

Protection in Danger

Monthly News Brief

Safety, security and access incidents

Incidents of threats and violence in refugee and IDP settings

December
2020

Africa

Democratic Republic of the Congo

31 December 2020: In Bijombo village, Mwenga territory, South Kivu province, a group of 50 IDP women who were farming were attacked by militiamen of the Ngumino and Twiganeho coalition led by Michel Rukundo Makanika. Four women and two children were killed with machetes, one girl was seriously injured and at least three women went missing. **Sources:** [Radio Okapi](#), [Actualité](#) and [ACLED](#)¹

Ethiopia

As reported on 08 December 2020: In Tigray region, the instability caused by the conflict between the Ethiopian Federal Government and the TPLF has continued to prevent the UNHCR from reaching some 96,000 Eritrean refugees. **Source:** [New Age](#)

As reported on 11 December 2020: In Tigray region, according to reports received by the UNHCR, unidentified perpetrators have been killing or abducting and forcibly returning Eritrean refugees to Eritrea. **Source:** [New Age](#)

Niger

13 December 2020: In Tumuk town, Diffa region and department 50 Nigerian refugees are feared killed after an attack by Boko Haram militants who also burned down residents' houses. **Source:** [Sahara Reporters](#)

South Sudan

23 November 2020: In Cueibet town and county, Lakes state, hundreds of IDPs have fled the town following inter-communal clashes. The IDPs are camped in Marial-Atem and are living without the provision of shelter, food, water or humanitarian assistance. **Source:** [Eye Radio](#)

04 December 2020: In Mongalla IDP camp, Mongalla county, Central Equatoria state, a 13-year-old boy was killed and a 12-year-old IDP abducted by unidentified armed men. Another man was shot and killed whilst burning charcoal on Sunday. The camp chairperson has called on the government to increase security in the area. **Source:** [Eye Radio](#)

Sudan

21 December 2020: Near Gallab IDP camp, North Darfur state, one man and nine women, one of whom was pregnant, were attacked by armed shepherds while on their way to fetch straw. **Source:** [Radio Dabanga](#)

This monthly digest comprises threats and incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees.

It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available in open sources.

The incidents reported are not a complete nor a representative list of all events of threats and incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees and have not been independently verified.

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Asia

Bangladesh

As reported on 07 December 2020: In Ukhia and Teknaf upazilas, Cox's Bazar district, Chittagong division, the Bangladeshi Government has transferred some 1,600 Rohingyas from refugee camps to the remote island of Bhashan Char, reportedly without refugees' consent in some cases. The UNHCR has been denied access to Bhashan Char for months, having requested to perform a technical and protection assessment of the island prior to refugee relocation to ensure a minimum level of habitability.

Sources: [al Jazeera](#), [RFA I](#), [RFA II](#), [RFA III](#) and [UN News](#)

28 December 2020: In Cox's Bazar district, Chittagong division, the Bangladeshi Government transferred an additional 1,772 Rohingyas from refugee camps to Chittagong city, en route to the remote island of Bhashan Char. Some Rohingyas said they are going willingly, whilst human rights activists have expressed doubts about these transfers due to allegations that some Rohingya had their homes in the camps padlocked, forcing them to relocate to the island. **Sources:** [France 24](#) and [RFA](#)

28 December 2020: In Cox's Bazar district, Chittagong division, some residents at the Kutupalong Refugee Camp seized a Rohingya photographer as he took pictures of his sister who had boarded a bus leaving for the remote island of Bhashan Char. The victim was handed over to the camp administrator before reportedly being beaten and detained. As of December 31, the victim was still in jail. **Source:** [RFA](#)

China

As reported on 30 December 2020: Update: The Chinese Government has continued to hold five North Korean asylum seekers in custody since September 13, prompting the UN's Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, the Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in North Korea, and the Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment to appeal against their repatriation. **Source:** [RFA](#)

Europe

Bosnia and Herzegovina

09 December 2020: In Sarajevo city, the EU Delegation issued a statement expressing concern about an emerging humanitarian crisis, given the dire conditions of refugees and migrants in the country. More than 2,000 refugees and migrants are still sleeping rough or in makeshift shelters, under harsh winter weather conditions and without access to basic services. Humanitarian actors are still prohibited access to urban makeshift camps which are hosting several hundreds of migrants and refugees.

