Aid in Danger

Monthly News Brief

Safety, security and access incidents

Insecurity affecting aid workers and aid delivery

Africa

Central African Republic

07 August 2019: In Batangafo, Ouham region, six unidentified armed criminals broke into the home of two international NGO employees and stole valuables and money. Two staff were injured during the break-in and taken to an MSF hospital. UN security forces had responded to the emergency call but the perpetrators had already fled. **Source: AWSD**[1]

20 August 2019: In Batangafo, Ouham region, a group of five unknown criminals broke into an INGO guest house and stole a large sum of money, international passports, and two computers. One male security guard was severely injured and taken to the local hospital. MINUSCA patrol responded, but the perpetrators had already fled. The INGO staff were escorted to the UN base. **Source: AWSD**[1]

Democratic Republic of the Congo

06 August 2019: Near Lambo Katenga village, Tanganyika region, a group of 15 local Mai Mai militants ambushed the local Red Cross Committee's president along with several civilians. The perpetrators beat all the victims, tied them up, and robbed them of their valuables. Two civilians were injured. **Source: AWSD**[1]

Mali

03 August 2019: In Sangha Commune, Mpoti region, two INGO national staff members were kidnapped by an unidentified armed group. Both were released the next day. **Source: AWSD**[1]

19 August 2019: In Bourem town, Bourem Cercle, Goa, a national staff member of a local NGO was injured by a grenade explosion. No further information available. **Source: AWSD**[1]

Kenya

06 August 2019: Update: An investigation into the abduction of an Italian volunteer last November suggests that the victim had filed a complaint against an Anglican pastor for allegedly molesting some girls before she went missing. **Source: Italian Insider**

This monthly digest comprises threats and incidents of violence affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

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

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South Sudan
07 August 2019: In Juba, Central Equatoria state, the Director of a local NGO was reportedly kidnapped, assaulted and later released by her estranged husband, who is a member of the National Security Services (NSS). The abduction was motivated by a family dispute. The victim was taken to a local clinic for medical treatment. **Source: AWSD**[1]

Asia
Myanmar
17 August 2019: Near to Lashio, Shan state, an aid convoy was targeted by a sniper, supposedly from the Northern Alliance NSAG, killing a male national NGO staff travelling in a marked ambulance. After the staff member was shot, an RPG hit the ambulance. Other staff members were reportedly wounded, but this remains unconfirmed. **Source: AWSD**[1]

22 August 2019: In Shan state, clashes between Myanmar troops and ethnic rebels prompted the Myanmar Army to evacuate 28 international staffers from Kurkai township to Yangon city and region – including nine Americans, one Canadian, two Hong Kong nationals, two Chinese, and two Taiwanese – of the INGOs 'Go' and 'Love'. **Source: RFA**

Pakistan
08 August 2019: In Esori area, North Waziristan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, a male national driver for a local NGO was injured by an IED blast when his vehicle was targeted by unidentified perpetrators. **Source: AWSD**[1]

Europe
International Waters
01 – 10 August 2019: In the Central Mediterranean Sea, Italian and Maltese authorities prevented the rescue ship Open Arms with 121 migrants on board from entering territorial waters and reaching a safe port. The Maltese Government offered to assist 39 migrants who were taken aboard the Open Arms at the same time that an Armed Forces of Malta patrol boat was at sea and heading towards the migrants to take them on board. However, Open Arms turned down the offer, claiming that Malta should assist all migrants on board. **Sources: AP and TVM**

12 – 23 August 2019: In the Central Mediterranean Sea, Italian and Maltese authorities prevented the rescue ship Ocean Viking with 356 rescued migrants on board from entering territorial waters and reaching a safe port. The migrants were eventually allowed to disembark in Malta, pending their relocation to other European Union nations. **Sources: AP, Houston Chronicle and The Seattle Times**

27 August 2019: In the Central Mediterranean Sea, now ex-former Interior Minister of Italy prevented the rescue ship Lifeline with approximately 100 migrants on board from entering Italian territorial waters. **Source: Star Tribune**

Italy
15 August 2019: Near Lampedusa island, Agrigento province, an Italian administrative court overruled a ban by now ex-Interior Minister that had prevented the rescue ship Open Arms with 147 migrants aboard from entering Italian territorial waters. In response, the minister issued a fresh decree to ban the rescue ship from disembarking the passengers, despite the fact that six European Union nations had agreed to relocate the migrants. The Defence Minister refused to countersign it and the decree was rejected. **Sources: France 24, Local 12, Reuters and The New York Times**

