

The Aid in Danger Monthly News Brief

February
2017

Security Incidents

Africa

Cameroon

31 January 2017: In the vicinity of Hosere Jongbi area, near the town of Kontcha, an unknown armed group attacked a UN Technical Monitoring Team, killing five individuals, including a UN independent contractor, three Nigerians and one Cameroonian, and injuring several others. Sources: [Premium Times](#) and [The News](#)

Central African Republic

02 February 2017: In Bocaranga sub-prefecture, Ouham-Pendé prefecture, an unspecified armed group attacked and plundered the compounds of three non-governmental organisations (NGOs): MENTOR, CORDAID and DRC. Source: [RJDH](#)

10 February 2017: In the capital Bangui, gunmen stormed a hospital in PK5 neighbourhood twice within five days to kill patients. Source: [The Citizen](#)

Democratic Republic of the Congo

22 February 2017: In Kasai Oriental and Upper Katanga, unidentified assailants broke into and vandalised a number of churches engaged in poverty work for the local population. Source: [Radio Okapi](#)

Kenya

24 February 2017: In Baringo county, local residents blocked seven Kenya Red Cross Society vehicles carrying 96.8 metric tonnes of humanitarian assistance, which led to looting of relief aid and harassment of aid staff. The convoy was forced to turn back to Marigat. Source: [Daily Nation](#)

Nigeria

17 February 2017: In Maiduguri city, Borno state, seven suspected Boko Haram suicide bombers detonated themselves on the outskirts of the city, in an attack which appears to have been targeting refugees preparing to return to their homes. This incident led to the injury of eight members of the local civilian militia Joint Task Force. Source: [Reuters Africa](#)

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.

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Somalia

23 February 2017: In Beledweyne town, Beledweyne region, suspected al Shabaab militants kidnapped three local aid workers from Save the Children whilst delivering drought relief assistance in Hajub area. Sources: [AA](#), [Aid Worker Security Database](#) and [Shabelle News](#)

South Sudan

09 February 2017: In Torit town, SPLA soldiers shot and killed a UN national staff member at a checkpoint. The circumstances are unknown at this time. Sources: [Aid Worker Security Database](#) and [Radio Tamazuj](#)

Sudan

31 January 2017: About 10 kilometres north of the West Darfur capital El Geneina, three armed herders allegedly stormed the hostel of El Addar School. They allegedly seized two teachers, dragged them to a piece of open ground and repeatedly raped them. Source: [AllAfrica](#)

31 January 2017: In Omdurman city, Khartoum state, a Christian Czech aid worker was handed down a sentence of life imprisonment in Al-Huda Prison and a fine of US\$15,000 after being found guilty of crimes against the State. Source: [Premier Journalist](#)

07 February 2017: In Kutum locality, North Darfur state, a group of militants driving a land cruiser temporarily hijacked a vehicle belonging to the UNAMID peacekeeping mission, which was part of the convoy escorting Sudan's Second Vice-President during his visit in the area. A contingent of the Sudanese army managed to recover the vehicle shortly after. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Europe

Ukraine

06 February 2017: In the midst of a surge in fighting across Avdiivka city, Donetsk province, and other eastern parts of Ukraine, at least five schools and two kindergartens have been damaged by heavy shelling and 11 other schools are closed. Source: [UNICEF](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

02 February 2017: In Qads district, Badghis province, Taliban militants kidnapped two doctors from the public health directorate. The whereabouts of the victims remain unknown. Source: [Khaama Press](#)

08 February 2017: In Jowzjan province, suspected Islamic State militants ambushed a convoy belonging to the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) whilst en route to Shibergan town, killing three drivers and three field officers. Three other employees remain unaccounted for and are thought to be held hostage. Sources: [AFP](#), [Aid Worker Security Database](#), [Al Jazeera](#), [BBC I](#), [BBC II](#), [ICRC](#), [IRIN](#), [Khaama Press](#), [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#) and [The New York Times](#)

25 February 2017: In Basram area, Mehtarlam district, a rocket from an unspecified source landed on Shaheed Mawlawi Abdul Rahman School, killing two students and injuring seven others. Source: [TOLO News](#)

