

The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

February
2016

Security Incidents

Africa

Libya

7 February 2016: Airstrikes damaged the kidney section of Al Wahda Hospital in the city of Derna, Eastern Libya. Source: [Human Rights Watch](#).

Mali

5 February 2016: The UN peacekeeping base in the northern city of Timbuktu was attacked by unknown assailants, who killed an unspecified number of people. Source: [Reuters Africa](#).

12 February 2016: The UN peacekeeping base in the town of Kidal, Northern Mali, was the target of a mortar attack and shooting by suspected Islamist militants, causing the death of three Guinean blue helmets and the injury of 30. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the assault. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#) and [Reuters](#).

Mozambique

17 February 2016: A FAO vehicle was ambushed in the capital Maputo, possibly by the guerrilla movement RENAMO. The reason behind this attack remains unclear. The agency immediately imposed travel restrictions within the central provinces of Sofala, Manica, Tete and Zambezia on its staff. Source: [AllAfrica](#).

Nigeria

9 February 2016: Two female suicide bombers detonated themselves inside a camp for the internally displaced in the northeast town of Dikwa, Borno State, injuring 78 people and killing 60. Source: [Reuters](#).

Somalia

1 February 2016: Kenya authorities prevented three World Food Programme (WFP)-contracted humanitarian aid trucks in Mandera County from crossing the border into Somalia, citing fears that the aid supplies could fall into the hands of al Shabaab. Source: [Reuters](#).

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.

All decisions made, on the basis of, or with consideration to, such information remains the responsibility of their respective organisations.

Editorial team:
Christina Wille
Insecurity Insight

Larissa Fast
Insecurity Insight

Ruth Quinn
European Interagency
Security Forum (EISF)

Research team:
James Naudi
Insecurity Insight

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02 February 2016: A local Somali aid worker escaped unhurt after an improvised explosive device fitted to his car detonated near the headquarters of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Xamar Jabjab District, Somalia's capital Mogadishu. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the bombing. Sources: [AllAfrica](#) and [Goobjoog News](#).

South Sudan

02 February 2016: A violent fight broke out during a WFP and the German Agro Action food-registration-and-distribution session in the town of Nyal, Unity State after crowd controllers beat civilians. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#).

17 February 2016: Conflict broke out at a UN-administered protection-of-civilians site in the northeast town of Malakal, Upper Nile State. The violence started between Dinka and Shilluk youth groups and later involved UN peacekeepers and men in Sudan People's Liberation Army uniforms. Half of the compound was torched, and two health centres were destroyed. Two South Sudanese Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) employees were among 18 killed. Source: [CNN](#), [IRIN](#), [MSF International](#), [Reuters Africa](#), [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#), [The Guardian](#), [UNOCHA South Sudan on Twitter](#) and [Yahoo News](#).

23 – 24 February 2016: A Médecins sans Frontières-operated medical compound in the eastern town of Pibor, Jonglei State, was damaged and looted amid fighting. Health workers were forced to seek sanctuary in a nearby compound of the UN Mission in South Sudan. Sources: [MSF International](#), [News24](#) and [Reuters](#).

Asia

Afghanistan

16 February 2016: Five local employees of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were abducted by unidentified gunmen whilst on their way to work in the district of Waqghaz, Ghazni Province. The ICRC temporarily halted its activities in the region. The victims were released unharmed on 19 February 2016. Sources: [ICRC](#), [Khaama Press I](#), [Khaama Press II](#), [The New York Times](#) and [Tolo News](#).

17 February 2016: A health clinic run by the Swedish Committee for Afghanistan in the village of Tangi Saidan, Day Mirdad District, Wardak Province, was raided by the Afghan National Forces. One news source claimed that the Afghan forces were possibly accompanied by NATO advisers. All hospital staff members were handcuffed. Three insurgent suspects were taken away and summarily executed. Sources: [Reuters](#), [The New York Times](#) and [UN News Centre](#).

22 February 2016: A suicide bomber blew himself up near the entrance of a health centre in the district of Sia Gird, Parwan Province, killing seven people and wounding seven others. The Afghan National Forces were the target of the attack. Source: [UN News Centre](#).

Philippines

17 February 2016: A grenade was thrown at an NGO office in Cotabato City, Mindanao Island. No staff injuries were reported. Source: [Inquirer](#).