27 August 2019 (DOA): The Italian Civil Aviation Authority grounded the aircrafts Moonbird and Colibri, operated by the NGOs Sea-Watch and Pilotes Volontaires to search for migrant boats in need of rescue in the Central Mediterranean Sea and to monitor possible human rights violations, claiming that the light aircrafts are approved for recreational and not professional use. **Source: Star Tribune**

Middle East and North Africa

Libya
10 August 2019: In Hawari area, Benghazi city and district, Cyrenaica region, a car bomb explosion of unspecified origin in front of a shopping centre killed three UN staff members and two other UNSMIL guards and destroyed a UN vehicle. **Sources: AP, Libya Observer, Reuters and The Guardian**

Morocco
03 August 2019: After local media outlets shared videos and photos of a group of 37 Belgian teenagers from the NGO Bouworde volunteering to build a road in the town of Adar, internet users objected to the volunteers' choice to wear short trousers (shorts). A Moroccan teacher posted on Facebook that they should be beheaded, prompting the NGO to offer the students the opportunity to return to Belgium early, an offer only three volunteers accepted. On 06 August, the teacher was arrested by local police for inciting terrorist acts. **Sources: Morocco World News and The New Arab**

Occupied Palestinian Territories
16 August 2019: In Abu Dis, east of Jerusalem, a male local Palestinian Red Crescent volunteer paramedic was shot in the head with a rubber bullet by the Israeli Army while trying to assist victims during clashes in the town. He was transferred to the hospital for medical treatment. **Source: AWSD[1] and PCHR**

Syrian Arab Republic
05 August: In Morek town, Hama governorate, alleged Syrian regime warplanes reportedly hit a Syrian Civil Defence (SCD) rescue vehicle with machine gun fire, resulting in severe damage. **Source: SNHR**

10 August 2019: In Raqqa city, Raqqa governorate, Syrian Defence Forces (SDF) officials reportedly detained four Syrian humanitarian workers and took them to an undisclosed location. **Source: SNHR**

14 August 2019: In Bseqa village, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes fired missiles at an ambulance station supported by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS), killing a nurse, an ambulance driver, and a SCD member (all male). **Source: SNHR I, SNHR II, Dhaka Tribune and EA WorldView**

15 August 2019: In Heesh village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime helicopters reportedly dropped gas cylinders near an SCD centre, injuring an SCD member and damaging the building. **Source: SNHR**

17 August 2019: In Damascus, at Damascus International Airport, a male former director of the eastern section of the SCD in Daraa governorate was detained by Syrian regime officials. **Source: SNHR**

20 August 2019: In Shaghouriet village, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces fired artillery shells, resulting in the death of an SCD member. **Source: SNHR**

26 August 2019: In Kafr Aweed village, Idlib governorate, a male SCD member was reportedly injured by missiles fired by Syrian regime warplanes. **Source: SNHR**

30 August 2019: In al Zerba town, Aleppo governorate, Syrian regime warplanes reportedly fired missiles on al Zerba medical dispensary, which is supported by SAMS, destroying its building and rendering it out of service. **Source: SNHR**

Yemen
03 August 2019: The WFP and the Houthi movement declared that they have reached a deal that could lift the WFP's partial suspension of aid in Sanaa, which has affected around 850,000 people since 20 June. **Sources: AP and Middle East Eye**

The Americas

Haiti
15 August 2019: The climate of insecurity in Haiti forced the Ayiti Air Anbilans, the only helicopter emergency medical service in the country, to suspend its operations. **Source: Sentinel**

KKA data: January-August 2019
Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan	12	5	0	17	5
CAR	5	8	0	13	7
DRC	7	7	0	14	9
Iraq	0	0	3	3	3
Mali	0	11	0	11	6
Nigeria	3	6	1	10	4
Somalia	5	17	1	23	9
South Sudan	2	1	3	6	4
Syria	23	3	6	32	21
Yemen	11	1	5	17	11
Other countries	23	24	8	55	36
Total affected	**91**	**83**	**27**	**201**	**115**

Key definitions
Aid worker: An individual employed by or attached to a humanitarian, UN, international, national, or government aid agency.
Killed: Refers to a staff member being killed. Aid worker(s) killed while in captivity are coded as 'kidnapped'.
Kidnapped: Refers to a staff member being kidnapped, missing or taken hostage.
Arrested: Refers to a staff member being arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned.

Notes
Data collection is ongoing, and data may change as more information is made available. KKA dataset and quick charts available on the **Humanitarian Data Exchange** (HDX). The countries have been selected by **Reliefweb**.