The Aid Security Monthly News Brief

Security Incidents

Africa

Kenya

Update: 01 July 2016: IJM announced the deaths of three individuals associated with its Kenyan operations following their disappearance on June 23. Source: IJM.

Mali

04 July 2016: Gunmen attacked a subcontractor's truck convoy carrying equipment for the UN peacekeeping mission near the northern village of Bambara Maoudé, Timbuktu Region. The incident destroyed the vehicles without killing or injuring people. According to OCHA, targeted and criminal attacks against aid workers are on the rise in northern Mali. Sources: Thomson Reuters Foundation and aBamako.

Mozambique

14 July 2016: Opposition gunmen raided four health centres in Maco and Garagua in Mossurize District, and Mussianhalo and Chuala in Barue District in the province of Manico. Source: Saponoticias.

24 July 2016: Opposition gunmen raided the Muapala Health Centre in the northern district of Maúa, Niassa Province and stole medicine and surgical equipment. Source: Radio Mocambique.

Nigeria

28 July 2016: unidentified assailants ambushed a humanitarian convoy carrying employees of United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Population Fund, (UNPF), and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) between the northeast cities of Bama and Maiduguri, Borno State. This incident led to the injury of an employee and a contractor. Sources: Reuters, The Guardian, UNICEF and VOA News.

Somalia

26 July 2016: Al Shabaab detonated a car bomb in Somalia's capital Mogadishu. The blast near the airport, UN and African Union bases killed at least a dozen people including several UN contractors. Source: The New York Times.

29 July 2016: At least 10 people were killed in Mogadishu when two car bombs targeted the UN Mine Action Services and peacekeepers. Source: ACAPS.

South Sudan

02 July 2016: Unidentified armed robbers broke into the office of an unspecified international humanitarian agency in South Sudan's capital Juba, and stole a laptop and a substantial amount of cash from their safe. Source: Radio Tamazuj.

05 July 2016: An INGO national staff member was killed by armed men who ambushed a private vehicle on the Torit-Kapoeta road in Eastern Equatoria. Other passengers in the car were robbed of their belongings, including cash, but were otherwise unharmed. The circumstances surrounding the killing of the INGO staff member are currently unknown. Source: AWSD.

08 July 2016: Three vehicles belonging to the charity agencies International Aid Services, Intersos and Health Link were attacked by a group of young men in the central state capital of Jonglei State, Bor. The driver was beaten and injured, and his car seized for 45 minutes. The same perpetrators had complained earlier that organisations employed drivers from other areas. Source: Radio Tamazuj.

Intense battles between soldiers loyal to President Salva Kiir, a member of the Dinka tribe, and rebels backing Vice President Riek Machar, a Nuer, broke out in Juba on 07 July 2016, and led to a number of security incidents and access constraints. These events are listed in chronological order below. The section on access constraints lists the reported security measures by humanitarian agencies.

08 July 2016: Renewed fighting across the South Sudanese capital of Juba struck a UN Protection of Civilian (PoC) site, putting at risk the lives of internally displaced people, who had earlier sought refuge in the compound. Sources: AP and Voice of America*.*

08 July 2016: The UNESCO country director was shot in the arm and leg. No more details are available. Sources: Simon Allison (Daily Maverick) on Twitter, The Guardian and Radio Tamazuj.

10 July 2016: A Chinese peacekeeper was reportedly killed in the Jebel area. No more details are available. Source: Jason Patinkin on Twitter.

10 July 2016: Two UN displacement compounds were struck by crossfire during fighting between the two rival factions of the South Sudanese forces. Source: The Washington Post*.*

11 July 2016: A UN camp housing around 28,000 internally displaced people in Juba was caught in crossfire. Source: news.com.au.

It is unclear whether the UN camp referred to by news.com.au is actually one of the two UN compounds mentioned by The Washington Post or a different camp.

11 July 2016: A Chinese peacekeeper was killed and six others wounded when the armoured vehicle they were travelling in was shelled. No more details are available. Source: news.com.au.

