

Aid in Danger

Bi-Weekly News Brief

Safety, security and access incidents affecting aid workers and aid delivery

1-14 July

Africa

Cameroon

09 July 2020: Near Kumba city, Meme department, South West region, a Cameroonian volunteer community health worker employed by MSF was kidnapped and killed. An Ambazonian separatist group fighting government forces in the region first claimed responsibility in a video circulating on social media, before a denial from the political branch of the independence movement in exile. In the video, the aid worker was accused by these fighters of “being a spy in the pay of the government”. **Sources:** [Barrons](#), [Mimi Mefo Info](#), [MSF](#) and [RFI](#)

Central African Republic

13 July 2020: In the Gedze area, Nana-Mambere prefecture, a MINUSCA convoy was ambushed by the Return, Reclamation and Rehabilitation (3R) armed group. A Rwandan Peacekeeper was killed and two others were wounded. Central African authorities and 14 armed groups, which included 3R, signed the ‘Political Agreement for Peace and Reconciliation’, a deal to end the conflict, in February 2019. **Sources:** [GardaWorld](#) and [UN](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

03-04 July 2020: In Ziralo town, Kalehe territory, South Kivu province, armed men looted the Kusisa health centre, reportedly supported by MSF. The perpetrators tied up the guard and stole the hospital’s only respirator. Two civilians, a woman and her child, were injured during the event. **Source:** [Actualité](#)

Mali

06 July 2020: In Ansongo town and cercle, Gao region, two IRC aid workers were kidnapped by two gunmen. Both were released on July 9. **Source:** [Bamadi](#) and [Mali Actu](#)

06 July 2020: In Kidal region, a MINUSMA vehicle hit a landmine, injuring three peacekeepers. **Source:** [Le Figaro](#)

07 July 2020: In Tessalit commune and cercle, Kidal region, 16 projectiles of unidentified origin fell outside the MINUSMA base housing Malian and French personnel, causing no damages or injuries. **Source:** [Le Figaro](#)

Niger

01 July 2020: Update: In Bossey Bangou village, Makalondi rural community, Torodi department, Tillaberi region, nine Nigerien aid workers from the Nigerien NGO Action and Impact Programme in the Sahel (APIS) - a partner of WFP - kidnapped on 24 June were reportedly released on 1 July. **Source:** [RFI](#)

Nigeria

02 July 2020: In Damasak town, Mobbar Local Government Area, Borno state, a UN Humanitarian Air Service helicopter was hit by bullets during an attack on the town by Boko Haram militants, which killed two civilians including a five-year-old child. Several others were injured and the

helicopter sustained serious damage. No aid workers were on board at the time and crew members were all safe. The UN requested a suspension of helicopter flights in the northeast to allow for the security situation to be reassessed. **Sources:** [ABC](#), [HumAngle](#), [Nkiruka Nistoran](#), [The Guardian](#), [TV360](#), [UN OCHA](#)

South Sudan

02 July 2020: In Duk Pael, Duk county, Jonglei state, a male NGO aid worker was reportedly killed in a cattle raid while grazing their cattle. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

13 July 2020: In Juba, an INGO hired taxi driver was ambushed by three men who claimed he was involved in a road safety accident (RSA) the previous day. Upon denial, the perpetrators assaulted the driver with a pistol handle, robbed him, and ordered him to leave the area. The staff member received medical treatment for his injuries. **Source:** [AWSD](#)¹

13 July 2020: In Pajut town, Duk county, Jonglei state, an unidentified armed group attacked an area where INGO staff were providing healthcare and nutrition services to community members, mostly women and children. Upon hearing gunfire, beneficiaries fled in fear and the perpetrators opened fire on them, killing two South Sudanese aid workers and four civilians. **Sources:** [OCHA](#) and [Radio Tamazuj](#)

Sudan

13 July 2020: In Kadugli city, on the road between Merta and Kalba districts, South Kordofan state, an armed man opened fire on a vehicle belonging to UNISFA, killing a peacekeeper on board. The perpetrator escaped. **Source:** [Dabanga](#)

Europe

Italy

09 July 2020: In Porto Empedocle town, Agrigento province, Sicily region, Italian authorities seized the NGO rescue ship Sea-Watch 3 after claiming that an inspection had uncovered "administrative and safety irregularities" that could compromise the vessel, those on board, and those it tries to rescue. The crew of Sea-Watch 3 argued they were being targeted by the Italian authorities for their rescue work, and that they had "followed every protocol and safety rule to the letter". **Source:** [Info Migrants](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Libya

04 July 2020: In the al-Kabayliya area, Ain Zara suburb, Triplo, two male deminers from the LNGO Free Fields Organization were killed whilst clearing mines and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) in residential areas. The pair had been attempting to render an anti-personnel mine safe when it exploded. **Sources:** [Garda World](#) and [Libya Observer](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

10 - 11 July 2020: Russia and China vetoed a UNSC resolution that would have maintained humanitarian aid deliveries to northwest Syria through the Bab al-Salam and Bab al-Hawa crossing points from Turkey for six months. After deliberations between state parties, on 11 July, the UNSC passed a resolution to allow the use of only the Bab al-Hawa crossing point for twelve months, with Russia, China and the Dominican Republic abstaining. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

05 July 2020: In Al-Hasakah city, sub-district, district and governorate, Turkey reportedly cut water supplies to the city and its surrounding areas for the seventh time since Turkish forces and affiliated militias took control of the water station near Ras al-Ain in October 2019, resulting in severe water shortages for inhabitants. On 10 July, Turkish-backed militias re-pumped a limited amount of water from the Alouk water station to 460,000 inhabitants. **Source:** [Kurdistan 24](#)

Yemen

05 July 2020: In Hajjah city and governorate, Houthi forces kidnapped two Yemeni UNICEF aid workers. In response, UNICEF suspended operations. **Source:** [Almashhad al Araby](#)

This bi-weekly 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 Insecurity. 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 we release the latest available data on aid workers [killed, kidnapped or arrested \(KKA\)](#). It is continually updated and includes new and historic reports identified in open-sources and verified security incidents submitted by Aid in Danger partner agencies. Data collection is ongoing, and data may change as more information is made available. Join our [mailing list](#) to receive monthly reports on insecurity affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Follow us on [Twitter and Facebook](#). Visit our website to download previous [News Briefs](#).

Suggested citation: Insecurity Insight. 2020. Aid in Danger Bi-weekly News Brief, 1-14 July 2020. Geneva: Insecurity Insight, Aid in Danger Project. This document is 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.



¹ 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 publicised in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available. Accessed 17 July 2020.