Pakistan

11 February 2017: In Lakki district, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, three unidentified gunmen kidnapped an education official near the Indus Highway in the limits of Tajori Police Station. The motive behind this assault remains unknown. Source: [Dawn](#)

14 February 2017: The terrorist group Jamaat-ul-Ahrar released a video announcing the launch of Operation Ghazi in the honour of Maulvi Ghazi Abdul Rasheed who was killed in July 2007. INGOs, NGOs and civil society organisations involved in advocacy of human rights, women rights and community awareness campaigns are named as targets. Source: [Pakistan Today](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Egypt

01-07 February 2017: Egyptian authorities closed the doors of El Nadeem Centre, a non-governmental clinic that helps victims of violence and torture, accusing the centre of threatening national security. Sources: [AA](#), [Al Jazeera](#) and [Defence Web](#)

Iran

04 February 2017: An Iranian professor of disaster medicine at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, under arrest since April 2016, was sentenced to death on suspicion of espionage. Source: [Independent](#)

Israel

08 February 2017: In Tel Aviv city, immigration officials detained the Jewish-American vice-president of the New Israel Fund for an hour, questioning her about the group's non-profit activities. Source: [The Guardian](#)

Lebanon

03 February 2017: In the general area of Al Mansouri-Majda Zun, civilians attempted to block the way of United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) patrols and attacked the peacekeepers in two separate incidents. There were no injuries to UN peacekeepers, but severe damages were caused to UNIFIL vehicles. Source: [Asharq Al-Awsaq](#)

Libya

01 February 2017: In Qasr Ben Gashir town, Tripoli district, Tripolitania region, local gunmen stormed the Al-Afia medical centre and shot three patients as an act of revenge. The victims were admitted to hospital the day before, following clashes with a rival militia. Source: [Libya Herald](#)

04 February 2017: In the capital Tripoli, the manager of the Al-Masara Clinic was kidnapped in unspecified circumstances. No further details of his abduction are known. Source: [Libya Herald](#)

Update: 22 February 2017: Dr Ramamurthy Kosanam, who was abducted by the militant group Islamic State from Sirte city's Ibn Sina Hospital in September 2015 has been freed. Source: [Libya Herald](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

01 February 2017: In Idlib city, suspected Russian warplanes fired missiles at an SARC centre, causing a fire on the second floor. The centre was closed due to damage to the building and equipment. Two vehicles belonging to the centre were moderately damaged by falling building rubble. Source: [SNHR](#)

02 February 2017: In al Qaboun neighbourhood, Damascus city, missiles from suspected Syrian Government or Russian warplanes hit al Hayat surgical hospital, heavily damaging the building and its cladding materials. Source: [SNHR](#)

03 February 2017: In Duoma city, Syrian Government shelling killed an employee of the Sham Humanitarian Network as he was tending to wounded civilians from a previous shelling. Source: [SNHR](#)

03 February 2017: In Duma city, Eastern Ghouta, Damascus suburbs, Syrian Government forces fired a

number of shells at an ambulance belonging to Sham Humanitarian Network, killing one paramedic, and slightly damaging the vehicle. Source: [SNHR](#)

03 February 2017: In Aqrab town, Hama governorate, Syrian Government warplanes fired a missile near an SCD centre, moderately damaging it and its cladding materials. The glass windows of an ambulance belonging to the same centre were shattered, and its structure was slightly damaged. Source: [SNHR](#)

03 February 2017: In Al Bal'oum neighbourhood, Mayadin city, suburbs of Deir ez Zour governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired a number of missiles at al Teb al Hadith Hospital, heavily damaging it. Source: [SNHR](#)

03 February 2017: In al Mayadin city, suburbs of Deir ez Zour governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired a number of missiles at a makeshift hospital, which also occupies a building for an industrial high school, slightly damaging the hospital's building and its equipment. Source: [SNHR](#)

04 February 2017: In Kafr Laha city, Homs governorate, shells fired by Syrian Government forces fell 25 metres away from an ambulance belonging to an unspecified hospital, heavily damaging the structure of the vehicle and rendering it inoperable. Source: [SNHR](#)

04 February 2017: In Kafr Laha city, Homs governorate, Syrian Government forces fired several shells that fell near an ambulance belonging to the Syria Civil Defence (SCD), heavily damaging its structure and rendering it inoperable. Source: [SNHR](#)

