

01 January-09 March 2021 Aid Worker KKA is now available to download on our [website](#) or on [HDX](#). Data from this News Brief will be released as a separate alert on Tuesday 06 April.

Insecurity Insight continuously updates data on aid workers killed, kidnapped or arrested (KKA). Updated data includes new and historic reports identified in open-sources and verified security incidents submitted by Aid in Danger partner agencies.

Past editions: [24 February-09 March](#); [10-23 February](#) and [27 January-09 February](#)

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## Safety, security and access incidents

Incidents of threats and violence affecting aid workers and aid delivery.

### Africa

#### *Central African Republic*

**18 March 2021:** In Kabo town, Ouham prefecture, one INGO national aid worker was reportedly shot and injured by a member of the Coalition of Patriots for Change (CPC). **Source:** [AWSD](#)<sup>1</sup>

**23 March 2021:** In Bakouma sub-prefecture, Mbomou prefecture, heavily armed CPC fighters attacked a nine vehicle OCHA aid convoy as it was conducting an evaluation mission, seizing seven vehicles. After forcing those on board into the remaining two vehicles, the perpetrators demanded that the aid workers return to Bangassou. **Source:** [HumAngle](#)

#### *Ethiopia*

**23 March 2021:** On the road between Mekele and Adigrat cities, Tigray region, an INGO Ethiopian driver was beaten with the back of a gun by Ethiopian Armed Forces who threatened to kill him after stopping the clearly marked INGO car he was travelling in. The driver along with his colleagues, had earlier witnessed the extrajudicial killing of at least four men who were dragged off public buses and executed by soldiers after they were separated from women travelling on the bus who were allowed to walk away. **Source:** [MSF](#)

**Vigil InSight Situation Report:** Allegations of [widespread sexual violence](#) and other violence against civilians highlight still precarious access situation in Tigray with elections looming and violence continuing. This [document provides an analysis](#) of the current situation in the Tigray region of Ethiopia and the implications for aid agencies working in the area.

#### *Mozambique*

**17 March 2021:** In Palma city, Cabo Delgado province, beneficiaries were injured during a food distribution when Mozambican Defense and Security Forces (FDS) members opened fire on the crowd. The beneficiaries claimed the officers distributing food - who were allocated by the government in partnership with WFP - were prioritising their families and acquaintances, while demanding payment for medical supplies. The food distribution was suspended. **Sources:** [Carta de Mozambique](#) and [Club of Mozambique](#)

**Vigil InSight Alert: Palma:** Reports of gunfire in the vicinity of Palma town will see increasing numbers of IDPs, and likely further targeting of aid and commercial projects. [Analysis, prediction, and mitigation measures.](#)

## **Nigeria**

**01-02 March 2021:** In Dikwa town, Borno state, ISWAP militants torched a UN humanitarian hub, the Dikwa Hospital and a military base as part of a wider assault in the area. At least six civilians died in crossfire. **Source:** [AFP](#)

**14 March 2021:** In Damasak Mobbar LGA, Yobe state, an aid worker was killed by a stray bullet amid fighting between the Nigerian Army and ISWAP fighters. **Source:** [Eons Intelligence](#)

## **South Sudan**

**14 March 2021:** In Thonoum Payam, Unity state, a South Sudanese NGO aid worker was shot and injured at a public location by an unidentified individual over a personal dispute. **Source:** [AWS<sup>1</sup>](#)

**14 March 2021:** In Gumuruk county, Boma state, a South Sudanese NGO aid worker was shot and injured when his commercial vehicle was ambushed by gunmen as he returned to his duty station. **Source:** [AWS<sup>1</sup>](#)

**15 March 2021: Update:** In Renk county, Upper Nile state, aid organisations resumed operations following a hiatus of more than five months since some [NGO facilities were set ablaze by youths](#) demanding jobs. **Source:** [Radio Tamazu](#)

## **Sudan**

**13 March 2021:** In Manashawi area, Mershing locality, South Darfur state, unidentified perpetrators vandalised and looted the base of the UNAMID. **Source:** [Dabanga Sudan](#)

# **Asia**

## **Bangladesh**

**22 March 2021:** In Ukhia upazila, Cox's Bazar district, Chittagong division, a massive fire totally or partially destroyed 10,000 shelters within five settlements at the Balukhali camp, leaving an estimated 45,000 Rohingya households homeless. At least 15 people died, including two children aged six and nine, 560 were injured, and 400 remain missing. Over 100 shops, health centres, distribution points, and an NGO facility were also destroyed. Barbed wire fencing on the outer boundary of the camp, controversially erected by local authorities earlier in the year, had reportedly hampered rescue efforts and caused injuries. **Sources:** [Al Jazeera](#), [Radio Free Asia I](#), [Radio Free Asia II](#), [New Age I](#), [New Age II](#), [The New Arab I](#) and [The New Arab II](#)

