

The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

June
2016

Security Incidents

Africa

Central African Republic

17 June 2016: On the road between the central cities of Sibut, Kémo Prefecture, and Grimari, Ouaka Prefecture, a Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) humanitarian convoy carrying medicine and fuel came under fire when armed assailants attacked it whilst en route from the capital Bangui to the south-eastern city of Bangassou, Mbomou Prefecture. This incident led to the death of a local driver. Sources: [Reuters Africa](#) and [UN News Centre](#).

24 June 2016: An INGO staff member was killed in a hotel in Kaga Bandoro, Nana-Grébizi. Source: [AWSD](#).

Democratic Republic of the Congo

16 June 2016: Members of a mixed Kobo-Nande militia tried to prevent aid officials from handing out food to Hutu civilians in a camp for the internally displaced in the town of Buleusa, North Kivu Province. South African troops from the Force Intervention Brigade of the United Nations (UN) immediately intervened, and killed seven of the perpetrators. Source: [Reuters](#).

3 June 2016: Armed gunmen ambushed two INGO vehicles in Kivu and robbed the passengers at gunpoint. The driver was injured and had to be treated at a hospital. Source: [AWSD](#).

Kenya

23 June 2016: One member of the International Justice Mission was abducted along with an agency client and taxi driver in Nairobi and their bodies were found on 1 July. Source: [IJM](#).

Mali

27 June 2016: After 22 months of absence, the leader of the militant group Ansar Dine appeared on a video, passed on to the news agency Agence France-Presse (AFP) in Mali's capital Bamako, reiterating threats against France's capital Paris and the UN. Source: [aBamako](#).

This monthly digest comprises threats and incidents of violence affecting the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It is prepared by Insecurity Insight from information available from open sources.

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

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Somalia

4 June 2016: Two INGO staff members were stabbed with a knife by a civilian over a land dispute. Source: [AWSD](#).

25 June 2016: A doctor from the charity group Concern Worldwide succumbed to injuries that he sustained from a hotel bombing in Somalia's capital Mogadishu. Source: [Concern Worldwide](#).

South Sudan

7 June 2016: Armed men entered an INGO compound in Central Equatoria through a perimeter fence and tricked the staff into opening the door. The men were armed with machetes and assaulted the staff and guards, some of which had to be treated at the hospital. Source: [AWSD](#).

Sudan

11 June 2016: Three UN agency contracted truck drivers were abducted after being attacked on the road from El Geneina, West Darfur. One of the drivers managed to escape and one was released. The third driver is still in captivity. Source: [AWSD](#).

12 June 2016: Near the western town of Zalingei, Central Darfur State, a group of gunmen stormed a camp for the internally displaced, known as Hamidiya, and opened fire into the air. Two camp residents were abducted, another injured, and livestock stolen. This incident was triggered by a dispute between one of their members and camp residents. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#).

13 June 2016: Armed men carjacked a UN contracted truck carrying three drivers in the Azoum area of Um Shalaya, West Darfur. Source: [AWSD](#).

19 June 2016: In the state capital Nyala, South Darfur State, armed men stabbed a female resident of Otash Camp to death. No further information is available. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#).

Asia

Afghanistan

01 June 2016: Three Afghan employees of Focus Humanitarian Assistance were killed whilst travelling around the eastern valley of Ghorband, Parwan Province. Three members of the Taliban have been detained on suspicion of involvement in the incident. Sources: [Bloomberg](#) and [Reuters Africa](#).

05 June 2016: A UN contracted demining team was attacked by anti-government elements during a range clearing operation in Logar Province. Anti-government elements (AGE) set fire to seven vehicles and abducted the team leader. Source: [AWSD](#).

05 June 2016: An American photojournalist and a local interpreter from the media organisation National Public Radio were killed in what appears to be an ambush. Sources: [NPR I](#) and [NPR II](#).

09 June 2016: Unidentified gunmen abducted a female Indian aid worker from the neighbourhood of Qala-e-Fatullah in Afghanistan's capital Kabul. The charity group to which the victim is affiliated remains undisclosed, and nobody has yet claimed responsibility for this assault. The Afghan Police has subsequently advised foreigners to adopt more security measures when moving around the city. Sources: [Khaama Press](#) and [Reuters](#).

Bangladesh

23 June 2016: In the central area of Hazaribagh, Dhaka Division, a charity worker from MSF was attacked and shot in the thigh by four or five motorcycle-borne assailants whilst on his way to work. A substantial amount of money was snatched away from the victim, suggesting that this incident was economically-motivated. Sources: [Dhaka Tribune](#) and [The Daily Star](#).

Cambodia

16 June 2016: Some state officials have recently labelled an unspecified number of unnamed non-governmental rights groups as threats to national stability. Source: [The Phnom Penh Post](#).

Malaysia

21 June 2016: A land rights activist who had campaigned on issues affecting indigenous people was gunned down whilst travelling on his car in the eastern city of Miri, Sarawak State. The victim was also an opposition politician. No information about the assailants and their motivation is available. Source: [Thomson Reuters Foundation](#).