06 February 2017: In an unspecified location, an airstrike hit a centre belonging to an unnamed organisation, wounding and killing one national volunteer. It is unclear whether this incident refers to the same incident as reported from Ma'aret Nu'man city. Source: [Aid Worker Security Database](#)

06 February 2017: In Ma'aret, Nu'man city, Syrian Government warplanes fired missiles at the SCD centre, wounding and killing one member. Source: [SNHR](#)

06 February 2017: In Kafr Zita city, Hama governorate, barrel bombs from Syrian Government helicopters fell near Kafr Zita Hospital, heavily damaging the facility and its equipment, which had to be temporarily closed. Source: [SNHR](#)

07 February 2017: In Idlib city, suspected Russian warplanes fired a missile that fell in a dirt area near the laser lithotripsy centre, moderately damaging the building, its equipment and cladding materials. Source: [SNHR](#)

08 February 2017: In Hamadaniya, Aleppo city, a suspected mortar attack on a Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) distribution centre killed one Red Crescent staff, and injured seven staff and volunteers, one of whom succumbed to his wounds on 11 February. It is unclear whether this was the same incident as reported below. Source: [Aid Worker Security Database](#)

08 February 2017: In Hamdaniya neighbourhood, Aleppo city, a number of shells of unspecified origin fell near a relief centre affiliated with the SARC, moderately damaging the building. It is unclear whether this was the same incident as reported above. Source: [SNHR](#)

08 February 2017: In Wa'er neighbourhood, Homs city, Syrian Government forces fired a rocket at an SCD centre, wounding a volunteer, and heavily damaging the building and an ambulance, making them inoperable. Source: [SNHR](#)

11 February 2017: In Baqqaen town, suburbs of Damascus city, a Syrian Government sniper and pro-regime militias fired shots at an ambulance belonging to the SCD, also referred to as Madaya Centre, slightly damaging it. Source: [SNHR](#)

12 February 2017: In Bosra al Sham city, Daraa governorate, Syrian Government forces fired a number of shells near the SCD centre, slightly damaging the building and an ambulance. Source: [SNHR](#)

13 February 2017: In Daraa governorate, an aerial attack struck a Handicap International-supported hospital, injuring three medical personnel and one administrative officer. The hospital's warehouse, operating room and administrative units were partially destroyed and rendered inoperable. It is unclear if this report refers to the same as reported below. Sources: [Handicap International](#) and [Reuters](#)

13 February 2017: In Daraa al Balad area, Daraa city, suspected Russian warplanes fired two missiles at a makeshift hospital, partially destroying the building and heavily damaging its equipment. The hospital had to be closed. It is unclear if this report refers to the same incident reported above. Source: [SNHR](#)

15 February 2017: In Yadouda town, Daraa governorate, four missiles fell 15 metres away from a makeshift hospital amid an aerial attack by Syrian Government forces, moderately damaging the building and its cladding materials. Source: [SNHR](#)

15 February 2017: In Latamna city, Hama governorate, suspected Syrian Government or Russian warplanes fired several missiles near an ambulance belonging to the SCD-affiliated Centre 114, completely destroying the vehicle. Source: [SNHR](#)

16 February 2017: In an unspecified location, men with guns jumped onto two convoys to presumably steal diarrhoea kits for children and maternity kits for pregnant women, because they unloaded them. Source: [UN News Centre](#)

16 February 2017: In al Bab city, Aleppo governorate, artillery shelling from the Euphrates Shield forces killed a dentist alongside his two children. Source: [SNHR](#)

16 February 2017: In al Bab city, Aleppo governorate, warplanes of unspecified origin fired missiles at a makeshift hospital, heavily damaging the facility and rendering it inoperable. Source: [SNHR](#)

18 February 2017: In Tishreen neighbourhood, Damascus city, an SCD member was killed amid shelling by Syrian Government forces in the area. Source: [SNHR](#)

19 February 2017: In al Manshiya neighbourhood, Daraa city, a mortar shell fired by Syrian Government forces fell near a battlefield first-aid point, killing an assistant nurse. The victim used to work at the makeshift hospital of Daraa al Balad. Source: [SNHR](#)

