Aid in Danger Incident Trends

Authority action | Aid workers arrested, charged, denied entry, detained, expelled or imprisoned

Total number of aid workers arrested, charged, detained or imprisoned, as reported in open sources, January 2015-December 2016

Between January 2015 and December 2016, 183 aid workers were reportedly arrested, charged, detained, or imprisoned in 27 events, based on Insecurity Insight's monitoring of open sources.

Civil Charges

State Authorities (25)   Non-State Actors (26)

23
25

The number of aid workers affected by the actions of State actors increased in 2016, compared to 2015 (from seven aid workers affected in three events to 148 aid workers affected in 18 events). In Turkey, 121 members of the Kimse Yok Mu relief organisation were detained by police for alleged links to the Gülen Movement in one event in 2016. If this event is not included, the number of affected aid workers rose from seven in 2015 to 27 in 2016.

In 2016, open sources reported the temporary detention of 126 aid workers in Afghanistan, Egypt, Kenya, OPT, Tajikistan and Turkey. Three were released within 48 hours. In addition, charges were brought against ten aid workers in France, Greece, Malaysia, OPT and Russia. After being charged, five are awaiting trial, two continue to face charges and one was fined. Nine aid workers were arrested in Greece and South Sudan. Three aid workers were given prison sentences in Myanmar and the UK. In Greece, 12 out of 13 affected aid workers (92%) were volunteers working on Lesbos Island. In 2015, one aid worker was arrested in Bangladesh, three were charged and released on bail in Kenya, and three were temporarily detained in Pakistan. The status of 136 aid workers remains unclear and it is not currently known from the available open source data whether further action was taken against them, highlighting the limitations of such data.

The number of aid workers affected by the actions of Non-State actors decreased in 2016, compared to 2015 (from 28 to 0). The high number of events reported in 2015 was led by one event in CAR, where over 20 aid workers were reportedly detained by unnamed armed groups in Ouham Prefecture. In 2015, four aid workers were reportedly detained by unnamed armed groups during two events in South Sudan. In Ukraine, ICRC staff members were reportedly detained by pro-Russian armed rebels during a raid on their Donets'k offices, and a former IRC staff member was reportedly twice arrested and accused of spying. In Yemen, one aid worker was reportedly detained in Hadhramaut Governorate by AQAP militants. No arrests, charges, detentions or imprisonments by Non-State actors were identified in 2016.

Total number of aid workers denied entry to or expelled from a country, as reported in open sources, January-December 2016
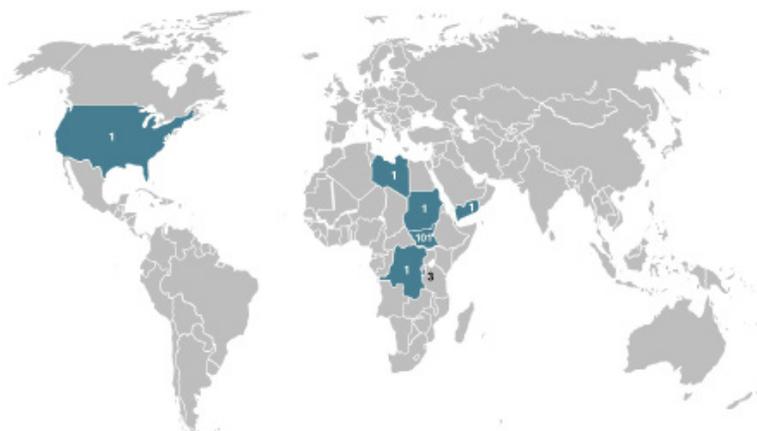
Eight events of denied permission to enter a country or expulsion from a country were reported in open sources in 2016, according to Insecurity Insight's monitoring.

South Sudan adopted a new immigration policy that affected 100 aid workers planning to enter the country.

Two aid workers were reportedly expelled from South Sudan and Yemen. In January, the UN OHCHR representative in Yemen was reportedly expelled. The decision was reversed the following day. In December, an NRC aid worker in South Sudan was expelled to Kenya.

Events that affected UN agencies working in Burundi, Libya, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen were the most reported or contained the most detailed information (63%). It is unclear whether INGOs are less affected or whether such events are not as frequently made public.

No events of denied permission to enter a country or expulsion from a country were identified for 2015.

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