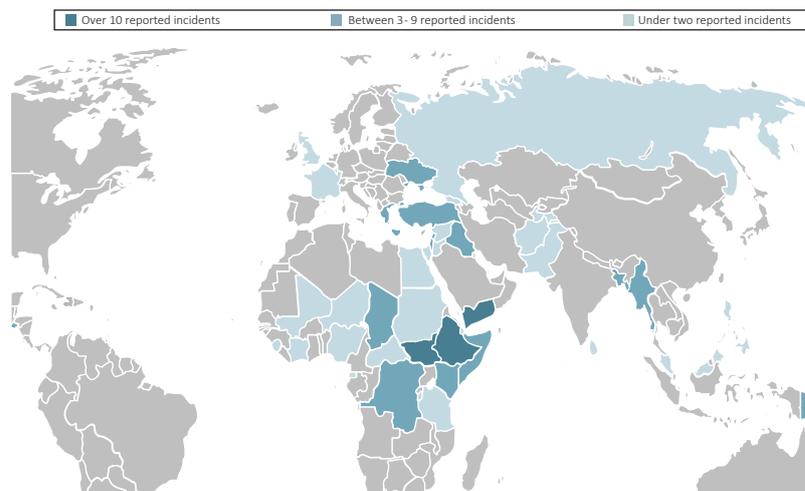


This overview document presents actions taken by authorities ("authority action") that affected aid agencies and their staff.¹ This includes incidents where aid workers² were reportedly arrested, charged, detained, fined or imprisoned¹ by state or non-state actors. This report is based on incidents identified by Insecurity Insight's monitoring of open sources³ and reported by Aid in Danger partner agencies using the Security in Numbers Database (SiND). It covers a total of 177 incidents in 43 countries in which 418 aid workers were affected during the last 30 months.

Reported incidents, January 2015 - June 2017 (177 incidents)



- **High number of reported incidents:** Yemen (30), followed by South Sudan (20) and Ethiopia (18).
- **Eight countries/territories reported incidents in 2015, 2016, and the first six months of 2017:**
 - Yemen** (30: 5, 17, 8)
 - Ethiopia** (18: 7, 10, 1)
 - South Sudan** (20: 11, 3, 6)
 - Lebanon** (10: 5, 3, 2)
 - DRC** (9: 6, 1, 2)
 - Turkey** (8: 1, 3, 4)
 - Kenya** (6: 2, 2, 2)
 - OPT** (6: 3, 2, 1).
- **During the first six months of 2017, 45 incidents were reported, five were in countries that had not previously reported incidents:** Equatorial Guinea, Mali, Niger, Sudan and Tanzania (one each). Incidents in Equatorial Guinea, Niger and Sudan affected local NGO workers.

Yemen: 71 aid workers were arrested or detained in 30 incidents.

- 25 out of 30 incidents were reportedly staff detentions and five were staff arrests (83% and 17%, respectively).¹
- The same number of incidents were reportedly perpetrated by state forces as by non-state actors (14 each). For the remaining two incidents, no further details are available.

Context

- A high number of reports were checkpoint arrests and detentions that did not suggest that they were specifically in response to the agency, its identity or its primary activity of aid delivery (11/30 incidents, 26 staff members). However, 28 staff members in six incidents were affected due to accusations that directly referred to aid delivery: 11 were arrested or detained in two incidents over Saudi Arabia-donated aid, two were beaten because of planned NGO activities, six were arrested after being mistaken for other NGO staff, and nine were detained in two separate office raids.
- In addition, four staff members were arrested or detained following accusations, including spying, two were beaten in police custody, two were arrested in a case of mistaken identity, two were detained while walking at night, one was detained for taking photos at a sensitive area and was one detained for participating in a demonstration. For the remaining six staff members, no further details are available.

South Sudan: 27 aid workers were arrested, detained or fined in 20 incidents.

- 14 out of 20 incidents were reportedly staff member detentions and five were staff arrests (70% and 25%).¹ One staff member was fined for a minor criminal offence.
- More incidents were reportedly perpetrated by state forces than by non-state actors (14 and 4).

Context

- Most reports described abuses of power or reference to incorrect ID documents as the context of arrests, detention or fines, rather than measures that were directly linked to the agency, its identity or the delivery of aid (7/20). However, two staff members in separate incidents were directly targeted due to accusations that directly referred to aid delivery: one staff member was detained in an attempt to extort money from the NGO and one was detained over NGO recruitment practices.
- In addition, four staff members were detained for minor criminal offences, one staff member was arrested after witnessing a road accident and one was arrested at a checkpoint for having a satellite phone. For the remaining ten staff members, no further details are available.

Ethiopia: 21 aid workers were arrested or detained in 18 incidents.

- More staff members were arrested than detained (14 and 7).¹
- All incidents were reportedly perpetrated by state forces.

Context

- On five occasions, reports described the action taken as politically motivated: four staff members were arrested on allegations of involvement with opposition demonstrations or an opposition party, and one was arrested for taking photos of children crossing their arms, which is considered to be a sign of protest.
- In addition, four staff members were arrested or detained for family or personal disputes, one was detained at the Ethiopian-Somali border and another was detained for a minor criminal offence. For the remaining nine staff members, no further details are available.

This document is part of the Aid in Danger project. It is published by Insecurity Insight and funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid. It summarises selected findings from the [Aid in Danger Monthly News Briefs](#), which are based on open-source monitoring. It also includes incidents included in [Aid in Danger NGO Security Incident Analysis](#), which are based on Aid in Danger partner agencies security incidents. Data collection is ongoing and data may change as more information is made available. Where the number of staff affected is unspecified, one is counted.

¹ **Authority actions:** Direct or indirect actions taken by a state or non-state actor that impede the delivery of aid. Incident types include: **Arrest:** Deprivation of liberty following accusations of or being charged with a crime. **Charges:** Formal legal charge made by a governmental authority asserting that someone has committed a crime. **Detention:** Keeping a person in custody prior to official charges or without any official charges; includes temporary detention for hours or days. **Fines:** An amount of money that must be paid as a punishment for not obeying a rule or law. **Imprisonment:** Holding a person in a known official or unknown location, such as a jail or prison, often following formal charges.

² In our coding, an aid worker includes: **NGO aid workers** include individuals employed by or attached to recognised aid agencies. **NGO deminers** includes deminers working for a NGO demining organisation. **NGO health workers** include medical personnel affiliated with a NGO aid agency. **Other aid workers** include missionaries, and staff of development agencies and local relief agencies serving a particular community. **Other education workers** include education personnel from local educational institutes. **Other health workers** include health personnel from local health structures. **RCRC staff** include ICRC and all personnel of national societies. **Security guards or drivers** include individuals employed or contracted by aid agencies. **UN staff** include staff contracted by or working for the UN in a civilian, non-military capacity, which includes drivers and security guards. **Volunteers** include RCRC members and other aid workers working in a voluntary capacity.

³ The data includes the incidents included in the [AWSND](#) accessed via the internet. The AWSND does not include the names of individual victims or the agencies affected by an incident. This is done out of consideration for the victims and their families who may not wish to have the names publicised in this format, and to afford equal respect to the many victims for whom this information is not available.