## **Myanmar**

**03 March 2021:** In Yangon and Monywa cities, Yangon and Sagaing regions respectively, police beat up, shot and detained aid volunteers and health workers who were helping injured protesters amid demonstrations against the 01 February coup d'état. **Source:** [RFA](#)

**As reported on 05 March 2021:** In Rakhine state, on various occasions, unidentified perpetrators injured and arrested Myanmar Red Cross volunteers as they provided first aid to the wounded. Red Cross ambulances have also been damaged. **Source:** [IFRC](#)

**08-15 March 2021:** Myanmar authorities froze the bank accounts belonging to the local branch of the Open Society Foundations over accusations that it had directed funds to the civil disobedience campaign opposing the 01 February coup d'état. A finance officer has been detained and 11 more have an arrest warrant issued against them. **Source:** [Macau News Agency](#)

# **Europe**

## **Italy**

**01 March 2021:** In Trapani city and province, Sicily region, investigators formally closed an inquiry that lasted for almost four years and charged more than 20 people who worked on the humanitarian vessels *Iuventa*, run by the German NGO *Jugend Rettet*, *Save the Children*-operated *Vos Hestia*, and MSF-run *Vos Prudence*, with crimes carrying sentences of up to ten years over accusations that rescuers arranged a direct handover of migrants from smuggler boats, and returned boats to be reused. **Source:** [The Guardian](#)

## **Russian Federation**

**11 March 2021: Update:** In Moscow, the Zamoskvoretsky District Court rejected a request from Nasilyu.net, a leading NGO that addresses domestic violence and LGBT rights, to annul a Ministry of Justice decision to add the NGO to its list of organisations working as “foreign agents”. The NGO had been placed on the list on the basis that it had reportedly received foreign funding and “engaged in political activity”. **Source:** [RFE RL](#)

## **Middle East and North Africa**

### **Islamic Republic of Iran**

**01-07 March 2021:** In Tehran, Branch 55 of the International Relations Court at the Shahid Beheshti Judicial Complex upheld an Interior Ministry assessment and condemned the anti-poverty NGO Imam Ali’s Popular Student Relief Society for its position on Islamic rulings and statements allegedly made against Iran, leading to its dissolution. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

### **Syrian Arab Republic**

**Around 09 March 2021:** In Haymar village, Aleppo governorate, gunmen pretending to be aid workers distributing medical masks killed a married couple for alleged witchcraft and sorcery. **Source:** [SOHR](#)

**20 March 2021:** In Al-Bab city, Aleppo governorate, a bomb exploded near the LNGO Al Ameen’s warehouse killing three people and injuring six others, including two Al Ameen aid workers. **Source:** [Twitter](#)

**21 March 2021:** In Atarib town, sub-district and district, Aleppo governorate, Russian military or Syrian Government rockets struck the SAMS-supported Al Atareb Surgical Hospital resulting in the deaths of seven patients and visitors, including children, and the injury of at least 15 more, including five medical staff. The hospital sustained major damage - particularly to its orthopedic and emergency clinics - and is now out of service. The hospital’s coordinates had previously been shared with UN-OCHA and the country’s warring parties as part of a “deconfliction mechanism” to certify that it was a humanitarian facility. **Sources:** [OCHA](#), [SAMS](#) and [The New Arab](#)

**22 March 2021:** Near the Bab al-Hawa border crossing, Idlib governorate, Russian warplanes hit and set ablaze a warehouse supported by the INGO CARE. The fire destroyed relief items for nearly 25,000 people in dire need of humanitarian assistance in northwest Syria. A second explosion in a truck parking lot led to a new, even larger fire, whereby thousands of relief supplies were burnt and destroyed. **Sources:** [CARE International](#) and [The New Arab](#)

### **Yemen**

**12 March 2021:** In Houthi-controlled areas, northern Yemen, the US Government announced a resumption of aid to fight a looming famine. The resumed support would come with new measures to ensure that Houthi forces do not interfere with the delivery of aid to intended beneficiaries. **Source:** [The New Arab](#)

This Bi-Monthly 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. This document is made possible by the generous support of the American people through the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The contents are the responsibility of Insecurity Insight and do not necessarily reflect the views of USAID, the U.S. Government, or Save the Children Federation, Inc.

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<sup>1</sup> 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 24 March 2021.