23 June 2016: The chairperson of the anti-crime non-governmental organisation MyWatch and his driver have been remanded to facilitate investigations into an alleged extortion bid from an illegal gambling operator. Source: [The Star](#).

Europe

Ukraine

07 June 2016: A foreign monitor observing the separatist conflict in Ukraine disappeared from the eastern city of Donetsk, Donetsk Oblast, but returned a day later. No further information is available. Source: [AFP](#).

Middle-East and North Africa

Egypt

27 June 2016: A prominent women's rights activist from the advocacy group Nazra for Feminist Studies was stopped by passport control officials at the airport of the Egyptian capital Cairo, and prevented from leaving the country. The activist was on her way to Beirut, the capital city of Lebanon, for a meeting on human rights. Source: [Egypt Independent](#).

Islamic Republic of Iran

15 June 2016: A British-Iranian employee of the Thomson Reuters Foundation is currently detained in the southeast city of Kerman, Kerman Province, Iranian authorities declared. She was arrested at the airport of Iran's capital Tehran on 03 April 2016, and is accused of anti-government activities. Sources: [Mail Online](#) and [The Guardian](#).

Jordan

21 June 2016: A military post near the refugee camps of Rukban and Hadaltat along the Jordan-Syria border, which is normally used for assisting Syrian refugees, was struck by a car carrying explosives, killing six security personnel and wounding 14 others. The militant group Islamic State is suspected of being behind this assault. See impact on aid below. Sources: [Asharq Al-Awsat](#), [MWC News](#) and [Reuters](#).

Libya

12 June 2016: In the northern city of Sirte a suicide bomber targeting anti-Islamic State forces killed three people and wounded seven others when he blew himself up at a field hospital. The blast caused extensive damage to the hospital. Source: [Reuters](#).

Occupied Palestinian Territories

22 June 2016: The head of the Gaza Strip office of World Vision International was arrested by the Israeli authorities on the 15th of June as the aid worker tried to enter the besieged Palestinian territory via the Erez crossing. To date, his whereabouts remain unknown. Sources: [Ma'an News Agency](#) and [World Vision](#).

Syrian Arab Republic

01 June 2016: In the northwest city of Azaz, Aleppo Governorate, three humanitarian workers were critically wounded amid fighting between the militant group Islamic State and its rivals. No further information is available. Source: [OHCHR](#).

4 June 2016: One Syria Civil Defence (SCD), also known as The White Helmets, volunteer was killed in Aleppo City. Source: [The White Helmets](#).

08 June 2016: Airstrikes hit three medical facilities in rebel-held areas in the northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, namely al-Hakeem and al-Bayan hospitals, as well as a clinic known as Abdulhadi Fares. The Syrian military forces are believed to have dropped the bombs. Source: [The New York Times](#).

08 June 2016: Two SCD volunteers were injured while searching for survivors in Al Shaar, Aleppo Governorate. Source: [The White Helmets](#).

11 June 2016: In the western suburb of Orem Al-Kubra, Aleppo Governorate, a rescue worker from the SCD was killed in a double-tap aerial attack. Source: [The White Helmets](#).

12 June 2016: In the northern town of Haritan, Aleppo Governorate, a fire engine belonging to the Syria Civil Defence was the target of an air strike. Four volunteer fire fighters were injured as a result. Source: [The White Helmets](#).

13 June 2016: A double tap airstrike on Idlib city injured one SCD volunteer. Source: [The White Helmets](#).

14 June 2016: In the northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, a hospital supported by the Syrian American Medical Society (SAMS) was severely damaged owing to an airstrike 30 metres away from its entrance. A few minor injuries were reported, and the facility was rendered partially dysfunctional as a result. Source: [SAMS Foundation](#).

14 June 2016: Médecins du Monde-supported Omar bin Abdulaziz Hospital, located in Aleppo, was struck and severely damaged by an aerial bombardment without causing casualties. Sources: [France Diplomatie](#) and [Reuters](#).

It is unclear whether the two above-mentioned sources are referring to the same hospital or two separate medical establishments.

15 June 2016: In the first two weeks of the month, two medical facilities supported by MSF were struck amid aerial attacks in the northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate. No further information is available and it is unclear whether this information may refer to hospitals listed above. Source: [Reuters](#).

15 June 2016: SCD centre in Kafr Takhariem was targeted by an airstrike and injured two volunteers. Source: [The White Helmets](#).

16 June 2016: Another SCD rescue worker sustained severe head injuries as a result of an airstrike in the eastern neighbourhood of al Sukkari, Aleppo City, Aleppo Governorate. Source: [The White Helmets](#).