Europe

France

25 February 2016: A French court approved a government plan to dismantle the southern part of the Jungle Refugee Camp in the port town of Calais, Northern France. At least one thousand foreign inhabitants have been ordered to leave. Protesters set shacks on fire as demolition works began on 29 February 2016. Police prevented volunteers from entering the site that day. Sources: [BBC](#) and [Reuters](#).

Greece

05 February 2016: Police fired teargas to prevent a small group of protesters from entering a construction site in the Greek island of Kos, where five European Union-assisted reception centres for migrants are being built. Source: [Reuters](#).

Russia

11 February 2016: The Supreme Court of the Republic of Tatarstan ordered the closure and liquidation of Agora, a human rights organisation operating across Russia, on the basis of a lawsuit by the Ministry of Justice. Source: [Bellona](#).

United Kingdom

10 February 2016: A British man was handed a six-year prison term by the central criminal court in London after he was found guilty of diverting funds, which he raised through Twitter in support of humanitarian aid, into his personal bank account for terrorism financing purposes. Source: [Thomas Reuters Foundation](#).

Middle-East

Egypt

17 February 2016: The Egyptian authorities have ordered the closure of the Nadeem Centre for the Rehabilitation of Victims of Violence, a prominent non-governmental organisation (NGO) that documents alleged human rights abuses. The authorities say that the centre has committed unspecified violations. Sources: [Reuters](#) and [VOA](#).

Iraq

16 February 2016 - Update: The UN stated that its representative in Diyala Province, who went missing in April 2015 and was found dead seven months later, had been murdered by militias. Source: [VOA](#).

Occupied Palestinian Territories

7 February 2016: Access to the ICRC office in the Gaza Strip was disrupted amid violent protests in solidarity with a Palestinian journalist detained by Israel. The ICRC temporarily closed the office because protesters tried to forcefully enter the building. Sources: [Big Story](#), [Mamadou Sow](#) and [Times of Israel](#).

11 February 2016: A Palestinian senior official working for the World Health Organisation in the Gaza Strip was prevented from leaving the territory by Hamas. Source: [Times of Israel](#).

Pakistan

7 February 2016: Three anti-polio campaigners, who had gone missing two weeks earlier, were found dead in the district of Ghaziabad, Kunar Province. Nobody has claimed responsibility for their deaths. Sources: [Khaama Press](#) and [RFE/RL](#).

17 February 2016: A local health worker was shot and wounded by two unidentified motorcycle-borne gunmen in the northeast city of Lahore, Punjab Province, during the country-wide anti polio campaign. Sources: [Reuters I](#) and [Reuters II](#).

Syrian Arab Republic

01 - 07 February 2016: During the first week of February, an MSF-run hospital in the northern village of Tall Maskan, Aleppo Governorate, was among three hospitals bombed. Sources: [Jason Cone on Twitter](#) and [MSF Ireland on Twitter](#).

05 February 2016: Airstrikes hit the MSF-supported hospital in the town of Tafas near the Syria-Jordan border, Daraa Governorate, killing three people and wounding six, including a nurse. The medical facility was partially damaged and the much relied-upon ambulance service damaged to the extent that it cannot be used. Sources: [MSF Canada on Twitter](#), [MSF UK](#), [MSF USA](#) and [Syria Direct](#).

08 February 2016: The local activist group Kesh Malek was forced to temporarily close down its seven unofficial schools across the northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, due to intensified aerial bombardments Source: [Reuters](#).

09 February 2016: An airstrike damaged a hospital, killed two people and injured dozens, including medical staff in the town of Saida, Daraa Governorate. Source: [Syria Direct](#).

10 February 2016: Militants attacked the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) vehicles carrying humanitarian aid to an area near the Syrian capital, Damascus. Source: [Shahernama.com](#).

11 February 2016: Four field hospitals in the eastern countryside of Daraa Governorate currently do not provide any services due to repeated Syrian and Russian bombings. Source: [Syria Direct](#).

15 February 2016: Airstrikes and rocket artillery damaged seven hospitals in separate rebel-held towns across Syria; three in Idlib, two in Aleppo, and another two in Daraa. Reports indicate that some of the health facilities affected were either supported or run by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), MSF, UNICEF and World Vision. The passage below describes some of these incidents briefly. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [BuzzFeed](#), [IRC](#), [MSF UK I](#), [MSF UK II](#), [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#), [Reuters III](#), [The New York Times I](#), [The New York Times II](#), [UNICEF](#) and [World Vision](#).