11 July 2016: World Vision International (WVI) employees were forced into lockdown in the midst of escalating violence in Juba. Source: news.com.au.

11 July 2016: The maternity ward of the International Medical Corp's hospital in a PoC site was struck by shelling. Nobody was injured in this incident, but critically ill patients had to be moved to another facility

within the same base. Sources: International Medical Corps and Radio Tamazuj.

11 July 2016: A national staff member from Internews was killed during fighting in Buaw, Koch County. Sources: UNOCHA and Internews.

14 July 2016: A local employee of a foreign humanitarian organisation was killed, an unspecified number of international aid staff raped, and some UN officials assaulted amid fighting across Juba. Sources: UN News Centre, Reuters I and Reuters II.

14 July 2016: A month's worth of commodities intended for 222,000 poor and vulnerable people, as well as vehicles, fuel and office information technology equipment were looted from the main warehouse of the World Food Programme (WFP) in Juba. The agency was still able to distribute food. Sources: Africa News, Reuters, South China Morning Post, UN News Centre I, UN News Centre II and WFP Media.

14 July 2016: An INGO national staff member was shot and killed in Barpakeny, Rumbek East. The incident appears to have been related to a personal matter and not because the victim was an aid worker. Source: AWSD.

16 July 2016: Two water tankers delivering water to a UN camp for the internally displaced were hijacked by armed military officials. No more details are available. Source: Radio Tamazuj.

19 July 2016: Tools and seeds were looted from the warehouse of the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation in Juba. No more details are available. Source: Reuters.

25 July 2016: A bullet and shrapnel hit a PoC site in Juba. A maternity ward inside the same base was shelled. Source: Jason Patinkin.

Asia
Afghanistan
Update: 23 July 2016: An Indian employee of the aid organisation Aga Khan Foundation was rescued unharmed after she was kidnapped on 09 June 2016 in the Afghan capital of Kabul. Source: Reuters.

Armenia
27 July 2016: At a police post in the Armenian capital of Yerevan, an ambulance crew was held hostage by armed men after entering the compound, which the same gunmen seized 10 days earlier, to provide treatment to two wounded members of the same armed group following clashing with the police. Source: Al Jazeera.

Bangladesh
01 July 2016: An attack on a Bangladesh cafe, Holey Artisan Bakery in Gulshan Thana in Dhaka resulted in the killing 20 hostages, including seven Japanese nationals who worked for the Japan International Cooperation agency on aid projects. An Italian man who survived the attack worked for an aid organisation providing medical aid to people in Bangladesh. Sources: WSJ and BBC.

Update: 25 July 2016: A French employee of the charity group Barakacity, held by the Bangladeshi authorities since 22 December 2016, has been cleared of the charges against him. The Frenchman was arrested after he travelled to the high-security border region with Myanmar on a tourist visa. Source: Al Jazeera.

Nepal

25 July 2016: In the southwest district of Chitwan, Central Region, a truck carrying medicine was set ablaze by a group of unidentified men. Source: My Republica.

Pakistan

02 July 2016: In the southern state capital of Sindh Province, Karachi, unidentified burglars broke into the office of the charity group Make-A-Wish Foundation, and stole cash and several gifts intended to be distributed to sick children on Eid. Source: The Express Tribune.

Europe

France

01 July 2016: In the eastern Parisian suburb of Montreuil, the French director of the charity group Restos du Coeur, which provides food assistance to the needy, was stabbed in the stomach by an unidentified couple of assailants. The motivation behind this assault remains unknown. Source: BBC.

Germany

26 July 2016: In Germany's capital Berlin a doctor from Benjamin-Franklin Hospital was shot and seriously wounded by a patient. The perpetrator killed himself afterwards. The incident is not believed to be a motivated by terrorism. Source: VOA News.

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq

10 July 2016: Al Qaim Hospital in Anbar Province was destroyed after it was struck by American warplanes. Source: WorldOnAlert.

