

The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

April
2016

Security Incidents

Africa

Central African Republic

17 April 2016: A Moroccan peacekeeper from the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) died of gunshot wounds after he was fired upon by unknown assailants during a patrol in the southeast town of Rafai, Mbomou Prefecture. The insurgent group Lord's Resistance Army is suspected of being behind this assault. Sources: [Daily Sabah](#), [Jeune Afrique](#) and [UN](#).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

17 April 2016: Five charity workers from Mercy Corps were abducted from their car by unspecified assailants whilst performing duties in the eastern town of Rutshuru, North Kivu Province. The victims were released on 21 April 2016. Source: [Radio Okapi](#).

Ethiopia

25 April 2016: Protesters broke into the buildings of the United Nations (UN) and Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) and destroyed one of their vehicles amid violent clashes between two rival ethnic groups in the western city of Gambella. The violence had sparked after a car belonging to a non-governmental organisation (NGO) ran over and killed two children from the Nuer ethnic group in a camp for South Sudanese refugees. Sources: [AFP](#) and [Horn Affairs](#).

Liberia

04 April 2016: The executive director of a local NGO was shot and wounded in his private home when a group of 50 armed robbers attacked his community and several others in the city of Paynesville, east of Liberia's capital Monrovia. Source: [The New Dawn Liberia](#).

Mali

12 April 2016: In the eastern town of Ansongo, Gao Region, a camp of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) was shelled. The incident did not cause any casualties. Source: [L'Indicateur du Renouveau](#).

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

Suggested citation: Insecurity Insight. 2016. The Aid Security Monthly News Brief, April 2016. Geneva: Insecurity Insight, Aid in Danger Project.

12 April 2016: Three French peacekeepers from Operation Barkhane were killed as their armoured car, which was leading a 60-vehicle convoy, ran over a landmine whilst *en route* to the northern town of Tessalit, Kidal Region. Source: [AFP](#).

16 April 2016: Four international staffers from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) were kidnapped by the al Qaeda-linked jihadist group Ansar Dine from the northeast village of Abeibara, Kidal Region. One victim was released two days later, and the others on 22 April 2016 without condition. Sources: [Africa News](#), [Associated Press](#), [Juene Afrique](#) and [Peter Maurer](#).

19 April 2016: In the northern town of Kidal, Kidal Region, protesters looted and set fire to the MINUSMA airfield buildings, and severely damaged the airstrip. Consequently, humanitarian organisations have been unable to deliver vital supplies to the north of the country by air. Source: [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#).

Nigeria

20 April 2016: Two female suicide bombers detonated themselves inside a camp for people displaced by the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast town of Banki, Borno State, injuring 12 people and killing at least eight others. Source: [Nigerian Reporter](#).

Somalia

17 April 2016: In the district of Dharkenley, Somalia's capital Mogadishu, a woman working as a cleaner at the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) was shot to death by unidentified motorcycle-borne gunmen whilst on her way to work. Her sister sustained wounds as a result of the shooting, as well. The militant group al Shabaab is suspected of being behind this assault. Source: [Shabelle News](#).

South Sudan

12 April 2016: Two local employees of the Danish Demining Group were shot dead when gunmen ambushed their car whilst *en route* from their base in the southwest city of Yei, Central Equatoria State, to their work location. No information about the identity of the assailants and their motivation is available. Sources: [Danish Refugee Council](#) and [Humanosphere](#).

Sudan

14 April 2016: An assistant doctor was abducted by unspecified gunmen from a health clinic in the state capital, Al-Fashir, North Darfur State. To date, the whereabouts of the victim remain unknown. No further and specific information is available. Source: [Dabanga](#).

Asia

Afghanistan

01 April 2016: A team of 15 de-miners from HALO Trust were kidnapped by unidentified gunmen in the western district of Koshan, Herat Province. The victims were released a day later. Nobody has so far claimed responsibility for their abduction. Sources: [Khaama Press](#) and [VOA News](#).

18 April 2016: Threats and intimidation against medical workers in the country have dramatically increased, the UN declared. Source: [Reuters](#).

28 April 2016: A foreign project worker was kidnapped by unidentified gunmen from the building of DACAAR, a consortium of three Danish charity groups, in the eastern city of Jalalabad, Nangarhar

Province. To date, her current whereabouts remain unknown. Source: [Tolo News](#).

Bangladesh

25 April 2016: The editor of the country's first and only gay rights magazine Roopbaan was hacked to death by unidentified assailants at his home in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka. He was also a local staff member of United States Agency for International Development (USAID). His friend was killed, too. The al Qaeda-linked insurgent group Ansar al-Islam has claimed responsibility for their death. Sources: [BBC](#), [The Daily Star I](#), [The Daily Star II](#), and [The Guardian](#).