19 February 2017: A pharmacist died following torture inside a detention centre belonging to the Self-Management forces. The victim had been detained since December 2016. Source: [SNHR](#)

19 February 2017: In Nasib town, Daraa governorate, suspected Syrian Government or Russian warplanes fired several missiles near a makeshift hospital, heavily damaging the building and equipment and rendering it inoperable. Source: [SNHR](#)

21 February 2017: In Ma'aret Misreen, Idlib governorate, a missile from a Syrian Government warplane fell

around 50 metres away from a hospital, whose cladding materials and equipment were moderately damaged. Source: [SNHR](#)

21 February 2017: In Baqqaen town, suburbs of Damascus city, Syrian Government forces fired a shell near an ambulance belonging to the SCD, wounding an SCD member, shattering the glass windows of the vehicle and slightly damaging its structure. Source: [SNHR](#)

22 February 2017: In al Jabriya village, Hama governorate, a paramedic from a medical point run by an opposition faction was killed as he was tending to the wounded amid shelling by Syrian Government warplanes. Source: [SNHR](#)

22 February 2017: In Madaya town, suburbs of Damascus city, Syrian Government forces fired several shells near an ambulance belonging to the SCD, wounding one SCD member, and moderately damaging the vehicle. Source: [SNHR](#)

24 February 2017: In al Qaboun neighbourhood, Damascus city, Syrian Government forces fired a number of face-to-surface rockets that fell next to al Hayat surgical hospital, heavily damaging the building and its equipment, and rendering it inoperable. Source: [SNHR](#)

25 February 2017: In Hezb circle, Ariha city, Idlib governorate, two missiles fired by Syrian Government warplanes fell 10 metres away from a SARC branch, resulting in the casualty of unspecified individuals, and moderately damaging the cladding materials of the building. Source: [SNHR](#)

26 February 2017: In Ariha city, Idlib governorate, a Syrian Government warplane fired a missile at a warehouse belonging to Orient Aiding Network, adjacent to the SCD centre, partially destroying the building and moderately damaging its cladding materials and contents. Source: [SNHR](#)

26 February 2017: In Hawwar village, Aleppo governorate, Syrian Government warplanes fired missiles at al Huda surgical hospital, which was destroyed, and moderately damaging equipment and two ambulances. Source: [SNHR](#)

26 February 2017: In Ariha city, suburbs of Idlib governorate, Syrian Government warplanes fired a missile at the SCD centre, wounding four SCD members, partially destroying the building and its equipment and moderately damaging a nearby fire truck. Source: [SNHR](#)

26 February 2017: In Der al Sharqi village, suburbs of Idlib governorate, a missile fired by suspected Russian warplanes fell around 100 metres away from the hospital of the Syrian University, slightly damaging the building. Source: [SNHR](#)

27 February 2017: In al Marj area, Nashabiya town, Damascus suburbs, Syrian Government warplanes fired a number of missiles at a medical post, moderately damaging its building and equipment and putting it out of commission. Two ambulances belonging to the same health centre were also heavily damaged. Source: [SNHR](#)

27 February 2017: In Der al Sharqi village, suburbs of Idlib governorate, suspected Russian warplanes fired four missiles at the hospital of the Syrian University. The roof and walls of the hospital were partially destroyed and its cladding materials and equipment moderately damaged, rendering the hospital inoperable. Source: [SNHR](#)

28 February 2017: In Al Waer area, Homs city, a Syria Civil Defence team was targeted with artillery bombardments whilst rescuing civilians in the area, killing one volunteer. Sources: [Aid Worker Security Database](#) and [The White Helmets](#)