In the town of Azaz, Aleppo Governorate, a children's hospital supported by UNICEF and World Vision was hit by a double-tap strike, presumably by Russian aircrafts, and rendered completely dysfunctional. Scores of people were injured, including 12 medical staff, and 14 killed. Two schools, one of which was sheltering IDPs, were also struck, and a highway previously used for the transportation of humanitarian aid has been destroyed. Rockets also hit a second hospital in the same city, run by UNICEF, but no further information could be identified. The use of explosive weapons on a MSF supported health facility in the northern town of Maarat al-Numaanm, Idlib Governorate, killed 25 people, including nine physicians, a caretaker and a hospital guard. The National Hospital on the other side of the town, which received many of the wounded from the aforementioned attack, was hit an hour later.

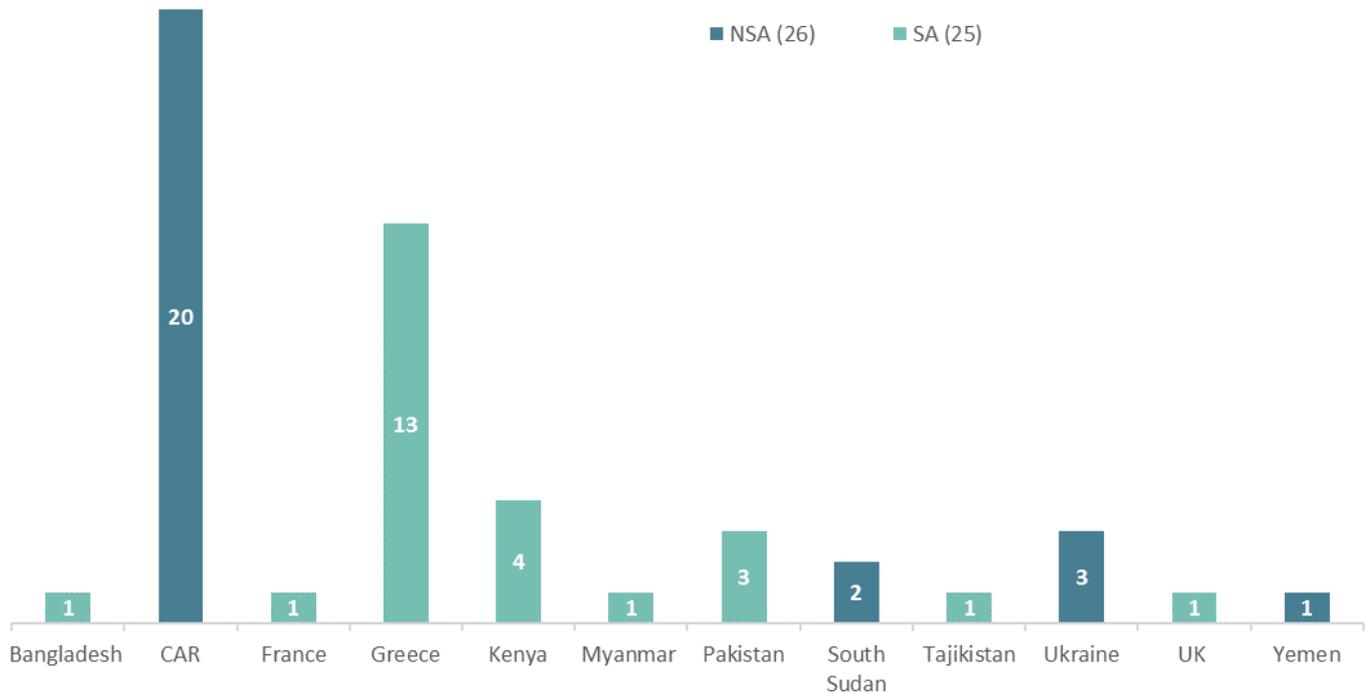
18 February 2016: An MSF-supported hospital in Eastern Ghouta, east of Damascus, was struck by a barrel bomb that was dropped from a government helicopter. Source: [The New York Times](#).

Yemen

11 February 2016: The Embassy of Saudi Arabia in London warned the UN and international aid groups to remove their employees from areas near rebel military installations in Yemen so as to facilitate bombings. Sources: [IPS News Agency](#) and [Reuters](#).