Syrian Arab Republic

01 July 2016: A male nurse died after being hit by Syrian and Russian warplanes fired missiles on Anadan city, Aleppo Governorate. Source: Syrian Network.

02 July 2016: A Syrian Civil Defence (SCD) ambulance was partially damaged by Syrian forces in Duma, a suburb in Damascus. Source: Syrian Network.

02 July 2016: A field hospital in the village of Al Mloulah in Hama Governorate was damaged after being hit by suspected Russian missiles. Source: Syrian Network.

02 July 2016: Over the course of 24 hours, suspected Russian warplanes hit two SCD centres in Hanano and Hreitan in Aleppo Governorate. The attack killed one SCD member. Source: Syrian Network and The White Helmets on Twitter.

03 July 2016: A male SCD member succumbed to his injuries and died after 20 days in a coma. He was injured whilst rescuing a child. No more details are available. Source: The White Helmets on Twitter.

04 July 2016: Syrian and Russian warplanes fired missiles on an SCD ambulance in Aleppo Governorate rendering it inoperable. Source: Syrian Network.

04 July 2016: In the southern town of Khan al-Shih, near Syria's capital Damascus, airstrikes hit a child-friendly space inside a camp for Palestinian refugees and internally displaced Syrians. This incident led to the death of five people and the injury of five others. The respite facility was run by the Jafra Foundation. Source: IRIN.

04 July 2016: Syrian and Russian warplanes fired missiles near National Hospital in Jisr Al Shoghour city, Idlib Governorate rendering it inoperable. Source: Syrian Network.

07 July 2016: Suspected Russian warplanes hit Kafr Hamra Al Muhdatheh school in Kafr Hamra, Aleppo Governorate. Source: Syrian Network.

08 July 2016: Two SCD workers were killed in aerial bombings in Aleppo city. No more details are available. Source: The White Helmets on Twitter.

09 July 2016: Syrian and Russian air strikes damaged two SCD ambulances in Duma, Damascus. No more details are available. Source: Syrian Network.

12 July 2016: The Ruwashid IDP camp on the Jordan-Syria border was struck by suspected Russian airstrikes causing over 30 causalities. Source: Daniel Nisman on Twitter.

13 July 2016: An SCD member was killed in Eastern Ghouta, Damascus. No more details are available. Source: The White Helmets on Twitter.

14 July 2016: Suspected Russian missiles hit a field hospital in Kafr Hamra, Aleppo Governorate, rendering it inoperable. Source: Syrian Network.

16 July 2016: Suspected Russian warplanes severely damaged an ambulance in Al Ma'adi, Aleppo Governorate. Source: Syrian Network.

16 July 2016: An SCD fire engine was damaged by suspected Russian airstrikes in Izaz city, Aleppo Governorate. Source: Syrian Network.

17 July 2016: A Syrian force missile damaged an SCD centre in the Al Marj suburb in Damascus. Source: Syrian Network.

19 July 2016: An ambulance was damaged by suspected Syrian government airstrikes in the Al Sakhour neighbourhood in Aleppo. Source: Syrian Network.

20 July 2016: An NGO volunteer was killed while helping to rescue civilians. The circumstances surrounding his death are currently unknown. Source: AWSD.

21 July 2016: Hospitals, ambulance stations, warehouses and water systems in the divided, western city of Aleppo, Aleppo Governorate, have been damaged or destroyed amid fierce fighting. Medical workers have died, too. Source: ICRC.

23 July 2016: An SCD staff member was killed by Syrian government shelling in Jisr Al Shoghour, Idlib Governorate. Source: Syrian Network.

23 July 2016: An SCD ambulance was damaged after being hit by suspected Russian air strikes in the Al Shaar neighbourhood in Aleppo. Source: Syrian Network.

24 July 2016: Three hospitals in Aleppo City and one hospital in the countryside of the same city were rendered dysfunctional after being struck by Syrian Government warplanes. A blood bank was also targeted. No casualties were reported. Sources: ACAPS, Margaret Brennan, Reuters, The New York Times I, The New York Times II and The White Helmets on Twitter.