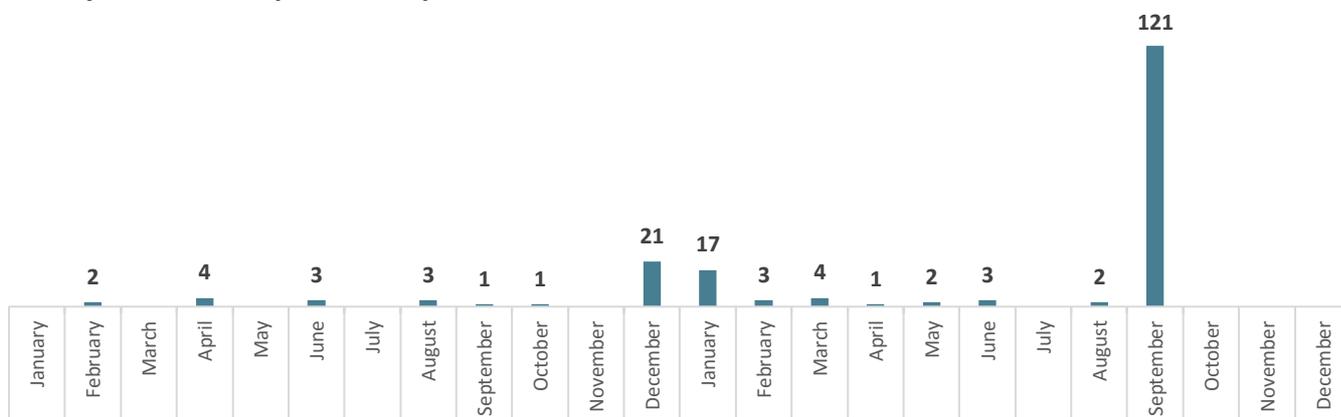
Yemen

14 February 2017: In Al-Hudaydah city, Yemeni authorities detained three local aid workers from the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), three casual staff and a contracted driver for a week, following a misunderstanding with regard to old markings on some recycled boxes, which were originally from Saudi Arabia and dated January 2015. Source: [NRC](#)

20 February 2017: In Hali district, Hodeida city, six local employees of the Norwegian Refugee Council and a contracted driver were temporarily detained by Houthi rebels for allegedly accepting and distributing aid from the Saudi-led coalition. The Yemeni Local Affairs Minister, however, alleged that the victims were in fact taken hostage. The Norwegian Refugee Council rejected this claim. Source: [Alaraby](#)

Trend Reporting: January 2015 – December 2016

Total number of aid workers arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned by state and non-state actors, by month, as reported in open sources.



Between January 2015 and December 2016, 188 aid workers were reportedly arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned by state and non-state actors in 31 events, based on Insecurity Insight’s monitoring of open sources.¹ In 2015, open sources reported 35 aid workers arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned by state and non-state actors in seven events. In 2016, open sources reported 153 aid workers arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned by state and non-state actors in 24 events. The high number of aid workers affected in September 2016 was the result of one event in Turkey where police across the country detained 121 members of Kimse Yok Mu relief organisation on suspicion of links to the Gülen movement. Source: [Daily Sabah](#). If this event in Turkey is not counted, the global total number of reports describing aid workers either arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned was relatively similar in 2015 and 2016 but peaked in December 2015 and January 2016.

¹ Aid worker is defined as personnel employed by or attached to humanitarian, multi-mandated, UN or government aid agencies. While the Monthly News Brief contains a range of incidents relevant to the delivery of humanitarian aid, the statistics cover only aid workers according to the definition above.

Security-related access constraints

Global

07 February 2017: The United Nations rejected the application of Christian Solidarity Worldwide for official UN accreditation. Source: [Premier](#)

Africa

Angola

07 February 2017: In the capital Luanda, the Minister of Education ordered the closure of the Turkish College with immediate effect without specifying the reason. Armed police officers subsequently stormed the school and detained a number of teachers, questioning why the school year started. Source: [Novo Jornal](#)

Central African Republic

18 February 2017: In Bangui, forcibly displaced persons have sought refuge on an airstrip in Kaga-Bondoro, forcing the United Nations Humanitarian Aid Service (UNHAS) to suspend its flights for two weeks. Source: [RJDH](#)

Kenya

24 February 2017: The Kenya Red Cross Society suspended its operations in Baringo country and withdrew all its staff and volunteers following the blockage and looting of supply vehicles. Source: [Daily Nation](#)

South Africa

02 February 2017: In Cape Town city, as a security measure following the 31 January 2016 armed attack and robbery of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel, provincial health department ambulances are required to enter certain townships at night with police escorts. As a result, people living in these areas may expect delays should they call for an ambulance. Source: [IOL](#)