29 June 2016: A Syrian Red Crescent driver was shot by a sniper. Sources: [Jan Egeland \(NRC\)](#) and [Sputnik](#).

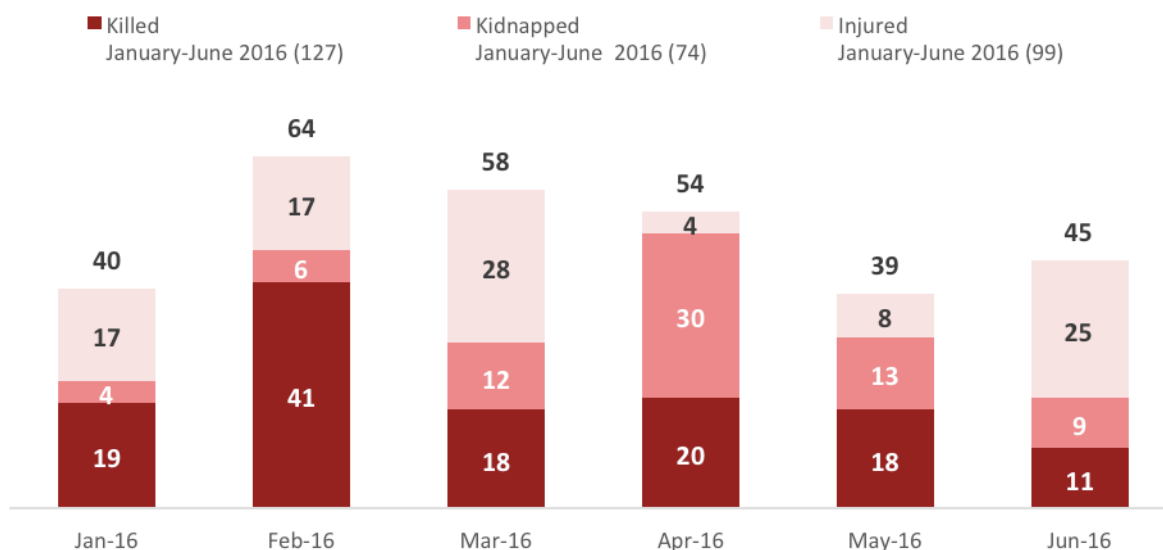
The Americas

Guatemala

21 June 2016: The offices of the advocacy group Impunity Watch were broken into by unidentified armed men. An investigation by the Guatemalan authorities is underway. No further information is available. Source: [La Hora](#).

Six Month Review

Open Source Reported Deaths, Kidnappings and Injuries between January and June 2016.



Between January and June 2016, open sources reported 114 severe events in which 300 aid workers were reported killed (127), kidnapped (74) or injured (99).

Note: Data collection is ongoing and these numbers may change as new information is made available.

Security-related Access Constraints

Africa

Kenya

26 June 2016: The Kenyan Government stands by the plan to halve the Somali population living in the refugee complex of Dadaab, currently housing an estimated 326,000 refugees, by the end of this year, citing security concerns. Source: [Reuters](#).

Europe

Russia

08 June 2016: Russian authorities have declared five foreign NGOs as 'undesirable'. Four of the organisations are American and one is from Liechtenstein. The investigation into the NGOs is continuing and seeks to establish whether the organisations pose a threat to national security and the constitutional system. Source: [The Moscow Times](#).

Middle-East and North Africa

Israel

27 June 2016: A controversial proposed legislation, known as the Transparency Bill, which requires non-profit organisations receiving the majority of their funding from abroad to declare such a fact on all official documents, has passed its first reading in the Israeli Parliament. Human rights experts warn that this will delegitimise the activities of civil rights groups if passed into law. Sources: [Israel National News](#) and [Scoop](#).

Jordan

June 2016: The International Committee of the Red Cross and other relief agencies were forced to scale down their activities in Rukban and Hadalat refugee camps on the Jordanian-Syrian border following an attack on a border post by suspected Islamic State militants. Since then, the Jordanian authorities have refused humanitarian convoys entry into the area, which is now declared as a closed military zone. Sources: [Asharq Al-Awsat](#), [MWC News](#) and [Reuters](#).

Syrian Arab Republic

01 June 2016: The militant group Islamic State has seized several villages across Aleppo Governorate, and continued to advance further in the northwest city of Azaz, forcing aid agencies, including MSF, to evacuate some of their staff, and to partially restrict vital assistance to communities in need, including medical care. Sources: [OHCHR](#) and [Reuters](#).

02 June 2016: The Syrian Government continued to obstruct land routes leading to besieged areas, where civilian populations remain trapped, thereby limiting the ability of humanitarian agencies to reach them. Source: [Al Arabiya](#), [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#), and [Reuters III](#).

08 June 2016: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) remained unable to access the Yarmouk camp for pre-war Palestinian refugees in the suburbs of Damascus as fighting for control of the neighbourhood between the militant groups Islamic State and Nusra Front continues. Relief assistance for residents could only be delivered to, and collected from, the nearby southern town of Yalda, Rif Dimashq Governorate. Source: [Reuters](#).

10 June 2016: Nine trucks from the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) delivered food and hygiene equipment to trapped civilians in Daraya, a southwest Damascus

suburb controlled by rebels, and besieged by government forces. Sources: [Deutsche Welle](#) and [Reuters](#).

15 June 2016: In the northwest city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, an escalation of aerial and artillery attacks hampered relief efforts by Mercy Corps and others. Source: [Reuters](#).

The Americas

Venezuela

01 June 2016: The Government of Venezuela has been denying civil society groups permits to import donated medical supplies into the country. The government has opted instead to source medication from allies close to the government, including China. Source: [Fusion](#).