Pakistan

07 April 2016: In the southwest province of Balochistan, police beat up members of the Young Doctors Association who were protesting against the lack of facilities at the Bolan Medical College Hospital and other state-run hospitals, leading to the injury of eight. The group subsequently closed down all outpatient departments across the region to boycott an ongoing polio campaign. Sources: [Dawn](#) and [Jamal Tarakai](#).

20 April 2016: In the northwest town of Orangi, Karachi City, Sindh Province, an anti-polio campaign was suspended after gunmen attacked the police team guarding health workers administering polio vaccinations. This incident led to the death of seven police officers. The militant group Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan has claimed responsibility for this attack. Sources: [Reuters](#), [Samaa](#) and [Dawn](#).

Europe

Greece

10 April 2016: In the northern refugee camp of Idomeni, an MSF-run clinic was engulfed in tear gas amid violent clashes between the FYROM police and refugees. Source: [MSF](#).

Ukraine

07 April 2016: A member of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine was threatened at gunpoint by a rebel at a checkpoint in an unspecified location. Source: [France 24](#).

13 April 2016: A UN employee was captured by pro-Russian rebels in the eastern city of Donetsk, Donetsk Oblast. No information about the circumstances surrounding this incident is available. Sources: [France 24](#).

Middle-East

Syrian Arab Republic

07 April 2016: Snipers gunned down the last remaining doctor in the southwest government-besieged town of Al Zabadani, Rif Dimashq Governorate. The victim was killed after he treated a patient. Source: [Independent](#).

13 April 2016: A senior health official who had been working in a hospital run by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) was the target of what appears to be an assassination attack when his car was struck by a missile in the west-central city of Hama, Hama Governorate. Sources: [Annie Sparrow](#), [SAMS USA](#) and [Zaher Sahloul](#).

20 April 2016: Rebel forces attacked a Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) convoy when leaving the areas of Madaya and Al Zabadani, Rural Damascus, leading to no casualties. Sources: [Reuters](#) and [SARC](#).

26 April 2016: Five rescue workers from the Syria Civil Defence, also known as The White Helmets, were

killed when four government airstrikes and a ground-to-ground missile hit their headquarters in the northwest town of Al Atarib, Aleppo Governorate. Source: [The New York Times](#).

27 April 2016: In the northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, three employees of Relief International lost their lives in unspecified circumstances. Source: [Relief International](#).

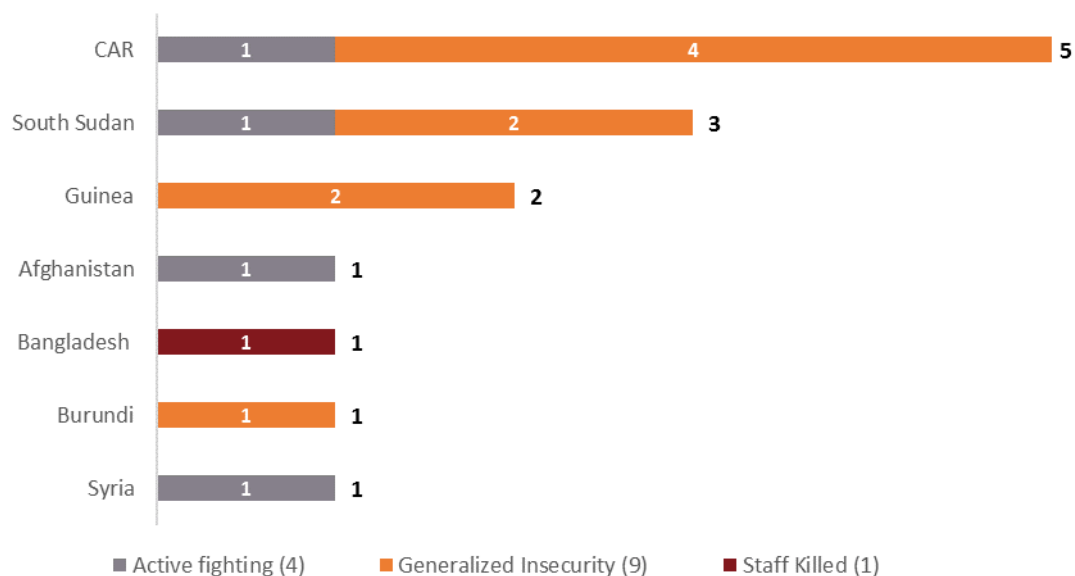
27 April 2016: A series of direct government airstrikes hit and destroyed the MSF and ICRC-supported Al Quds Hospital in the northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, killing at least three doctors. Sources: [BBC](#), [ICRC](#), [Julian Ropcke](#), [Mail Online](#), [MSF](#), [MSF Ireland](#), [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#), [SAMS](#), [The Washington Post](#) and [The White Helmets](#).

29 April 2016: The Canada-run Al Marjeh Primary Health Care Centre in the northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, was destroyed after it was hit by airstrikes. The building had recently been evacuated, and therefore, there was nobody inside it when the bombing happened. Source: [Reuters Canada](#).

