

Aid in Danger

Bi-Weekly News Brief

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

07-20 October
2020

Each month we release the latest available data on aid workers killed, kidnapped, or arrested (KKA). Our KKA 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. Access the data via our [website](#) or on [HDX](#).

Africa

Central African Republic

10 October 2020: In Gbaddengue village, Ombella-M'poko prefecture, a WFP truck carrying food aid from Bangui to Bossangoa was reportedly looted by anti-Balaka militants after it was involved in a road safety accident (RSA). **Source:** [Corbeau News](#)

16 October 2020: In Kabo city, Ouham prefecture, an incident with an armed group controlling the area caused Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to reduce its activities in Kabo for two weeks. **Source:** [Corbeau News](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

15 October 2020: In Lweba village (17km from Baraka town), Fizi territory, South Kivu province, two INGO aid workers, including a Congolese driver, were abducted by armed bandits in a road ambush which occurred at around 5pm. The vehicle in which they were travelling was abandoned and later retrieved by the INGO. **Source:** [La Prunelle](#)

Mali

15 October 2020: About 50km from Kidal town, a MINUSMA vehicle hit a roadside bomb, killing one peacekeeper, and seriously injuring another. The incident occurred around 1.30pm. Unconfirmed reports suggest the convoy was a supply convoy escorted by Egyptian peacekeepers. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. **Source:** [France24](#)

15 October 2020: Near Timbuktu city, Timbuktu region, shots were fired at a UN peacekeeping camp, injuring one peacekeeper. No group has yet claimed responsibility for the attack. **Source:** [GardaWorld](#)

Niger

Correction: We have received information from a regular reader that while the event from the Diffa reported in the last edition of the [Bi-Weekly News Brief](#) did occur, the offices of the Red Cross were not raided as reported by the quoted source. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the reader for sharing this information with us and encourage others to [contact us](#) with new/updated information on incidents impacting aid delivery.

South Sudan

11 October 2020: In Terekeka town and state, a South Sudanese LINGO aid worker was reportedly killed after being caught in crossfire while harvesting crops from his farm. Initial reports suggest the gunfire is attributed to disputing clans in the area. **Source:** [AWS¹](#)

20 October 2020: A joint local statement by the European Union Delegation, all Heads of Mission of France, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and Switzerland expressed concern about increased threats facing aid workers in South Sudan. **Source:** [Gurtong](#)

Reported on 23 October 2020: The U.S. Embassy in Juba received reports that a number of youth groups in Renk town, Eastern Nile state, are involved in the destruction of NGO property. **Source:** [OSAC](#)

Zambia

01 October 2020: In Kaoma district, Western province, two UN Zambian staff members from the Maheba Refugee Settlement, one female and one male, were reportedly injured as their marked vehicle travelled through Chilombu, 11km from Kaoma. Unknown perpetrators threw stones at the vehicle, causing the windshield to break and both staff members to sustain facial injuries which were treated at the hospital. **Source:** [AWS¹](#)

Asia and Pacific

Bangladesh

11 October 2020: In Fakirhat upazila, Khulna division, Bagerhat district, four men (a taxi driver and three construction and agriculture workers) gang-raped a female NGO worker at her house during the night. The rapists filmed their attack in a blackmail attempt and stole money and gold ornaments from her house. Patrol police arrested one of the rapists but three others escaped. **Source:** [Dhaka Tribune](#)

New Zealand

19 October 2020: In Auckland city, four police officers raided the home of a humanitarian worker and that of a fellow member of the NZ-DPRK Society for donating personal protective equipment to North Korea. Police cited a breach of the 2017 UN sanctions against North Korea as a reason for the search. **Source:** [Stuff](#)

Europe

France

14 October 2020: In Paris, police raided the home of the founder of the Muslim NGO BarakaCity, before mishandling him violently and arresting him. No official statement has been released by the authorities, but the Defence Minister has recently accused him of condoning terrorism. **Source:** [AA](#)

Italy

09 October 2020: In Sardinia region, Italian authorities prevented the NGO Sea Eye's rescue ship Alan Kurdi from sailing due to alleged safety irregularities, before detaining it for the second time this year ([05 May 2020](#)). **Source:** [Morning Star](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Syrian Arab Republic

04 October 2020: In the Kafrossin area, north of Idlib, a male Syrian SCD volunteer was injured in a road safety accident (RSA) while on-duty. **Source:** [Syrian Civil Defense](#)

Reported on 10 October: In Idlib governorate, two SCD volunteers were injured by bomb remnants as they were working to extinguish fires in Idlib countryside. **Source:** [Syrian Civil Defense](#)

15 October 2020: In Idlib governorate, two Syrian aid workers and their driver were injured, one of them critically, after the car they were travelling in from a project site in Salqin city was hit by shrapnel resulting from a drone attack on another car travelling in the area. **Source:** [UNOCHA](#)

20 October 2020: In Idlib city and governorate, an aid worker from the LNGO Molham Volunteering Team was arrested by Hay'at Tahrir al Sham as he visited the group's office. There are major concerns he will be tortured and forcibly 'disappeared'. **Source:** [SNHR](#)

Yemen

14 October 2020: US officials confirmed the release of an American 60-year-old female aid worker who has been held captive by the Houthis for three years. She was released alongside another US citizen in a prisoner exchange involving at least 240 rebel fighters. The aid worker was in Yemen helping install water filtration systems. It is unclear how or why she was taken hostage. **Sources:** [Ahrām](#) and [Syracuse](#)

21 October 2020: In Aden governorate, a male Turkish Red Crescent staff member was injured in an armed attack by an unidentified perpetrator(s), requiring surgery. **Sources:** [AA](#) and [Daily Sabah](#)

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 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. Data collection is ongoing, and data may change as more information is made available.

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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 published in this format and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available. Accessed 23 October 2020.