25 July 2016: Syrian Government forces deliberately fired missiles toward Atarib Hospital in the northern town of Atarib, Aleppo Governorate, and damaged it. Source: Syrian Network.

25 July 2016: A Syrian Civil Defence ambulance was struck by missiles from suspected Russian warplanes in Aleppo City. Source: Syrian Network.

28 July 2016: In the northwest city of Saraqib, Idlib Governorate, Syrian Government warplanes fired missiles on an ambulance belonging to Aid System and damaged it severely. Source: Syrian Network.

28 July 2016: Another ambulance belonging to Aid System was shelled and damaged by government forces in the eastern neighbourhood of Al Sha'ar, Aleppo Governorate. Source: Syrian Network.

28 July 2016: A blood bank in Saraqib was struck by Syrian Government warplanes rendering it inoperable. Source: Syrian Network.

29 July 2016: Health workers in Aleppo are starving to death as the Syrian Government continues to besiege the same city and block vital supplies. Source: ITV News.

29 July 2016: In a rebel-held area of the northwest town of Kafr Takharim, Idlib Governorate, a relief maternity hospital run by Save the Children was bombed by warplanes, leaving two people dead and seven injured. Sources: Save the Children News, The Guardian and UOSSM Canada.

29 July 2016: In Kafr Takharim, Idlib Governorate, missiles were fired on an SCD unit by Syrian Government warplanes. Sources: Syrian Network and The Guardian.

29 July 2016: The only remaining humanitarian supply route leading to the eastern part of Aleppo, known as Castello Road, has been cut off by forces loyal to the Bashar al-Assad regime. Sources: ITV News and Reuters.

30 July 2016: In the northern city of Anadan, Aleppo Governorate, Union of Medical Care and Relief Organizations (UOSSM) Canada-supported Anadan Hospital was hit by suspected Russian airstrikes, rendering it inoperable. Sources: Levantine Group, Syrian Network and UOSSM Canada.

30 July 2016: An SCD centre in Kafr Takharim, Idlib Governorate, was damaged by Syrian government warplanes. It is unclear if this is the same incident as the one above or the second time this facility was struck in two days. Source: Syrian Network.

31 July 2016: A blood bank in the northern town of Atarib, Aleppo Governorate, was struck by Syrian Government warplanes, causing damages to it. Source: Syrian Network.

31 July 2016: Syrian and Russian warplanes targeted and destroyed three medical facilities within just six hours:

Al Redwan Hospital in the southern city of Jasim, Daraa Governorate, was hit first, leaving six people dead, including a pharmacist, a nurse and an administrator. The hospital is supported by UOSSM Canada,
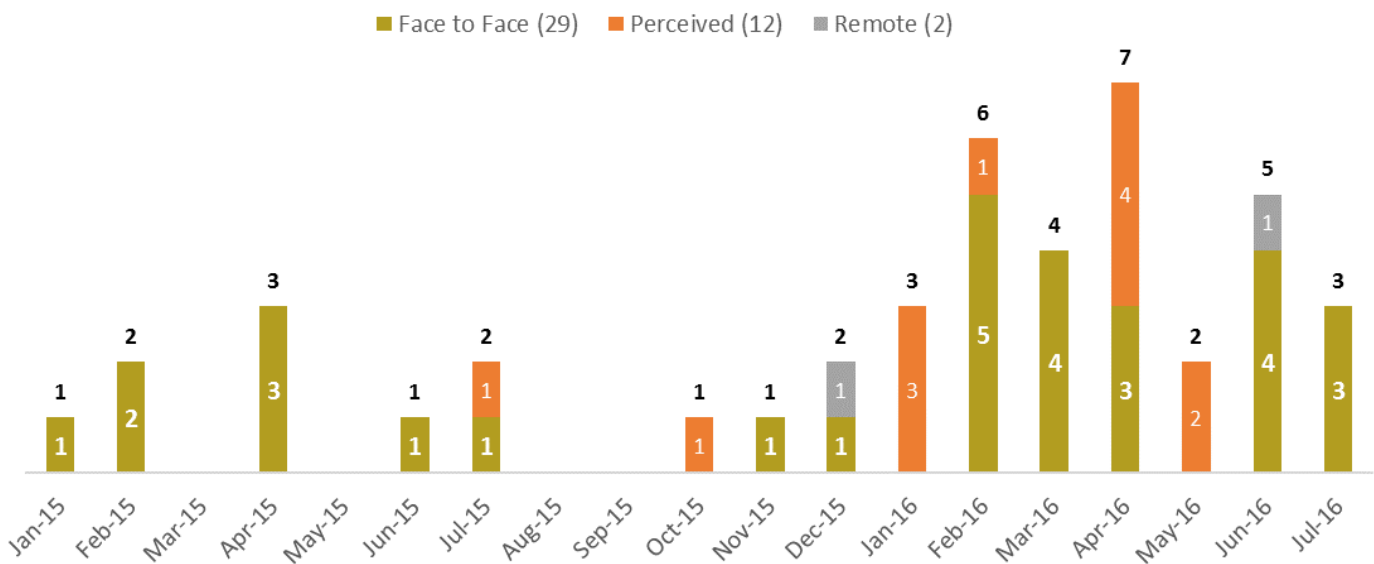
Médecins Sans Frontières and the International Rescue Committee. Sources: Doctors w/o Borders, MSF UK on Twitter, International Rescue Committee, The Big Story and UOSSM Canada.

