

# Aid in Danger

Monthly News Brief

December  
2019

## Safety, security and access incidents

Insecurity affecting aid workers and aid delivery

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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Data on aid workers reportedly [killed, kidnapped or arrested \(KKA\)](#) is available to download on HDX Insecurity Insight.

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### Africa

#### *Burkina Faso*

**Early December 2019:** In Fada N'gourma city and department, Gourma province, Est region, a government representative forbade aid organisations from using their own data on the number of registered IDPs when planning assistance. Instead, agencies have been asked to rely on official government figures when delivering aid, claiming that the goal was to coordinate response efforts better. However, as official data is compiled manually rather than digitally, NGOs received the data late resulting in delayed response. **Source:** [TNH](#)

**Around 09-15 December 2019:** In Fada N'gourma city and department, Gourma province, Est region, local authorities refused to share with the NGO 'Initiative: Eau' information on which other aid organisations were working in Fada N'gourma and the surrounding villages. **Source:** [TNH](#)

#### *Cameroon*

**30 November 2019:** In Donga Mantung department, Northwest province, unidentified perpetrators kidnapped and later murdered an aid worker from the LNGO and UN partner COMINSUD. **Source:** [OCHA](#)

#### *Central African Republic*

**14 December 2019:** In Bangui, security forces raided an MSF-run surgical trauma centre and detained four staffers until at least December 20. In response, MSF suspended non-emergency activities at the facility. **Source:** [National Post](#)

**24 December 2019:** In Bangui, a Red Cross national staff member was killed during an exchange of fire between criminal gangs and traders. The clashes reportedly began on December 24 when a gang member was killed in an exchange of fire with a trader. Media reports indicate as of December 27 over 30 individuals have been killed in the violent clashes. **Source:** [AWS<sup>1</sup>](#)

#### *Democratic Republic of the Congo*

**02 December 2019:** Near Beni city, North Kivu province, hundreds of demonstrators calling for the withdrawal of the UN from Beni marched towards a UN base inside an airport, prompting security forces to block them. Heavy gunfire ensued. **Source:** [Al Jazeera](#)

**02 – 03 December 2019:** Near Biakato, Ituri province, unidentified perpetrators attacked the office of the WHO, causing unspecified material damage. **Source:** [Radio Okapi](#)

**02 – 03 December 2019:** In Biakato Mines, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, during the night/early morning a group of people armed with sticks and machetes attempted to break into an MSF compound, throwing rocks at the building. In response, MSF decided to withdraw its staff until further notice. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [MSF](#), [Radio Okapi](#), [TNH](#) and [VOA](#)

**02-03 December 2019:** In Biakato, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, a group armed with sticks and machetes, suspected to be Mayi-Mayi militia attacked an MSF health centre during the night/early morning. No one was injured but goods were reportedly destroyed. MSF decided to suspend its activities in the locality of Biakato and temporarily withdraw staff. **Source:** [MSF](#) and [Radio Okapi](#)

**08 December 2019:** In Biakato area, Mambasa territory, Ituri province, five or six unidentified perpetrators attempted to attack the base of MONUSCO, prompting peacekeepers to repel them successfully. **Source:** [Gulf Times](#)

**15 December 2019:** In Butembo city, North Kivu province, gunmen from the Mai-Mai Kyandenga attacked FARDC soldiers guarding the Ebola-response base of the WHO. **Source:** [Kivu Security Tracker](#)

### ***Nigeria***

**12 December 2019:** On Damaturu road, Maiduguri, Borno State, two Red Cross national staff members were kidnapped by Islamic State in West Africa (ISWA) members who had set up an illegal checkpoint. Their whereabouts are currently unknown. Six off-duty soldiers and eight civilians were also kidnapped. The group reportedly claimed responsibility for the incident on social media. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**Around 13 December 2019:** In an unspecified location, a Nigerian aid worker and two Nigerian drivers from the INGO Action Against Hunger who had been kidnapped on 18 July 2019 were killed by Boko Haram/ISWAP militants. A female staff member remains in captivity. **Sources:** [AA](#), [Aljazeera](#), [DW](#) and [Reuters](#)

**22 December 2019:** Along the Maiduguri-Monguno road, Borno state, three aid workers from the INGO Alima were killed, and a further two kidnapped, by suspected Boko Haram members. **Source:** [Premium Times](#)

### ***South Sudan***

**01 December 2019:** In Bunj town, Maban county, Upper Nile state, at least two female INGO national aid workers were sexually assaulted, and an unspecified number physically assaulted. The perpetrators were reportedly a group of unidentified armed men in military uniforms who had entered the organisation's compound at midnight, overpowering three guards. Cash and other valuables were taken. At least five employees were relocated to Juba by plane, where they were received treatment and counselling. Two ex-employees are suspected perpetrators. **Sources:** [AP](#), [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>, [UNOCHA](#), [UNHRC](#), [Sudan Tribune](#), [VOA News](#), [Radio Tamazuj I](#), [Radio Tamazuj II](#), [TNH](#), [UNHCR](#) and [Xinhua Net](#)