Aid Security Monthly Incident Statistics

Total number of aid workers detained, arrested or imprisoned, by country as reported in open sources (March 2015 – February 2016)



Security-related access restraints

Africa

Chad

16 February 2016: Threats from Boko Haram and the lack of adequate roads continue to hinder the delivery of relief assistance to displaced people in the border town of Baga Sola, north of Lake Chad. Source: [Thomas Reuters Foundation](#).

Libya

23 February 2016: Libya could run out of medical supplies by March this year. Delivering pharmaceuticals remain a difficult task due to political unrest. The lives of one million people could be affected as a result. Sources: [Reuters](#) and [Russia Today](#).

24 February 2016: Fighting between warring factions and the threats of extortion, abduction, and forced labour are impeding access to healthcare for the vulnerable in Libya, including third country nationals. Source: [Thomas Reuters Foundation](#).

Nigeria

09 February 2016: It was reported that relocations for internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been stalled owing to recurring violence in the country. Source: [ACAPS on Twitter](#).

South Sudan

11 February 2016: At a time when four million people in the world's youngest nation rely on humanitarian assistance, the President of South Sudan signed into law a bill that prohibits aid agencies from hiring more than 20 percent of their staff from abroad, including managers. Experts describe this obligation as onerous because many locals are not adequately qualified or experienced to effectively carry out managerial functions. Additionally, making false statements about this legislation is punishable by a prison term and a fine. Sources: [Agence France-Presse](#), [Deutsche Welle](#), [Leadership](#), [Mission Network News](#) and [Sudan Tribune](#).

Middle-East

Israel

08 February 2016: The Israeli Parliament passed the first reading of a divisive bill targeting left-wing organisations campaigning in defence of Palestinian rights. The proposed law compels NGOs, who receive more than half of their funding from foreign governments, to declare their finances online and in official reports. Sources: [Al Jazeera](#), [The Guardian](#) and [Yahoo News](#).

Syrian Arab Republic

02 February 2016: A humanitarian convoy, a joint operation by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) and the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), reached the buffer zone around the town of Al Mleiha, near Syria's capital Damascus. The town had been cut off from aid for the past three years. Source: [UNHCR](#).

03 February 2016: The persistent use of starvation sieges as a weapon of war by all parties to the conflict continue to entirely or severely restrict humanitarian access into several towns and villages across Syria. Source: [The Guardian](#).

04 February 2016: Air strikes cut off the humanitarian logistics corridor between Turkey and the northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, as villages were targeted along the route. Sources: [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#), [Reuters III](#), [Reuters IV](#) and [Thomas Reuters Foundation](#).

09 February 2016: The UN warned that humanitarian access into Aleppo may be cut off if government forces encircle rebel-held areas within the city. Source: [Reuters](#).

11 February 2016: The UN reported that it had been unable to get approval to deliver relief assistance into the northern rural areas of Homs Governorate, which have been the target of airstrikes and shelling, since October last year. Source: [Reuters](#).

17 February 2016: The SARC and the UN delivered truckloads of relief assistance into three government-besieged towns near Syria's capital Damascus, namely al-Zabadani, Madaya and Muadamiyat al-Sham. Aid was also delivered into two villages in Idlib Province surrounded by rebels (al-Foua and Kefraya), under a deal backed by the UN. Sources: [BBC](#) and [Reuters](#).

24 February 2016: Western anti-terrorism legislation and bureaucratic licensing requirements are preventing aid agencies from reaching vulnerable groups in Syria, particularly in areas under the control of extremist groups, such as the Islamic State. Source: [Thomas Reuters Foundation](#).

24 February 2016: SARC was given permission to enter the rebel-held towns of Kafr Batna and Moadamiyeh, on the outskirts of Damascus. Sources: [Reuters](#) and [Yahoo News](#).

24 February 2016: WFP organised an air drop of food aid for the town of Deir ez-Zor, besieged by the Islamic State. But the operation faced technical difficulties and failed to yield the desired results. Sources: [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#) and [VICE News](#).

Yemen

09 February 2016: Houthi rebels continue to deliberately deprive residents in the southwest city of Taiz, Taiz Governorate, from humanitarian supplies necessary for their survival. Source: [Amnesty International](#).

16 February 2016: A convoy of trucks from the UNHCR managed to enter the war-ravaged capital of Taiz Governorate, delivering desperately needed supplies to a thousand families who had been cut off by fighting for months. Source: [Reuters](#).