South Sudan

02 February 2017: During insecurity at Ajoung Thok camp, Ruweng state, unidentified gunmen opened fire on three South Kordofan refugees, killing one of them. The motive behind this attack remains unknown. Source: [Radio Tamazuj](#)

22 February 2017: In Wau Shiluk village, Upper Nile state, the South Sudanese Government blocked a United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) team that was trying to access the famine-stricken area to assess humanitarian conditions. Source: [VOA](#)

27 February 2017: Access issues resulting from the ethnically-motivated struggle in the country continue to prevent aid workers from reaching the people most in need. Source: [Devex](#)

Sudan

15 February 2017: In North Darfur state, dozens of Sudanese staff of the WFP staged a protest in front of the organisation's headquarters in El Fasher, demanding the payment of their longstanding financial entitlements. Source: [Dabanga Sudan](#)

Asia

Afghanistan

08 February 2017: The International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (ICRC) temporarily halted its activities in Jowzjan pending the investigation of an ambush of a convoy. Sources: [AFP](#), [Al Jazeera](#),

[BBC I](#), [BBC II](#), [ICRC](#), [IRIN](#), [Khaama Press](#), [Reuters I](#), [Reuters II](#) and [The New York Times](#)

22 February 2017: In Warduj district, Badakhshan province, the Badakhshan Education Department reported that more than 36 schools, which were closed 17 months ago, will remain closed due to terrorist activities in the area. Source: [TOLO News](#)

Bangladesh

15 February 2017: The immigration authorities prevented 157 out of 182 volunteers from the Rohingya aid ship Nautical Aliya from visiting refugee camps, citing security concerns. Source: [The Star](#)

North Korea

Undated: North Korea has allegedly used flood relief aid for infrastructure projects. Source: [Arirang](#)

Pakistan

21 February 2017: Agencies have difficulties accessing Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province due to difficulties in obtaining government approval for projects. Source: [VOA](#)

Europe

Hungary

27 February 2017: Ahead of a legislative proposal to force NGOs to submit a declaration of assets, the Hungarian Government has continued to label civil society advocacy groups, such as Amnesty International and those financed by Human Rights Watch, as part of an alleged plan to intimidate dissenting voices. Source: [EU Observer](#)

Middle East and North Africa

Iraq

15 February 2017: The Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) decided to temporarily suspend aid deliveries until 19 February to neighbourhoods in the eastern half of the Iraqi city of Mosul as attacks by the militant group Islamic State continue to inflict heavy civilian casualties there. Sources: [Mail Online](#) and [The New York Times](#)

Israel

20 February 2017: The Israeli authorities have refused to issue a visa for the Israel-Palestine Director of Human Rights Watch, accusing the US-based rights group of pro-Palestinian bias and saying it will no longer grant visas to its staff. Source: [Al Jazeera](#)

Occupied Palestinian Territories

26 February 2017: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) has suspended the chairman of the agency's Palestinian workers' union in Gaza and principal of an UNRWA elementary school amid allegations of ties to the militant group Hamas. Source: [Star Tribune](#)

Syrian Arab Republic

28 February 2017: In East Ghouta neighbourhood, Damascus, residents do not have access to lifesaving medication, supplies and adequate nutrition as a direct consequence of the Syrian Government siege of the neighbourhood. Source: [SAMS](#)

Yemen

28 February 2017: OCHA has been denied access on the frontline from Ibb to Taizz city, preventing the office from delivering food, fuel and medicine imports to ward off a looming famine. Sources: [Reuters](#) and [Stephen O'Brien](#)

The Americas

United States (US)

01 February 2017: In view of the lack of clarity surrounding an executive order by the US President Donald Trump on 04 January 2017, CARE imposed travel restrictions for its employees. For the time of the executive order, US-based employees from the seven restricted countries are prevented from leaving the US, whereas US citizens were not allowed to travel to any of those countries. Source: [NPR](#)

14 February 2017: The Israeli legal NGO Shurat HaDin has called on the US authorities to terminate government funding to American Near-East Refugee Aid (ANERA), claiming that funds transferred to ANERA are allegedly used to support Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) kindergartens that actively indoctrinate children in hatred and killing of Israeli civilians, as well as other PIJ and Hamas organisations, thus enabling them to finance terrorist activity, which is forbidden by US law. Source: [JNS](#)

