

01 January-20 April 2021 Aid Worker KKA is now available on our [website](#) or [HDX](#). 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.

Past editions: [21 April-04 May](#) and [07-20 April](#)

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## Aid workers kidnapped in 2020

- Most kidnappings involved one aid worker or small groups of up to three.
- National aid workers were the target of kidnappings in 69% of reported kidnapping incidents. There were seven reports of international aid workers being kidnapped.
- Almost all of the kidnapping victims who were killed were national aid workers.
- Almost four times as many men were kidnapped as women, and all 16 aid workers killed in captivity were male. At least nine women were kidnapped in Burkina Faso, the CAR, the DRC, Mali, Nigeria and Somalia.
- Nearly two-thirds of aid worker kidnappings took place in road ambushes as aid workers were travelling to and from project sites. [Read the full report here.](#)

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## Safety, security and access incidents

Incidents of threats and violence affecting aid workers and aid delivery.

### Africa

#### *Ethiopia*

**28 April 2021:** In Kola Temben town, Tigray region, a staff member of a USAID partner organisation was killed by Eritrean and Ethiopian soldiers. According to eyewitnesses, he identified himself as an aid worker and pleaded for his life before he was killed. **Source:** [Addis Standard](#) and [US Embassy](#). At least eight aid workers have been killed between November 2020 and April 2021. Download [data](#).

#### *South Sudan*

**10 May 2021:** Near the Landmark Hotel, Juba, a female INGO aid worker was injured when a man threw a rock at her. She was taken to a local clinic for treatment. **Sources:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**10 May 2021:** In Renk town, Upper Nile state, unidentified perpetrators assaulted two INGOs aid workers at the compounds of two separate humanitarian organisations. **Source:** [Garda](#)

**12 May 2021:** Along the Chukudum-Camp 15 road, Budi county, Eastern Equatoria state, a Ugandan INGO health worker working at Chukudum hospital was shot and killed when his vehicle was ambushed by unidentified perpetrators. **Sources:** [Garda](#), [Radio Miraya](#) and [Nation](#)

#### *Sudan*

**Around 12 May 2021:** The North Darfur department of the national Empowerment Elimination, Anti-Corruption, and Funds Recovery Committee suspended the activities of the LINGO Anhar

Organisation for Peace leading to the closure of 16 health centres in IDP camps in Kabkabiya, Saraf Omra, and El Fasher localities. **Source:** [Radio Dabanga](#)

**14 May 2021:** In Rokero town, Central Darfur state, fighting between two different sections of the Sudanese security forces resulted in armed soldiers from both sides violently forcing their way into an MSF-supported health facility. Gunshots were fired, and an MSF nurse was injured. MSF reduced activities in the area to lifesaving medical care only. **Source:** [MSF](#)

## Asia

### *Cambodia*

**As reported on 05 May 2021:** Cambodian authorities have been restricting access for UN agencies and other aid groups to COVID-19 lockdown red zones, where people are in urgent need of food, health care and other lifesaving supplies. **Source:** [RFA](#)

### *Myanmar*

**As reported on 14 May 2021:** Members of the military issued internal guidelines for government staff, alleging that NGOs and INGOs have been “importing liberal democracy” to junior civil servants, causing the civil servants to be “disrespectful towards senior officials”. The government guidelines suggest that civil servants reflecting the values allegedly taught to them by NGOs and INGOs should be “straightened up”. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

**19 May 2021:** In Hlaing township, West Yangon district and region, a Myanmar Red Cross ambulance was attacked and destroyed with a Molotov cocktail by a group of unidentified men. **Sources:** [Mizzima News Agency](#) and [The Irrawaddy](#)

## Europe

### *Austria*

**As reported on 06 May 2021:** Following an investigation by the NGO SOS Kinderdorf on sexual abuse allegations, the NGO came forward with findings that some staff were aware of the issue but tried to cover up the accusations. The incidents of abuse date back to the 1990s. **Source:** [DW](#)

### *Italy*

**As reported on 30 April 2021:** Italian authorities continued to detain five NGO rescue vessels, preventing them from conducting rescue operations in the Mediterranean Sea. The vessels, including the Sea-Watch 3, are being held allegedly for “administration reasons” and have been detained since March 2021. **Source:** [CBC](#)

### *Russian Federation*

**14 April 2021:** A Russian court issued a fine of RUB300,000 to the NGO Nasiliu.net, which assists with legal and psychological support in domestic violence cases, for breaching the Foreign Agents Law. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

## Middle East and North Africa

### *Lebanon*

**Aid Security:** Aid agencies reported 25 security incidents and 91 occasions when security reviews were undertaken in 2020. Carjackings, robberies and theft are the main security incidents. [Read more](#)

**Vigil InSight Situation Report:** Lebanon’s political crisis looks set to continue; foreign diplomacy is failing as aid cuts trigger more shortages and violent protests increase. **Analysis, predictions and mitigation measures for aid organisations available [here](#).**

### *Occupied Palestinian Territories*

**As reported on 13 May 2021:** In Gaza Strip, Israeli authorities closed the Erez (Beit Hanoon) crossing, including for aid workers. **Source:** [OCHA](#)

**16 May 2021:** In Gaza Strip, Israeli airstrikes hit an MSF trauma and burns care clinic, destroying a sterilisation room and damaging a waiting area. The clinic was subsequently forced to close. **Source:** [Doctors Without Borders](#)

**17 May 2021:** In Gaza Strip, an airstrike by Israeli forces hit the headquarters of the Qatari Red Crescent. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

**18 May 2021:** In Gaza Strip, an international aid convoy was stopped when Israel closed the Karem Abu Salem crossing, citing a mortar attack in the area. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

## The Americas

### Guatemala

**12 May 2021:** The Constitutional Court overturned an earlier ruling that stopped a controversial legislation targeting NGOs from becoming law. The new law will give the Guatemalan Government the right to pry into the affairs of, and even dissolve, NGOs. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

**This Bi-Monthly 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.

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<sup>1</sup> The [Aid Worker Security Database](#) (AWSDB) 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 19 May 2021.