A medical facility known as Hoor Clinic, managed by the charity group Iskan in the western countryside of Aleppo, was destroyed by ain airstrike, leading to an untold number of deaths and injuries. Source: UOSSM Canada.

The airstrikes completely destroyed Forensic Lab in Aleppo, injuring an unspecified number of people and killing two staffers. Source: UOSSM Canada.

Trend Reporting: January 2015 – July 2016

Open source reported threats, by month and threat type.

Between January 2015 and July 2016, open sources reported 43 incidents in which an aid agency or agency personnel were threatened face-to-face (29), remotely (2) or in an event perceived as threatening (12). Reported threats are often a sign of a deteriorating security context.

- Face-to-face – a threat issued by a perpetrator directly to the aid worker in close proximity.

- Remote threats – a threat delivered by letter, phone, or SMS.

- Perceived threats – events in which the agency or an individual felt threatened but where it is not entirely clear whether the perpetrator deliberately intended to threaten the victim.

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

Security-related Access Constraints

Africa

Central African Republic
04 July 2016: In the wake of fighting between Fulani herders and anti-Balaka groups in the northwest village of Mann, Ouham-Pendé Prefecture, a humanitarian convoy from Action Against Hunger left a few minutes after arriving due to insecurity. Source: The Guardian.

Nigeria
28 July 2016: The UN suspended aid operations in northern Borno state following the ambush of a UN convoy travelling from Bama to Maiduguri. Sources: Reuters, The Guardian, UNICEF and VOA News.

Somalia
16 July 2016: A number of unspecified humanitarian organisations operating in Somalia's capital Mogadishu have been ordered to pull out of the country by the Somali Government owing to their links to Fethullah Gulen, a US-based cleric that the Turkish government accuses of orchestrating the 2016 Turkish coup d'état attempt. Source: Radio Dalsan.

South Sudan
Intense battles between soldiers loyal to President Salva Kiir, a member of the Dinka tribe, and rebels backing Vice President Riek Machar, a Nuer, broke out on 07 July 2016, and led to a number of security incidents and access constraints. The events are listed in chronological order in the section of security incidents above. The list here covers the decisions to repatriate aid workers or administrative access constraints.

09 July 2016: Feargal O'Connell, country director for Concern, reported staff were in hibernation at their office. Source: Feargal O'Connell on Twitter.

10 July 2016: ICRC suspended activities for three days due to fighting, and the IFCR suspended all planned activities for an unspecified amount of time. Sources: ICRC, ICRC II and IFRC.