**12 December 2019:** In Bor town, Jonglei state, an INGO national staff member was assaulted and wounded by unidentified perpetrators near John Garang University. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**31 December 2019:** In Mankien town, Mayom county, Unity state, a male INGO national aid worker was reportedly killed during the early evening at his home. No further information currently available. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

## Asia

### *Afghanistan*

**04 December 2019:** In Jalalabad city, Nangarhar province, unidentified perpetrators opened fire at a car carrying a Japanese physician and head of the INGO Peace Japan Medical Services, severely wounding him, and killing the driver, two bodyguards and another passenger. The physician succumbed to his wounds later at a local hospital. No group has currently taken responsibility. **Sources:** [Aljazeera](#), [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>, [BBC](#), [Ministry of Foreign Affairs Afghanistan](#), [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#), [RFE RL](#), [The Guardian](#), [The Japan Times](#), [The New York Times](#) and [TNH](#)

**24 November 2019:** In Kabul, unidentified perpetrators attacked a UNDP vehicle, killing an Indian American employee and wounding five more. **Sources:** [San Francisco Chronicle](#) and [UNDP](#)

### *Bangladesh*

**03 December 2019:** In Krishnapur village, Naogaon district, Manda upazila, Rajshahi division, a male INGO national aid worker was stabbed to death by unidentified perpetrators in a suspected burglary at his home. Money, a camera and a computer were stolen. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

## Middle East and North Africa

### *Syrian Arab Republic*

**13 December 2019:** In Qastoun, Al-Suqaylabiyah district, Hama governorate, Damascus, three male LNGO national aid workers were killed when a landmine exploded as they were attempting to secure a location. **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**17 December 2019:** In Raqqa city and governorate, Syrian Democratic Forces arrested an aid worker from an unspecified humanitarian organisation and took him to an undisclosed location. He had previously been arrested and released. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**18 December 2019:** In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces artillery fired shells near a Syrian Civil Defense (SCD) headquarters, partially destroying the building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**18 December 2019:** In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces artillery fired shells on Ma'aret al Numan emergency center affiliated with the LNGO Violet Organization, partially destroying its building. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**19 December 2019:** In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces fired shells near the offices of the LNGO's Future Vision and Syrian Women, causing damage to both buildings. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

**30 December 2019:** In Ma'aret al Numan city, Idlib governorate, Syrian regime forces helicopters dropped barrel bombs, killing an IDP child and an SCD volunteer. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

### *Yemen*

**19 December 2019:** Following two days of UN-mediated talks between Houthi rebels and the Saudi-led coalition, warring parties agreed to create humanitarian corridors in the city of Hodeida, which remains the main entry point for food and aid in Yemen. **Source:** [Dawn](#)

**19 December 2019:** In al Dhale town and governorate, a rocket-propelled grenade of unidentified origin exploded in the office of the International Rescue Committee and a women's centre, wounding a security guard. Two other grenades landed on the office of Oxfam but did not cause any casualties. **Source:** [AP](#)

**21 December 2019:** In al Dhale town and governorate, rocket-propelled grenades of unidentified origin hit the offices of five unnamed NGOs and INGOs, causing some material damages and the injury of a security guard. **Source:** [CIMP](#)

**24 December 2019:** In al Dhale town and governorate, an IED of unidentified origin landed on the office of Oxfam. **Source:** [AP](#)

**Around 24 December 2019:** In al Dhale town and governorate, 12 unspecified humanitarian groups suspended their operations in Yemen following a series of targeted attacks against aid organisations in recent days, affecting 217,000 residents. **Source:** [AP](#)

**30 December 2019:** Near Hodeida city and governorate, suspected Houthi artillery fire damaged a mill at the Red Sea Mills, forcing the WFP to suspend the milling of grain intended for food aid. **Source:** [Reuters](#)

## KKA data January-December 2019

Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan	15	10	0	25	9
CAR	6	12	0	18	9
DRC	7	7	0	14	9
Iraq	0	0	3	3	3
Mali	0	22	0	22	9
Nigeria	6	10	1	17	6
Somalia	6	18	1	25	11
South Sudan	6	15	4	25	11
Syria	30	4	7	41	28
Yemen	11	1	6	18	12
Other countries	29	26	8	63	43
<b>Total affected</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>271</b>	<b>150</b>

### 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](#).

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 AWSD database 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 publicised in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available. Accessed 5 January 2020.

