adversely impacting their operations through financial difficulties, commercial trading barriers and access reduction. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera I](#), [Al Jazeera II](#) and [BBC](#)

As reported in the last [edition](#), three ICRC staff members were killed and three others were injured following an explosion at Aiden airport **on 30 December 2020**. Our reporting attributed the explosion to Houthi forces based on [media sources](#) that were, however, not included as references in the Bi-Weekly News Brief. The source under the report only included the ICRC press release which did not mention any perpetrator of the violence. As an impartial, neutral and independent humanitarian organisation, the ICRC, does not attribute any incident to a specific organization.

The Americas

Venezuela

15 December 2020: In Caracas, agents of the Bolivarian National Police's Special Action Forces (FAES) raided the office of the aid-advocacy group Convite, after showing staff what they said was a search warrant that allowed them to search for explosives, weapons and terrorism-related activities. The agents seized three computers and two mobile phones for several hours, and took Convite's director and its administrative manager to the FAES headquarters for questioning. The

agents confiscated their phones, denied them access to their lawyers, and interrogated them for two hours, before releasing them. **Sources:** [Human Rights Watch](#) and [Infobae](#)

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.

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.

Suggested citation: Insecurity Insight. 2021. Aid in Danger Bi-Weekly News Brief, 30 December 2020-12 January 2021. Geneva: Insecurity Insight, Aid in Danger Project.



¹ Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), [database attribution policy](#). Accessed 13 January 2021.