

Aid in Danger

Monthly News Brief

April
2020

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

Central African Republic

03 April 2020: In Batangafo town, Ouham prefecture, an unnamed NGO building was raided by anti-Balaka militants who stole communication equipment, electronics and cash, and stabbed two NGO guards. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

30 April 2020: In Bozoum city, Ouham-Pende prefecture, an INGO national aid worker was physically assaulted by a group of armed young men in the central Bozoum market. The aid worker received treatment at the local city hospital. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

Aid Workers Arrested in 2019

In 2019, 70 aid workers were reportedly arrested in 49 incidents across 24 countries. A high number were reportedly arrested in Yemen (23), followed by the CAR (8), South Sudan (7) and Syria (6).

Read the full report [here](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

Public trust towards international respondents on social media deteriorated dramatically: by mid-April, negative sentiment reached around 75% of total monitored social media content related to the international response. Read our latest report on [Security Media Trends in the DRC](#) to find out more.

16 April 2020: In Rutanga, Uvira Territory, South Kivu province, three AVSI Foundation staff members were kidnapped by Mai-Mai Mbulu men during an ambush. Their vehicle was also stolen. **Source:** [Kivu Security](#)

16 April 2020: Near the village of Malinde, Katanga locality, Fizi territory, South Kivu province, four MSF-Holland staff members and their two jeeps were ambushed and kidnapped by unidentified armed men. They were released three days later in Nsimbi village. **Sources:** [Garda World](#), [Kivu Security Tracker](#) and [Urdo Point](#)

Mali

Coming soon! New report on violent and threatening incidents affecting aid operations, health care, education, civilians, refugees and IDPs in Mali. Sign up to our [Sahel Monitoring](#) mailing list to get it straight to your inbox.

01 April 2020: Update: The son of a French aid worker - held hostage by unidentified perpetrators since 24 December 2016 - stated that the French Government had proof that the victim is still alive. **Source:** [France 24](#)

11 April 2020: In Hore Haya, Fittouga commune, Niafunke cercle, Tombouctou region, four LGNO aid workers were kidnapped by suspected JNIM militants. Their NGO vehicle was left behind. **Sources:** [AWS¹](#) and [ACLED²](#)

Somalia

10 April 2020: Near Mooda-Mooda village, Bay region, two LNGO aid workers travelling from Buurhakaba to Baidoa were ambushed and kidnapped by Al Shabaab militants. **Source:** [ACLED²](#)

South Sudan

05 April 2020: Between Motot an Waat, Nyirol county, Eastern Bieh state, a male national aid worker was fatally shot by unidentified armed men while walking along the road. **Source:** [AWS¹](#)

06 April 2020: On social media, youths made violent xenophobic comments towards international UN staffers, following confirmation of the first case of COVID-19 involving a UN worker on 05 April. The Facebook group South Sudan Youth Fight Against COVID-19 urged youngsters to attack UN workers across the country. Some replied that they have prepared knives and stones to attack UN workers with. In response, the UN has authorised only essential movement by staff. Some non-UN agencies have been following the same advice. **Sources:** [Eye Radio](#), [TNH I](#) and [TNH II](#)

12 April 2020: In Twic East county, Jonglei state, an INGO national aid worker was killed by a group of perpetrators who stole livestock from Pamot cattle camp. **Source:** [AWS¹](#)

Zimbabwe

24 April 2020: At Masvingo area, Masvingo Metro, Masvigno province, the director of an NGO was harassed by police who forced him to pay a fine for allegedly violating COVID-19 lockdown measures despite having an approval letter. **Source:** [Zim Eye](#)

Asia

Bangladesh

09 April 2020: In Dhaka, NGOs engaged in providing five million people living in slums with healthcare and other services, have suspended their activities amid the COVID-19 outbreak. This sudden halt of services has left vulnerable and impoverished people exposed to further health risks. **Source:** [New Age](#)

13 April 2020: Across all divisions of Bangladesh, authorities arrested local leaders and activists belonging to the ruling Awami League for food aid theft, as the poor struggle to survive amid the COVID-19 pandemic. **Source:** [New Age](#)

Myanmar

20 April 2020: In Minbya Township, Mrauk-U District, Rakhine state, a marked WHO vehicle transporting COVID-19 testing samples came under gunfire, resulting in the death of the driver. A healthcare worker was also injured in the accident. Both Myanmar's army and the non-state armed actor group United League of Arakan Army denied responsibility for the attack and accused each other. **Sources:** [BBC](#), [Ministry of Information](#), [Development Media Group](#), [New Age](#), [Oxfam](#), [Reuters](#), [RFA](#), [TNH](#) and [WHO](#)

The Philippines

30 April 2020: In Barangay Santo Nino Norte, Arevalo district, Iloilo city, Iloilo province, a prominent Bayan Muna official and activist, who was leading the party's relief operations and education campaign on the COVID-19 pandemic in poor communities, was shot nine times and killed by four persons on scooters suspected to be police elements. According to the party, the victim had been previously harassed by police. **Sources:** [Daily Guardian](#), [Manila Bulletin](#), [Rappler](#) and [Philstar](#)

KKA Data April 2020

Aid workers reportedly killed, kidnapped and arrested.

	Killed	Kidnapped	Arrested	Total affected	Total KKA incidents
Afghanistan			1	1	1
CAR	2			2	2
DRC	1	12		13	5
Iraq		4		4	1
Mali		5		5	2
Nigeria					
Somalia		5		5	2
South Sudan	7			7	7
Syria	10		1	11	9
Yemen		2		2	1
Other countries	4		10	14	4
Total affected	24	28	12	64	34

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. The classification is based on reported but not independently verified information. The Aid in Danger project makes no independent judgement about the legality of any reported arrest or detention.

KKA Data

We monitor local, national and international news outlets and online databases for threats facing people living and working in dangerous environments. Each month we release the latest available data on aid workers killed, kidnapped and arrested. The data is continually updated and includes new and historic reports identified in open-sources and verified security incidents submitted by Aid in Danger partner agencies. The dataset and quick charts can be accessed via [HDX Insecurity Insight](#). Data collection is ongoing, and data may change as more information is made available. Where the number of aid workers affected is unspecified, one is counted. The countries above have been selected by [Reliefweb](#).

Notes

This document is part of the Aid in Danger project. It is published by Insecurity Insight and funded and supported by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK government through the RIAH project at the Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute at Manchester University, UK. 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.

¹ 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 05 May 2020.

² Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) database attribution policy. Accessed 05 May 2020