11 July 2016: A team of 47 Japanese aid workers from the governmental Japan International Cooperation Agency has been repatriated. Source: Reuters.

13 July 2016: Military forces prevented employees of the World Health Organisation (WHO) from working in Juba. No more details are available. Source: Radio Tamazuj.

14 July 2016: UN peacekeeping mission and other UN agencies temporarily relocated some of their staff in response to the attacks listed above. Sources: UN News Centre, Reuters I and Reuters II.

19 July 2016: Several humanitarian flights to Juba by the United Nations Humanitarian Air Service were cancelled owing to delays on the part of the South Sudanese authorities to issue permissions. The northern state of Upper Nile was among the most affected areas. Source: Radio Tamazuj.

21 July 2016: Due to safety concerns, Britain, Germany and Sweden pulled out 12 nationals serving as police officers with the UN peacekeeping mission without prior consultation with the UN. This move has seriously affected the operations of the peacekeeping force on the ground, the UN said. Source: AFP.

Asia

Bangladesh

04 July 2016: In the aftermath of a terror attack against a multi-national crowd in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, some Japanese non-profit organisations, including the Kansai Bangladesh Project, Asia Arsenic Network and Shapla Neer, have suspended their activities in the country. Source: The Asahi Shimbun.

Malaysia

20 July 2016: The Malaysian authorities ruled that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) no longer issue refugee cards on a walk-in basis in the country. Source: The Sun Daily.

North Korea

29 July 2016: The delivery of relief aid into North Korea is greatly impeded owing to new international sanctions imposed on the far east country. No more details are available. Sources: ACAPS and France24.

Europe

Greece

11 July 2016: Many international volunteers and aid groups halted their operations in Leros after locals attacked refugees from the Greek island's main camp with shovels and sticks, and threatened members of the humanitarian community. The police reportedly failed to effectively intervene. Source: Al Jazeera.

Russia

06 July 2016: The Andrey Rylkov Foundation, the only non-governmental organisation (NGO) providing sterilised needles to intravenous drug users in Moscow, has been declared by the Russian Government as a threat to national security under the controversial Foreign Agent Law. Source: Drug Reporter.

Middle East and North Africa

Israel

11 July 2016: The Israeli Parliament has enacted the so called Transparency Bill into law, which human rights experts say target local NGOs who voice criticism of the right-wing policies of the Government of Israel, or of settlements on occupied land. Source: Reuters.

Jordan

07 July 2016: In response to a car bomb attack claimed by Islamic State militants last month, the Jordanian authorities have blocked the entry of food aid and restricted water deliveries to tens of thousands of Syrian refugees trapped in the northern border region of the country. Source: ABC.

Occupied Palestinian Territories

04 July 2016: In the eastern territory of the West Bank, several non-profit organisations were forcibly shut down by the Palestinian Authority for alleged violations of the law. Source: Middle East Monitor.

25 July 2016: In response to a series of violent incidents at the end of Ramadan, the Israeli authorities have imposed a closure in the southern city of Hebron, West Bank, creating serious obstacles for humanitarian access, particularly in the refugee camp of Fawwar. Source: UN News Centre.

Syrian Arab Republic

08 July 2016: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), has been unable to deliver humanitarian aid directly to Palestinian refugees and internally displaced Syrians living in the southern town of Khan al-Shih, near Syria's capital Damascus, owing to the

dangers posed by snipers in the surrounding areas. Source: IRIN.

14 July 2016: War-wounded civilians are bleeding to death as the Syrian Government continues to block medical aid from reaching rebel-held areas across the country, which its troops have besieged. Source: Voice of America.

26 July 2016: Fearing significant theft and fraud, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has frozen more than 200 million dollars in aid contracts, a move which has affected the delivery of humanitarian supplies to those who desperately need them. Source: The Washington Post.

Yemen
26 July 2016: Sanctions and sieges are preventing dialysis supplies from reaching the country. Source: Doctors w/o Borders.

Insecurity Insight
Data on People in Danger