12-Month Trend Reporting (April 2015-March 2016)

Countries where aid agencies reported temporary restriction of staff movement, relocation or evacuation of staff in open sources, by security context which triggered the measures.

Between April 2015 and March 2016, the media reported 14 times contexts or circumstances where humanitarian agencies introduced measures to protect staff. Staff protection measures also affect the delivery of aid but usually not to the same extent as temporary project closure or suspension. Staff protection measures were publicly reported from seven countries. The events shown here are clearly only a fraction of all events where agencies restrict staff presence and by no means representative. They highlight, however, the countries and contexts where humanitarian staff protection measures are publicly discussed. There are probably manifold reasons why humanitarian agencies are prepared to discuss such measures in open sources or why they may want to keep such policies confidential.



Security-related access restraints

Africa

Central African Republic

14 April 2016: Humanitarian aid could not be delivered to the central town of Bambari, Ouaka Prefecture, as a result of a peaceful anti-government demonstration held by Muslim community members. Source: [RJDH](#).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

07 April 2016: The Norwegian Refugee Council has been unable to reach 30 thousand internally displaced people in the eastern province of North Kivu as violence there persists. Source: [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#).

15 April 2016: MSF restarted its humanitarian activities in Mweso, Masisi Territory, North Kivu Province, after a four months' interruption following an attack on staff members. Source: [MSF](#) and [Wassy Kambale](#).

16 April 2016: Several unspecified aid groups suspended their operations in Mpati, Masisi Territory, North Kivu Province, due to fighting. Source: [ACAPS](#).

Mali

21 April 2016: The ICRC suspended operations following the kidnapping of its staff. The kidnapping of ICRC staff by the al Qaeda-linked jihadist group Ansar Dine and damage to an airstrip by violent protesters in northern Mali have hindered humanitarian operations in a region which has been slowly stabilising. [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#).

21 April 2016: Landmines, banditry, as well as attacks on charity workers and their vehicles continue to hamper the delivery of humanitarian relief to several villages in the northern regions of Mali. Source: [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#).

South Sudan

18 April 2016: The United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) has imposed movement restrictions upon its personnel in the country's capital Juba ahead of the scheduled arrival of the South Sudanese politician Riek Machar. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#).

19 April 2016: Humanitarian air flights were cancelled due to Riek Machar visiting the country's capital Juba. They were later resumed because he did not show up. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#).

Asia

Afghanistan

18 April 2016: Violence in the country continues to persist, preventing children from accessing needed health care, the UN said. Source: [Reuters](#).

China

28 April 2016: The Parliament of China passed a new law requiring foreign aid groups to register with and seek approval from the Public Security Ministry, and allowing the police to monitor all aspects of their operations, including financing, at any time. Source: [The New York Times](#).

Myanmar

27 April 2016: In the southern city of Yangon, Rakhine State, the authorities have imposed new travel restrictions on the minority group Rohingya, and consequently impeded their access to healthcare services. Source: [The Irrawaddy](#).

Middle-East

State of Palestine

28 April 2016: Reconstruction aid and cash assistance for house repairs to hundreds of displaced families have been suspended due to shortage in construction material following an Israel imposed ban on the importation of cement to the territory of Gaza. Source: [The Jordan Times](#).

Syrian Arab Republic

07 April 2016: Humanitarian convoys were unable to reach the government-besieged areas of Ar Rastan, Al-Tall, Bloudan and Kafr Batna because the final clearance letter was not received by the agreed date. Meanwhile, armed opposition groups prevented the SARC from entering the northwest city of Azaz, Aleppo Governorate. Source: [UN](#).

07 April 2016: The areas of Darayya, Douma and Eastern Ghouta in the suburbs of Syria's capital Damascus remain entirely cut off from aid. Sources: [Independent](#) and [VOA News](#).

21 April 2016: The Red Cross and Red Crescent delivered food and medical aid to the western town of Ar Rastan, Homs Governorate, where supplies have not been able to enter for months. Source: [Reuters](#).

26 April 2016: The Syrian Government has failed to respond to countless requests by the UN for permission to deliver food and medical supplies to the besieged area of Darayya, Suburban Damascus, where the situation is described as extremely dire. Source: [Reuters](#).

28 April 2016: Renewed and intensified government airstrikes and rebel shelling in the northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, has jeopardised the provision of humanitarian aid to millions of people. Source: [Reuters](#).

The Americas

Panama

11 April 2016: The latest release of the Panama Papers reveal how the ICRC had been falsely listed as a fictitious beneficiary by a local law firm, thus exposing the reputation of the said charity group to risk. Source: [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#).

United States of America (USA)

18 April 2016: The head of the volunteer group Syria Civil Defence was refused entry to the USA, where he was set to attend a gathering of humanitarian, development and sustainability professionals in the country's capital Washington. Source: [InterAction](#).