Source: [ECHO Flash List](#)

23 December 2020: In Lipa camp, Bihac city, Una-Sana Canton, about 1,400 refugees were forced to leave the camp after it was closed due to a lack of basic infrastructure and facilities, including water and electricity. Former residents set up makeshift camps in a nearby forest whilst others moved to derelict buildings. **Source:** [BBC News](#) and [DW News](#)

30 December 2020: In Lipa village, Livno municipality, Canton 10, a fire of unidentified origin destroyed the Lipa Emergency Camp, leaving at least 900 migrants and refugees stranded in freezing winter temperatures and without shelter. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Greece

29 November 2020: In Lesbos, North Aegean region, two groups of asylum seekers who arrived on the island from Turkey were picked up by Hellenic Coast Guard (HCG) officers and put on a bus. They were taken to a small port, beaten and forced onto a coast guard boat. Their phones were also taken from them. The asylum seekers were then forced into life rafts and left to drift towards Turkish territorial waters. They were rescued hours later by the Turkish Coast Guard. **Source:** [BBC News](#)

11 December 2020: In Mytilene, Lesbos island, two refugees were filmed being attacked by border guards and a police officer outside the Kara Tepe camp. The officers were suspended, and an internal investigation is ongoing. On December 12, four perpetrators were brought before a prosecutor, who charged them with inflicting bodily harm and torture, and breaking anti-racism laws. They were released pending trial. **Sources:** [ACLEDD](#)¹ and [The New Arab](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Algeria

As reported on 25 December 2020: The Algerian Government has planned the deportation of seven Yemeni asylum seekers to Yemen, where the latter claim that they would face a high risk of death, prompting Amnesty International to urge it not to go ahead with the repatriation. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

Lebanon

26 December 2020: Near Bhanine municipality, Minieh-Danniyeh district, North governorate, following an altercation between a member of a Lebanese family and Syrian workers, local youths set fire to tents of an informal refugee settlement, where the Syrian refugees and 75 families lived. Several people were injured and hospitalised. On 27 December, police arrested two Lebanese nationals and six Syrians over the dispute. **Sources:** [New Age](#), [South China Morning Post](#) and [The New Arab](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territories

31 December 2020: In Bethlehem, West Bank, four Palestinians were beaten and injured by Israeli military forces who were trying to arrest them in the Mukhayyam ad Duhayshah refugee camp. The victims were hospitalised. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

Syrian Arab Republic

01 December 2020: In al-Hol camp, Hasaka governorate, a male Iraqi was shot dead in the third section of the camp by unidentified gunmen using a silenced gun. **Sources:** [SNHR](#), [Liveuamap](#) and [ACLED](#)¹

03 December 2020: In Basira town, Deir-ez-Zor an IDP house was fired at by gunmen reportedly pretending to be IS. They asked for Zakat. **Source:** [ACLED](#)¹

10 December 2020: In al-Hol camp, Hasaka governorate, an Iraqi IDP was leaving the Mosque at the 4th section of the camp when gunmen shot him dead allegedly for being an Internal Security Forces collaborator. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

22 December 2020: Near Samedoun IDP camp, Idlib governorate, the body of a male teenager was found showing wounds indicating he was killed with a sharp object. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

23 December 2020: In al Nour IDP Camp, Aleppo governorate, several IDPs were injured and IDP tents damaged when caught in crossfire between al Shamiyah Front and al Mu'tasem Division, both affiliated with the Syrian National Army. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

24 December 2020: In al-Hol camp, Hasaka governorate, gunmen shot and killed an Iraqi IDP in front of his tent in the third section of the camp. It is the 8th assassination of its kind against Iraqi refugees since November. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

This document is part of the Protection in Danger project. It is published 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 Insecurity Insight releases the latest available information on incidents of violence affecting protection of IDPs and refugees. You can access the [data](#) on HDX Insecurity Insight.

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